

This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

Graduation celebration for class of 2015

We're good at acknowledging university achievers, so why not industry training graduates? Last Wednesday, the successes of more than 30 Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel industry trainees and apprentices were celebrated at our eighth annual joint graduation ceremony.

The event is hosted alternately by the two Councils, and was held this year at the Ngatea War Memorial Hall. It arose from the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs that was formed to address difficulties experienced by young people trying to get into work, especially in provincial areas. "Our vision is that everyone under 25 be engaged in appropriate education, training, work or positive activities in their communities," said Hauraki Mayor John Tregidga.

Thames-Coromandel Deputy Mayor Peter French said that unlike universities, industry training organisations had no formal way of recognising national qualification attainments – and saw an opportunity to collaborate with the Mayors Taskforce.

"But the graduations aren't just about young people. They celebrate the efforts made by people of all ages to upskill, and by employers who support trainees, which is a huge commitment in today's economic climate."

Guest speaker Eric Souchon, the managing director of HG Leach Quarrymen and Contractors, could personally affirm the value of the qualifications being recognised. "With over 100 staff on 16 sites in two countries, we need to put confidence in good and skilled people. Education and training are essential for success in our businesses, communities and families."

He told the graduates: "Your certificate is a record of what you have done. What matters is what you do with it".

Carpentry graduate Izaac Steel said his three-year apprenticeship with Paeroa builder Murray Pennell has given him a great career start, "earning money and getting a qualification at the same time." The 22-year-old is now working in Auckland, where there is high demand for construction skills.

Before taking on Izaac, Murray had met him only briefly as one of his daughter's schoolfriends. But his positive attitude impressed Murray, who said it is satisfying to see his trainees succeed. "Izaac is my 11th apprentice. My first one started 21 years ago."

Newly qualified hairdresser Katie Pavletich said her Waihi employer, Shear Focus salon owner Sonya Whatford, has also been very supportive. "I've known what I wanted to do for about seven years, since I was about 15."

Katie did her first year of training at polytech; and said her apprenticeship meant "getting paid to train rather than getting a wicked student loan". While she plans to take a career break to be a fulltime mum, her qualification has given her something she can go back to.

For Stephanie Mephram, 33, business management training has provided "good life skills, better opportunities, and more variety" in her work at Pak'nSave Thames supermarket. She started there as a checkout operator after emigrating from Canada and settling in Paeroa 13 years ago, and is now '2 IC' of her department. She recommends industry training because it is self-directed, flexible, and do-able without moving to a bigger centre.

Other graduates ranged in age up to their 60s; and some had been able to train together with workmates progressing toward the same qualification. If our Mayor had needed security, there were plenty of people certified to provide it!



Katie Pavletich proudly displays her 'graduation certificate' received from Hauraki Mayor John Tregidga and Thames-Coromandel Deputy Mayor Peter French.



Builder Murray Pennell celebrates the success of his 11th apprentice, Izaac Steel.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Fielden.

CONGRATULATIONS TO – Katie Pavletich, Chantelle Windlebourne (hairdressing); Karen Crawford, Jeffrey Gregory, Charnelle Hikaiti, Karen McCormack, Lynn Mitchell (health, disability and aged care support); Sharon Birss, Nathanael (Neil) Reurich, Stephen Syrrat (security and mobile patrols); Joshua Nash (auto electrical); William Morris, Richard Sedgwick, Nathan Smythe, Nigel Wenzlick (mechanical engineering); Scott Banford, Michael Stewart, (water reticulation); Adrian Stockman (water and wastewater treatment); Michael Todd (drainlaying); Colin Demler (sports turf care); Lars Williamson (foundation construction); Izaac Steel, Saufua Letoa (carpentry); Richard Welsh (solid wood manufacturing and saw doctoring); Joseph Dean, David Maynard (dairy farming, animal health and husbandry); Ethan Koch (agriculture); Jamie Metekingi, Dion Davis (forestry); Adrienne Crawford (real estate); Paul Hogwood (sales); Wynn Jeffers, Stephanie Mephram (business management).

Award pushes all the right buttons

Please do touch! That's the philosophy of the attraction which has just won the Best Visitor Experience accolade at this year's Service IQ New Zealand Museum Awards.

Waihi's Gold Discovery Centre is about doing rather than looking, says General Manager Eddie Morrow. "It's about pushing the buttons and cranking the handles to make the story of Waihi gold mining unfold. We want visitors to go away with an 'experience', so I'm particularly happy that this is the award we have won. This new category focuses on being interactive – not your traditional museum."

Eddie says it's fantastic to receive such high recognition on a national level so soon after the centre's opening just eight months ago. But it's been years in the planning: the project led by the Vision Waihi Trust was announced in 2007, as a way of bringing economic benefits to the community that would be needed in a post-mining future.

In 2009 the venture obtained \$1.8m of funding from the Government's Major Regional Initiatives fund. It then survived the global economic downturn that resulted in the withdrawal of the New Zealand Mint as a key partner; and though its site was changed from a planned new building to the remodelled existing premises, the final centre opposite the Cornish Pumphouse has more exhibition space, and incorporates a new regional i-Site.

Mayor John Tregidga says the award "endorses the original concept of creating a national visitor attraction, where it will be enjoyed not only by our local and domestic visitors but also the many international visitors who pass through our region. Waihi is fortunate to have such a high quality attraction."



HANDS ON: Councillor James Thorp immerses himself in the experiences of the Gold Discovery Centre on its opening day last September.

The Council has been a project partner since the early stages, investing \$70,000 toward the concept plans. We contributed \$375,000 to the development and fit-out of the Gold Discovery Centre and i-Site, and met the consenting costs. We've also agreed to provide annual funding of \$85,000 for five years as an operating grant to the i-Site.

Eddie says the public-private partnership – also including Newmont Waihi Gold and the Ryan Family Trust – has been essential. "Without it, the centre wouldn't have become a reality."

Award judges hailed the Gold Discovery Centre as "a community-driven project with a tourism attraction outcome in mind, successfully completed to a high standard and offering a variety of experiences".

This week, the centre was presented at the TRENZ Expo in Rotorua – New Zealand's premium annual international tourism trade show for tourism operators and overseas buyers.

PUBLIC NOTICES

RATING INFORMATION DATABASE

The Rating Information Database for Hauraki District Council is available for public inspection during office hours of 8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday at the Council offices at William Street, Paeroa; Orchard Road, Ngatea and Rosemont Road, Waihi

The Rating Information Database is also available on Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

Ratepayers may object to information in the Rating Information Database where information is incorrect or has been omitted.

Objections must be in writing and posted to -

Rating Information Database
Hauraki District Council
PO Box 17
Paeroa 3640

RATES REMINDER

This is a reminder that all third instalment rates remaining unpaid after the close of business on Wednesday 27 May 2015 will incur a 10% penalty.

HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

The Hearing of Submissions will be held at the Hauraki District Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa on Wednesday, 27 May 2015 from 11.00am onwards and Thursday, 28 May 2015 from 9.00am for the 2015-25 Long Term Plan and the associated Statements of Proposal, as follows:

- 2015-25 Revenue and Financing Policy
- 2015-18 Development Contributions Policy
- 2015-25 Rates Remissions Policies
- Proposed Fees and Charges for 2015/16
- Trade Waste Bylaw Amendment 2015.

The public may attend to listen to the hearing proceedings. Only those persons that submitted on the 2015-25 Long Term Plan or associated Statements of Proposal and indicated that they wished to speak in support of their written submission will be permitted to speak.

The Summary of Submissions documents, that include a copy of all submissions received with a brief summary and staff comment for each submission, are available to view at the Council offices in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

More water works in the pipeline

The installation of a new treated water pipeline between Waihi and Waikino is set to start by the end of this month.

The 140mm-diameter pipeline will cover 5.4km, from Dean Crescent in Waihi along SH2 to Campbell Road, and then via Campbell Road and Old Waitekauri Road to Waikino. Traffic management will be in place when needed – and we thank motorists in advance for their cooperation.

The \$645,000 project also includes the construction of a pump station at our Dean Crescent refuse transfer station, and a 200-cubic metre reservoir in Waikino. Civil contractor Loveridge Limited expects to complete the work by the end of October.

The Waikino water supply project is part of a major water supply upgrade for the area including the upgrading of the Waihi water treatment plant and the building of a new raw water intake facility on the upper Ohinemuri River, directly upstream from the Golden Valley bridge with a connecting pipeline to the Waihi water treatment plant.