

Gearing up for 24th battle

Competitors have hailed the Battle of the Street as New Zealand's ultimate street race. With bikes reaching speeds of up to 280kph and the challenging corners of Paeroa's 'Hacksaw' circuit, it's a spectator fest, too.

"There's no other meet in the country where it's possible to get so close to the action," says race secretary and Positive Paeroa town promoter Jo Tilsley. "Members of the public can even go into the pits, where teams will have display stalls, and on race eve tomorrow, people can come to watch the tough scrutineering and chat to some of the riders."

The 24th annual event on Sunday has attracted a field of almost 120 entrants, including Waikino identity Kevin Kinghan, Adam Jeremic of Paeroa, and Waihi's Anthony Gerring. They'll rub shoulders with the likes of nationally renowned Tony Rees and Jay Lawrence, and a number of 'Paeroa virgins' making their course debut.

Some top sidecar riders and swingers are geared up,

and there's a full grid of supermotos, says Jo. The 11 classes of racing also include Formula Paeroa, Formula 2, classics, post-classics, BEARS, and superlite.

Business sponsors and over 350 volunteers, from sports club members to farmers supplying haybales, pitch in to stage the event and welcome the thousands of visitors. The proceeds are in turn funnelled back into the community, says Jo.

"It's a collaboration between the community and the Council – which provides staff time and clean-up power, and has always worked hard to pave the way for this event and chip away any stumbling blocks to ensure it can happen."

The Battle of the Streets will top off Paeroa's biggest week of the year, which began with the Highland Games and also incorporates tomorrow's 12th Rotary-organised V8 and Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet at the racecourse.

From spectator to racer

Adam Jeremic has been a regular at the Battle of the Streets for over 12 years, ever since he moved to Paeroa. He's ridden road bikes for about the same length of time, so absolutely loved watching the event. "It's exciting that a town of this size will close down streets to hold a race of national standard," he says.

Adam started racing himself two years ago and entered the 2014 Battle of the Streets, but didn't complete a full meet on home ground – as the programme was cut short after sump oil spilt from a sidecar made the track too hazardous.

However it's more than unfinished business that will see the Newmont Waihi Gold maintenance-fitter back aboard his Suzuki GSXR1000 this Sunday in the Formula Paeroa class. "I enjoy the exhilaration," he says. "Racing on the Hacksaw is pretty intense – I'm both buzzing and shaking when I get off. It's a real test of yourself and your machine."



Adam Jeremic will be among local riders to watch at Sunday's Battle of the Streets.

Record summer for pools

High temperatures and whopper inflatable toys combined to bring record numbers of swimmers to our community pools in January. In total, 8,604 public admissions were recorded at Paeroa, Ngatea and Waihi, compared with 4,646 for the same month last year. In Paeroa, we welcomed up to 400 patrons per day.

Thanks to the good weather, the three pool toys that are rotated around the facilities were able to be inflated almost every day. These – along with smaller new flotation toys, diving rings and diving sticks – have had a significant impact on school holiday pool usage, and it was great to see so many people and families taking advantage of our special January \$1 entry fee to enjoy the water.



To promote water skills, the Council offered a children's Learn to Swim programme in the first half of the month at Paeroa and Ngatea (Waihi has alternative lessons), running four days a week. Congratulations to the 45 participants who gained Water Safety New Zealand swimming certificates.

Our lifeguard team have enjoyed the busy season; and showed that swimmers are in good hands when they recently put their lifesaving proficiency into action at Paeroa. Spotting a child in the pool suffering an epileptic seizure, they got her out quickly, and provided first aid and family support until the Medical Centre and ambulance staff arrived. They also cleared the water for a short time to ensure everyone's safety while focusing on the priority need.

Happily, there have been no unexpected half day or full-day pool closures this season resulting from 'accidents'. These have been avoided largely due to each pool selling Little Swimmers nappies, and lifeguards monitoring very young children. We thank parents and caregivers for their continuing cooperation!

At Ngatea, we've installed new pool ladders to improve accessibility for patrons of all ages; and hope to do the same at Paeroa and Waihi. The Waihi pool will be fully repainted at the end of the season.

Now that schools are using the pools again, there will be a few days when lunchtime lane swimming isn't available due to swimming sports. Any changes to public hours will be notified on whiteboards at the pools, our pool Facebook page, and the Council website – or intending users can phone our friendly staff to check.

Public Notice

WATER RESTRICTIONS

From 16 February 2015

Notice to all residents of the Hauraki District

River levels have continued to fall, 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. [smartwateruse](http://www.smartwateruse.govt.nz)

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

Pin pulled on SuperEnduro

Negotiating logs, planks, sawdust, concrete structures, shipping containers or vehicles is part of the adrenalin-pumping thrill of SuperEnduro motorcycle racing. But obstacles of a different kind – lack of entries and financial sponsorship – have forced the cancellation this year's SuperEnduro championship round in Paeroa, planned in conjunction with the Battle of the Streets.

Organiser Greg Power says the non-profit event (there's no extra charge for Battle of the Streets spectators) was not viable, despite generous assistance from local businesses in the form of materials and services, and significant Council support.

"The Council again approved the use of reserve land [beside Daley Transport in Lee Ave], and staff have been very helpful," says Greg.

Positive Paeroa town promoter Jo Tilsley hopes the off-road attraction can return next year in association with the Battle of the Streets 25th anniversary fixture.

Hauraki Rail Trail detour for Battle of the Streets

All cyclists please note that on Sunday February 22, when the Paeroa Battle of the Streets motorcycle event will be held, a number of roads in Paeroa CBD will be closed from 4.00am to 7.00pm.

This closure also includes the section of the Hauraki Rail Trail that runs along the stopbank through Paeroa. Entry to the Hauraki Rail Trail can still be accessed via Taylor Avenue and Te Aroha Road from the Criterion bridge onwards. A detour through town will be provided for cyclists and motorists.

