



HDC NEWS

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Hundreds remember our soldiers



Above: Paeroa Memorial RSA vice president Bruce Jack leads the Anzac Day street parade.

The District's Memorial Halls were packed last Friday, as civic commemoration services marked the 99th anniversary of the landing of Anzac troops at Gallipoli.

At Paeroa, Mayor John Tregidga presided over the laying of more wreaths than he could remember at any previous Anzac Day service. "Every single year more and more people are acknowledging this day at dawn parades and citizens' services. The growth in understanding and involvement by school children and young people is particularly encouraging," he said.

For minister Elaine Staples, the tribute was very personal. Her grandfather fought in the First World War, and her father in the Second World War. Her brother, who served and was wounded in Vietnam, retired last year from his role as director of the National Army Museum at Waiouru.

She said Anzac commemorations are about respect for the past and hope for the future; urging service goes to "ask questions, and listen to our veterans pass their stories down through the generations."

'Homegrown boy' Major Billy Vince, the guest speaker at the Paeroa service, said it was "an honour and privilege to stand here for our returned servicemen and my whanau. It's very special for me to share this day with my uncle who served before me (Kaumatua John Te Moananui) and some of the young fellas that I've trained."

Billy said Anzac Day recognises the unique bonds forged through shared adversity, and strengthens our remembrance of the more than 30,000 New Zealanders who have given their lives on behalf of their fellow citizens in two world wars and in conflicts since. "The vast majority lie in foreign fields."

The public service was preceded by a street parade of veteran and supporters, and finished with another tradition – individually wrapped Anzac biscuits, complete with a note explaining their wartime origins, made and distributed by the Paeroa Guides, Brownies and Pippins.

Wanting to do something special to observe the centenary year of the outbreak of World War I, the girls did the baking the night before, at a sleepover event in their hall which also included writing letters to current servicemen and women.

Tribute to South Pacific heroes

Kiwis who died while serving in the South Pacific during World War II are buried in the Bourail New Zealand War Cemetery, on the west coast of New Caledonia. While there was no fighting on the French annexed island, the Allies used it as a military and supply base and training ground, and the 3rd New Zealand Division was stationed in Bourail.

As well as the 246 Commonwealth graves in the lawn cemetery (four of the casualties unidentified), a memorial wall honours over 200 members of the New Zealand Land and Air Forces and Merchant Navy and 169 members of the Western Pacific Local Forces who died during operations in the area and have no known grave.

Two of those commemorated have known connections in the Hauraki District: Rolf Parker and L.B. Speedy, both New Zealand Army radio signalmen killed on Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands (now Kiribati).

On a visit to Bourail just before Anzac Day this year, Rolf's great niece and council staff member Maureen Coleman left poppy tributes to the two men. "The rescue boat was one island too late for them," she says.

The cemetery, established in 1943, is managed by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, with the New Zealand Consulate-General in New Caledonia responsible for maintenance. "But it's looked after by local people," says Maureen.



Above: Warrant Officer Gregory Rose escorts Mayor John Tregidga to the Paeroa citizen's commemorative service.

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER FOR GRAZING

Council invites tenders for the grazing of land at 246 Kaihere Road, Ngatea. The area of land for grazing is 39.83ha. The term of the lease is two years starting from 1 July 2014.

Details of the tender are available from Council's Paeroa Service Centre, William Street, Paeroa or by contacting Dennis Lees, Property Manager, on 07 862 8609 or 027 4875609.

The last date for receipt of tender is Friday 16 May 2014 at 4.00pm.

Council reserve the right not to accept any or every tender submitted.

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

You can 'Have your say' on...

Accessibility audit just around the corner

How easy is it to access Council facilities such as car parks, footpaths, community halls, pensioner housing, libraries, reserves, swimming pools and playgrounds?

If you have concerns or suggestions for improvement, don't miss the chance to contribute to our upcoming accessibility audit at open invitation **community meetings next Wednesday, May 7.**

- **Waihi Memorial Hall tea room:**
10.00am to 11.30am
- **Paeroa Council Chambers:**
1.00pm to 2.30pm
- **Ngatea War Memorial Hall tea room:**
3.30pm to 5.00pm

We're hosting these events as part of our Accessibility Action Plan to provide for a coordinated improvement of Council-owned assets and activities.

RSVPs are not required, but anyone with queries can contact Charan Mischewski on 0800 734 834 (free call from within the District) or 07 862 8609.

Hauraki Long Term Plan Pre-consultation

Your local Ward Councillors are getting out and about in May. The Wards are hosting a series of Hauraki Long Term Plan pre-consultation meetings, to give you an early opportunity to feed into the Council's next ten year plan – before it's developed!

The Hauraki Long Term Plan sets out the future direction of our District, for the ten year period 2015-25. It details the projects and services that the Council will provide for local communities over the next ten years. It is a key strategic planning document that is developed every three years, so input at the right time is a must!

The Councillors from the three Wards have scheduled informal community meetings to encourage participation in this process and good quality feedback. The Ward Councillors are interested in hearing about what works well in your local community, what isn't working, and what you see for your community in the future. Everybody is welcome to join these meetings. This is an opportunity for all to help shape the community's future together.

Community:	Date:	Time:	Venue:
Paeroa	5 May	10.00am and 5.15pm	Paeroa Memorial Hall
Karangahake	7 May	7.00pm	Karangahake School Hall.
Ngatea	12 May	7.00pm	Ngatea Memorial Hall
Turua	13 May	7.00pm	Turua Hall
Piropia	15 May	4.00pm	Bugger Cafe.
Kerepehi	15 May	6.00pm	Kerepehi Bowling club (sausage sizzle provided).
Kaiaua	19 May	7.00pm	Kaiaua Community Centre.
Waikino	20 May	7.00pm	Victoria Hall
Waihi	21 May	10.00am and 5.30pm	Waihi Memorial Hall
Kopuarahi	21 May	4.00pm	Kopuarahi Hall
Waitakaruru	21 May	7.00pm	North Rugby Clubrooms
Patetonga	22 May	1.00pm	Patetonga Hall
Mangatarata	22 May	5.00pm	Mangatarata Bowling Club
Kaihere	22 May	7.00pm	Kaihere Hall
Whiritoa	22 May	7.00pm	Whiritoa Emergency Management Centre

Change of Fire Season

The 'Restricted Fire Season' that has been in place over the entire Hauraki District Council for the past few months has now been replaced with an open fire season (permits are no longer required) for most of the Hauraki District.

A Restricted Fire Season is still in place in the following areas of the Hauraki District (meaning fire permits are still required) at Whiritoa Village, the peat block on the Hauraki Plains, all Department of Conservation land and all land that is within the 1km safety margin around Conservation land. If you have any queries please contact your nearest Council service centre for assistance.