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## Trailblazer race draw 150

Ngatea dairy farmer Neil Gray traded his gumboots for running shoes on July 20, to join a field of about 150 runners and walkers in a 14km race from Tirohia to Te Aroha.

The event kicked off Sport Waikato's **Trail Trilogy**: a series of Sunday fun runs or walks on the Hauraki Rail Trail. Neil was attracted by the unsealed terrain and the concept of "utilising a facility that's on our back doorstep. It helps me keep reasonably fit for farming, and I can keep an eye on everyone's farms as we pass. It's a great way to run."

He admits to not doing much actual training, so was surprised and pleased to finish in 01:04:38 – much more smartly than he estimated – and he thinks the build-up in distance over the series will be a good challenge.

Waikino resident Simone Warn, who won the women's 50+ category in 01:03:55, often runs on the Rail Trail, and in summer she uses it to cycle to work in Waihi. "We're so lucky to have it, and everyone out there for the Trail Trilogy was so happy and enthusiastic. The affordable entry cost and relatively flat course made the event achievable for so many people and teams, of all ages."

She says the atmosphere was low-key and very friendly. "One of the best parts was the encouragement from other competitors. It was well organised and an absolutely wonderful day."

Julie Stephenson of Sport Waikato says the feedback has been great, especially from entrants "who had never done anything like this before." But there was plenty of competition for the frontrunners and walkers, who recorded some fast times.

Rodney Poulgrain of Thames cleaned up not only his 50+ category, but set a blistering pace to win outright in 56:21. Hot on his heels was fellow veteran runner Joe McCreary, who clocked 56:44. Women's winner Louise Gibson was also among the sub-60 minute finishers, posting 57:38.

Martin Thorpe and Penny Purcell led the walkers, in 01:29:34 and 01:29:59 respectively.

Anyone who missed the first race can still enter the remaining two: a 21.6km 'half marathon' from Waihi to Paeroa on August 17, and a 29.3km Paeroa to Thames on September 21. Each is open to relay teams or individuals.

Everything is provided from race numbers, timing chips, marshals, drink stations, and photography, to spot prizes and a

gear van. For anyone who needs transport to the start line or from the finish line, there's even a shuttle available by prior booking.

While the cycleway remains open and the 'Share with care' courtesy applies, the series promotes the use of the Rail Trail in the winter 'off peak' season for cycling. As well as attracting visitors to run or walk on the Trail – a facility in which the Council has invested significant resources – it's hoped that the Trilogy will give locals an opportunity to use it in a different way.

For more information or to enter online, visit [www.sportwaikato.org.nz](http://www.sportwaikato.org.nz).

## Need a JP? We're bringing them to YOU

Most of us need the services of a JP (Justice of the Peace) at some time – to certify copies of documents, witness a signature on a document, or perhaps complete an affidavit or declaration.

Connecting with JPs in Paeroa has just become easier, thanks to a weekly 'clinic' starting in the Council's service centre opposite Countdown supermarket. Every Tuesday from August 5, a JP will be available to members of the public between 11.00am and 1.00pm. The clinics are being offered for the first time in Paeroa after proving successful in other districts, and getting off to a good start in Waihi recently.

The free service will be highlighted by a flag flying outside, and people are welcome to drop in, although 30-minute appointments can be made at the service centre or by phoning the Council.

Until now, residents have needed to make direct individual contact with JPs, who may not be available at a given time. So while private arrangements are still an option, the clinics have been initiated by local JPs to establish a regular time and place for their services to be offered and cut the necessity to visit a JP at his or her home or workplace.

"We aim to provide easy access for the community, and at the same time take some pressure off JPs in town, who can be inundated with requests if they have premises in the main street," says Councillor and JP Julie Bubb.

Hauraki JP Association registrar Kris Purden

says the Council venue meets the criteria of being centrally located, physically accessible to all clients and culturally inclusive. It offers an appropriate degree of privacy, space and comfort for any clients who are waiting, and facilities such as Internet and a photocopier.

Importantly, the Council is also able to provide the venue at no cost, as all JPs are volunteers and do not claim any expenses.

"We are grateful for Council's support for this project and hope it will prove to be an asset for the Paeroa community," she says.

Several Association members are sharing the Tuesday 'roster'. Most of the JPs involved receive numerous calls at home, and they hope the clinics will provide a convenient alternative for clients because they will know someone is there.

It will be possible to complete many requests on the spot, while others can be quite complex and may take extra time or require a referral.

Clients using the clinics can help by making simple preparations: for instance by bringing a form of photo ID in case it is needed, and bringing original documents as well as copies, if the copies need to be certified. Documents should not be signed beforehand.

Phone appointments for the Paeroa and Waihi JP clinics can be made by calling the Council on 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or 07 862 8609.



## Support needed after fire destroys kindergarten

**Above: The burnt out shell of Paeroa's Central Kindergarten**

The deliberately lit fire that destroyed Paeroa's Central Kids building and all its contents on the night of July 19 has been devastating for the kindergarten's families and teachers – and the Council, which owns the site at the base of Primrose Hill, is keen to see the centre back up and running again as soon as possible in its interim Central School venue.

Council's Paeroa Ward Chairman Julie Bubb says Head Teacher Glenys McKain has invested "a lifetime of work and dedication" into the kindergarten, with the assistance of her team and the support of the community. For instance, the amazing stage shows she has organised as fundraisers to enhance facilities for the children are legendary.

Mayor John Tregidga says the Council will "give all the support we can to rebuilding the kindergarten. Already the whole community, including builders and electricians, is getting behind the project."

Meanwhile anyone who can add to information about the arson is urged to speak to Police, or give details anonymously through the independent Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111, or contact the Council in confidence on 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

## Proposed Hauraki District Plan Making the Plan Operative

### Update on Appeals

It is pleasing to report that all of the Appeals to the Proposed Hauraki District Plan have now been settled. All of the settlements were either negotiated through informal meetings or through Environment Court mediation, without the need for any costly and time consuming Environment Court hearings. Some changes to rules, Plan provisions, and alterations to the Planning Maps, resulted from the Appeals.

### What does this mean for me?

An "Appeals version" of the Proposed District Plan is available on Council's website, and in hard copy at all Council offices and libraries. This version incorporates all the changes resulting from the Appeals.

All of the provisions of the Proposed District Plan are now required to be treated as operative.

For anyone wanting to carry out any sort of development in the District (now or in the future), eg: building a house, subdividing land, setting up a new shop etc, the rules in the Appeals version of the Proposed District Plan will apply.

### Latest Key Changes

#### Significant Natural Areas

Some amendments have been made to the Indigenous Biodiversity and Significant Natural Areas Section (6.2), including the addition of a restricted discretionary activity for track formation in SNA's of regional significance.

#### District Amenity Landscapes

The extent of rural land included in the

District Amenity Landscape Area has been reduced. Some of the provisions in the Rural Zone relating to District Amenity Landscapes have been amended.

#### Rural Subdivision

Subdivision of surplus dwellings in the Plains and Waihi Basin Areas has now been provided for in certain circumstances.

#### Residential Subdivision

The minimum lot size for 1 – 2 lot subdivisions remains at 525m<sup>2</sup>, while the minimum lot size for 3 plus lots has been changed to 450m<sup>2</sup>, provided other particular lot size and location criteria are met (including that for every 2 lots of less than 525m<sup>2</sup> there has to be 1 lot of at least 700m<sup>2</sup>).

### What happens next?

Council is in the process of preparing an "Operative version" of the Proposed District Plan. When this is ready, the Plan will be formally declared Operative. The Operative date will be publicly notified, and is expected to be in September.

If you are considering any sort of development in the District and are unsure of the rules that will apply to you, the duty planner at the Council is available to assist you:

- By phone: 07 8628609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District)
- By email: [dutyplanner@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:dutyplanner@hauraki-dc.govt.nz)
- By appointments: In Paeroa or Waihi.

## New roadside wall goes up

Construction has started on a treated timber retaining wall on Kaihere Road along the drain on the northern side of the road. This replaces an old wall damaged by high water flows last year, and will protect the road against the risk of a developing underslip.

The new wall will be 12 metres long and approximately 3m high, measured from the bottom of the drain. Vertical posts 5m high and 250mm in diameter will be installed 1m apart, and faced with horizontal retaining timber. The structure will also be supported by ground anchors bored into the road embankment at 2m intervals.

The \$70,000 project is expected to be complete in a few weeks.