



MASTER CHEFS: Paeroa Lions members Gordon Shaw, Kevin Sharp, Les Smith, Jim Piggott, Kim Reid and Keith Newton test out the new barbecue.

Lions' gift a sizzler

It's time to fire up the barbie – that's the new community barbecue at Railway Reserve, gifted by the Paeroa Lions Club in partnership with the Hauraki District Council.

The site provided by the Council is ideally located close to the playground, skatepark, and Hauraki Rail Trail, says Project Co-ordinator Les Smith. "It has space for picnic tables, is visible from the main road, and offers the security of being covered by CCTV cameras."

He proposed the idea in July 2013, and the 47-member club looked at other public barbecues around the region during the planning stages. The resulting stainless steel barbecue has two individually controlled electric hotplates so it can be used by several people at once, or a large group. An automatic timer makes operation simple, and best of all, it's free – right down to cleaning products.

As well as funding the \$14,000 project through club activities, Lions members prepared the sub-base and boxing for the underlying concrete pad, and erected a shelter over the barbecue – having already constructed two shelters on the Rail Trail. It helps that club secretary Jim Piggott is a builder!

The help of a number of local businesses – among them Greg Bidois concrete layer, Christiansen Landscape Centre, Bunnings Paeroa, and O'Neill Engineering of Morrinsville – will be acknowledged on a plaque at the site, says Les. "The support from the Council's parks and reserves department has been fantastic".

Council contributions include the cable and electrical work, drilling the holes for the posts supporting the shelter, purchasing some of the materials, site reinstatement and landscaping, and meeting the ongoing power costs.

An official opening barbecue is planned.

60 attend Kaiaua public meeting

Progress on the Kaiaua to Kopu leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail, the need for a new footpath between Kaiaua School and Whakatiwai, addressing coastal erosion, and landfill site remediation – these were among topics raised by locals at the Council's annual Labour Day meeting in Kaiaua.

About 60 residents and ratepayers took the chance to meet with Councillors and staff representatives, and give feedback that the Council will take on board in its planning.

"There's always a good turnout. I think people appreciate working with the Council, and we value the good relationship we have with community members," says Hauraki Plains Ward Chairperson Gill Leonard.

Attendees were updated about projects such as the ashes garden recently established at Kaiaua Cemetery, the developing Kaiaua "phone tree" for use in Civil Defence emergency situations, and tree clearing that's been done beside the Kaiaua Fire Station to alleviate phone line problems (and boost Fire Force funds from the sale of the wood).

Among current projects, the Kaiaua to Kopu section of the cycleway is taking a little longer than anticipated – construction is now expected to start next year. However the route has almost been finalised, and the Hauraki Rail Trail Trust is waiting for a new round of funding to start and also a New Zealand Transport Agency decision on a "clip-on" to the Piako River Bridge at Pipiroa.

Regarding a footpath between the school and the Whakatiwai settlement, we're investigating options for this. At present a route along the landward side of the road appears preferable, but will need to be negotiated with landowners.

To mitigate the coastal erosion problem, Waikato Regional Council is encouraging a consistent approach rather than the piecemeal ways in which various solutions have been attempted over time. An offer of service that would formulate a strategy to achieve this – taking into account previous studies by the Franklin District Council and Auckland Regional Council – is currently being considered. Meanwhile, immediate erosion threats to the road will be addressed on an urgent response basis as appropriate.

The Council is progressing with an application for Waikato Regional Council resource consent for the Kaiaua landfill remediation project. Until this is finalised and work begins, any exposed or loose refuse is being collected regularly.

Another issue discussed was that the Kaiaua area is still under the Franklin District Plan, because when it became part of the Hauraki District in 2010, we inherited a number of plan changes that hadn't yet become effective. With the last plan change appeals settled in 2013 and the Franklin plan now operative, the Council can work toward incorporating Kaiaua into the Hauraki District Plan for the future. The normal consultation process will apply, so it won't happen tomorrow! But anyone with a specific concern, for example that a zoning classification is inhibiting a planned project, should come and talk it through with us.

Local groups such as the Rural Fire Force, St John, and the Boating Club shared reports at the meeting, too.

The gathering was also a chance for MP Scott Simpson to introduce himself to the community. Kaiaua became part of his constituency under a recent electoral boundary change.

Once in 10-year rainstorm

It didn't quite rain cats and dogs, but the 40 to 70mm of water that pelted Paeroa town on Thursday October 23 in the three hours from 12.40pm was an amount of rainfall that could be expected to occur on average once-in-10-years.

The deluge was even more unusual because it was very localised, Drainage Manager Ian McLeod reported to the Council this week. There was no rain west of the Puke Bridge, and only 10mm in Waihi.

The gauge at the Council's Paeroa office recorded 56mm in the period.

Surface flooding resulted in the Opatito Road, Lee Avenue and Junction Road areas, and in Marshall, Willoughby and Andrews Streets.

The former rail underpass at the end of William Street also filled up. Council staff and NZ Police placed warning signs and manned the flooded areas, but most of the water had dispersed within an hour.

Council is currently investigating the reticulation capacity in these areas. Some of the lines will be checked with CCTV cameras, and the capacity of other lines will be confirmed.

Recycling Hot Tip!



Beware of intruders!

A lot of unacceptable and unusual items end up in kerbside wheelie bins and blue crates. Polystyrene is a common intruder which can't be recycled. Neither can crockery, broken glass, or drinking glasses.

Workers at the recycling centre have even found a diabetic syringe amongst the plastics. This is not just a safety hazard or a sorting inconvenience - a single misplaced item can mean a whole batch of recycling is contaminated and needs to be dumped.

For a quick check of what can and can't be recycled, see the Kerbside Collection information on the

Council's website (www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz), below the bright pink recycling logo.

Recycling Week



Pools to open soon

The Tony Richards Toyota Paeroa Swimming Pool will be the first to open with early morning sessions only, from 6.00am to 8.30am each week day from 17 November.

All three pools, Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi, will be open to the public daily from 22 November.



We're digging in for spring!

Ngatea's new town centre gardens are coming to life right down to the first birds – stainless steel pukekos featuring on the plastered concrete walls.

Six traffic-friendly teardrop shaped gardens are being constructed to replace the old beds dating back to the late 1990s. These will be planted with Gleditsia Sunburst trees undersown with Loropetalum shrubs to give the main street a red and gold makeover.

The project, complete with built-in irrigation system, should be completed by the end of November.

Other spring gardening projects around the District include the sowing of new annuals in Paeroa and Waihi, for a colourful seasonal transformation. In Waihi, the Martha Court garden in upper Seddon Street is literally coming up roses after a revamp that included removing a worn hedge.