

Waitomo Way

The changing face of our library

Nowadays libraries are more than just places to find a great book, they are places where people meet, socialise, and learn new skills – and Waitomo District Library is no exception.

With the slogan “more than just books”, District Librarian Julie O’Toole and her staff are always looking for ways to be more innovative and bring in more activities and programmes that cater to a range of people.

They are passionate about providing a welcoming, inclusive environment that is a home away from home.

“We want everyone to feel at home here – that’s why we choose a range of programming, sometimes with a focus on reading and books, but we also offer so much more.”

From the hireage of a sewing machine, to Lego, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs and boardgames to the popular Creation Station STEM collections.

“STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math and it’s about hands on learning,” says Julie.

“Our collection kits include lots of technology-based gadgets such as a small robot



perfect for beginner coding, a virtual reality headset, and an invention kit that can turn everyday objects into a touchpad.

“We also have simpler kits such as cardboard construction tools, giant connect four and the more traditional kits such as wooden blocks and connector straws.”

The library’s digital collection has also increased significantly in recent years with members being able to access a large selection of free e-books and e-audio books via online apps Libby and Hoopla, and databases such as Britannica Library.

Julie says as a library member you have a

wealth of information at your fingertips.

“You can access thousands of journals, magazines, books and so much more. And all these can be accessed from the comfort of your home.”

“Even though we would love to see more people through our door, we understand that people are busy and can’t always pop in for a visit. That is why our activities and kits can be taken home so people can explore in their own space in their own time,” she says.

“It is also why we recently introduced a click and collect service. We are aiming to always have our services accessible to everyone.”

Public libraries are now one of the few spaces where you’re welcome to spend time for free, providing a cost-conscious option for families.

“Our library is a community space, a work space and a place people can come to read and be creative.

“We offer photocopying and scanning services, a book club, reading challenges, school holiday programmes, chromebooks, and free wifi. We are working towards having something for everyone.”

Waitomo District Rates Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that the second instalment of your 2024/2025 rates is due by 5pm, Friday 29 November 2024.

Rates payments can be made at the Customer Service Centre, 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti, over the phone by credit card, on our website or by Internet Banking.

Please contact our friendly Customer Services Team on 0800 932 4357 for further assistance.

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Waitomo Way

Community Newsletter - November 2024

Rates Rebate Scheme *Are you eligible??*

Waitomo District Council administers a Rates Rebate Scheme on behalf of Central Government which offers help to low-income ratepayers with their rates account.

The maximum rates rebate available to a ratepayer for their home on 1 July 2024 is \$790. The entitlement amount is determined by a combination of your income, amount of rates

you're charged and the number of dependents you have.

Applications for the 2024/25 rating year close on **30 June 2025.**

For more information or to apply visit our website.



Council adopts Annual Report

Waitomo District Council adopted its Annual Report 2023/2024 on 29 October 2024.

The 2023/24 year has involved investing millions of dollars to deal with repairing major damage to our roads from the 2022 and 2023 storm events.

We have also invested in flood mitigation work, particularly in Te Kūiti, and more work is planned to strengthen resilience. We continue to seek cost savings wherever we can.

The full Annual Report and a Summary Report is now available on our website waitomo.govt.nz

Hard copies of the Annual Report are also available from our Customer Service Centre on Rora Street, Te Kūiti or the Library on Taupiri Street.

You can also request a copy by contacting our Customer Services Team on 0800 932 4357.

Waitomo District Christmas Parade

It's not too late to register a float!!!

The main street of Te Kūiti will soon be alive with the sound of festive music when the Waitomo District Christmas Parade comes to town.

The theme this year is "Christmas Songs" and we can't wait to see what you pick for your float!

There are dozens of Christmas songs to choose from and it's not too late to register a float.

Visit our website to register a float, and be there on Friday 13 December from 6pm to rock or carol your way down Rora Street in Te Kūiti.

Float entries close Friday 6 December.

www.waitomo.govt.nz



Writers Support

4th Wednesday of every month at 12pm

First meet on Wednesday 27 November at 12pm

Come along to share skills, advice and ideas with other budding writers!



COMMUNITY MEETING

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2024
6.30PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

An update on the stormwater improvements over previous year and works proposed to meet short and medium term goals



ON OUR ROADS
Shaping Road & Transport Policies In Our District

What's Happening?
Waitomo District Council has a collection of Road and Transport related policies and a bylaw that are either new or need reviewing.

- Land Transport Bylaw
- Road Encroachment Policy
- Stock Underpass Policy
- Road Naming Policy

We're seeking your feedback on how we regulate our local roads.

CLOSES 2 DEC

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Visit our website to have your say...
WAITOMO.GOV.T.NZ/COUNCIL/HAVEYOURSA

Waitomo District Council

waitomo.govt.nz | info@waitomo.govt.nz | 0800 932 4357

