

This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

## Tree plan to preserve heritage asset



**The Paeroa Domain trees are key to its character and appeal, and we want to manage them well for the enjoyment of generations to come.**

"A walk in the park" by Council reserves staff recently didn't mean they had an easy job.

On their foot-tour of Paeroa Domain they inspected the specimen trees – there are almost 180 – to get a close-up look at their condition and the care or attention they require.

For instance, two large bunya bunyas are showing symptoms of disease, and shedding a large amount of sharp, brittle foliage on to the grass, road, and playground – which has prompted several complaints. The trees also produce distinctive prickly football-size cones, which normally fall in autumn when they're ripe and dry. But high winds can also bring down an early crop of cones weighing up to 10kg apiece, as happened in an overnight storm last summer.

Advice from the Council's arborist has confirmed that these trees are declining, and under additional stress from mealy bug attack. While they are listed as significant trees in the District Plan, Paeroa ward councillors have resolved to have them removed in the near future,

and replaced with species appropriate for the Domain.

But the staff examination showed that we need more than a maintenance schedule. As noted in an arboricultural survey and management report commissioned in 2003, the mature trees in the Domain are essentially "single aged", and many will reach the end of their useful lives at a similar time. To preserve our heritage treescape asset and prevent it becoming a liability, we must prepare ahead.

Paeroa ward councillors have now approved engaging a qualified independent professional to provide a long-term tree management strategy for the area. This ward-funded project will include an assessment of the health, life expectancy, and location of the current specimen trees, their suitability, and recommendations of appropriate species for future planting.

Although none of the present trees are thought to commemorate important events in the District's history, some are uncommon in the region. The Domain is home to species native to the Himalayas,

Siberia, Canada, and Florida, which raises the question - How did they get there?

When the Ohinemuri County Council set the area aside as a recreation reserve in 1900, it was virtually a swamp and marshy lagoon, with cattleyards at one end serving the Arney Street Butchery. Four years later, the Paeroa Domain Board was appointed to manage the reserve, and it employed William Hamilton – who had 20 years experience working on the Auckland Domain – as superintendent.

By 1906, under his charge, the lagoon had been drained and fencing installed. Tennis, croquet, bowling and rugby facilities had been established, the band rotunda built, and more than 300 trees and shrubs planted – though where he sourced so many exotic seedlings at that time remains a subject of speculation.

Subsequent Councils didn't unreservedly embrace Mr Hamilton's vision to transform the Domain into an arboretum containing the widest possible variety of trees. However they continued to develop the important recreational asset, over many more years.

Fourth-generation Paeroa resident Alistair Buchanan recalls an anecdote related by his father, who in 1937 wanted to woo a visiting young lady. So he took his shotgun into the remaining swampy area of the Domain, and by manoeuvring from mound to mound, bagged a cock pheasant. This he took as a gift to the nearby Presbyterian manse where the girl was staying – and courtship and marriage ensued.

On the town side of the domain, there was a hill perhaps 20 or 30 feet high, says Alistair. This was dug out to become fill for the swampy ground; and other locals recall that dirt was also carted from the Wharf Street and Princes Street areas.

## Building opportunity knocks

### Looking to get a foot in your own front door?

The Council is proactive about facilitating affordable residential growth, and has six freehold sections still available in its Benner Drive subdivision in Ngatea. They range in size from 691 sq m to 810 sq m, and are reasonably priced from \$105,000 to \$120,000.

Of the original 13 properties in the fourth and final stage of the residential development, four have been built on, and another home is under construction. There's also interest from further prospective buyers, especially as titles in the Council's next residential subdivision, Northern Estate, won't be available for at least a year.

As residential property prices in Auckland skyrocket, Ngatea recently received special mention in the *New Zealand Herald* as a realistic alternative: commutable, or as some intending short-term residents have discovered, a great place to live and work and put down deeper roots.

The Benner Drive sections are flat with a pleasant outlook, have all services in place, and are centrally located close to shops, schools and sports facilities – offering a great opportunity to build your first home or dream home. Apart from the restriction that houses must be new (not relocated), you'll have an open slate!

Inquiries can be made through local real estate agents.



## Keeping algae in check

We're continuing to monitor the raw water in the former Tetleys Quarry pit reservoir at Waitakaruru, in the wake of a summer algal bloom that has resulted in some taste and odour issues.

The 'explosion' of natural algae in the Waitakaruru River water source is caused by high levels of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, and made worse by sunlight and long, hot dry spells. With seasonal weather patterns now changing and some fresh water coming into the quarry, we expect progressive improvement. However this doesn't happen overnight – and there's a two-week turnaround period between gathering water samples for testing and receiving the results back.

Some people are more sensitive than others to the taste issue, and this is very expensive to treat. So our main focus, as well as active monitoring, is on managing the problem with non-chemical strategies. The algae is most predominant at the surface level of the reservoir and we draw water from the lowest levels. We also aerate the reservoir to reduce the algae's ability to survive.

## TENDER NOTICE - REMOVAL OR DEMOLITION

### PAEROA BRIDGE CLUB BUILDING, WOOD STREET, PAEROA

Council is calling for tenders for the removal or demolition of the Paeroa Bridge Club Building at Wood Street, Paeroa.

The building is constructed of a timber floor, wooden windows, corrugated iron roof and fibre cement weatherboard cladding. Total floor area of the building is 128 m<sup>2</sup>.

The conditions of the Tender are available from Council's Service Centre at William Street, Paeroa, or by phoning the Property Manager, Dennis Lees on 07 862 8609 or 0274 875 609.

**Tenders close with Council at 2.00pm Friday, 24 April 2015.**

Council may not accept every or any Tender submitted.

LD Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### KERBSIDE REFUSE & RECYCLING

#### EASTER WEEK COLLECTIONS

Due to Monday, 6 April 2015 being a statutory holiday, collections scheduled for the week of 5 April to 11 April will be carried out a day later than normal.

The schedule below shows the collection days for that week.

Township	Collection Day	What to put out
Whiritoa	Tuesday 7 April	Refuse only
Kerepehi	Thursday 9 April	Refuse only
Ngatea	Thursday 9 April	Refuse and recycling
Turua	Thursday 9 April	Refuse only
Waitakaruru	Thursday 9 April	Refuse and recycling
Kaiaua	Thursday 9 April	Refuse and recycling
Waihi	Friday 10 April	Refuse only
Waikino	Friday 10 April	Refuse only
Karangahake	Friday 10 April	Refuse and recycling
Mackaytown	Friday 10 April	Refuse and recycling
Paeroa	Friday 10 April	Refuse and recycling

**Collection days will be back to normal starting Monday, 13 April 2015.**

## COUNCIL & 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 April 2015:

#### Judicial Committee

Monday, 13 April 2015 - 9.00am  
Thursday, 30 April 2015 - 9.00am

#### Ward Committee Meetings

Tuesday, 14 April 2015:  

- Plains Ward - 9.00am
- Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm
- Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

#### Operations Committee

Wednesday, 15 April 2015 - 9.00am

#### Audit & Risk Committee

Tuesday, 21 April 2015 - 9.00am

#### Western Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday, 28 April 2015 - 10.30am

#### Eastern Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday, 28 April 2015 - 1.30pm

#### Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday, 29 April 2015 - 9.30am

LD Cavers

Chief Executive

Hauraki District Council

## SITUATION VACANT

### FINANCE MANAGER

Due to an internal promotion we have a rare opportunity for an experienced and self-motivated accountancy professional to lead the financial management team within the Corporate Services Department.

This is a chance to enjoy a balanced lifestyle in a rural community only an hour from Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga. In this role you can make a real difference, working for Local Government to help deliver the essential services that make New Zealand a great place to live.

As Finance Manager you will lead a team of 10 employees to ensure the effective financial management of Council's resources through the financial reporting and processing functions.

The successful applicant will be an effective leader, financially savvy, and have a CV which demonstrates a high-level grasp on financial management principles and practices. Local government experience is preferable but not essential.

For further details or to apply electronically please visit our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz), or contact Sue Greenville on 07 862 5024 or Julie Sweeney on 07 862 5023

**Applications close Thursday, 9 April 2015**

"At Hauraki District Council ...  
It's More than Just a Job!"