



HDC NEWS



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PUBLIC NOTICE

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for Wednesday 30 July 2014 will now be held at 10.00am and not 9.00am as previously advertised.

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



Awards reminder!

If you know of an outstanding community volunteer who deserves recognition, or of a local 13 to 25-year-old who has excelled in education, sport, culture, arts or service, **today is the last chance to make nominations for the Council's 2014 Citizens and Young Achievers Awards.**

Nomination forms for both sets of honours are available from our offices or on our website.

This year's presentations will be made at a gala evening in the Ngatea War Memorial Hall on September 24.

Holiday programme goes off with a bang

The Little Bang Fairy may not be famous on TV, but her magical musical show was a hit last week in the Waihi Library.

The colourful cast also included Agent Orange, Billy Silver, and a parade of penguins – all of them handmade “out of junk” by Waihi puppeteer Alison Collings.

An old dressing gown, the spokes of a broken umbrella, and even a scrubbing brush were recycled to create the puppets and sets. That was in keeping with the strong environmental message threaded through the performance and its quirky original songs.

Three years ago Alison received a Creative Communities grant from the Council toward setting up the show, which she now takes to schools and other young audiences. Alison volunteered her time and talents to perform for the library's free school holiday programme.

Different hour-long activities in the library each weekday have been extremely popular, especially with wild weather raging outside. Almost 30 local and visiting children enjoying origami on day one, and almost 50 children (plus parents) rolling up for some of the subsequent sessions which have included storytelling, magic tricks, and meeting guests from the SPCA and St John.

The holiday programme wraps up today with a chance to get arty.



STRINGS ATTACHED: Eight-year-old Hamilton visitor Nury Choi, who spent a week of the holidays staying with her cousins in Waihi, tries her hand at puppetry with Alison Collings.

Week of wild weather a 'Get ready' reminder

Easterly gales and rain during much of last week caused surface flooding, power cuts, and tree damage around the District. Although Hauraki got off lightly, the worse problem of lifted rooves and fallen trees in neighbouring Districts of Te Aroha and Thames-Coromandel and the tragic cost of the storm in Northland served as a reminder that we need to be prepared for emergency situations.

With the storm coinciding with very high tides, surface flooding was an issue at Kaiaua. Parts of East Coast Road and Finlay Road became covered with water, and while the remaining parts of the road were passable with care, the potential danger of driving through floodwater is often underestimated – as was evident from the number of people around the country who had to be rescued from their cars.

Power cuts that affected Paeroa, Hikutaia, Komata, Omahu, Wharepoa, Ngatea, Kerepehi, Turua, Pipiroa and Waitakaruru illustrated the importance of having a phone that doesn't rely on power, as well as other essentials such as a transistor radio, torch, spare batteries, a small gas cooker, blankets or sleeping bags, warm clothing, food and water.

Most of the storm clean-up in public places was expected to be finished this week. In Waihi, a large established tree in Tauranga Road was toppled, and trees at Gilmour Lake were damaged as well as others throughout the District – leaving a litter of broken branches. Beach accesses at Whiritoa were eroded with the high tides, and in the Fishermans Bend area a lot of sand was blown up, impeding access and needing to be cleared.

“If you haven't prepared a survival kit yet and need tips and a checklist, click the Civil Defence logo on the Council website.”

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Ngatea set to burst into colour

Spring is coming! – at least for Ngatea's town centre gardens. Six new garden beds have just been approved, to replace the present gardens, which date back to the late 1990s. These are dominated by melia trees, which have distinctive flowers and fruit and also provide welcome shade in summer. However the foliage shed by the deciduous species isn't so attractive when it piles up outside shops and businesses – and the tree roots are cracking the top of the nearby footpath.



Above: An artist's perspective of the new-look main street

Instead, the main street will get a red and gold makeover, thanks to key plantings of Gleditsia Sunburst with bright yellow foliage, undersown with burgundy-leaved Loropetalum shrubs. The gardens themselves will be half-teardrop shaped, with the curves corresponding to the flow of traffic. Each garden will be seven to eight metres long, and contained by a 400mm high concrete wall that can be used as informal seating on the footpath side.

Hauraki Plains Ward Committee Chairman Councillor Gill Leonard says the garden upgrade “will bring a much needed revitalised and modern look to Ngatea”.

Deputy Mayor Bruce Gordon, who has been involved with the planning, says the upgrade of the road crossing gardens about two years ago was a first step. “The new gardens will add to those, and complement Pioneer Park. Although there will be fewer gardens, they'll be bigger, and will make a huge difference in beautifying and showcasing the main street and town entrances.”

While some carparks will need to be removed, others will be created, resulting in a small overall increase in parking capacity.

The project cost of about \$50,000, including a built-in irrigation system, has been budgeted for over the last two years. Construction should be completed by November.

Two further gardens are planned for next financial year.

Keep New Zealand Beautiful

The annual “Keep New Zealand Beautiful” campaign this year will be carried out from 14 to 20 September 2014. Groups, schools, volunteers, and businesses will get together to clean up their local areas.

All those who register will be provided with plain black bags with a Keep New Zealand Beautiful (KNZB) yellow rubbish sticker.

Smart Environmental Ltd, Council's refuse collection contractor, has offered to accept all the stickered bags generated from the “Keep New Zealand Beautiful” campaign at no cost, as part of the company's policy of working with the community. The bags will be accepted at the Paeroa and Waihi refuse transfer stations.



Flood pumps kept busy

The District coped well with heavy rain lasting more than three days last month – in fact residents may not have realised that it was a ‘once in 20 year’ rainfall event.

As reported to the Council's Operations Committee this week, rainfall between June 9 and 13 at sites potentially affecting Hauraki reached 330mm at Waitekauri (Ohinemuri River) and Golden Cross. Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi recorded 170, 185 and 213mm of rain respectively.

The Ohinemuri River reached the first alarm level of 14.0m just after midnight on June 11, then dropped and peaked again at 15.4m at 5.00pm on Thursday 12 June. However the peak was well below the level at which the Karangahake Gorge Road and the State Highway at Paeroa's Criterion Bridge needed to be closed.

In Thames, the Kauaeranga rose quickly through the alarm levels to peak at 11.8m – the highest level since the construction of the stopbanks in the early 1990s. The state highway spillway at Totara operated, with wind-driven waves over the stopbank as high as anyone had seen.

In the west, the Kaihere Stream caused considerable property erosion below SH27, and deposited much material in the Kaihere roadside drain. About 12m of the southern wall of the Mangawhero Stream concrete channel downstream of SH27 collapsed into the channel. A repair similar to the timber sheetpile wall rebuilt around 10 years ago will be constructed.

All but seven of the District's 71 flood pumps operated, some clocking as many as 10 days running. The overall average running time for all pumps was five days.

In Paeroa, parts of Centennial Park and Brenan Field that operated as ponding zones for the main drain were inundated for a few hours.