

Inorganic collection dates set

Auckland Council has announced the dates for its inorganic collection service on Waiheke, which will run from 5 February to next June.

In a repeat of a trial inorganics collection service which ran from September 2016 to June this year, the scheme will allow residents to book in a free collection of unwanted items that can't be placed in rubbish or recycling bins, such as old appliances, electronics, furniture and sporting goods.

"Auckland Council will be working with the Island Waste Collective, which will be in charge of sorting the collected

inorganic items and deciding what happens to them next," says Waiheke Local Board member Shirin Brown.

"Working with locals will mean as many items as possible will stay on the island and benefit the community - items that can be reused or repaired will be offered to community groups to fix, rehome or resell. It is exciting to have a local group working in collaboration with council to undertake the resource recovery component of the inorganic collection."

As the council prepares to launch its waste management plan in 2018, it has

funded inorganic collections across the area in an effort to reduce the number of unwanted items that end up at landfill.

As reported in last week's *Gulf News*, the council also plans to establish a community recycling centre on Waiheke by 2019 - and will look for local groups to run it. The contract to run the island's entire waste collection service - currently held by Waste Management Ltd - is also due for renewal in 2019.

Collection periods on the island will vary depending on location and residents are asked to book their collection as soon as possible. This can be done online, by phone on 09 301 0101, or in person at the council service centre on Belgium Street.

More information is available at www.makethemostofwaste.co.nz

• Richard Jones

Iwi say in reserves' management revived

Waiheke Local Board and Ngati Paoa are re-establishing a committee to co-manage Rangihoua mountain and Tawaipareira Reserve.

Impetus for reigniting the arrangement stems in part from the need to sort out flooding in the Tahiri Road industrial area. Tawaipareira Stream, behind the island's refuse transfer station, was part of a natural estuary illegally reclaimed as the island's rubbish tip last century. In the early-1990s, the old Auckland City Council capped the landfill and has managed the site ever since.

When the refuse transfer station was built, the stream's access to the sea was cut off and the council has acknowledged that this contributed to the devastating floods last March, which cost Tahiri Road businesses millions of dollars.

Proposals to remedy the stormwater

flow problems include digging a channel through part of the landfill and utilising the wetlands behind it as a flood plain. However, those proposals are subject to further investigations.

The rest of Tawaipareira Reserve, including the skate park, was passed by the Department of Conservation to Auckland Council and Ngati Paoa control in 2003 for co-management as a recreation reserve.

The Rangihoua maunga is part of an area purchased by the council in the 1990s to create Onetangi Sports Park. As part of the settlement, the council agreed to a joint management structure for the maunga with Ngati Paoa. The iwi has recently provided the council with a cultural values assessment for the maunga and wider park area to help guide their future management.

• Geoff Cumming

Trust's cottage industry

The community group tackling affordable housing on the island looks to be on a winner by building fundraising sleepouts.

A second auction of the Waiheke Community Housing Trust's first sleepout has raised \$14,000 - that's \$2000 more than the original auction raised.

The 10 sq m fully furnished sleepout was first won by Lesley McTurk but she re-auctioned it when she found it did not fit her site.

Last Saturday's re-run attracted two serious bidders. The winner wishes to remain anonymous while the loser remains keen to have one custom-built for her property.

Trust chairman Paul Carew says what started as a one-off fundraiser has turned into a social enterprise. "We have orders for two more," Mr Carew says. "It is a good result for us as a fundraising idea."

• Geoff Cumming

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