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PUBLIC NOTICE

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held in the Council Office, William Street, Paeroa during the month of March 2016.

Judicial Committee
 Monday, 14 March 2016 - 9.00am
 Thursday, 31 March 2016 - 9.00am

Ward Committee Meetings
 Tuesday, 15 March 2016
 Plains Ward - 9.00am
 Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm
 Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

Operations Committee
 Wednesday, 16 March 2016 - 9.00am

Economic Development Committee
 Wednesday, 16 March 2016 - 1.00pm

Western Plains District Drainage Committee
 Tuesday, 29 March 2016 - 10.30am

Ordinary Meeting of Council
 Wednesday, 30 March 2016 - 9.00am

LD Covers
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 Hauraki District Council



Mayoral challenge accepted



On yer Bike!

ON A ROLL: Jill and Paul Davenport on the Hauraki Rail Trail at Karangahake, with some of their fellow Waihi 50+ Cycling Group members.

Mayor John Tregidga is set to go the extra mile on Sunday, 13 March to support cancer patients receiving treatment in Hamilton: a mile that stretches 25 km from Waihi to Paeroa. Two neighbouring Deputy Mayors have taken up a challenge to match his efforts in the Hauraki Rail Trail Charity Fun Cycle Ride organised by the combined Lions Clubs of Paeroa, Waihi, Te Aroha and Thames.

Peter French of Thames-Coromandel will bike the Kopu to Paeroa section of the trail (26 km), and James Thomas of Matamata-Piako will pedal from Te Aroha to Paeroa (21 km). Each ride culminates at Railway Reserve, with participants also having the option of a shorter 7 km journey from Karangahake.

Event proceeds 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. It's a facility that helps a lot of Hauraki residents, like Waihi 74-year-old Jill Davenport who "can't praise it highly enough".

Following a 2015 lymphoma diagnosis, she initially had qualms about staying there "because I didn't want to be with a lot of miserable people. However the atmosphere at the lodge was the exact opposite – it's such a positive place. And for the staff and volunteers, nothing was ever a bother."

The Lodge quickly became her home away from home during a month of chemotherapy and radiotherapy last September. "My husband Paul was able to stay with me too, in our own room complete with ensuite and a view over the lake. The meals were amazing, and patients had free shuttle transport to treatment sessions and a free delivery service for prescriptions." Regular social times helped spark some ongoing and treasured friendships.

Jill's cancer is now in remission, and she's keen to give something back through the Lions' Cycle Ride. She and Paul will be decking themselves and their bikes in yellow, and will be joined by fellow members of the Waihi 50+ Cycle Group they founded in mid 2013. "The group has been incredibly supportive, and keeping physically active by getting out on the bike has helped me get through," she says.

Event coordinator Russell Player of Paeroa Lions says having the Hauraki Rail Trail "on the doorstep" sparked the idea of the multi-pronged ride. "We wanted to combine fun with raising funds, and at the same time promoting a healthy lifestyle. We encourage family groups and business teams to take part."

Planning has been in progress for over a year, to cover everything from safety marshals at each road crossing to food and drinks at the Council reserve finish venue. Support from Flight Centre Thames has provided for a major spot prize of a \$1000 travel voucher, and many other local businesses have likewise provided generous sponsorship, says Russell. All cyclists will be in to win spot prizes, provided they're present at the 1pm draw.

The ride will take place rain or shine, with registrations taken at the start points. Russell estimates that most people will complete the longer distances within two hours. It's not a race, and lycra definitely isn't required – but riders must wear helmets, and those aged 12 or under should be accompanied by an adult.

Start points: Sunday 13 March

- ▶ Goldfields Railway Station, Waihi – 10am
- ▶ Old Karangahake Hall site – 11am
- ▶ Placemakers Kopu – 10am
- ▶ Old Te Aroha Railway Station – 10am

For more information, email
hauraki.railtrailfunride@lionsclubs.co.nz

Iconic bike battle firmly back on track

Tony Rees clocked a blistering 44.5 seconds around the 1.52 km Battle of the Streets circuit on 21 February, to set a new lap record as the event celebrated its 25th anniversary. He led the feature King of the Streets race from start to finish on his Honda CBR1000RR, adding the title to his previous multiple wins at Paeroa.

The meet also saw a lap record broken in the post classics sidecar class. But its real highlights were that all the riders stayed right side up – there were no red flags – and the overwhelming level of support shown by the community, says race secretary and Positive Paeroa town promoter Jo Tilsley.

"The last two meets haven't been great [with 2014 cut short by an oil spill and the 2015 race scuppered by rain before it started], and this event has restored credibility in the eyes of our spectators." As well as the crowds returning, "every single one of the community groups in our volunteer force was back to help, even though they received no donations last year for putting in the same time and effort."

Jo says local businesses and the Council also got behind the Battle, "and our VIP sponsors were very well taken care of – with Mayor John Tregidga personally offering to act as their host for the day."



FULL SPEED AHEAD: Bikes in action at this year's Battle of the Streets. Picture: Doug Cornes.

Farmers ready to roll

Ngatea dairy farmer Neil Gray is ditching his quad bike for pedal power this month, when he sets out as part of a 20-strong peloton of farmers and sponsors in the Farmstrong Fit4Farming Rural Cycle Tour. The 18 March to 2 April event to promote farmers' wellbeing will take riders 1400 km on country roads from Ngatea to Bluff – with locals invited to ride the first 10 km from Pioneer Park to Kerepehi School and come to community event days along the way.

Fit4Farming is an initiative developed by farmers for farmers, encouraging them to improve their health by being physically active. "It's a serious sort of message," says Neil. "But at the same time the tour is about farmers and their staff taking time off the property to do something they enjoy. They don't have to rush out and buy a bike."

Neil also loves walking, tramping, and running in the bush, and is a Land Search and Rescue volunteer. He says keeping fit and active not only benefits his physical health but helps him make good decisions for the management of his 650-cow farm. "Getting out for some exercise seems to put problems in perspective and give me a fresh way of looking at them."

That's something he wishes he'd realised 20 years ago. After growing up on a farm and studying agricultural science at Massey University, he was like many young farmers: "head down and bum up to get ahead, not really thinking about spending time on health and wellbeing for myself and my family. Now that I'm in my early 50s, that's one message I'd really like to get across to younger farmers. It's a balancing act."

Neil has been cycling "for a couple of years, since my wife Glenda got me into it". It's given the couple a new shared interest, and Glenda will be a member of the support crew on the upcoming tour, as well as getting on her own bike for the iconic Molesworth Station mountain bike leg and the event day rides.

Fit4Farming campaign manager and tour instigator Ian Handcock, a Waitakaruru farm consultant, hopes the ride will raise awareness of how much farmers can gain from being physically active. "The job has changed. The industry has changed," he says. Increased automation, mechanisation and management focus have greatly reduced the need for physical exertion. A lifestyle of sitting on quad bikes, farm bikes and at the office desk – compounded by less healthy eating habits and social habits – has put farmers at high risk of heart disease, weight problems, injuries, burnout and depression.

Ian grew up on a sheep and beef farm, and later worked on dairy farms in roles that included management and sharemilking, so he has a first-hand understanding of the challenges. "I've been under stress, and have been helped by other people to take active time out and see that it made a difference." He says depression among farmers is rising, particularly as low milk payouts continue, but physical exercise improves the ability to manage stress. "You may not be able to change a situation, but you can take yourself out of the situation."

On Day 1 of the tour, Mayor John Tregidga will join the peloton as it rolls out of Ngatea at 9am; and he's pleased



TIME OUT: Neil and Glenda Gray on a newly opened section of the Manawatu River Pathway trail last June. Cycling has given them a shared interest off their Ngatea dairy farm.

that several other mayors or their representatives are getting involved on their sections of the route. "This is a significant event, attracting national TV coverage. It's great to have it starting in our District, and for the Council to be able to support it in ways such as providing a first-leg traffic management plan," he says. Hauraki Plains ward committee chairman Councillor Gill Leonard, herself from a farming background, is also looking forward to riding the first 10 km. "We are concerned about our farming industry and want to support farmers in whatever ways we can."

She says the cycle tour ties in with the ward's social initiative of dealing with "the elephant in the paddock" (stress) by focusing on mental wellbeing within the farming community. "Fit4Farming is having positive effects on farmers' health, by promoting off-farm activities and encouraging healthy lifestyle, comradeship and social opportunities."

Toyota, Norwood Farm Machinery, Beef + Lamb New Zealand, ANZCO Foods, Gallagher and Farmlands have joined Farmstrong as major sponsors of the Fit4Farming Tour. Sport Waikato is organising a public event day at Leamington Domain, Cambridge, on 19 March – which includes bike rides, a 5 km run or walk, children's activities, and a barbecue. It's fun, free, and a great opportunity for farmers, their family members and staff, and supporters in the community to literally take a day out.

All participants who register online at <http://farmstrong.co.nz/event-days/> will be in the draw to win a Giant Boulder mountain bike.