

Langley takes 'Be ready' passion to the top

In a Civil Defence emergency on the scale of the Christchurch earthquake, all our survival kits and No.8 wire talents won't be enough to get through – unless our management systems are prepared.

One man credited with leading a turnaround in the Waikato region's management preparedness has just been honoured with a Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management silver award for his service. Hauraki District Council Chief Executive Langley Cavers was presented with a medallion by Civil Defence Minister Nikki Kaye, at a special ceremony in Parliament House.

The Minister said the awards recognised "people who have worked tirelessly and passionately to build and improve local civil defence systems and processes." There were four recipients this year, and "through their efforts, either as individuals or as a team, they have all helped make our communities safer and more resilient." After a 2009 assessment by the Ministry which highlighted significant gaps in the capability of the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, Langley volunteered to take on the chairman's role of the coordinating executive group addressing cultural, leadership and other issues.

The award citation noted that his "systematic and personable approach" and "quiet but consistent leadership" were influential in rebuilding an executive team in which members assumed greater responsibilities, and establishing a cooperative working relationship with the

Waikato Regional Council. It was also vital to get all 10 of the region's City and District Councils on board, and Langley's "factual business cases, as well as his personal credibility, were key factors in achieving the confidence of the Waikato CDEM joint committee [comprising of one elected representative from each Council]."

Hauraki District Mayor John Tregidga describes the award as "fitting recognition of the Civil Defence work Langley has led, with a diverse team, while carrying out his responsibilities as Council Chief Executive. As a result there have been significant changes to our management capability and how we operate, which filter down to all levels of emergency response. The public can have confidence that we have a coordinated management programme in place that gives far greater resilience to our communities. It's a real credit to Langley's expertise and ability as a leader that we have become a blueprint for the rest of the country."

Langley says the work has definitely been a "team effort", in partnership with the Waikato CDEM joint committee and the Regional Council. While he has taken a lead role in heading the executive group, "it's much easier when you have a good team. Disasters like the Christchurch earthquake have shown how critical Civil Defence preparedness is – that's why we put the effort in."

Our Councils now have an increased understanding of their role giving people the skills and resources to help



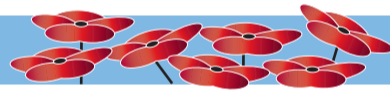
MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Council's Chief Executive Langley Cavers receives a silver award for his service from Civil Defence Minister Nikki Kaye.

themselves, and an integrated training strategy has boosted the number of trained people, he says. "We have built up our resources so we have the capacity to respond to an emergency of any level. Although I hope we never need to, events like Christchurch and our weather bombs tell us it's a matter of 'when', not 'if'."

During his Council career Langley has experienced the effects of two cyclones (when he was drainage manager); and after the 2001 collapse of a Waihi East house into an old mine shaft, he was involved with the recovery phase and managing the threat to other homes.

So he hopes his award will further raise awareness about the importance of being prepared – and yes, his own family does have a survival kit ready, and a household plan in case family members are separated.

Honouring our Anzacs



This year's Anzac commemorations mark the 100th anniversary of the day that Australian and New Zealand Army Corps soldiers landed at Gallipoli, as part of an Allied mission to capture the peninsula. Their courage and sacrifices on April 25, 1915 and in the ensuing conflict left a profound impact.

A century later, Hauraki residents who served in World War I are being recognised through a number of Council and community projects over the next three years.

While many of our soldiers did not return, it's equally fitting to honour those who did, says Deputy Mayor Bruce Gordon. "They too and their families back home made enormous sacrifices." With this in mind, we want to pay tribute to all our known servicemen and women by name.

In Ngatea, about 150 Hauraki Plains and Netherton residents will be honoured on plaques on the Memorial Wall in Hugh Hayward Domain, ready for this Anzac Day.

On Primrose Hill, where Paeroa's Anzac Day dawn services are held at a replica of the London Cenotaph which serves as a District war memorial, the Council intends constructing a walking path to

the summit, with an appropriate entrance way and a name to reflect the World War I centenary. After its completion in 2017, development of the cenotaph area itself is planned, followed by extension of the top roadway and carpark.

Outside the Paeroa RSA, the association has already erected 30 white crosses bearing the names of citizens who died in the 1914-1918 conflict - almost a sixth of about 172 local enlistments.

In Waihi, a civic roll of honour plaque will be displayed in a central public place. With about 360 names to list, the memorial will be too big for the location first proposed outside the Memorial Hall, and the Council has deferred this project until April 2016 to allow time for arrangements at a suitable site.

For this year, the Waihi Lions Club is "planting" 360 poppies along the Martha Mine pit rim walkway – one for each resident who served.

In Gilmour Reserve, the Council is supporting a Waihi Heritage Vision project to install a 7.5m-high New Zealand Engineers Tunnelling Company memorial. A second stage of the project will incorporate a memorial wall and a soldier sculpture.

The diggers included a large number of miners from Waihi and Karangahake, but the memorial will also be a national one to the New Zealand unit that was "first on and last off" the Western Front.

In preparation for the 1917 Battle of Arras in northern France, the Tunnellers dug an extensive system of tunnels under enemy lines. So the symbolic laying of the memorial's foundation stone will take place when a mayoral delegation from Arras visits Waihi next month, en route to Anzac celebrations in Wellington.

In the streets of Waihi, Paeroa and Ngatea, poppy banners will soon be flying. A set for each centre has been District-funded, for placement in liaison with town promoters, with wards able to fund additional banners if required. These will be used again for the next three years, from about two weeks before Anzac Day until two weeks afterward, says Bruce.

As well, we're painting the towns red and black by adopting the Anzac colour theme in Council gardens.

Further Council-associated projects relating to World War I commemorations are possible, and these will be considered on their merits.

SITUATION VACANT

STRATEGIC POLICY PLANNER

Would you would like to enhance your career in a positive friendly environment and know that you are making a real difference in the community, working for Local Government to deliver the essential services that make New Zealand a great place to live?

If you have a flair for strategic and corporate planning backed up by a relevant tertiary degree then this could be the opportunity you are looking for.

As the Strategic Policy Planner you will be involved in the strategic and corporate planning functions so that Council plans a sustainable future in partnership with the Hauraki Community.

You will advise on internal and external planning issues and be instrumental in the production of key policy approaches and documents for the Council.

A working knowledge of the Local Government Act and the ability to interpret legislation and apply it to processes and procedures will need to be one of your strengths. Excellent communication and the ability to form technically sound opinions and conclusions will be essential skills.

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

Applications close on 20 March 2015

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

WATER RESTRICTIONS

From 16 February 2015

Notice to all residents of the Hauraki District

River levels remain low, making it necessary to restrict the use of water, in accordance with Council's Water Supply Management Plan relating to its consents to take water from rivers and streams.

For Waihi, Waikino, Mackaytown and Karangahake until further notice a ban is placed on the use of lawn and garden sprinklers. Only hand held hoses may be used until the situation improves.

If you see water leaks or excessive usage or wastage of water in your area, please report this to Council.

Information regarding ways residents can conserve water can be found on the Hauraki District Council website at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

Click on the SmartWaterUse logo. 

It may be necessary to increase the level of restriction if the dry weather period is extended. Your cooperation and efforts to conserve water now contribute to ensuring that water is available for essential and emergency needs.

For further inquiries please phone (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the Hauraki District, no cell phones).

Ken Thompson
District Engineer
Hauraki District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH NOTICE

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Hauraki District Council



What's in your shed?

AGRECOVERY Rural Recycling Programme

When Chemicals expire, get rid of them! Don't leave them as a problem for the next generation.

Agrecovery Chemicals is a safe and simple nationwide collection and disposal system for unwanted and expired chemicals in agriculture.

chemicals

Book your unwanted chemicals NOW!

- ✓ Easy Online or Freephone booking
- ✓ Visit www.agrecovery.co.nz
- ✓ Freephone **0800 247 326**

Booking deadline:

Waikato Region: 27 March 2015

For household or garden chemicals please contact your local council as these chemicals are not subsidised under the Agrecovery programme.

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