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## Hundreds visit car park war zone



THEN AND NOW: Max Tarrant, 8, tries a replica World War I uniform jacket and a modern day Army pack, watched by exhibition staffer Lance Corporal Albie Craig of 6th Hauraki Battalion.

With two great grandfathers who served in World War II, eight-year-old Max Tarrant was keen to drop into the National Army Museum's travelling exhibition *Heartlanders: New Zealanders of the Great War* in Waihi on Labour weekend.

He and his father Mark were among hundreds who visited the October 24 display, in a camp of three shipping containers with canvas awnings arranged in a horseshoe in the Council's upper Seddon Street car park.

The event brought home that wartime life was not so "Great" for the Kiwi soldiers. They had to survive not only enemy attack but dysentery, typhoid and other diseases in often primitive conditions. There were fleas and lice; near-tropical heat or freezing cold. A field rations menu at Gallipoli was likely to consist of bully beef and hard tack (crackers) for breakfast, bully beef and hard tack with tinned jam for lunch, and bully beef and hard tack for dinner.

Max was able to get a reproduction field service postcard, take a whiff of virtual phosgene poison gas – without the lung-burning effects – and even to try a replica World War I uniform

jacket in his size. His verdict: "It's warm, but very itchy. Things were a lot different to our technology."

*Heartlanders* aims to bring the stories of our soldiers back home to the communities where they began, and included artefacts from the museum's collection with accompanying personal narratives. There was a valuable trumpet belonging to Chunuk Bair casualty Sergeant Lewis Munro of the Auckland Mounted Rifles; and a pair of binoculars that served during two wars with their owner Captain Alfred Shout. Though distinctly damaged in the Boer War when his horse stood on them, they outlived their owner, who was killed while hurling jam tin bombs along a Turkish trench. He lit and threw two of these makeshift grenades, but a third exploded in his hand.

Among other exhibition highlights were original film footage, and some of the servicemen's own photographs taken on folding Kodak cameras.

Despite rain and wind, people literally trooped in during the morning, said Army Museum representative Nicola Bennett. There was strong interest in an Online Cenotaph digitisation kiosk from the Auckland War Memorial Museum which enabled people to search for information on individual soldiers, and to scan images of family members' war-related items into the database for others to share.

Locals added photographs, found new information, and even discovered wartime connections with other residents in the Waihi area, said Nicola. "We've also had items donated to the Army Museum, notably a pair of military riding breeches believed to date from the World War I era."

Nicola said Waihi was chosen as one of the tour's 14 North Island stops because the area contributed a significant number of men to the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, including the New Zealand Tunnelling Company. Members of the Waihi Lions Club, which this year erected a poppy fence on the Martha Mine pit rim as a tribute to the town's World War I servicemen, helped publicise the travelling exhibition.

"We really appreciated Council support in providing the site," said Nicola. "Our Army trucks were able to unload the containers there the day before the event, which was a big help because it takes two-and-a-half hours to set up the exhibition with a crew of six people, and the same amount of time to dismantle it again. The amazing interest in Waihi definitely made it worthwhile."

## Public tribute to big-hearted kuia



WOMAN OF HONOUR: Janie Ikinofu takes centre stage in the Paeroa Memorial Hall, to receive her Outstanding Citizen Award from Mayor John Tregidga.

Breast cancer survivor Janie Ikinofu has never considered herself the one in need. Rather, her diagnosis was a road bump that she needed to get over by "putting my mind in the right place", so she could carry on taking care of other people.

The Kerepehi septuagenarian is one of two Hauraki District Council Citizen Awards recipients this year to be recognised for outstanding service to the community – as a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, whaea, and kuia. When she received her honour from the Mayor at the October 15 awards evening, about 25 of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren launched into a waiata as a personal tribute.

Also known as "Lady Jane" and "Doll", Janie grew up in Waihi and moved to Kerepehi when she was 15. She says she and her Niuean husband were always involved in the community, but after he died she turned her full attention to improving others' quality of life. At home and in the wider District, she has earned renown and respect for years of constantly giving her time and resources to support people of all ages who are hungry, penniless, jobless, homeless, abuse victims, sick, or dying. She has taken terminally ill people into her home and cared for them until their time has come.

Janie is also a strong advocate for people who need assistance from community agencies such as Work and Income, Children, Young People and their Families, police, schools, iwi and marae. She's made submissions on Government legislation, and has been an ambassador for breast screening to encourage women to stay in the best possible health.

"I've been able to work through the Kerepehi Marae and other marae, and the Maori Women's Welfare League," says Janie. "And I've recently become involved with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – something I'm doing myself with two of my grandchildren."

Janie's big heart is matched by the size of her direct, no-nonsense attitude, and she has led some tough actions, like calling a community meeting to deal with a child sexual abuse issue. "Things like that are especially hard in such a close-knit community."

The esteem in which Janie is held made her the obvious choice when the Council needed assistance this year, helping the Chinese owners of the planned Kerepehi ice cream factory meet with iwi and Hauraki community members. Janie was happy to take on yet another task, and in fact had sought exactly such a role.

She says everything she has done has been achieved with the help of her whanau. "I couldn't have done it on my own. But what I am most proud of is making sure that our children are safe and well looked after."

### Situation Vacant

#### Asset Manager Support Officer

Here is an opportunity to provide administrative support services to a team that is making a real difference in the community, working for local government to help deliver the essential community facilities that make Hauraki District a great place to live.

The Asset Manager Support Officer will be involved in maintaining databases and records, and carrying out day-to-day support services for asset managers within the Community Services Department. The role will also provide backup support for the Council Secretary and Executive Assistant so there is an opportunity to get involved at an executive PA level, and attend Council meetings to take minutes.

A sound knowledge of administrative processes, and high levels of competency in the Microsoft suite of office packages is essential. The successful candidate must have a systematic approach to work that leads to the successful completion of tasks and events. They must have the ability to programme and organise work to help the team meet their goals, and the skills to develop and sustain productive customer relationships with both workmates and external stakeholders.

If you have a positive can-do attitude and attributes that reflect our values of respect, communication and commitment, then we would love to hear from you.

For further details or to apply electronically please visit our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz) or contact Julie Sweeney on 07 862 5023 or 021 786 238.

Applications close on Friday, 13 November 2015

"At Hauraki District Council ...  
It's more than just a job!"

### Public Notice

#### Council and Committee Meetings

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, it is advised that the Plains Ward Committee meeting will be held at 9.00am Tuesday, 10 November 2015 and not 10.00am as previously notified.

L D Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council



### Meeting invitation

#### Hauraki Rail Trail - Kaiaua to Kopu

The Plains Ward Chairperson, Gill Leonard extends an invitation, for the communities between Kaiaua and Kopu, to attend a meeting to update the community on the status of the project. Please join us on 16 November at 7:30pm at the Waitakaruru Hall.



### Lunatic long-haul flier tops the poll

Tens of thousands of our seasonal inhabitants are unruffled about the fact that they've just flown in as national Bird of the Year. The bar-tailed godwit has topped the public poll in Forest & Bird's annual competition.

Every summer about 90,000 godwits arrive in New Zealand, many of them around the shores of the Hauraki Gulf, after an epic journey from Alaska on which they lose half their bodyweight. Here they relax and fatten up before returning home to breed and then doing it all again. Even juveniles only a few months old flock the more than 11,500km – the longest migratory flight of any bird in the world – usually without adult company and in just nine days.

The lunatic long-distance fliers, as they've been affectionately dubbed by Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre manager Keith Woodley, are part of the reason the Miranda area has become famous as the Seabird Coast. This unique and significant ecological area brings human visitors from around the globe and will be a key attraction on the Kopu to Kaiaua leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail.

However, the number of godwits reaching New Zealand has been dropping by 2% every year. Habitat loss is a huge problem, particularly in East Asia where most of them stop to refuel, and climate change poses another threat for their future.

So if you were among the 1,957 voters who made Hauraki's special bird New Zealand's Bird of the Year, thanks! You've also helped Forest & Bird and the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre in their work to protect and increase awareness of the godwit.



Photo by Phil Battley