



Will Hauraki Rail Trail be voted New Zealand's Favourite Place to Cycle?

Hauraki District Mayor, John Tregidga, certainly hopes so.

Voted into the top five cycling spots in *Bike Wise NZ's Favourite Places to Cycle* competition in 2014, the Hauraki Rail Trail (HRT) has been nominated again this year and Mr Tregidga is urging local residents to help push it into the top spot. His diary's pretty chocka this month, but that won't stop him casting a vote for his home-trail.

Already something of a tall poppy, the Trail picked up the MartinJenkins Excellence Award for Local Economic Contribution at the inaugural LGNZ (Local Government New Zealand) Excellence Awards last year. Exceeding all expectations, HRT users spent \$4.5 million in just one year between March 2013 and February 2014.

"From the moment it (HRT) was identified by Central Government as one of seven quick-start trails on its Nga Haerenga project, we realised it had huge potential both recreationally and economically for the whole region - not just one district or community," he says.

Just how much the Trail has done for the District has surprised him as much as anybody. Paeroa's the busiest he's seen it in the many years he's lived there. The Trail's made a huge difference in the hospitality and accommodation sectors too, while the flow-on effect has put Hauraki on the map as a destination. The reason he says, aside from its obvious beauty, is its suitability for people of all ages and cycling ability.

He recently caught the Goldfields Railway train from Waikino to Waihi with his family, then rode back home to Paeroa.

"It's mostly flat. It's easy to ride, scenic and enjoyable. It's the whole package; there's the Karangahake Gorge walkways, Paeroa's antique shops, Victoria Battery, Goldfields Railway – and now the Gold Discovery Centre in Waihi too."



Public Notice

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of the **22nd Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo Street March** the following roads will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated below. During the period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

Date of closure: Saturday 14 February 2015.

Time of closure: 5.15pm to 6.30pm.

Roads to be closed: Normanby Rd (SH2) from Victoria St to Mackay St; Princes St from Queen St to Arney St; Arney St from Princes St to Willoughby St; Willoughby St from Arney St to Hall St; Mackay St, PAEROA.

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

L D Cavers
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council

Quick Tips for Smart Water Use

Hose health

Check your garden hose regularly for leaks. Store it on a reel to prevent kinking and damage.

For more tips, click the smart water use logo on the Council's website.



VOTE FOR HAURAKI RAILTRAIL

If the Hauraki Rail Trail is your favourite place to cycle, join the Mayor and vote for it online at <https://www.bikewise.co.nz/content/nzs-favourite-places-cycle-competition> during February. The winner will be announced in early March.



Crowds flock to reserves

Our parks and reserves are hot destinations!

At Railway Reserve, the barbecue recently installed near the playground by the Paeroa Lions Club has been very popular, including for birthday parties. Over Auckland Anniversary weekend, high use of reserves was evident with carparks at full capacity and Council service staff kept busy.

It was great to see so many visitors and locals enjoying our District attractions. At the same time, a huge influx of people meant some challenges for Council staff, as exceptional pressure was placed on amenities. It's not often there's a need to queue for toilets in Hauraki – but that happened at Paeroa's 'Bottle Park' (Ohinemuri Park) and Karangahake Reserve, where extra servicing was needed when water in the cisterns couldn't be replenished quickly enough to cope with the continuous use. At Karangahake, a water break compounded this problem.

The Council will be looking into what measures can be taken to cope with future spikes in demand.

Fire ban extended

As the dry summer rolls on, so does the open-air fire ban across the Hauraki District. This has been extended until further notice – with low rainfall recorded across the District during January and temperatures well into the high twenties the fire risk is at an elevated level.

The small amount of rain that fell in mid-January was gone within 24 hours, says Thames Valley Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer Peter Smith. "We need a sizeable amount, in the order of 15 to 20mm for six or seven days, to significantly reduce the fire risk."

The ban includes land clearing burn-offs, rubbish fires, beach fires, and the use of open-top incinerators; as well as braziers,

C'mon Keep it Green

chinese lanterns and fireworks. However, exemptions apply to gas fueled barbecues, solid fueled permanent barbecues made of brick or concrete, and approved type pizza ovens with a chimney.

Traditional cooking fires such as hangi, umu or charcoal spit roasts are not permitted, although for community or cultural events, permits may be considered by the fire authority. These can be applied for at Council service centres, with notice of at least 48 hours (two working days) required.

Understanding and cooperation from residents and holidaymakers has been excellent, says Peter. "People have applied for fire permits where appropriate, and have been quick to report seeing any smoke."

Please help our meter readers

You may never see our water meter readers at work, but the job they do is a key link in our efforts to provide an efficient service at fair and accurate water charges.

Readers need to access the meters quickly and safely. Keeping your meter clear of shrubs, plants, grass, lawn clippings and bark – with the blue lid clearly visible, helps them to do this. Readers often find that meters are overgrown or concealed, especially as many have been in the ground since 1999, and some for much longer. A few meters have even had fences or rockeries constructed over the top.

So please check your meter, which will usually

be just outside your property boundary but in some cases may be installed within the property. Reasonable access is required to these.

If our meter readers can't get the information they need, your water account has to be estimated, with uncertain accuracy. We think you would rather know that you are paying for the water you actually use.

Having the meter easy to get to and read also enables you or your plumber to easily turn off the water if necessary, and to check for any water leaks by reading the meter last thing at night and first thing the next morning.