

Wheel celebration of 75-year milestone



Retired Paeroa watchhouse officer Bev Ross – bearing the relay torch – catches up with retired Thames Police Station typist Annette Fox.

Bobbies on bicycles took a new twist on Tuesday last week, when a dozen baton-bearing girls in blue pedaled into Paeroa to a District welcome at the L&P bottle.

Their ride from Te Aroha was part of the New Zealand police relay marking 75 years of women in policing, which started simultaneously at Cape Reinga and Bluff on 24 June. The batons being passed from one district to another are two halves of a torch that will be linked together in Wellington on 1 August, when North and South Island teams join forces for a national parade of past and present women police staff.

For Sergeant Lara Beisley – Paeroa Community Constable until four years ago – it was very special to bike into the area that's been her home since school days. She now commutes to work in Hamilton, where she's the first woman to have led the team policing unit.

Other Paeroa participants included Senior Constable Rose Rakich, Constables Kushla Dunning, Jacinda Karaitiana and Kala Baker, watchhouse officer Kelly Ross and her predecessor in the role, mother Bev Ross.

Among those waiting to greet the riders were Mayor John Tregidga, Councillors Julie Bubb and Gill Leonard, and police retirees Gladys O'Brien, Annette Fox and Karen Brooks. Cycles were then swapped for classic cars, and a civic procession took the women and their supporters up the main street to high tea at the Council centre.

Lara said the local relay contingent was "blown away" by the Council's reception and support; and especially acknowledged the female councillors who have "gone before us in a vocation which has been dominated by males". She noted that in policing, Paeroa is leading the way with five female officers working alongside ten men. Nationally, women make up just over 30% of police staff, but only about 20% of constables.

Inspector Karen Henrikson said that since women were admitted to the ranks in 1941, they've "come a long way, but still have a long way to go" to achieve a balance in numbers and in rank. It wasn't until the 1970s that policewomen were even allowed to wear pants: "At first they had floral outfits with hats, gloves, and handbags. In the 60s, their uniform was a black mini-skirt with long black boots, but because there were no pockets, they still needed a handbag to carry a wooden truncheon, plastic torch, handcuffs, and notebook."

Skirts progressed to culottes, and finally to the same uniforms as men. But the relay honours non-sworn women who have served in policing together with those in uniform, said Karen. One of its aims is to encourage women in the communities it passes through to become interested in joining the police.

Gladys O'Brien, 84, became a trailblazer for Waikato policewomen in 1954. She said that while growing up in Te Aroha her widowed mother was a strong role model, raising nine children alone and encouraging them to achieve their goals.

"I was 22 when I started police training, in Auckland and then in Lyttelton. I remember my first case was a rape – and I knew nothing about that sort of thing." However when posted to Hamilton, she was well mentored by Edna Pearce – one of New Zealand's inaugural intake of 10 female officers.

Gladys remained in Hamilton for her police career, but when she bought her first house there, "I couldn't get a loan as a single woman." That was, until the bank authorities discovered her occupation and changed their minds.

Thames resident Karen Brooks, a constable in central Auckland from 1974 to 1982, recalled "being on the beat alone in Ponsonby Road and K Road."

Annette Fox, 80, retired in 2004 following 15½ years as a police shorthand typist. "I lived on the Hauraki Plains and commuted to work in Thames, to start with at the old police station. There was only one other woman: the watchhouse keeper Betty Rosaman. We had typewriters until 1989 – I was a shorthand typist – and then we got a computer, but no training in how to use it. So I basically taught myself."

Like Karen and Gladys, Annette said it was marvellous to be part of the relay celebration – which the Mayor described as a great initiative. He said he would love to see more women on the Council as well as in the police.

After overnighting in Paeroa, the team continued cycling on the Hauraki Rail Trail to Waikino, and travelled by steam train to Waihi for morning tea at the Waihi police station. From there the relay torch was driven to the Waihi Beach surf club, taken by inflatable rescue boat to Bowentown, and paddle-boarded to Athenree before being handed to Bay of Plenty police staff in Katikati.

Community centre opens its doors

The welcome mat's out at the Patetonga-Kaihere Community Centre – that is, the former Playcentre.

With the building no longer needed for its original function, the change of name and purpose reflects its transfer of ownership and site lease from the Waikato Playcentre Association to the recently incorporated Patetonga-Kaihere Community Centre Society. But in a sense it has always "belonged" to the community. Locals were instrumental in raising funds for its construction at Patetonga Domain in the 1970s, and donated materials and services toward the project.

Society member Ross Harris says the fact that it was built on Council land, and its style of construction made it impractical to relocate, probably saved it from being sold. "Fortunately the Playcentre Association saw the merit of gifting it back, and we now want to manage the centre so it's a profitable asset – not a burden – to the community. So many old buildings and halls are under-used."

A children's play group is already using the centre twice weekly, and an art group meets there once a week. There have also been some discussions about Brownies possibly holding overnight "camps" there.

Ross says it's an ideal as a meeting venue, or for hosting children's birthday parties or small family gatherings, for up to about 20 adults.

Inquiries about booking the centre are welcome, by contacting society administrator Chris Harris on 07 887 7715.



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 Chambers, William Street, Paeroa during the month of August 2016.

Judicial Committee (if required)
 Monday, 15 August 2016, 9.00 am
 Monday, 29 August 2016, 9.00 am

Ward Committee Meetings
 Tuesday, 16 August 2016
 Plains Ward – 9.00 am
 Paeroa Ward – 12.30 pm
 Waihi Ward – 2.30 pm

Operations Committee
 Wednesday, 17 August 2016, 9.00 am

Economic Development Committee
 Wednesday, 17 August 2016, 2.30 pm

Audit & Risk Committee
 Tuesday, 23 August 2016, 9.00 am

Western Plains District Drainage Committee
 Tuesday, 30 August 2016, 10.30 am Ngatea office

Eastern Plains District Drainage Committee
 Tuesday, 30 August 2016, 1.30 pm Ngatea office

Ordinary Meeting of Council
 Wednesday, 31 August 2016, 9.00 am

Pre-election Report 2016

In accordance with Section 99A, 36 and 37 of the Local Government Act, 2002, a Pre-election Report for the Hauraki District Council has been prepared by the Chief Executive.

The purpose of a Pre-election Report is to provide information to promote public discussion about the issues facing the Hauraki District Council prior to the local government elections.

The Pre-election Report is available to download from the Council's website at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz, or you can request a copy by calling the Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or collect a copy from any of the Council offices or libraries in William Street, Paeroa; Rosemont Road, Waihi; or Orchard Road, Ngatea.

LD Cavers
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council

PRE-ELECTION REPORT

More than a run-of-the-mill Report

If you want to stand for Council, vote in the upcoming elections, or just find out more about the Council, but you've forgotten to read all 763.5 of our reports, policies and plans, don't panic!

We've read them all for you, taken out the best bits, and put them all together in one easy-to-read document called a Pre-election Report.

We know we need to work on the title, but in the meantime don't let it put you off. There are lots of interesting 'things' to read inside this report:

- Historic things from the last three financial years (2013/14 to 2015/16)
- An overview of current things from this financial year (2016/17)
- Planned projects and financial things for the next three years (2017/18 to 2019/20).

Basically, the Pre-election Report is intended to give the public an overview of the Council's position, and allow voters and potential candidates to consider our past, current and future capital works priorities for the next three years.

Anyone who wants to can go online can find our Pre-election Report at: www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/elections, or call into one of our offices and pick up a hard copy.