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## Post Office a hub of activity again

The doors of the old Post Office only re-opened on 1 August, but the new Paeroa Information Hub inside is well and truly up and running – and so are its directors Michael and Trina Tansey. As the operators of the town's information hub, they've been 'frontline' seven days a week, assisting as many as 60 to 80 visitors each day. "And this is still shoulder season," says Michael.

He and Trina, who have leased the Council-owned 1926 building for nine years, are assessing patterns of demand before making any decisions about adding to their team. To date, mornings are the busiest time, with fine Saturday mornings bustling and school holidays "frantic". A cycle hire service is in top gear, with the nearby Hauraki Rail Trail "our single best visitor asset".

Among the challenges is a desire to do more as hosts, says Michael. "I'd love to be able to direct people to small campsites close to town. It's one of the needs – and opportunities – that's been highlighted by regular inquiries, mostly from



**HITTING THE TRAIL:** Michael Tansey sends off Mark and Sue Henry from Melbourne on their rental bikes to explore the Hauraki Rail Trail.

European tourists. In the summer there will be even more call."

The Information Hub is shared by Positive Paeroa's town promoter Jo Tilsley, whose incredible knowledge and energy has been essential to the whole venture, says Michael.

"We've also had great community support. Locals are very proud of the Post Office and to see it being used again as a community facility."

Jo agrees, saying that "Combining our promotional and information services under one roof has been more successful than we imagined. We knew the concept was right from the get-go, but residents have been coming in specifically to say how pleased they are by what we are accomplishing. It's been very gratifying, and has reinforced how important this building is to the community."

Like the Information Hub, the Positive Paeroa office has been a hotspot, for both visitors and locals with interests in businesses, community groups and events. "After Labour weekend it'll probably be crazy – in the best possible way," says Jo.

The Council purchased the Post Office 11 years ago to prevent it falling into decay (the current PostShop now leases only an interim site in the rear carpark). A \$560,000 streetscape enhancement project around the landmark during 2008 and 2009 won a gold award from the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects.

The former ground floor customer service area has recently been transformed into an open-plan space, and the internal refit will be ongoing, in keeping with the era of the building and its Category 2 registration with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

## How happy are you?

### Annual Satisfaction Survey 2015

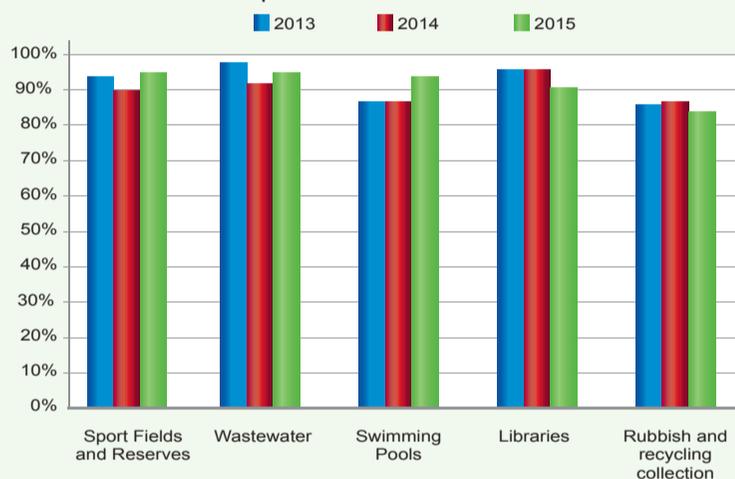
Paeroa drivers are happier with the state of our roads (excluding highways) than motorists in Waihi and Ngatea. Almost everyone is content with our library services, and less than half of us are prepared should an earthquake or other Civil Defence emergency rumble our way.

That's according to the results of this year's annual Satisfaction Survey. Every year we organise an independent survey to help us work out how happy you are with our services. If you were one of the 400 random residents called by a Key Research Ltd representative this June/July – thank you taking the time out of your busy day to answer our questions.

According to you, we've improved our sports fields and reserves, wastewater services, swimming pools and value for money of water, but you need a bit more help understanding our decision making processes – not to mention a bit more encouragement in the area of emergency preparedness. If you haven't already – write up a Civil Defence plan and get an emergency survival kit organised today! For more information go to [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz).

To view the full results go to the Council website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz) or for further information call the Council on 07 862 8609.

### Top Five Satisfaction Services



## Hauraki Rail Trail - Kaiaua to Kopu (K2K)

The Kaiaua to Kopu (K2K) section of the Hauraki Rail Trail project is currently in a bit of a holding pattern as the project looks to secure the additional funding required to cover the construction side of the project. As a result it may appear as if the project has ground to a halt... but a lot has been happening in the background to get the project over the line.

A cycle route has been identified – while there may be some minor tweaks to this, it won't change much. We have received tremendous support from landowners, Waikato Regional Council and the Department of Conservation (DOC) in identifying a route that works within their parameters and meets the needs of cyclists – especially through the unique and ecologically important area of the Seabird Coast.

Once funding is secured the project team will be in a position to meet with all the landowners and adjacent landowners to work through their needs in order to minimise the impact on their activities through the construction phase and the operation of the K2K.

Resource consents have been obtained from the Waikato Regional Council and the Waikato and Hauraki District Councils for the intended route. The design work for the bridges has been completed and the project team will apply for the building consents as soon as funding is secured.

Hauraki District Council has also been working with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and they have agreed to install a clip-on to the Piako River Bridge for pedestrians and cyclists. NZTA's contribution will go a long way to help reduce the funding shortage. In addition to this, the DOC / Fonterra project known as 'Living Waters' has identified some funding towards the construction of the Seabird Coast section of the K2K.

The project team hopes to bring good news regarding the start of the construction phase of the project in the near future.

## Significance and Engagement Policy supersedes Council's Consultation Policy

At the Council's meeting on 30 September 2015, it resolved to revoke its Consultation Policy in favour of using its Significance and Engagement Policy (S & E Policy).

The S & E Policy provides clarity about how and when communities can expect to be engaged in council decision-making. Adopted in 2014, it has superseded the Council's Consultation Policy and as a result, that Policy has now been revoked.

The development of our S & E Policy involved working with other councils in the region to develop a streamlined approach.

## Let's make Hauraki's special bird the NZ Bird of the Year for 2015

Every year some 90,000 bar-tailed godwits make an extraordinary journey from Alaska to New Zealand for the summer, to relax and fatten up before returning home to breed.

One of them, E7, holds the current world record for the longest flight recorded by a bird, 11,760km non-stop from the Yukon Delta in Alaska to the Piako River mouth in the Firth of Thames, set in 2007.

A great many of these godwits hang out around the beautiful shores of the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana so in many ways it is our bird. People travel from around the world to see these famous fliers and put money into the local economy. The godwits are part of the reason why the Kaiaua-Pūkorokoro Miranda area is called the Seabird Coast. They help make the Hauraki District special.

There's a great story and one which surely deserves to see the bar-tailed godwit named as New Zealand's Bird of the Year.

The 2015 Bird of the Year poll is now open at [www.birdoftheyear.org.nz](http://www.birdoftheyear.org.nz) and will run until 5pm on Sunday, 25 October. There's one vote for every email address so please visit the website and cast your vote to make the Hauraki District's bird the New Zealand Bird of the Year.



Photo by Phil Battley

### PUBLIC NOTICE



### Council and Committee Meetings

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given to the change of start time of the following meeting to be held in the Council Office, William Street, Paeroa during the month of October 2015.

**Ordinary Meeting of Council**  
Wednesday, 28 October 2015 - 9.30am  
following the Citizenship Ceremony

Langley Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council