



HDC NEWS



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Experience the 'fairytale'

The L&P bottle isn't the only icon in Paeroa that's world famous in New Zealand. Each year, visitors from Auckland, Hawkes Bay and further make a special trip to see the Christmas lights at the Paeroa Historical Maritime Museum and Park.

The show, the brainchild of Ellen Cooper and Robert Yeates, evolved from hosting Carols by Candlelight at the park and was first held in 2011. "This is our biggest one ever," says Maritime Park Society treasurer Gloria James. She attributes the success of the event comes down to the team behind it – "50 amazing local volunteers" who invest hours of work for just a cup of tea and the reward of the joy they see on visitors' faces.

The Council has been pleased to support the lights show and other park initiatives through grants, strategic planning assistance, and creating a cycleway/walkway link track to it from the Hauraki Rail Trail. Future plans include a waterway link to Paeroa, with new wharves both at the park and at the end of Wharf Street.

Councillor Julie Bubb is among the locals who enjoy the lights show every December. "It has a fairytale atmosphere, and I can't think of a better place to take children to foster the Christmas spirit," she says.

The lights are open every night until Christmas Eve, from 8.30 pm to 11.00 pm (last entries at 10.00 pm). The park is only a five-minute drive north of Paeroa township on Puke Road (State Highway 2), and onsite parking is provided.



SPECTACULAR: The fairytale setting of Paeroa's Historical Maritime Museum is a "must see for families".
Photo courtesy of Laurie Haysom.

Public Notices

Please refer to the public notice section of this edition of the Hauraki Herald for Council's notification of:

- Kerbside Refuse and Recycling collection service for the Christmas / New Year holiday period.
- Proposed Temporary Road Closures; Paeroa Pipe Bands Street March event and the Paeroa Battle of the Streets Motorcycle event.

Fire ban starts this weekend

The total open-air fire ban across the Hauraki and Thames Coromandel Districts starts Sunday, 20 December.

The following are prohibited during the ban period; braziers, Chinese lanterns and fireworks due to the fire risks they present. The ban also includes land clearing burn-offs, rubbish fires, beach fires, and the use of open-top incinerators of the non-approved type.

Traditional cooking fires such as hangi, umu or charcoal spit roasts are included in the ban, although for community or cultural events, permits will be considered by fire authorities. These can be applied for at Council service centres, with a notice of at least 48 hours (two working days) required.

Pre-approved solid fueled permanent barbecues and pizza ovens with a chimney and spark arrester will be permitted. An approval permit can be applied for at Council service centers, with notice of at least 48 hours (two working days) required.

Gas fuelled barbecues are not covered by the ban.

If the fire weather conditions over the whole area allows, the fire ban may be lifted on Monday, 8 February 2016 and replaced with a restricted fire season. Any extension past that date will be reviewed daily, with signs and notices keeping residents and holidaymakers informed.



Questions about the ban or applying for a fire permit are welcome.

Give the Council a call on 0800 734 834 (from within the district).

Anyone who sees smoke or is in doubt about a fire should "ring it in" by calling 111.

Funding for business

A foot on the beanstalk for local companies keen to grow

There are no magic beans when it comes to growing a business, but a new initiative between Council and Waikato Innovation Park (WIP) aims to help local businesses with high growth aspirations climb as high as they can go.

From February 2016, business growth advisors from WIP will be available in the Paeroa Council Office on the first Tuesday of every month, and by appointment outside of that.

"Council's economic development team has been developing a relationship with Waikato Innovation Park for a few years now and we're really excited they've seen the potential for business growth in Hauraki," says Economic Development Chair and Paeroa Ward Councillor Toby Adams.

WIP services are aimed at helping businesses gain knowledge, connect with the right people, and grow. Services include a free business needs assessment to support business growth plans, along with free access to the government funding programmes offered by NZTE and Callaghan Innovation. The Park's business growth advisors can also facilitate business access to the Food Innovation Network which provides services and facilities for food manufacturing businesses developing new products.

"We currently work with companies across the Waikato, plus into Bay of Plenty and Taranaki for some programmes, and will now be working more closely with Hauraki," says WIP Business Growth Advisor Peter Davey, "We're very interested in helping local businesses that want to grow."

A Whitianga company that the WIP is currently working with, started out selling its product at school galas and farmer's markets and is now venturing into supermarkets, investigating the export market, and employing more staff.

"If a business can grow and provide up to 10 new jobs, that's significant for the local community," says Davey, "there is also a knock on effect in terms of a company's suppliers and contractors."

Cr Adams says WIP will also be facilitating a number of business workshops in Hauraki next year and urges local business owners to take advantage of its services.

"We're extremely fortunate to have professionals of Mr Davey's experience and calibre interested in working with our business community. It's a fantastic opportunity for the District and I urge all businesses interested in expanding to take advantage of it."

To make an appointment or talk with a business growth advisor phone 07 857 0538 or email businessgrowth@wipltd.co.nz

QUAKE DANGER rallies grassroots community

A recent taster of a big shake centred on the Kerepehi faultline was enough to get farmers quaking in their gumboots.

A scenario of damaged buildings and roads, land subsidence, and waterways changing course faced the 45 participants in a Kerepehi earthquake primary sector workshop on 23 October. Farming, infrastructure provider, emergency management and Council representatives got together with the aim of developing a partnership to raise awareness of the local hazards – and doing whatever is possible to reduce associated risks to the continuity of our rural industry.

Waikato Regional Council Senior Hazards Advisor Rick Liewing outlined for workshop attendees what is known about the fault: its geology, size, and how often earthquakes might be expected. He also spoke about the uncertainties, and potential effects ranging from cut-off water supplies to flooding. Beyond immediate damage on farms and to roading and other infrastructure that farmers depend on, he said indirect consequences such as land subsidence and rivers and drains changing course could likewise compromise earthquake response and recovery, and impact areas of the Hauraki Plains indefinitely.

Hazards and emergency management consultant Brendan Morris, who facilitated the workshop for the Council, says the nature of the fault is more complex than previously understood and there is a lot we still don't know – like when it will "go" next. What's clear is that "there is a significant risk to people and infrastructure on the Hauraki Plains, and a locally-centered seismic event could permanently change the landscape".

It was apparent that the rural community is getting prepared. All the groups represented at the workshop have contingency plans in place; and local primary industries have considerable resources that could assist response and recovery, including trained response teams and equipment. One benefit from

the workshop is that participants are now much more aware of each other's roles and capabilities.

A lot of willingness was expressed among local stakeholders to work together in identifying and filling gaps in preparedness. For instance it was recognised that a coordinated response is lacking, says the Council's Civil Defence Local Controller Steve Fabish. "This is a key improvement that we'll be working on in the short term."

He describes the workshop and its planned follow-ups as significant for Hauraki, as the farming sector is such a big component of the economic activity in our District.

Roger Hunter, a Plains dairy farmer of 38 years, certainly agrees. Even with his knowledge as chairman of the Eastern Plains Drainage Board, and as a member of the Waikato Regional Council's Waihou-Piako River scheme sub-committee, he found the workshop to be very informative.

"It reinforced how much we rely on the stop bank and flood protection system to ensure adequate transport and mobility throughout the District, for both emergency services and public."

Another standout point for Roger was the possible difficulty of communication after an earthquake, as power cuts may cause cell phone towers to stop functioning, or the structures could collapse. Landlines, too, could be put out of action by earth movement.

Mayor John Tregidga says the workshop was "brilliant. It was extremely well supported and feedback has been very positive. It was an opportunity for those who would be involved in a Civil Defence emergency to understand the risk and effects of a Kerepehi earthquake, and what do we need to do to be prepared."

A report covering the workshop outcomes is being developed. Common themes and feedback will be collated so they can be acted on addressed by the appropriate participant groups.

Christmas time on the farm....

Let's talk about the elephant in the paddock ... STRESS!



We know that Christmas time on the farm can be a stressful time for many farming families.

If someone you know or care about is:

- feeling overwhelmed and unable to cope
- sweating about the small stuff
- having problems concentrating or disturbed sleep
- lacking energy or interest
- withdrawing from family & friends
- drinking more to cope.

Then 'Seeking help if you're feeling stressed is a strength not a weakness'!

Helpful contact numbers:

See your GP or phone one of the following:

- 0800 787 254 - Rural Support Trust
- 0800 893 346 - Mental Health Line (phone anytime)
- 0800 080 339 - Community Mental Health (phone during business hours)
- 0800 50 50 50 - Crisis Team