

This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

Welcome mat's out for Chinese students

Hauraki's secondary school population will be boosted by 12 when a group of Chinese teens arrive this week. They'll be in the District with three accompanying teachers from tomorrow until 14 August – staying with students from Paeroa, Hauraki Plains and Waihi Colleges and getting a taste of Kiwi life and education.

As well as attending school, in Paeroa the young visitors' itinerary will include animal encounters on local farms, exploring the Karangahake Gorge, seeing some of the area's other tourist attractions, and meeting the Mayor. Then in September their 12 host brothers and sisters will travel to urban Shanghai on a reciprocal visit.

The annual educational exchange is part of the Hauraki-Jiading sister city partnership established in 2001, which Paeroa College Principal Doug Black describes as "an outstanding opportunity for students to immerse themselves in another culture and develop their

understanding of China. We aim to provide our students with the opportunity to experience as much as they can, and this has been facilitated by the Council's support."

The Hauraki group's trip will be subsidised from the Council's sister cities fund, with the students also organising fundraising activities.

For Paeroa College head girl Phoebe Buchanan, the exchange is a chance to widen her cultural understanding. "I'm fascinated by Chinese culture and have always wanted to visit China, but I've never had the chance before. I can't wait!"

Paeroa's exchange students have had the advantage of participating in the Mandarin language programme that began in the Ohinemuri Schools cluster in 2014 – introduced through a Council economic development initiative and this year led by 'Doris' Wang Nan from China's Shandong province.

Phoebe anticipates that understanding some basic Mandarin and being able to speak a little will make relating with the Chinese students easier, "because I feel more comfortable and it takes the initial pressure off. We are going to their country, so I think we need to learn a bit of their language."

She's looking forward to experiencing the different culture and trying the different foods – and on the flip side, to seeing how Chinese students find our culture and "the things that I find normal".

The Council believes the educational exchange component of the sister city agreement to be a small but valuable long term investment, for when today's students become tomorrow's economic and political leaders in their respective countries. The potential benefits of strengthening an already sound relationship are huge, especially if the partners are reflecting back on positive personal experiences.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Trade Waste & Wastewater Bylaw

Pursuant to Section 157 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is hereby given that Part 4 (Trade Waste and Wastewater) of the Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw has been reviewed and was adopted by the Hauraki District Council on 29 July 2015, and will come into effect on 7 August 2015.

The Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw can be viewed at the Council offices in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi or on Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz. A copy can be obtained by calling 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

Langley Cavers
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council

Hauraki Ultrafast Broadband

Keeping you up to speed on
 DIGITAL NEWS IN OUR DISTRICT

Next phase of UFB application is underway

Hauraki District Council has submitted its Registration of Interest (ROI) and is now knuckling down to complete the next phase of its bid to win a share of Government funding for better broadband and mobile phone services throughout the District - a Digital Enablement Plan (DEP).

Earlier this year, councils were asked to compete for a share of up to \$360 million by submitting a ROI and DEP, outlining the rationale for their towns to receive Ultra Fast Broadband (UFB) and their rural areas to receive improved broadband and mobile phone services. While the Registration of Interest provided information about the digital needs of our communities and how the Council might assist with the rollout of fibre and rural broadband, the Digital Enablement Plan will include a number of projects that utilise technology in some way to encourage business and community growth. For instance, the establishment of more free WiFi hubs to ensure everyone who wants to has access to the Internet.

A steering group made up of community representatives, Councillors and Council staff has been formed to help formulate this plan based on community input and research undertaken during the first phase of the project.

A community survey in May, asking for information on current internet and mobile services in our District, received more than 300 responses in just a few weeks. Significantly, more than 90 percent of respondents reported an inability to do the things they want to do on the internet because of a lack of speed and/or reliability. The survey also revealed a significant number of respondents using the internet to work or run a business from home. More than 50 businesses across the District were also interviewed. In many cases a high level of frustration with internet capability was reported, including limitations in ability to be creative and competitive in comparison to similar businesses in bigger centres with access to high-speed Internet.

Hauraki District Mayor John Tregidga says fast reliable internet is as important today as good roads.

"Regardless of where we live, when it comes to the Internet we all want the same thing; speed and reliability at an affordable price. It's a necessary infrastructure and if we want to keep businesses here and attract new industry we've got to provide it," he says.

The DEP is due for submission on 18 September 2015 and it is expected the Government will announce its decision regarding which towns and rural communities will receive a share of the funding in December.

www.facebook.com/HaurakiUltraFastBroadband

Earthquakes be ready on the home front

Should a big earthquake hit our District, here's how you can protect yourself at home

ANCHOR DOWN

Collapsing buildings and falling objects are the main causes of casualty and injury in earthquakes. To minimise the risk:

- Make sure your home is securely anchored to its foundation.
- Brace hot water cylinders and gas appliances to wall framing. If the water heater tips over, a gas line could break, causing a fire hazard, and the water line could rupture. Your water cylinder may be your best source of drinkable water following an earthquake.
- Secure bookcases, china cabinets, and other tall furniture to wall framing. Brace or anchor other top-heavy objects and large breakable ornamental items.
- Hang heavy items, like pictures and mirrors, away from beds, chairs and couches. Close picture hooks to prevent the string or wire disengaging if the item swings.
- Brace heavy overhead light fixtures.
- Install strong latches on cabinet doors, to prevent them shaking open and spilling the items inside.

HAVE A PLAN

Discuss now with members of your household what you will do if an earthquake occurs. Knowing how to respond will help reduce fear.

- Pick safe places you can head to in each room – either sturdy furniture such as a table, desk, or bed; or against an internal wall away from windows, bookshelves, and any objects that could fall on you. If you're in bed, stay there and protect your head with a pillow.
- Practise the Drop, Cover, and Hold response in each safe place: drop to the floor, take cover under the piece of furniture (or use your arms to cover your head and neck), and hold on. A great way to do this is to join ShakeOut 2015, the world's biggest earthquake drill, at 9.15am on 15 October. Sign up at www.shakeout.co.nz.
- Hatch an escape plan, for leaving the house if that's necessary. In case members of your family are in different places or become separated, form a communication plan and a plan for getting back together again.

GET KITTED OUT

- Keep a torch and sturdy pair of shoes by each person's bed.
- Have a survival kit ready, should you be stranded at home or need to leave home. This should include sufficient water, non-perishable food, medications, clothing and emergency items for at least three days. Don't forget about your pets! Get a checklist from www.getthru.govt.nz/how-to-get-ready/emergency-survival-items/.

Share your tips and win!

Your household's earthquake preparedness tips could help others and could win you a ShakeOut power bank*.

- For instance, if assembling a survival kit seems daunting on a tight budget, people might accumulate supplies gradually, buying one or two extra grocery items per week.
- Stored drinking water is a priority, because earthquake damage could mean it's no longer on tap. But you don't need to buy bottled water – a cheaper alternative is to wash and fill empty milk, juice, or soft drink bottles. Water will keep safely for 12 months before it needs to be replaced.

You can post your tips on the Council's Facebook page (comment on our post), or jot them on paper and take them to our libraries at Ngatea, Paeroa or Waihi.

*A powerbank once charged up can be kept in reserve to charge up your phone when the power is out.

