

This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

ECHO WALKING FESTIVAL

Take a walk on the wild side

Most of the walks cost a voluntary donation unless transport is involved, but registration is essential.

For details visit www.echowalkfest.org.nz, or pick up a brochure from your town's information centre.

When former District Councillor Colin Francis helped get the annual ECHO walking festival off the ground in 2004 during his stint as Go Waihi coordinator, he never imagined it would grow into a major event spanning the Hauraki, Bay of Plenty, Thames-Coromandel, Te Aroha and South Waikato districts.

Visitors enjoy last year's Art Waikino exhibition.



Home is where the art is Thanks to funding help

Creative Community Scheme Grants

An information brochure is available on Council's website http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/news_page/2016/february/creative_nz, or from any of our Council offices. Applications must be received by 4pm on 31 March 2016.

Lawns in order a priority

The green, green grass of home may not be so idyllic when it's growing in our cemeteries and reserves and on our road berms faster than we can mow it.

Recent extreme weather conditions – high temperatures topped with a good dose of rain – have resulted in prolific grass growth around the District, so we are struggling to keep up with the needed mowing. We've had a number of inquiries about this, and are working our way as quickly as possible. Meanwhile we appreciate people's patience and understanding.

In the cemeteries, there's one thing people can do to make our lawn mowing job easier: please ensure that flowers or ornaments are placed clear of the grass. We have no problems with the tributes themselves – we just don't want them to go under the mower, or to have to frequently stop and move items out of the way. Thanks for your help!



Walkers explore the Mangakino Pack Track during last year's festival (left) and share billy tea at the end of the trail (above).

ECHO stands for Enjoy Connecting Hills and Oceans, but is about personal and social connection, too. As well as enticing hundreds of visitors, the 19 March to 10 April event is an opportunity for residents to roam at home with knowledgeable local volunteer guides like Colin and his wife Sylvia.

"We've always been keen trampers, and after we moved to Waihi we explored every track we could find," says Colin. The ECHO festival is a way of sharing our experience with others. It brings people together to discover places they've never been before."

Organised by town promoters and regional sports trust

coordinators and with the Hauraki District Council as one of its major sponsors, this year's festival includes a hike up Mt Karangahake – part of a new four-peak challenge – and a walk'n'talk around Bowentown Domain with archaeologist Brigid Gallagher.

There are excursions to suit all ages and fitness levels, graded from 1 (easy) to 5 (challenging). Many of the almost 40 options are in the Waihi area – among them a *Train 'n' Trek* that's perfect for families and drew 120 people last year, says Sport 'n' Action Waihi development officer and regular ECHO guide Pauline Davies. "Another very popular walk is the *Hill Top Vista*, crossing private farmland

which is only accessible to the public during the festival."

Her personal favourite is the *Mangakino Pack Track* walk, offering spectacular views, stunning native bush surroundings, the adventure of a river crossing, and a chance to share billy tea brewed over a campfire at the end.

"We're really lucky to have such a beautiful back yard with easily accessible tracks, and a rich mining heritage that has left plenty of landmarks and relics to see. A lot of people aren't keen to walk without a guide, so we encourage them to get out and about and active while there's someone to show the way and explain local history and points of interest."

Waikino's historic Victoria Hall is a community building with a difference. It's literally owned by the community.

To raise money for its ongoing upkeep, every Labour Weekend the hall becomes a gallery for the Art Waikino exhibition – now in its 16th year and nationally recognised by artists and visiting art lovers. With the help of Creative Communities grants it's become a major event, says Waikino Victoria Hall Association treasurer Lianne Potter.

"Along with other sponsorship we've regularly and successfully applied for Creative Communities assistance toward advertising and promotion. It makes a huge difference to the success of the exhibition, from which we raise an average \$4000."

Lianne says the exhibition not only benefits the community, but involves the whole community, including Waikino School.

Other arts initiatives in the District to receive Creative Communities grants over recent years have included theatre productions and music festivals, pottery and photography workshops, Maori carving tuition, and street mural art.

The Council administers the scheme locally on behalf of the Arts Council of New Zealand, and is currently accepting applications for funding from groups or individuals. Priority is given to projects that offer broad community benefit, promote cultural enrichment and diversity, or enable and encourage young people to engage with or actively participate in the arts.

Let's make bins a win-win

Public rubbish bins aren't usually something to get excited about, but our new 570-litre Bigbellies now installed around the District are not your usual bins. Almost 70 of them are at work on streets and Council reserves, gobbling litter and then compacting it using solar power generated by panels in their lids, so they can hold up to five times as much as conventional street bins of the same size. Thanks to inbuilt sensors, they also send GPS-tagged status notifications to their minders about how full they are.

We can access the information on the web at any time, or have status alerts sent to phones or email addresses. This gives us up-to-the-minute information on where rubbish needs to be collected – and just as importantly, where it doesn't. If the units break down or are damaged, they tell us that too.



It all adds up to significant potential savings, because our labour costs drop with the reduced frequency of emptying, and so do our refuse disposal costs because the compacted rubbish takes up less space. The Bigbelly bins have environmental benefits as well. Their enclosed design keeps animal pests at bay, and prevents odour and windblown litter.

BUT the bins are not bottomless, or designed or intended for household or business rubbish. We remind people not to use any of our public bins for this purpose, as it's been causing them to fill extra quickly over the summer.

We've written letters to some business owners, and have been monitoring particular problem areas. While this has helped, we're still having issues in the Waihi area especially, and if necessary we will be getting tougher on offences.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LIQUOR BAN 2016

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw that the consumption of alcoholic liquor, the bringing of liquor or of empty liquor containers and the possession of liquor or empty liquor containers in the public places identified below is hereby prohibited during the periods identified below.

LIQUOR BANS - WHIRITOA

All public places including roads, beaches and reserves are included in the prohibition for the Easter Weekend Public Holiday.

Dates and Times – Whiritoa Liquor Ban

During the Easter Weekend Public Holiday being from 4.00pm Thursday 24 March 2016 to 4.00am Tuesday 29 March 2016.

LIQUOR BANS – PAEROA, NGATEA AND WAIHI

That the consumption and bringing into and possession of liquor in all public places including, roads and reserves are prohibited at all times within areas of the townships listed below:

Waihi

- Within the 50 kilometre speed limit areas of Waihi township, and
- Within the 70 kilometre speed limit of Parry Palm Avenue, East from the Margaret Street/Kensington Street intersection to the 50 kph speed limit sign East of the Martin Road/Baber Street intersection.

Paeroa and Ngatea

- Within the 50 kilometre speed limit areas of the Paeroa and Ngatea townships.

PENALTIES

Any person who commits an offence against the prohibition may be convicted and fined up to \$20,000.

POWERS OF POLICE

The Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw authorises any member of the New Zealand Police to act under sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Act 2002, including the exercise of the power under section 170(2) to immediately and without further notice search a container or vehicle.

LD Cavers
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council

Situation Vacant

Health and Safety Officer

At Hauraki District Council we have a focus on safety and wellbeing where we put people first, and our aim is to have everyone safe and well at the end of the day. To help us achieve this we are looking to add a Health and Safety Officer to our team.

Working under the guidance of a Health and Safety Advisor, this new role will offer variety across all spheres of the organisation – assisting and supporting our staff of 150 to further develop a culture of health, safety and wellbeing at the Council.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy the variety of activities that local government is involved with, and make a difference in a world where health and safety has growing importance.

A passion for health and safety is essential, as is a willingness to attend relevant training with the possibility of studying towards certification. Better still if you already have a National Certificate or Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety (Workplace Safety).

Communication skills, good time management, the ability to organise, and high levels of computer literacy are a must. An understanding of the Health & Safety at Work Act will be required.

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 16 March 2016

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