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Dog days of summer are here

Dogs love a good walk or romp at any time of the year – but over the summer holidays they need to share their happy places with a lot more people who are also enjoying the great outdoors. Here are some tips to help everyone enjoy themselves.

Head for our dog friendly areas

If kept on a leash in consideration of other trail users and the neighbouring farmers, dogs are welcome on several signposted sections of the Hauraki Rail Trail:

- Between Paeroa and Te Aroha, from the southern side of the Opukeko Stream Bridge to Ryall Road.
- Between Paeroa and Karangakake, from the Opukeko Stream Bridge to the intersection of Rotokohu Road and Te Moanui Flats Road.
- Between Karangakake and Waikino, from Bridge Street to the gateway immediately south of the western end of the footbridge over the Ohinemuri River, next to Victoria Battery.
- At the Waihi end of the trail, on the northern (town) side of the Hauraki Rail Trail Swing Bridge.
- On the Kaiiua coast, dogs on a leash can stretch their legs between the 50kph sign at the southern boundary of the township and the Waihopuhopu Stream Bridge.

We also have designated areas where dogs can be exercised without a leash, provided they're under the effective control of their owners or minders:

- At Kaiiua, from the Waihopuhopu Stream Bridge to the Council's northern boundary.
- Whiritoa main beach – outside peak holiday times. Restrictions do apply from 20 December to 1 March and on public holiday weekends, when dogs are only allowed on the beach and in the lagoon area before 9am and after 7pm.
- The stop bank land owned by the Waikato Regional Council at Ngatea, and at Paeroa south of the Criterion Bridge – apart from any signposted areas that may be sub-leased for purposes such as grazing.
- Brenan Field, Norwood Road, Paeroa
- In Waihi, behind the netball courts at Morgan Park, and at Waihi South Reserve in Consols Street – excluding the playing field, skating, and children's playground areas.

Make the most of long days

Extra hours of daylight in the early mornings and evenings are a great opportunity to get out with your dog when there are few people about. Your dog will appreciate exercising in the cooler temperatures, too!

Leave only pawprints

Whether off the streets or on them, we remind owners to think of everyone by picking up any 'doggie doo' their animals leave.

Secure your home-base

Given the opportunity, dogs at home will often exercise themselves. However, their owners are legally obliged to prevent them from roaming. If you're a dog owner, now is the time to ensure that your fencing or other contained area is secure.

We're happy to answer any questions about dog exercise, or other matters related to dog control or ownership. You can contact us on 0800 734 834 (from within the district) or 07 862 8609.



Summertime at the Library

Where are you reading your library books this summer?

Whether your happy place is a deck chair in your own back yard, the beach, or you're in a distant town, email libraries@hauraki-dc.govt.nz and tell us – or attach a picture to show us. We're keen to know about the places our books get to!

If you're up for an adventure, pick up your 'ticket' for our all-age summer reading challenge from any of our Hauraki District Libraries. Then find the likes of a book based on a true story, a book set somewhere you've always wanted to visit, an author with the same initials as yours... and start the New Year with some new experiences.

Kids – you can play Seek and Find. How well you know your local library? Come in and try our fun quiz! Completed entries go into a prize draw.

Our libraries at Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi also have free summer-themed colour-in sheets to take home. If you want to exhibit your artwork, bring it back and we'll put a collection on show.

Library summer activities run until 22 January.



Our work's gone down the drain

Now you see it... now you don't. The open drain on the south side of Kerepehi Town Road has disappeared, after Council approval was given in March this year to pipe it. The work had to wait until the wet season was over, but was completed at the end of last month.

With many open drains around the District, we have various criteria for deciding which should be piped. Priority is usually given to waterways in urban and especially residential areas, where problems may include mosquitoes, children's safety if there are schools nearby, and the dumping of rubbish.

There's also an aesthetic factor, particularly in the context of associated development. Sometimes an open drain can double as an attractive landscape feature; in other cases it can detract from the visual appeal of an area. In Kerepehi Town Road, piping the drain means there is now an attractive, well-presented main entry from the State Highway to Kerepehi township.

The open drain prior to the recently completed works.



The grassed and planted berm on the north side of Kerepehi Town Road, following the earlier piping of that drain in conjunction with industrial development at Reta Crescent.



Feeling fenced in?

If you're a farmer, the elephant in the paddock on our 18 December HDC News page may have struck a chord. Stress can be huge for farming families, especially at Christmas time and New Year.

Councillor Gill Leonard knows what that's like from her own farm life. "I have an affinity with our farming community, and I encourage farmers to look after themselves first – so they can then look after others."

You've probably heard the old adage on how to eat an elephant... one bite at a time! To cut our elephant down to size, over the next month in conjunction Dairy NZ we'll be highlighting five ways that farmers can boost their wellbeing.

No.1: Connect and Give

You probably spend a lot of time working on your own. But sometimes talking to the dogs or the cows isn't enough, and interacting with other people can really be refreshing and help put things in perspective.

- Spend some time with people whose company you enjoy.
- Attend gatherings, e.g. farm discussion groups, community events, social get-togethers.
- Have someone you can talk freely to about work frustrations.
- Make time for an interest outside work – with a friend or family member, or join a group.
- Take time to listen.
- Volunteer your time and talents.

Feeling stressed out?

Get help from the Rural Support Trust on 0800 787 254

HDC Service timetable - 31 December 2015 to 5 January 2016

| | Thursday 31 December | Friday 1 January | Saturday 2 January | Sunday 3 January | Monday 4 January | Tuesday 5 January |
|--|---|---------------------|---|---------------------|--|---|
| All Council Offices Paeroa, Waihi & Ngatea | 8am to 4.30pm | | Closed | | | 8am to 4.30pm |
| Waihi & Paeroa Library | 10am to 4.30pm | | Closed | | | 10am to 4.30pm |
| Ngatea Library | 8am to 4.30pm | | Closed | | | 8.00am to 4.30pm |
| Swimming Pools Paeroa, Waihi & Ngatea | 6am to 9am (lane swimming) 9am to 5.30pm (public swim) | Closed | 11am to 5pm (public swim) | | | 6am to 9am (lane swimming) 9am to 5.30pm (public swim) |
| Paeroa Transfer Station | 12.30pm to 5.30pm | Closed | 12.30pm to 5.30pm | | Closed | 12.30pm to 5.30pm |
| Waihi Transfer Station | Closed | | 10am to 4pm | | Closed | |
| Kerbside Refuse and recycling collection | Refuse only Waihi & Waikino Refuse & recycling Karangahake Mackaytown Paeroa | | Refuse & recycling Whiritoa | | Bags & glass only Whiritoa | |