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## Visitors get a warm welcome in Ngatea

Getting within patting distance of lambs and calves... unwinding in a peaceful friendly town without traffic hassles... being able to afford your own home with space for a vege garden and backyard barbecues... these are things we might take for granted in the Hauraki District. But they were big attractions for a coach of Auckland residents on a recent Ngatea day trip.

The November 7 event was hosted by the Council, for people who visited our Northern Estate exhibition stand at the Auckland Home Show and were interested in buying sections in the subdivision. It was a chance for them to see the community "on us" and with us, with Deputy Mayor Bruce Gordon and Councillor Gill Leonard jumping on board as local guides.



**COUNTRY MILE:** Aucklanders Stephen Holowacz (left) and Michael Quay (third from left) chat with Deputy Mayor Bruce Gordon and Councillor Gill Leonard at Northern Estate.

After taking in the District's scenic Seabird Coast en route, the group literally got a warm welcome as they arrived at Ngatea Domain and soaked up the sun at the Hauraki Plains Rural Show. There were plenty of opportunities to mingle with residents - both the two and four-legged kind. The new experience of patting a lamb was a first for four-year-old Shirley Zhao and it was an experience that delighted several of the more senior visitors, too.

A light lunch in the Memorial Hall refuelled everyone ahead of a tour of Ngatea. The itinerary included the well established Masonic Village; and the Council's last residential development, the Benner Drive subdivision - showing the flexibility of design possibilities and what Northern Estate could look like in a few years. At Northern Estate itself, where internal road formation is underway, they could imagine their own Kiwi dream taking shape against the backdrop of the Coromandel and Kaimai ranges. Six of the 22 first-stage sections have already sold, with titles expected in July 2016.

## Fire closes disability toilet

Paeroa Domain's disability access toilet will stay closed until further notice, after a deliberately lit fire at the end of October rendered it unusable.

Though the severe damage is repairable, it will take time. Meanwhile, the nearest public toilets for the disabled are in Marshall Street and Ohinemuri Park (Bottle Park). The separate men's and ladies' toilets at the Domain are not affected.

We're disappointed that this special amenity has been hit, despite measures like locking it at night to deter vandalism. In July 2013, a fire put the amenity block out of action for two months while it was refurbished.

We encourage anyone who has information about the recent fire - or sees any suspicious activity around our community toilets and facilities - to report it to the police.



**FIELD DAY:** Shirley Zhao (second left) and her mother Coco (right) enjoy meeting some locals at the Hauraki Plains Rural Show.

At Ngatea Primary School and then Hauraki Plains College, respective principals Neil Fraser and Ngaire Harris personally put out the welcome mat, answered questions, and outlined the ways students are benefiting and achieving to high standards through personalised learning programmes backed by traditional values.

For Albany couple Sean and Coco Zhao, it all added up to an informative and enjoyable first visit to the town, which they had previously only driven through. Sean said that since emigrating from China in 2002, he'd lived in Palmerston North and Nelson before his banking work took him to Auckland. Smaller communities had a special feel, and Ngatea could be his family's next home.

Likewise, Stephen Holowacz of Avondale had "until today only driven though Ngatea". He's considering building at Northern Estate as a possible retirement option, and also as an investment. "Today's trip has given me a much better appreciation of what's here."

West Auckland friends Helen Agbede and Julie Beeby pictured moving to a more relaxed pace of life, perhaps keeping a few chickens or just smelling the roses.

Julie said living in Ngatea offered her the prospect of being mortgage-free, and she had already travelled down once since the Auckland Home Show to look at some real estate options. "This has been a great day. Now I don't feel like going back to Auckland."

## Public Notices

### Council and Committee Meetings

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held in the Council Office, William Street, Paeroa during the month of December 2015.

**Consultative Water & Waste Committee**  
Tuesday, 1 December 2015 - 10.00am

**Judicial Committee**  
Monday, 7 December 2015 - 9.00am

**Ward Committee Meetings**  
Tuesday, 8 December 2015  
Plains Ward - 9.00am  
Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm  
Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

**Operations Committee**  
Wednesday, 9 December 2015 - 9.00am

**Audit & Risk Committee**  
Wednesday, 9 December 2015 - 2.00pm

**Ordinary Meeting of Council**  
Wednesday, 16 December 2015 - 9.00am

### Council Land Drain Maintenance

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw, Part 7, Clause 12.1 that for the purposes of undertaking its annual drain maintenance programme, Council staff and contractors will be entering onto private property to apply approved chemical for weed control in Council land drains, and to undertake excavator cleaning of Council land drains.

Council land drains are located in the Western Plains, Eastern Plains, Komata North, Opukeko and Tirohia Rotokohu Drainage Districts. Council also maintains open drains that are part of the urban stormwater networks in Ngatea, Kerepehi, Turua, Paeroa, Waihi and Whiritoa.

Drain maintenance spraying of aquatic weeds with approved chemical by vehicle and helicopter application will be undertaken between January and April 2016.

Excavator cleaning of selected drains will be undertaken from March to June 2016. Individual property owners will be advised of this programme to enable pasture adjacent to the target drains to be grazed off prior to the works.

LD Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council



## Don't ditch your rubbish!

You might think drains are hardly a worry in summer, when they're not actually doing much in the way of drainage. But we have more than 650 km of land drains to look after and to keep them in the best possible condition for when their job is crucial, we're getting ready to launch into our major annual weed spraying spree alongside them. Then we carry out machine cleaning to prevent the waterways becoming clogged.

However the Council's best efforts can be foiled when people dump grass clippings or any other rubbish in or near a drain. In the past we've found everything from garden refuse to mattresses quite literally ditched, especially around town fringes where urban development backs onto rural land. Around farms, tyres from silage covers commonly end up in and around our drains.

Often this happens during dry periods, only to create a pile-up of debris and a potential flood risk when the rains come. While a bit of greenwaste may seem innocuous or a few tyres inconsequential, they can cause a lot of trouble upstream and stop the drains from functioning properly. Downstream, rubbish can cause floodgates to jam open and let the river flood or let tidal water into the network; or it can get caught in pumps, resulting in damage and failure.

So if your silage cover weights are redundant, or you're having a clean-out or moving house, please help us by disposing of rubbish responsibly!

It's also important to keep access to drains free of buildings, fences, vegetation and stored materials. The Council's drainage bylaw requires a minimum clear distance of 15 m from the top edge of open drains, to allow access for maintenance staff, contractors and machines.

▼ Tyres commonly end up clogging our drains, like this one in the Hauraki Plains. ►

