



HDC NEWS



This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

Waihi celebrates record Nugget

It keeps getting bigger – and last Saturday, a record almost 1000 adventure racers got a share of the action in the Nugget Multisport Festival, 76 of them Waihi or Waihi Beach residents.

In the feature Nugget race comprising 33 km of road cycling, 10 km of kayaking, 10 km of hilly trail running, 21 km of mountain biking and a 1 km final sprint, winners Hayden Wilde and Corrine Smit from Whakatane both struck gold for the second year in a row.

Hayden, 18, clocked 3 hrs 40 min – only two minutes behind the first relay team consisting of three fellow Beyond Fitness athletes. He first “set the pace for the boys” and then chased them all the way from the Homunga track to the finish at the Waihi pumphouse. It was his first multisport race since winning the two-day Coast to Coast in February, and he said he “had an absolute ball”.

Competing in perfect weather and track conditions, and on a slightly shorter course due to safety tweaks and mining activity, both he and Corinne were more than 20 minutes quicker than in 2015.

The sixth annual festival also included the Half Nugget duathlon, a half marathon trail run or walk from Waihi Beach to Waihi, and 5 km or 10 km run or walk events at Waihi.

One newbie, Tauranga’s Russell Lake, first heard about the Nugget from a local and then received his half marathon entry as a recent 45th birthday present from family members. “It was a fantastic gift. The course was challenging, to say the least – which was part of the attraction. The scenery was amazing, and the race was well organised,” he said. The icing on the cake was finishing third overall.



ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Russell Lake heads up from Homunga on his way to third place in the half marathon trail run.



WIN-WIN: The Nugget event director Mark Samson presents Sport n Action Waihi Trust chairperson Mary Carmine with a cheque toward the new Morgan Park sports hub.

Event director Mark Samson was stoked with the event and its rising popularity. Previously run by a professional events company Total Sport, it was gifted to the Vision Waihi Trust in 2014, “and this is the third year our community has organised it. We’ve had greater community support as a result, and participation has sky-rocketed.”

Mark says the Council has “backed the Nugget from year one with a grant from the Waihi ward, and many past and present local Councillors are among the marshals in the all-volunteer event crew. This assistance, together other sponsorship, has helped to make the Nugget into one of the largest multisport events in New Zealand, with the community the biggest winner. At the prizegiving, Mark was delighted to donate \$10,000 from the proceeds to Sport n Action Waihi Trust chairperson Mary Carmine – in the form of a giant cheque that will boost the major sports facilities redevelopment project planned at Morgan Park.



JUST BEACHY: Half Nugget competitors head off from Waihi Beach, on one of the only flat sections of the scenic course.

Only rain down the drain!

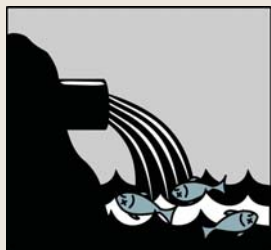
So you’re just washing the car or cleaning the brushes after that painting job. But if the soapy water, paint residue or turps goes down the stormwater drain, you’re not getting rid of it – only moving it to another place.

It travels through a system of underground pipes, designed to prevent flooding by collecting rainwater, and is released untreated into streams, rivers or the sea. So any waste entering our stormwater drains can affect water quality and the habitat of aquatic plants and animals. People’s health may also be affected, for instance if they eat contaminated shellfish or swim in polluted water.

To avoid polluting our waterways, we need be aware of what activities introduce waste. These include washing vehicles and boats in yards and driveways, washing out paintbrushes, letting cattle wander through drains, washing spilt chemicals down the drain, and tipping away engine oil, paint thinners or the like. Not sure what’s safe? We have an adage: Only rain down the drain!

Some simple ways you can dispose of contaminants responsibly include washing cars on the lawn, and washing water-based paint or turps off brushes at an indoor sink such as the laundry tub. This means the waste products enter our sewerage system, which is designed to remove liquid wastes from kitchen sinks, basins, showers, washing machines and toilets. Wastewater is treated to remove harmful bacteria, solids and other pollutants so it can be disposed of either on land or at sea without harming our health or the environment.

Watch this page in coming weeks for more tips on what you can do at home, on the farm, or at your business to stop pollutants getting into drains.



Save our drains for rain

Domestic and urban stormwater drains are usually at ground level for effective rainwater drainage. They’re placed to collect water from outside buildings – rooves, downspouts and yards – and from roads and paved areas.

Sewer traps receive water from inside buildings – bathrooms, laundries and kitchens – and should be raised above ground level to prevent surface water getting in. This is where all wastewater and liquid chemical residues such as household cleaning products should go!

Kerepehi issues in the spotlight

Who can best choose new town entrance signs? The people who live there!

So ‘Welcome to Kerepehi’ signs will be drafted by a working group of three community representatives, together with the Council’s Group Manager Community Services Steve Fabish. That was agreed at a residents’ meeting hosted by the Council in the Kerepehi Hall last Tuesday. Over 50 people made the most of the chance.

Also on the agenda were updates on matters discussed at an earlier public meeting in February – such as whether employment opportunities at the new Allied Faxi ice cream would be available to locals. The short answer is ‘Yes’. Council representatives shared this concern with the company, which then held an open evening for interested community members late last week. Councillor Gill Leonard praised the company’s “goodwill gesture.”

To provide for the treatment of effluent from the factory, an upgrade of the Kerepehi wastewater plant is underway. With the help of good weather, this is progressing on time and should be commissioned in July, said Council’s Group Manager Engineering Services Adrian de Laborde.

Regarding Council efforts to improve drinking water quality, Adrian said thorough investigation was being done. In addition to cleaning the key pipelines, some sections of galvanized iron pipe are going to be replaced. Work has been done on addressing the manganese in the water – while not a health risk it makes the water black which is not pleasant. Work is being done to provide a long term solution to manganese removal, but in the meantime solutions put in place are maintaining the levels below the maximum levels permitted by the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards set by the Ministry of Health.

A further meeting will be held to keep community members up to date on the various issues and give opportunity for continued discussion with Council representatives.