

The sky's not the limit for this worker

One of the newest additions to our workforce is proving to be an extraordinary multi-tasker, and is saving money by getting jobs done in a fraction of the time they used to take.

It's a Yuneec Q500+ Typhoon drone – a combination mini quadcopter, camera and video camera with inbuilt GPS capability. Since the Council bought it about six months ago, we've used it for aerial photographs and video to promote the Northern Estate subdivision taking shape at Ngatea; and to assess the condition of the Paeroa cenotaph. Where this would previously have required erecting scaffolding and bringing in a cherry picker, it was half an hour's work for the remotely piloted aircraft to provide detailed photos.

We envisage the machine could be flown along water pipelines to find leaks, and along stop banks to pinpoint damage or drain blockages, much more quickly than having people walk the line. It has also become a key resource for our Civil Defence response team – able to identify where damage has occurred or people are at risk and relay the live imaging back. This is not only a timesaver when minutes can make a difference, but could well be safer than sending someone into an unknown situation.

We're looking to upskill our pilots – who all have Council day jobs too! – and expand the roles of the drone even further. However we do need to be prudent about its use, which in the future could involve community consultation. Like all other drone operators, the Council is subject to Civil Aviation Authority rules regarding remotely controlled aircraft systems, and we must get permission from the owners of property we fly over.



Picture: Yuneec Aviation Technology

Far North visit an eye-opener

What do the Far North and Hauraki Districts have in common?

We're both subject to "weather-bomb" type events, impacting our towns, farms, roads, and vital services. So our Councils' emergency management teams can learn from each other's experiences – and a six-person team from Hauraki recently visited Northland for a tour of areas still recovering from mid-2014 storms, flooding, and resulting slips.

As well as gleaned knowledge that might benefit our readiness and response capability, the three-day trip was "about relationship building, and finding out how we can better engage with our communities," said Hauraki Civil Defence Controller Steve Fabish.

Team member John McIver said the group gained a first-hand appreciation of the issues facing some quite different Far North communities. "At Kawakawa we saw where water had come three quarters of the way up power poles; and Moerewa was completely isolated by flooding. Housing-relating health was an issue in lower income areas. It all put our own environment in perspective, and highlighted challenges we have in common such as communication problems if phone coverage is cut."

Where the more affluent town of Russell had raised money for its own emergency response vehicles and equipment; other communities relied on District resources, said John. The need for individually tailored emergency response plans had parallels with townships like Whiritoa, Kaiaua, and Turua.

The Hauraki team was impressed by the Far North's use of webcams; while the hosts were enamoured to see one item in our response kit being put through its paces – the Council's drone.

"The great thing for us was to be able to share ideas with another group with similar demographics and risks, and to establish some good relationships between our respective team members," said Far North Civil Defence Controller Alastair Wells.

"We're now in a situation where we can share ideas and resources, and potentially staff, to help each other out if required. The team at Hauraki should be congratulated for their initiative in building capacity in this way – and as a sector we should all be collaborating more in ways like this."

As safe as can be...

In conjunction with DairyNZ, we're continuing our five-bite series on how farmers can boost their wellbeing and deal with the *elephant in the paddock... stress*.



No.3: Be Safe and have a Plan

Successful farmers have always been good planners. Just as you think ahead about farm maintenance, pasture management and animal health, it's important to plan for your people – for peace of mind as well as everyone's physical wellbeing.

- Protect your business, workers and family. Be ethically responsible for those who are your greatest asset.
- Have a culture of safety – don't take operational risks and shortcuts which increase hazard risks. Set an example e.g. by wearing motorbike helmets, and the right safety gear when working with chainsaws or machinery.
- Have insurance, a will, etc – and keep them up to date.
- Allow for the downtimes, with sustainable farm systems and budgets that take into account volatile periods.
- Have back-ups – what's your Plan B?
- Seek help if you need it.

Feeling stressed out?

Get help from the Rural Support Trust on 0800 787 254

Thieves target toilet paper

The care of our public toilets is something we may not really notice – unless there's a problem. But we strive to keep them attractive and well maintained. For instance we've just replaced the translucent roofing panels and installed new urinals at the Karangahake Reserve toilets, and will re-level and resurface the floors after the busy summer holiday period, when the work will cause least disruption.

Meanwhile we have one issue that's proving harder to fix: the theft of toilet paper is from public amenities around the District. It adds up to a lot of cost, and frustration for toilet users who find the dispensers empty. While it's easy to blame travelling campers, in some cases it seems that locals may be repeat offenders.

What can we do?

Locks on the dispensers aren't enough in themselves, so we've ordered some heavy duty stainless steel fixtures that we hope will make a difference. However they're still extra budget items, and have to be imported, with a three-month wait until delivery.

The toilets are there for everyone – District residents and visitors – and we ask people to leave them in the condition they themselves would like to find them. If you do see someone taking toilet paper or causing damage, please say something! This happened in one location recently, when a person caught a thief in the act and called the police. Contact information for the Council is also included on signage at the toilets.



Quick Tips for Smart Water Use

Make mine a jug

For cool drinking water, fill a jug and keep it in the fridge. Running the water to cool it down can waste 10 litres a minute.



Situation Vacant

Senior Project Manager Engineering

Here is your opportunity to make a real difference in the community, working for Local Government to deliver the essential services that make New Zealand a great place to live. The role of Senior Project Manager - Engineering is within Council's Technical Services Business Unit where you will be involved in managing projects related to the development of infrastructure assets through all phases from scoping through to commissioning and reporting. You will also lead a small team of Project Managers and Engineers.

A BE or Registered Engineer qualification plus substantial experience in management of a Rooding Professional Services Contract is required.

The successful applicant will also need to demonstrate a high level of expertise in all phases of the job and form opinions and conclusions which are technically sound and well founded. You will be self-motivating and self-managing and have high standards of personal integrity and professionalism with an ability to organise and communicate effectively with a range of individuals and groups. Combine that with a working knowledge in civil engineering, engineering design and project management and this could be the job for you.

The Technical Services team offer a friendly, supportive and professional work environment. This is your opportunity to take up an interesting and satisfying career move where you can contribute directly to the future of the community.

For further details or to apply electronically please visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz, or contact -

Sue Greenville on 027 231 8826, or
Julie Sweeney on 027 786 238

Applications close on 22 January 2016

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

LIQUOR BAN 2016

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 **Auckland Anniversary Weekend Public Holiday**.

Dates and Times – Whiritoa Liquor Ban

During the Auckland Anniversary Weekend Public Holiday being from 4.00pm Friday, 29 January 2016 to 4.00am Tuesday, 2 February 2016.

LIQUOR BANS – PAEROA, NGATEA & 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 \$20,000.

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

