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Visiting writer walks in others' shoes

Entering underground mines while rigid with claustrophobia, and hopping fences into old prison grounds to be chased away by a security guard with a Rottweiler – those are just some of the lengths bestselling writer Deborah Challinor went to while researching for her *Convict Girls* novels.

As she launches the fourth and final title in the series, *A Tattooed Heart*, Hauraki residents have a chance to meet Deborah and hear how she walked in her characters' shoes while visiting the places in Australia that they encountered. **The Hamilton-based author and historian will be in the Waihi Library at 12pm next Thursday, November 5, as part of a New Zealand book tour.**

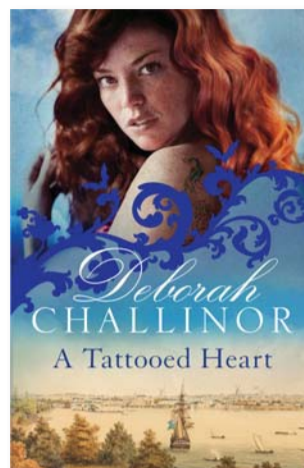
With some convicts among her Australian ancestors, "I'll be talking about why I wrote the series, and the resources I used," she says.

In *A Tattooed Heart*, English transportees Friday Woolfe, Sarah Morgan and Harriet Clarke have been serving their sentences in Sydney Town for three years – for much of that time living in fear of sinister and vindictive compatriot Bella Jackson, who continues to blackmail them about their past.

Each has begun to make a life for herself, when Harrie's adopted child Charlotte is abducted and taken to Newcastle. The girls must risk their very freedom to save her. But is Friday up to the task? Will her desperate battle with her own vices drive her to fail not only herself, but those she loves and who love her?

On November 5, locals will be able to buy books and have Deborah sign them, find out what she is working on now, and ask questions on anything related to her writing.

Deborah says she looks forward to meeting enthusiastic readers in a town where she is fascinated by the history of goldmining. "The idea of setting a book in Waihi is very tempting."



Bestselling writer Deborah Challinor will be in Waihi as her new novel *A Tattooed Heart* is launched.

As a "youthess" she often used to pass through on her way to surf at Waihi Beach; and on a stop about 12 years ago "I bought a pair of very stylish, genuine snakeskin 1950s high-heeled pumps from a vintage shop. What a find!"

The library event is being arranged in conjunction with Paper Plus Waihi. "We're excited about hosting such an author, and the library is a great venue with comfort and space for people to gather," says store co-owner Virginia Laing. She herself has enjoyed the previous *Convict Girls* stories (*Behind the Sun*, *Girl of Shadows*, and *The Silk Thief*) "and I can't wait to read the new one."

Waihi Librarian Karen Wickcliffe says Deborah's books are very popular, including her historical non-fiction, and the latest release will definitely be available for loan.

Ngatea subdivision is a show-stopper

The hub town of the Hauraki Plains doesn't usually get 50,000 visitors in five days. But last month, the Council took Ngatea to the record-turnout Auckland Home Show – Australasia's largest home, building and renovation event.

Our exhibit got the message out that it's still possible to live the Kiwi dream at Ngatea, where sections in the Council's newest residential subdivision *Northern Estate* are now selling. The possibilities have particular appeal for Auckland area retirees wanting to free up some money to enjoy the years ahead; and young couples and families struggling to buy their first home in the inflated market of New Zealand's biggest city.

These potential buyers loved what they saw at the show! People who hadn't previously thought of moving to Hauraki – including a number who work in Manukau, just a 45-minute commute away – were keenly interested in just such an opportunity.

"The prices of the property in Ngatea are unheard of in Auckland, and provide people with a real [alternative]. We wanted to show them how they could live a wonderful lifestyle in Ngatea, and what living in the Hauraki District could look like," says exhibit manager Jillian O'Neill.

Ahead of the release of stage one titles in mid-2016, six of the 22 sections currently being developed in *Northern Estate* have already been sold, with contracts being negotiated on a further two. In addition, some builders are considering house and land projects that would provide new home buyers with a complete value-for-money package.

As a further result of interest registered at the show, the Council will be bringing about 60 coach passengers to Ngatea on a "famil" (the tourist industry term for familiarisation) of town facilities and the new subdivision. The planned date is Saturday November 7, coinciding with the Hauraki Plains Rural Show, and special school tours are being arranged with the principals' support.

The Council's Community Services Manager Steve Fabish, who travelled to the Home Show, is delighted with the huge amount of attention generated. "These are genuine people who are looking to relocate with their families and be involved with our schools and clubs and support local businesses. This is the best outcome we can hope for."

Information about Northern Estate is available from Lee Carter at Bayleys Real Estate, on 0508 83 83 83.

Summer ahead What your dog would like to remind you

Daylight saving is here – summer's on the way!

That may spark anticipation of barbecues, swimming, and holidays. But as the temperature rises, remember to plan for any canine members of your household, too.

Dogs can't sweat, but they can pant if they're too hot, so they need somewhere to shelter from the sun and a plentiful supply of fresh drinking water. If kept outside, they may also try to keep cool by digging. If possible, give your dog access to a shady area where it's OK to dig.

It's a good idea to exercise your dog early in the morning or late in the day, when it's coolest for both of you. Another way to keep your dog both fit and comfortable in summer is to take him or her for a swim. You'll need to keep in mind any seasonal restrictions on where and when dogs are allowed: for instance at Whiritoa, they are excluded from the beach between 9am and 7pm from December 20 to March 1, and on public holiday weekends.

In other popular areas such as signposted sections of the Hauraki Rail Trail, dogs are permitted if they're kept on a leash, in consideration of fellow trail users and the neighbouring farmers.

Never leave your dog in a parked car. Even in the shade a vehicle can retain more heat than open spaces, which can quickly cause dogs to become dehydrated. On road trips, make sure you have water for your dog, and keep the air conditioning on.



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 November 2015.

Judicial Committee

Monday, 9 November 2015 - 9.00am
Monday, 23 November 2015 - 9.00am

Ward Committee Meetings

Tuesday, 10 November 2015
Plains Ward - 10.00am
Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm
Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

Operations Committee

Wednesday, 11 November 2015 - 9.00am

Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, 11 November 2015 - 1.00pm

Western Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday, 24 November 2015 - 10.30am

Paeroa Rural District Drainage Committee

Tuesday, 24 November 2015 - 12.00pm

Eastern Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday, 24 November 2015 - 1.30pm

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday, 25 November 2015 - 9.00am

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



Paving the way for a new car park in Waihi

Parking – it's not just a city problem, or an issue at our tourist hotspots.

There aren't enough spaces in our Waihi Silverton Road car park, where demand has significantly increased since last year's opening of the adjacent new Waihi Library and the Waihi Family Doctors medical practice. This has also bumped up associated problems, such as vehicle damage and risks to motorist and pedestrian safety.

So to allow us to completely redevelop the car park facility, we plan to close it to the public from November 9 to December 4 – meaning regular users need to plan to park elsewhere. If the completion date is not achievable the site will be left in a safe, clean and useable state over the holiday period with the commencement date to be the end of January 2016.

The reconstruction project will boost parking capacity from 58 vehicles to 97, by improving the layout and getting rid of skewed and narrow bays, and creating 25 new spaces as part of a shoulder park extension on the eastern side of the New World supermarket.

For better traffic flow, the existing narrow dual carriageway entry from SH2 will be converted to a one-way no-exit street. There'll be two-way access from Kenny Street; with speed humps installed in both places to encourage slow driving. Extended and additional footpaths will make walking to and from the car parks easier and safer.

During the site closure we suggest using the Waihi Events Centre car park instead – accessible from Kenny Street and Haszard Street with a pedestrian link to Rosemont Road opposite the library. Nearby street frontages will provide another alternative.

We regret inconvenience that will be caused, but thank people in advance for their understanding – and we're confident that the resulting larger capacity, safer, and more user-friendly facility will be appreciated by everyone.