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Old loos get the flush

The latest improvements to the Paeroa Scout and Guide Hall will remain behind closed doors. But while toilets may not be the most glamorous part of a building makeover, renovating the smallest rooms has made a big difference for hall users.

Despite the building's name (acknowledging the families involved in Scouts and Guides who built it), it is a community-owned hall on Council land. As well as being a centre for Scout and Guide groups, the venue at the base of Primrose Hill has been used regularly by line dancers, the L&P Rock'n'Rollers, and the Paeroa Lions Club, with each group represented on the hall committee.

The facility was opened in February 1977, on the site of the original hall that burnt down in November 1975. Although it was solidly built and has served the community well, it didn't meet the needs of people with restricted mobility – deterring a number of potential hall hirers and curbing the already modest income that could be invested back into the facility.

Now, the two ladies' and two gents' amenities have been replaced with four individual unisex toilets – one of them wheelchair friendly and including a shower. The reconfigured space also incorporates a utilities closet for brooms, mops and other cleaning gear, complete with a sink and a gas hot water supply that extends to the kitchen.

The \$30,000 project is stage two of the hall's first structural upgrade, which began in early 2014 with the building of an access ramp leading to a new covered porch. However, getting the new loos wasn't simply a matter of calling in the chippies, sparkies and plumbers. Like the ramp, they've come from years of planning and subsequent fundraising by hall committee members and supporters. Project Manager Joe de Jong and rock'n'roll club member Ron Ogle then pitched in as volunteer labourers: stripping the toilet area to a shell ready for the builders, installing new roof linings, lifting the old lino with shovels and chisels, and later doing the painting.

Lottery Community funding and grants from Trust Waikato, the Valder Ohinemuri Trust, and First Sovereign Trust made it possible to complete this very challenging stage of the renovation, says Joe. "And we're grateful that our local tradesmen bent over backwards to get the major work done by the end of January, so the toilets could be used again after the school holidays."

In conjunction with the refurbishment, Joe, Ron and other volunteers have undertaken a maintenance and tidying spree outside, even reaching to the roof which now has new screws, flashings and paint. Several local businesses donated materials for this work.

The Council is supporting the upgrade with Paeroa Ward funding for additional parking, pathways and drainage improvements. Some of the construction is just starting.

The end result will be a facility that's appropriate for the present day community, says Joe. With the impending removal of the old Bridge Club Hall next door likely to boost demand for the Scout Hall, the upgrade couldn't be more timely.



Joe de Jong and Ron Ogle celebrate the completion of the Scout and Guide Hall's new amenities

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For further information contact Paula Trubshaw on 07 862 8609

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Duncan steps into new role

Duncan Peddie is our new Corporate Services Manager – but he's an old hand at Council business, thanks to 20 years of experience. The 48-year-old joined us in May 1995 as a Management Accountant, and has been Finance Manager for about 10 years.

Born in Tauranga, Duncan grew up in Rangitikei before attaining a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting at the University of Otago. For the first eight years of his career he worked for accounting company Coopers and Lybrand, in Dunedin and then Hamilton.



Duncan Peddie, Corporate Services Manager

At the Council, Duncan succeeds Rex Leonhart, who was Corporate Services Manager for 19 years until his death in August 2014. As Finance Manager, Duncan worked alongside Rex, and he's been part of the staff team which has picked up the managerial role for the past seven months.

You may wonder – what does 'Corporate Services' cover? Finance is one main area, says Duncan: collecting rates, paying the bills, accounting, financial management and reporting.

The department also provides wider administrative, IT, information and reporting services to the Council, so the elected

members and staff know what's going on. In the policy area, information about the long term and annual plans is used as a basis for public consultation. In addition, Corporate Services is responsible for our web page, and keeping property and other information which can be accessed by the public.

Duncan says his work is rewarding because it makes a real difference in the community, and the Council is such a positive organisation to be part of. He sees his role as being "an enabler rather than a roadblock".

Outside the office, Duncan's personal interests revolve around family. You're likely to find him running after his 12-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter.

Taking the rubbish out

It's something we all need to get rid of – and most of us rely on the Council disposal services. Rubbish is also one of the first things residents want to know about when they move into a new area.

Kerbside service

Hauraki District's kerbside urban refuse collection is undertaken by Smart Environmental, as part of a joint contract with the Thames-Coromandel and Matamata Piako District Councils.

Clean recyclable paper, cardboard, cans and plastics should be placed into the supplied wheelie bins. These are emptied every second week, along with the blue crates for clean recyclable glass.

The sticker on your bin identifies the kerbside collection day and week for your address: for instance 'Wed 1' means Wednesday in week 1 of the fortnightly cycle. If you forget which week it is, there's a bright pink reminder on the home page of the Council website.



General rubbish must be put into official prepaid bags, that can be purchased from Council offices and local supermarkets. These are picked up weekly, with no limit on the number of bags put out. Collection is the same day of the week as for your wheelie bin.



What if there's a problem?

Occasionally, houses or a street have been missed. If you think this has happened, phone the Council (0800 734 834 from within the District). If the call is outside normal office hours, our after-hours system records the complaint and it's passed on directly to the contractor.

In some instances, rubbish bags or wheelie bins or crates have been put out too late. However, every complaint is investigated, with the help of a tracking system which monitors and records exactly when each rubbish truck passes through each street.

Changes to collection days

When there is a public holiday, your refuse collection that week will generally be a day later than usual. This is always advertised in local newspapers, on the Council's website and Facebook page, on posters at supermarkets and petrol stations, and on the large signs at the entrances to Ngatea, Paeroa, Waihi and Whiritoa.

Refuse transfer stations

We own two transfer stations, at Grey Street in Paeroa and Dean Crescent in Waihi, where rural and urban residents can drop off refuse and recyclable rubbish. These are operated by Smart Environmental, with at least one facility open every day except public holidays.