

Tsunami! Come to the open day

There's no long-range forecasting for tsunamis but the Hauraki District Council and Waikato Regional Council have recently commissioned new scientific work on the impacts of a tsunami event on Whiritoa, as part of a larger study along the eastern Coromandel seaboard. The research shows that parts of Whiritoa are vulnerable to inundation from a large, near-source tsunami.

To give residents and property owners a chance to learn more about the perceived tsunami threat, the two Councils are hosting an open day in the Whiritoa Emergency Management Centre on January 26, in conjunction with our annual Whiritoa public meeting.

Information will be displayed at the Whiritoa Emergency Management Centre/Library on Monday, and tsunami hazard specialists and emergency managers who have worked on the study project will be present so people can talk with them directly.

In addition, the open day is an invitation for community members to comment on our approach to managing tsunami risks. We want to know what you think about the emergency management procedures that should be adopted, the best ways to undertake community education, and coastal land-use planning such as restricting the location of future community facilities to avoid potential tsunami inundation paths.

In the lead-up of the open day, tsunami information will also be on view in the Whiritoa surf club building during this long weekend.



Calling all Whiritoa residents and holiday home owners

We invite you to our annual public meeting on Monday 26 January, at the Whiritoa Emergency Management Centre at 10.30 am.

The meeting has been timed for when a high proportion of out-of-town Whiritoa ratepayers are enjoying the long weekend at the beach. This informal occasion is a chance to meet representatives from the Hauraki District Council and community organisations. We'll update you on what we've been doing in the past year, like replacing some playground equipment and the construction of new public toilets at the Surf Club; and on what's planned for the coming year.

There will be opportunity to give feedback to the Council on these topics and any other matters raised by the community, and we'll take your views and suggestions on board in our planning.

Mark your calendar for next Monday – everyone is welcome.

Computer mentor in Waihi

If you'd like to build on your computer skills, free one-on-one mentoring sessions have just started in the Waihi Library, each Wednesday between 11.00am and 1.00pm. This will give residents the same opportunity launched in the Paeroa Library in September, thanks to another volunteer mentor coming on board.

Krystal Pennell, who has recently moved to the Waihi area with her family, sees the role as a way of becoming involved in the community where she spent her early childhood, and getting to know people. Though she doesn't profess to be an expert, in her 10 years of primary school teaching Krystal was often the "go to" person for other staff members who needed computer help.

Especially for older teachers who hadn't grown up with computers, learning to use them was largely a matter of making it "not scary", she says. The same will apply to people of any age who'd like some personal assistance through the library programme.

In Paeroa, mentor Garth Smith says most people using the service have begun with scant knowledge of computers – they may not even own one – so it's rewarding to see their skills and confidence grow. "The one-on-one factor is a really big thing, and the response has been overwhelming."

Common requests have included learning how to set up email, access the Internet, create CVs, use a tablet, or transfer photos from a cell phone to a computer. People have also sought advice on buying the right devices for their needs.

The sessions in Waihi will likewise be tailored to each individual, using either a library computer or the client's laptop or tablet. Bookings are essential for half-hour appointments and more information is available through the library.

Don't rubbish our drains!

Despite a recent lack of rain, we still need to keep our drains in good condition – all 650km of them. So the Council's weed spraying programme alongside drains is in full swing, to be followed by machine cleaning to prevent the waterways becoming clogged.

However our best efforts can be foiled if people dump grass clippings or any other rubbish in or near a drain. In the past we've found everything from garden refuse to mattresses quite literally 'ditched', especially around town fringes where urban development backs onto rural land and drains.

Often this happens during summer when the drains aren't doing much in the way of drainage – only to create a pile-up of debris and a potential flood risk when the rains come. While a bit of greenwaste may seem

Public Notices

KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING

COLLECTION IN THE HAURAKI DISTRICT CHANGES FOR AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY

Due to Monday 26 January, 2015 being a statutory holiday, all kerbside collections scheduled for the week of 26 to 30 January 2015 will be carried out a day later than normal.

Please see the schedule below showing the changes to your collection day.

Township	Collection Day	What to put out
Whiritoa	Monday 26 January	Refuse only
Kerepehi	Thursday 29 January	Refuse only
Ngatea	Thursday 29 January	Refuse and recycling
Turua	Thursday 29 January	Refuse only
Waitakaruru	Thursday 29 January	Refuse and recycling
Kaiaua	Thursday 29 January	Refuse and recycling
Waihi	Friday 30 January	Refuse only
Waikino	Friday 30 January	Refuse only
Karangahake	Friday 30 January	Refuse and recycling
Mackaytown	Friday 30 January	Refuse and recycling
Paeroa	Friday 30 January	Refuse and recycling

Collections days will be back to normal starting Monday, 2 February 2015.

Ken Thompson
 District Engineer
 Hauraki District Council

LIQUOR BAN - WAITANGI WEEKEND

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw that the consumption of alcoholic liquor, the bringing of liquor or of empty liquor containers and the possession of liquor or empty liquor containers in the public places identified below is hereby prohibited during the periods identified below.

LIQUOR BANS - WHIRITOA

All public places including roads, beaches and reserves are included in the prohibition for the Waitangi Weekend Public Holiday.

Dates and Times – Whiritoa Liquor Ban

During the Waitangi Weekend Public Holiday being from 4.00pm Thursday 5 February 2015 to 4.00am Monday 9 February 2015 inclusive.

LIQUOR BANS – PAEROA, NGATEA AND WAIHI

That the consumption and bringing into and possession of liquor in all public places including, roads and reserves are prohibited at all times within areas of the townships listed below:

Waihi

- Within the 50 kilometre speed limit areas of Waihi township, and
- Within the 70 kilometre speed limit of Seddon Avenue, East from the Margaret Street/Toomey Street intersection to the 50 kph speed limit sign East of the Martin Road/Baber Street intersection.

Paeroa and Ngatea

- Within the 50 kilometre speed limit areas of the Paeroa and Ngatea townships.

PENALTIES

Any person who commits an offence against the prohibition may be convicted and fined up to \$20000.00.

POWERS OF POLICE

The Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw authorises any member of the New Zealand Police to act under sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Act 2002, including the exercise of the power under section 170(2) to immediately and without further notice search a container or vehicle.

LD Cavers
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council

innocuous, it can cause a lot of trouble upstream and stop the drains from functioning properly. Floating debris can also be carried downstream where it can block pump inlets and cause floodgates to leak. So if you're having a clean-up or moving house, please help us by disposing of rubbish responsibly!

It's also important to keep access to drains free of buildings, fences, vegetation and stored materials. The Council's drainage bylaw requires a minimum clear distance of 15m from the top edge of open drains, to allow access for maintenance staff, contractors and machines.



Want to stamp your mark on the Paeroa Post Office?

Potential purchasers or lessees of all or part of the building have until Friday January 30 to register expressions of interest with the Council.

The prominent brick building is a Category A heritage feature in our District Plan, and has Category 2 registration with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. It was constructed in 1926 to provide mail, telegraph, telephone and banking services, and also housed the registry office.

Ten years ago the Council bought the building to protect it from falling into decay. A \$560,000 streetscape enhancement project during 2008 and 2009 transformed the site on the corner of Normanby and Belmont Roads, winning a gold award from the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects.

The current PostShop leases the rear carpark area as an interim site. The Council's Technical Services Business Unit occupies the top floor, until it can shift back to the main Council office when the library moves to its planned new building in Mackay Street by the Paeroa Domain.

Information packs on the Post Office are available from the Council; and if desired, viewing can be arranged by appointment.