



HDC NEWS



Inspiring people in our communities

If you were in need of a helping hand in Ngatea the Wednesday before last, you couldn't have been in a better spot. Nominated for many reasons, including the time, effort and energy they put into making our communities a better place, 22 of the District's most outstanding citizens and young people were in town to receive their 2014 Hauraki District Council Citizens and Young Achievers Awards.

"Every year we get such a wonderful group of people and this year is no exception," said Mayor John Tregidga on the night, "There are just so many, doing so much great work. These people make our communities tick – they really do. Without them, things just wouldn't happen."

How most of the award winners find time to breathe in between all their achievements and activities is a mystery. MC Kit Wilson, certainly couldn't find the space to list it all on his power point presentation. From volunteer service to sporting and academic prowess, the combined list of accomplishments read out in the Ngatea War Memorial Hall that night would probably have been longer than an All Black forward's weekly grocery shopping list.

As Wilson pointed out, there was a common thread and some often repeated words running through all the award winning nominations – "Fantastic role model, exceptionally talented, modest, tireless, hardworking, compassionate, driving force..."

The outstanding citizens recognised in the 2014 Award's ceremony were:

Young Achievers:

Loren Goodhue, Brett Ranga, Josephine Mueggenburg, Miranda Hodgson, Braden Hodgson, Georgia McCormack-Goeth, Sven van Amelsfort, Broden Wood, Tyler Handcock, Destin Finn, Hayden Hulley and Servana Waterman.

Citizens Awards

Gerald Davis, Jill Davenport, Lawrence Smith, Colin and Gloria James, Bruce Reddish, Robert Butler-August.

Outstanding Service

Miles Shelley, Don Challis, Mary Carmine, Sel Baker.

Not all beer and skittles for Don

Being a Hauraki District Councillor for 18 years "wasn't all beer and skittles" according to long time Ngatea resident, Don Challis. You could probably say the same about his life in general.

Back in the day, his dad, a World War I veteran, bought a 70 acre bush block not far from Ngatea.

"It was all bush. He cut it all by hand with just an axe and old Madge, the horse, to help," says Challis.

Growing up in gumboots, Challis attended Ngatea district Primary and Secondary schools, which he says are marvellous these days compared to the regimented institutions he attended.

"The pupil emphasis is a lot, lot different to what we had. The way kids are treated and encouraged these days is absolutely marvellous. We were only waiting till we turned 15 so we could get away from the place," he laughs.

Never tempted to move anywhere else, he became one of the main contractors behind the amazing network of drains, canals and pumps protecting the low lying communities and farmland on the Hauraki Plains. He met his wife, Rae, at an after wedding function in Turua and the couple had four children, three boys and a girl, together.

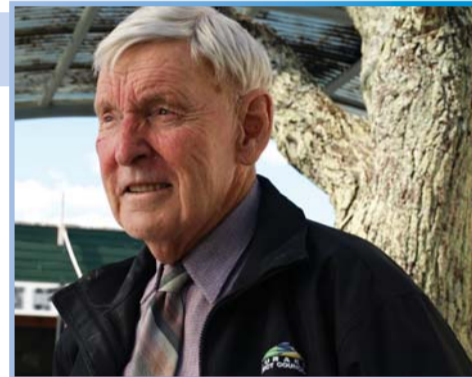
A founding member of the Ngatea Volunteer Fire Brigade, Challis says his early fire-fighting efforts were often hampered by the old fashioned radio telephones members had to rely on in those days.

"They were hard to work with and although the sirens went off and that, if you lived out of Ngatea like I did, you wouldn't hear it."

There were sad times - his very first call out was to a caravan fire out the back of a farm where a baby tragically lost its life - but on balance being able to give help outweighed the frustrating times when he couldn't.

Continuing communication difficulties led to his eventual resignation from the Brigade but his community work continued. As a local Councillor, Challis worked with "a great bunch of Councillors," on a number of successful projects, including the Kerepehi Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. He was also a member of Ngatea Primary School PTA. During "a weak moment" around 14 years ago, he joined St John.

"It ended up being one of the greatest things I've ever done. The things I learnt, going from being a contractor to that, are pretty great," he says.



Don Challis is one of four recipients of a Hauraki District Council Outstanding Service Award 2014

Back then the organisation was short staffed and with no restrictions on volunteer hours, he just kept going if necessary, often working two days in a row. His motives aren't complicated.

"It was just to support things I think. I love our community and those organisations are always short of staff. You come back into town from some of the ambulance trips and there's this sense of satisfaction that you were able to do something."

Now 77, Challis is still a St John committee member. He's also on the Hauraki Drainage Board.

"I know all about how to do drains. I believe I can offer a bit of help on that," he says.

Public Notice

LIQUOR BANS 2014 LABOUR 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 Labour Weekend Public Holiday.

Dates and times – Whiritoa Liquor Ban

During the Labour Weekend Public Holiday being from 4.00pm Friday, 24 October 2014 to 4.00am Tuesday, 28 October 2014 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 \$20,000.00.

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

Recycling Hot Tip!



Clean it before you toss it

Please clean plastic and glass items before sorting them into your kerbside wheelie bin and blue crate. This prevents recyclable rubbish from smelling – and the workers who process it at the recycling centre deserve to be considered!

Are you entitled to a rates rebate?

It's good news for low-income homeowners - the government has increased the thresholds for its rates rebates scheme, making more people eligible for a subsidy.

To qualify for a full \$605 rebate, ratepayers can now receive a maximum annual income of \$24,250.00, plus \$500 for each dependent. People with an income of up to \$40,000 may still be entitled to some assistance, depending on the rates amount and the number of dependants in the household.

Council has sent out letters to Hauraki homeowners who have previously received a rebate, encouraging them to apply again. The Department of Internal Affairs requires people to apply every year for their rebate. Brochures were also distributed with newsletters from all schools, so those that may be eligible, because of dependants, will have a better chance of becoming aware of the eligibility criteria.

How can I apply for a Rebate?

You can make a 15-minute appointment at the Council office, by calling 0800 734 834 (from within the District). Our Customer Service staff are authorised to take the statutory declaration required by the Department of Internal Affairs and every endeavour is made to ensure that these short interviews are friendly and private.

Alternatively Council can post you an application form or you can download the form from the website - www.dia.govt.nz/Services-Rates-Rebate-Scheme-Index. If you are completing the form yourself you will need to get the Statutory Declaration section witnessed by a Solicitor, JP, Notary Public, Court Registrar or MP, before mailing it back to Council.

If you are unable to come into a Council service centre, then we can come to see you. Home visits are available by arrangement. Council staff really will go the extra mile to assist!

Applicants must have been living at the relevant property as at 1 July 2014.

The **deadline for applications is 30 June 2015**, but we encourage you to apply early in order to gain the benefits of the rebate throughout the rating year.

When applying for a rates rebate you will need:

- Your rates notice (including your regional rates notice) for the current year.
- Wage or salary earners will need to bring a summary of earnings and a bank interest statement, for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 to their appointment.
- Self-employed workers need to supply an income summary for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 from the Inland Revenue Department or an accountant.
- Those receiving income assistance need only bring their bank interest statement for the previous financial year, as the Council has been instructed to use pre printed benefit schedules for this calculation.
- If you have received an Accommodation Supplement throughout the year you do need to supply a statement showing the amount of accommodation supplement received.