



HDC NEWS



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Changes afoot for dog control

Creating a dog-free zone at the south end of Whiritoa Beach is among the key proposed changes to the Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. This would better protect the endangered northern New Zealand dotterel nesting there. After a monitoring and breeding programme was established by the Department of Conservation in 1995, six pairs of birds are now resident at Whiritoa. The Department of Conservation has requested that a dog ban be placed southward of the beach access off Moray Place, as part of our scheduled periodic review of dog control. Other proposed changes include a ban of dogs from the historic pa area at Waihi's Ngati Koi Domain (Black Hill Reserve), and from Tauwhare Koira Reserve near the Kaiua Boating Club. This is because of the cultural and spiritual significance of the respective sites to local iwi.

At Waikino, it's intended to give dogs more space to go leash-free but under control, with the establishment of a designated exercise area in the vicinity of the Waikino Domain. At present, residents and visitors must travel to either Paeroa or Waihi to walk their animals off the leash on public land and it's hoped this extra site will provide a convenient alternative. The council also plans some changes related to dogs classified as dangerous or menacing. For instance if their owners fail to comply with requirements of the Dog Control Act – such as by not having the dogs neutered – our dog control officers will make greater use of their authority to seize the animals. At home, the fenced portion of a property where dangerous dogs are required to be contained will have an enforceable minimum yard size and fence height requirement.

Have your say!

To see all the proposed changes, you can pick up a full copy of the draft Dog Control Policy and Bylaw from any of our service centres, or view it on the Council's website - www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Submission forms are also available for anyone who wishes to support, oppose or comment on any points. Feedback will be accepted until Monday, 2 May.

Councillors will consider the submissions received and listen to any submitters who wish to speak on their views at a hearing meeting on Wednesday, 25 May 2016.



Waihi route gets the lion's share of cyclists

It's not every day that 214 cyclists hit the Hauraki Rail Trail together, but on 13 March, they enjoyed an all-age active outing with ongoing benefits. The proceeds from the Charity Fun Cycle Ride, organised by the combined Lions Clubs of Waihi, Paeroa, Te Aroha and Thames, will go to the Cancer Society's Lions Lodge in Hamilton – which provides free accommodation and meals for people undergoing treatment at the nearby Waikato Regional Cancer Centre. Riders took their pick of four different start points and met up at Paeroa's Railway Reserve, where food, drinks, entertainment and spot prizes were on offer. Ninety people cycled the 25 km from Waihi: "twice as many as from anywhere else," said event coordinator Russell Player. "That leg of the trail has the most spectacular scenery, which was also great for the 44 participants who chose the shorter 7 km distance from Karangahake on the same route." Russell said everyone appreciated having the Council reserve as a finish and prizegiving hub. "In perfect summer weather people were able to sit under the trees, and it was an ideal spot for the many families who participated." Several preschoolers rode in child seats on their parents' bikes, and one five-year-

old was proud to pedal "all the way" from Waihi with his family, albeit with plenty of rest stops along the way. For 74-year-old Jill Davenport and her husband Paul, who rode with about 20 members of the Waihi 50+ cycling group they founded in mid 2013, the event was particularly meaningful. Last September the couple stayed at the Lions' Lodge for a month while Jill received daily radiotherapy. With her lymphoma now in remission, Jill was keen to "give something back", and showed her support by tying a big bunch of yellow flowers to the front of her bike. "The Lions did a wonderful job [organising the ride]. I think it will be the start of something big," she said. "It's just a pity I had to get cancer to find out how much they do for people." Coincidentally, New Zealand cricketer legend Martin Crowe, who died 10 days before to the ride, had the same form of cancer as Jill. To Jill's surprise, that was announced when she won a spot prize after the event. "People cheered as I went up to collect it. I felt really special waving to them," she said. Although the event was not a race, some of the lead-out riders took it as a personal challenge, and the fastest finisher made it from Waihi to Paeroa in 50 minutes.



The van Kuijk family of Morrinsville, one of the many families taking part, relax at Railway Reserve after cycling from Waihi.

Mayor John Tregidga was also among the Waihi starters; and Matamata-Piako Deputy Mayor James Thomas rose to the challenge by biking the 21 km from Te Aroha with 50 others. Not to be outdone, Thames-Coromandel Deputy Mayor Peter French was one of 30 people to ride 26 km from Kopu – and then turned around and cycled back again. With donations still coming in, the total amount raised for the Lions' Lodge is still being tallied, says Russell. "However we've had a great response from the community, and have already had requests to repeat the event."

Proud to become A KIWI



This is home now:

Mitsuhiro (Mickey) Shimazaki and his partner Jacqui MacDonald, with the kowhai Mickey received to symbolise his new roots as a Kiwi citizen.

Twelve years ago, almost the only thing Mitsuhiro Shimazaki knew about New Zealand was that it was home to the All Blacks. Having played rugby in his high school days in Japan, he chose New Zealand as a country he could visit to learn English. Now the Ngatea 31-year-old is celebrating becoming a Kiwi – one of 25 locals sworn in as New Zealand citizens by Mayor John Tregidga on 23 February. After failing his final high school exams, Mickey (his adopted nickname) fell into an aimless lifestyle fuelled by a lot of social drinking. "When I was 18 I went to Nepal on a trekking trip. Everyone around me spoke English, but I couldn't," he says. "I decided I'd have more opportunities if I travelled to a native English-speaking country and learnt the language. A friend had been to New Zealand, and thought I would like it." So Mickey arrived in Auckland in 2004, and stayed on a visitor's visa for over nine months until his money ran out. Back in Japan, he worked as a golf caddy to save for a return trip on a student visa in 2005. He re-enrolled at language school in Auckland, where his first teacher was his now partner Jacqui MacDonald, a Scottish emigrant. It wasn't love at first sight, though: Mickey

initially requested to be moved to another class because Jacqui's was boring. "The other students were so quiet, and unlike many Japanese who are used to studying from books, I learn best by talking and listening." With Jacqui's support, Mickey was subsequently accepted as a physiotherapy student at Auckland University of Technology, and in the second year of his degree was granted New Zealand residency as Jacqui's partner. Mickey recalls his graduation as a special milestone. "My parents made their second visit to New Zealand to attend, together with my grandmother. With the street procession to the Aotea Centre, the pipe bands, and the Maori karanga, it was such a moving experience." Mickey and Jacqui often spent weekends in the Hauraki and the Coromandel – a "magical" area that for Mickey has connections to the mountains and rivers of Ome an hour west of Tokyo, where he grew up. So they were delighted when Mickey was offered his current job as a mobile physiotherapist based at Thames Hospital three years ago. "We were more than ready to move," says Jacqui. Places we used to come camping are day trips now. Living here is like being on holiday." In 2014 the couple settled in Ngatea, where Mickey's active sporting interests such as playing soccer for the Te Aroha Cobras

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION OPENS ON DRAFT DOG CONTROL POLICY 2016 AND DRAFT DOG CONTROL BYLAW 2007

Pursuant to section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996 and sections 83, 156 and 159 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is hereby given that from Friday, 1 April 2016 public consultation is open on the:

- Hauraki District Council Draft Dog Control Policy 2016, and
- Proposed amendments to section 6.0 'Dog Control' and the associated Schedules of Part 3: Public Safety of the Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw 2007.

A consultation document has been prepared which can be viewed on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or a copy can be obtained from the Council offices and libraries, or by contacting the Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

Submissions are welcome until the public consultation period closes at 4.30 pm on Monday, 2 May 2016. Staff will also be available to discuss questions about the documents.

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

SITUATION VACANT

ASSISTANT ENGINEER

Here is your opportunity to make a real difference in the community, working for Local Government to deliver the essential services that make New Zealand a great place to live.

The role of Assistant Engineer involves providing engineering design to Council's infrastructural asset managers and assisting with customer enquiries, resource and building consent applications. Engineering investigations, surveys and preparing contract documents will all be part of this role.

We are ideally looking for someone with a Diploma in Civil Engineering or Bachelor of Engineering along with 3-5 years practical experience.

The successful applicant will need to demonstrate great communication skills and have an ability to be organised and self-managing. Your values will need to align with the HDC values of Respect, Communication, Commitment and Positive Attitude. Combine that with a working knowledge in civil engineering, engineering design and project management and this could be the job for you.

The Technical Services team offer a friendly, supportive and professional work environment. This is your opportunity to take up an interesting and satisfying career move where you can contribute directly to the future of the community. 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 18 April 2016

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

(comprising Hauraki and Te Aroha players) have helped him become part of the community. As for the All Blacks, Mickey's an enthusiastic supporter, and he and Jacqui are already planning to lead a group trip to Japan when it hosts the Rugby World Cup in 2019.

"But this is home now," he says. Making it official has added to his sense of security and belonging, and although his citizenship ceremony in the Council chambers was the biggest the Mayor has ever led, it was very personal.

The Mayor says he always takes pleasure in welcoming new Kiwis, and "this time they come from – and bring to the District – a very rich and diverse range of cultures."

Other Hauraki Plains residents sworn in as New Zealand citizens were Shane Chivers from Australia; Alan, Charlotte, Samuel, Benjamin and Joseph Butterworth from Great Britain; Gerhardus, Johanna and Rene Neethling from South Africa; and Yevgeniya Coxhead from Ukraine. They shared the ceremony with Paeroa residents Keathay, Kong Kia and Samnang Sok from Cambodia; and Waihi area residents Amanda, Adrienne, Hayley, and Robyn Erasmus from Zimbabwe; Lynn Jones from the Philippines; Antoine Spodobalski from France; and John Perrins, Rachel and Arthur Johnstone, and Anne and David Evans from Great Britain.