



HDC NEWS



This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

Avoid unnecessary building consent delays!

Need a building consent? You can help us to process it as quickly as possible by making sure your application form is fully completed – with no blank spaces or partial information.

This is not just a 'Council rule'. Building regulations require that all applications for building consents be complete before they can be accepted; and this is something that our Building Control Auditors are clamping down on. Council could, as a consequence of accepting an incomplete application, lose its accreditation and not be able to process building consents, as recently happened in Christchurch.

It's also our responsibility, in collaboration with other member Councils of the Waikato Building Consent Group, to deliver a high standard of building control service that's consistent across the region.

However, the Waikato Building Group's audits of our service continue to indicate that incomplete applications are being submitted – particularly for residential and farm buildings, and this causes unnecessary delays in the consent process.

Our customer services team members make every effort to let applicants know this by assisting people who present applications at the counter or by phoning applicants to obtain further information. It's frustrating for everyone involved if forms have to be returned for completion.

So please take a few extra minutes to submit a completed form. It could save you a lot of time in the long run! If you're unsure of what information is needed, contact us before you lodge the consent application, and one of our staff will be happy to help you over the phone or through an informal chat.



SITUATION VACANT

CUSTOMER SERVICE ADVISOR PART-TIME

If you have a positive can-do attitude and attributes that reflect our values of respect, communication and commitment, then we would love to hear from you. We are looking for a Customer Services Advisor who would be available to work Thursdays and Fridays 8.00am to 4.30pm at our Paeroa office plus additional hours that may be required at Paeroa or Ngatea offices.

Your main role will be to provide quality first point of contact and support to internal and external customers as well as a variety of administration tasks. The successful applicant will be able to interact positively with people from all walks of life. A high level of comprehension and computer literacy are a must as well as the ability to multi-task and cope with the unexpected while retaining a smile.

Hauraki District Council provides a supportive and encouraging work environment that combines a wide spectrum of professions and personalities. This is your opportunity to take up an interesting and satisfying role with a customer focus.

For further details or to apply electronically please visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or contact Sue Greenville on 07 862 5024 or Julie Sweeney on 07 862 5023

Applications close on 24 July 2014

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

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

Correction

In last week's article *A tree for every year*, the name of a prominent early 19th century Maori chief was mis-spelt. It should have read 'Ruatarara'.

We apologise for the error.

EARTHQUAKE ANTICIPATED

How prepared are we to get through a disaster? This important question isn't just for residents, but also for us as a Council.



On the evening of July 24, in conjunction with some key personnel from the Thames Valley Civil Defence, we'll be checking our preparedness with an earthquake scenario. Our focus won't be on checking the canned food stocks or grabbing sleeping bags, and there won't be any sirens – rather, we'll establish a District emergency operating centre in our Paeroa offices just as if an actual earthquake had occurred.

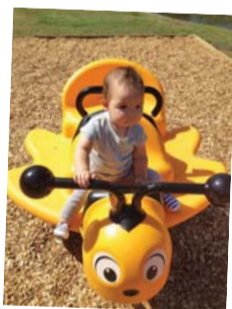
This week, some of our staff were involved in a lead-up 'table top' training exercise in Hamilton, where the wider Waikato Region Civil Defence Group is based. The anticipated 'earthquake' will allow us to gauge how long various processes take, and how we can think on our feet and adapt as details emerge. If our technology stops working, just getting into the secured building after hours is something we need to plan for.

Although the Kerepehi faultline makes a future local earthquake a real possibility, even a quake centered in the Kermadecs could affect our waterways, housing, and families. Or the disaster could bring an influx of people into the District from worse affected areas, likewise creating a need for temporary accommodation.

We're sure that this month's scenario will help us prepare to take a lead in such a situation. Meanwhile, make sure your household is prepared – with an emergency kit and an escape plan ready. Click 'Civil Defence' on the Council's website if you need a checklist.

WATCH OUT kids at play

Swings, slides and seesaws may be child's play, but at the Council we take playground safety seriously!



We don't send the Mayor or Councillors down a slide to test that it's safe – but we do have qualified staff who conduct comprehensive checks of all our public playground equipment at least once a fortnight, and see to any repairs or replacement parts that are needed. During school holidays these documented inspections occur weekly; and if something needs fixing in between, service requests by the public can be made at any time. In addition, each playground is visited by an independent safety auditor once a year.

Safe play is also up to those who use the equipment; and a responsibility of parents or caregivers. For instance, we've had occasional reports of small children being hurt on seesaws when a heavier person has jumped on the other end. So we remind playground users to be aware and considerate of others so everyone has fun.

Please help keep young children safe by ensuring they are supervised in playgrounds. Even if you are nearby, perhaps on the sideline of a sportsfield or court, 'close enough' is not enough!

Water upgrade works set to start

The green light has been given the go ahead with the construction work needed for the upgrades to the Paeroa and Waihi water treatment plants.

Council recently accepted a \$2,895,687 tender from Brian Perry Civil for this work. Actual construction is expected to be completed and the plants commissioned by the end of March 2015.

Six tenders were received for the construction, with Brian Perry Civil offering the lowest price and meeting all requirements. This company has recently successfully completed the construction contract for the Kerepehi water treatment plant upgrade.

The project has already passed through the various design phases, and this major milestone in the project confirms that expected costs are within the estimated amounts approved by Council.

A separate contract for the membrane filters was awarded to Mason Engineers Ltd for an amount of \$2,964,593; the Brian Perry contract provides for the building work and other equipment to house and support the operation of the membrane filters.

Both the Paeroa and Waihi upgrade projects have been approved for subsidy support from the Ministry of Health.

Pool planning takes a plunge

Diving into one of our District swimming pools may be the last thing you're dreaming of right now. However for the Council it's an activity we think about over winter – when we can assess pool usage from last season, plan for the coming season's operations and staffing, and carry out maintenance such as replacing the Ngatea pool covers.

Councillors recently considered the annual report on the pools, after a public season which this year was shortened from 20 weeks to 16, mainly due to lifeguard availability. However swimming clubs were able to access the facilities for an extended period (an additional four weeks was requested), during which lifeguard services were not required.

The community appears to have generally accepted the 16-week public swimming season; and Councillors agreed to retain it for 2014/15.

Our new giant inflatable pool toys have proved popular, with the rotation of our three different challenge-level toys around the Waihi, Paeroa and Ngatea pools working well. Many schools also used the toys at end-of-year functions.

There has been a notable increase in requests to book the pools for private events, and this trend may provide additional income.

Although total pool patronage was slightly lower last summer than previously, reflecting the shorter season, the number of users per week grew 9% – from 2,368 in 2012/13 to 2,582 in 2013/14.

A high proportion of returning lifeguards has contributed to the successful and smooth running of the pools; but this year, most of them will have completed tertiary studies and be working fulltime. Therefore we'll be seeking the best possible lifeguards and a pool supervisor well in advance.

While these positions will be advertised, the Council is ready to accept any expressions of interest, says Parks and Reserves Manager Steve Clark.

