

Dog 'no go' territory extended along trail

The prohibition of dogs on rural sections of the Hauraki Rail Trail has this month been extended to the newest leg of the walkway and cycleway, between Waikino and Waihi.

Under the Dog Control Bylaw – part of the Council's Consolidated Bylaw – dogs have been prohibited on other rural sections of the trail in the district since 1 July 2013. In the route's planning stages, this was a key point in consultation and negotiation with adjacent farmers, whose support and cooperation was vital to the trail's opening.

The extension of the restriction is also consistent with a dog prohibition on rural parts of the Rail Trail in the Thames-Coromandel and Matamata Piako Districts. It shouldn't significantly affect dog owners, because prior to the development of the Waikino to Waihi leg, there was no public access to most of the land it now traverses.

However, dogs on leads are allowed on designated sections: from Bridge Street at Karangahake to the gateway immediately south of the western end of the footbridge access to Victoria Battery at Waikino, and from the northern side of the Hauraki Rail Trail swing bridge off Lawrence Road Reserve near Waihi to the Waihi Railway Station.

The Victoria Battery/Karangahake Gorge area is administered by the Department of Conservation, which allows dogs on leads there.

Signs are in place along the trail advising of dog 'no go' sections. We ask dog owners to respect the concerns of farmers – especially with trail usage expected to be high over Easter and Anzac weekends.

The areas where dogs are permitted on the trail has been extended. Maps of the Dog Control Areas on the Hauraki Rail Trail are available on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or can be viewed in the Council offices in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi.



Dog fees to rise

From July this year, annual dog registration will cost \$5 more. The increase, which is needed to help meet animal control costs, will be the first since July 2011.

Under revisions agreed on by councillors last month, the general registration fee if paid by 31 July will rise from \$75 to \$80, with a \$15 rebate if a certificate of desexing is provided. Owners who have more than three dogs – mainly farmers – will pay \$20 to register each dog in excess of three dogs. Holders of a Responsible Dog Owner Licence will pay \$50, with a \$15 rebate reducing the fee to \$35 if the dog is desexed.

Classified dangerous dogs will cost \$120 to register, with a \$22.50 rebate available for desexed animals. Penalty fees for late payment apply to all classifications.

The fees associated with impounding, applying to keep more than two dogs in an urban area, and the one-off cost for a Responsible Dog Owner Licence application will remain the same. Infringement fines for failing to register are set by the Government and can't be changed by the Council.

Overall, our fees compare well with those in neighbouring council districts. For a Responsible Dog Owner, the \$35 net cost of registering a desexed dog is especially good value – and we encourage dog owners to check out this option on our website, or by asking one of our helpful customer service team.

Public notices will be published in the month before registration payments are due to remind dog owners of the fee changes.

Sportsfields readied for winter

Muddy boots haven't been a problem as winter sport gets underway at Ngatea's Hugh Hayward Domain. Instead, the dry summer has required us to top up the soil above the soccer field drainage lines, and repair and re-grass the perimeter of the concrete cricket wicket which had dropped away, leaving a 50mm lip.

The No.2 rugby ground has also needed attention – a recent Thames Valley tournament there had to be stopped due to the dry, cracked and rough conditions underfoot. In total the work has cost about \$8000.

However the Paeroa Domain No.1 rugby field is in its best ever condition since the new field was laid more than five years ago – thanks to the installation of winter drainage and summer irrigation, and the expertise and effort of an ace groundsman. Here's to a great season!

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION PARADE AND SERVICE 2014

Citizens are invited to attend Public Commemoration Services to be held in the Hauraki District on FRIDAY 25 APRIL, 2014.

Paeroa: 9:15am War Memorial Hall, preceded by Parade at 9.00am.

Waihi: 11:00am Memorial Hall, preceded by Parade at 10:45 am; Wreaths will be laid at the Services Cemetery following the service.

Ngatea: 11:15am War Memorial Hall, preceded by Parade at 11.00am

Kaihere/ Patetonga 9.30am Kaihere Hall

JP Tregidga, MNZM, JP MAYOR

TENDER FOR SALE OF ABANDONED LAND - PIPIROA

The Sale of Land is under section 77 to 83 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Council invites tender for the Sale of the Abandoned Land situated at 15 Buchanan Road Pipiroa being an estate in fee simple, 1012 square metres more or less, Section 22 Block V Town of Pipiroa contained in Certificate of Title SA238/299 South Auckland Registry.

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

The last date for receipt of tender is Thursday 24th April 2014 at 4.00pm

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

L D Cavers
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council

Draft 2014/15 Annual Plan

The submission period is nearly over

Just a reminder that the submission period for the Draft 2014/15 Annual Plan closes on Wednesday, 23 April 2014 at 4.30pm.

If you would like to comment on the projects and services that the Council proposes to undertake in the 2014/15 year, make sure you get your submission into Council now.

If you would like a submission form or further information on the Draft Plan, please phone the Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or visit the Council's website, www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

Plains tour helps hone priorities

Kerepehi projects are firmly in the sights of Hauraki Plains Councillors this year, especially after a 'Ward tour' last month.

The day was an opportunity for all the local councillors to visit the sites of current and upcoming projects and issues, together with council staff where appropriate.

In Kerepehi, they looked at footpath replacement in Town Road, both north and south of McGowan Ave; and the site of the new footpath between Kerepehi School and the community marae. Another stop was the industrial park, to discuss its tidy-up and development. There was consensus that development shouldn't be delayed, says Ward Chairperson Gill Leonard.

Councillors also drove to Kerepehi Domain via the bark crushing yard, which has been the source of some community complaints.

A visit to the new Tetleys Quarry reservoir at Waitakaruru was a highlight of the day, giving a first-hand understanding of how water is pumped from the river into the old quarry pit, and piped from there to the Waitakaruru treatment plant.

At Ngatea's Hugh Hayward Domain, remedial work to the campervan parking area was discussed, along with replacement tree planting at Pioneer Park, security improvements

to the Pioneer Park toilets, and maintenance projects at the swimming pool and sportsfields.

In Turua, roading, drainage, footpath, and planting improvements at the south entrance to town were some of the focal points. However, Councillors felt that a proposed footpath to the jetty could be incorporated with the future major upgrade of the main street. The jetty itself is in good condition, and it may be possible to review the annual budget for repairs so the money can be used for high priority works.

Among issues under the spotlight at Kaiua were the open retired dump site, and potential future reserves use and development – including in the context of the Hauraki Rail Trail.

While Councillors are happy to go and look at Ward issues and proposals whenever needed, and try to keep a good eye on what's happening in the Ward, Gill says the organised tour means "we are all together and can concentrate without distractions – such as having to get to another meeting or appointment! It helps orientate new Ward members [after an election]; and it's beneficial to have staff join us, as things can be discussed more fully and effectively."

Similar tours have taken place in the Paeroa and Waihi Wards over the past month.