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Scottish celebration marks 23rd year



Massed bands exit Paeroa Castle at the evening tattoo. Picture: Rod Baker-Clemas.

Paeroa Domain became a small Scottish colony on 13 February, as crowds of locals and visitors gathered for the 23rd annual Paeroa Highland Games.

Local man Andrew Richards has long been involved with the event. "My mother was from Scotland and I always enjoyed the pipes," he says. Now his focus is on other people enjoying themselves: more than a decade ago he joined the volunteer crew that starts work at 5am and finishes about midnight, and he's been a patron "for the past four or five years". This year was Andrew's first as president of the organising committee, and he says the evening tattoo – the only one held at a Highland Games in New Zealand – was especially popular.

A daytime highlight was that the heavyweight field events which doubled as the New Zealand Highland Heavyweight Championships. This contest is traditionally held at the

Waipu Highland Games, but was cancelled in January due to torrential rain. Paeroa turned on perfect weather!

Fashion came to the fore in a new challenge to dress a calico teddy in tartan, organised as part of 'Tartan in the Park' by Hauraki District Council staffer Annette Jenkinson. Councillor Julie Bubb, who assisted at the stall, says it attracted many creatively talented young people.

Council Parks and Reserves Manager Steve Clark says the efforts of the Highland Games' dedicated volunteer team not only made for another successful community event, but made the Council's job easy. With the help of church, scout and school groups, the toilets were kept spick and span throughout the day, any litter was picked up, and the grounds were left in excellent condition. "We strive to have the grounds and facilities top notch for the occasion, and afterward they were just as good or even better."

The writing's on the wall for departed Plains residents



TIME FOR REFLECTION: Councillor Gill Leonard and retired Kerepehi farmer Mike Lynch read the memorial wall Anzac centennial plaques unveiled last year in Hugh Hayward Domain. Plains residents remembered on the memorial wall include Mike's father, James Lynch and uncle Thomas Lynch, who both served in France.

Do you have a departed family member whose life you would like commemorated on the Hauraki Plains Memorial Wall? Now is your chance to apply.

In the absence of a local cemetery due to unsuitable ground conditions, the Council opened the wall in Hugh Hayward Domain in 2003. Together with the Ngatea Ashes Wall, this provides a visual tribute to Plains residents. Names are engraved each year on the Memorial Wall's granite plaques and unveiled on Anzac Day, after the local civic service.

Last year's 100th Anzac Day saw a special new facet added to the wall, with the unveiling of plaques honouring the 149 World War I servicemen from the Plains.

However, locals remembered on the Memorial Wall needn't have any kind of service record; and the inclusion of as many inscriptions as possible makes the annual occasion very meaningful for the community.

The only criteria is that the person named must have lived in the Hauraki Plains for at least six months – which needs to be verified along with the person's details. Applications for 2016 inscriptions will be accepted until Friday, 18 March. The single-line tributes cost \$55 and can include your loved one's surname, first name, middle initials, age at death, and year of death.

Application forms are available from our service centres or can be downloaded from the Council website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

Anyone wanting further information can phone Robyn Kirby at our Paeroa office, on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the district).

Whiritoa Beach in the spotlight

A number of recent property purchasers were among about 50 Whiritoa residents and ratepayers at our informal annual public meeting in the community on 1 February. For everyone, it was a chance to get up-to-date information about local Council projects and services, and raise questions or issues with some of our elected members and staff.

A key topic was a possible bylaw change that would bar dogs from the southern end of the beach – a breeding ground for endangered New Zealand dotterels. Department of Conservation representative John Rich explained the need to protect the birds; and meeting chairman Councillor Harry Shepherd said there was no dissension to the bylaw proposal. "But there will be a submission process for people to express their opinions." As well as dogs on the beach, quad bikes on the beach stimulated discussion. It was requested that the permit issuing process be examined, in view of the larger than usual number of bikes appearing on the beach; and that beach access for the permit holders be restricted to designated entrances.

We also talked rubbish, and the Council will now be looking into ways of reducing some specific problems. The traditional style public bins have recently been replaced with new solar-powered compactor models, which have a much higher capacity so fewer bins are necessary.

However we may need to install an additional bin on the north side of the Surf Club. A need to clean the bin openings more often was identified, too.

Another improvement we'll be targeting is in our communications about kerbside rubbish collection days over the summer holidays – particularly because the scarcity of letterboxes in the village means our leaflets hand-delivered to each household may not reach their intended recipients.

The bottle recycling container that has served the holiday community over summer has now been removed, as it was blocking the school bus turnaround site.

Meeting attendees drew attention to several other fix-ups needed around the community, from signage and road marking enhancement to vegetation trimming. "Without exception they can easily be sorted out," says Harry. However people don't have to wait for a meeting to let the Council know about such issues. Service requests can be made online at any time, or by phone or in person to our customer services team during office hours.

Harry says the get-together was very positive, as reflected in the reports contributed by voluntary community organisations such as the Lifeguard Service, First Response, Rural Fire Force, Beachcare group, and library. The Council is pleased to be able to support the work of all of these, for instance by contributing substantially to the current surf club building upgrade.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Funding for local arts

Get involved

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
 Thursday 31 March 2016 4:00pm

TCVDEM Committee Meeting

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that:

The Thames Valley Civil Defence Emergency Management Committee meeting will be held on Friday, 18 March 2016 at 9.30 am at the Matamata-Piako District Council Chambers, Kenrick Street, Te Aroha.

LD Cavers
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council



TENDER NOTICE

Currently tenanted by the Paeroa Information Hub, the 435sqm property at 101 Normanby Road Paeroa is in a prime location in the centre of the town which is becoming a hot tourist destination.

For further information and tender documents please contact Dennis Lees on 07 862 5061 or 027 487 5609 or email dennis@hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

All tenders to be received at Hauraki District Council office at 1 William Street, Paeroa by 4.00pm on Friday, 4 March 2016.

Council reserves the right to not accept every or any tender submitted.

Dennis Lees
 Property Manager - Hauraki District Council

Correction

In last week's HDC News page (dated 19 February), the article titled the *Memorial visit completes chapter of history* (on the Governor-General's visit to the New Zealand Engineers Tunnelling Company memorial Waihi) contained an incorrect reference to Owen Lloyd's father. Mr Lloyd's father was Charles Glenroy Lloyd. Buzz Roycroft's father was James (Jumbo) Roycroft. We apologise for the error.

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- High growth aspirations
- Export focus / export enabler
- Innovative products or services
- Technology driven or
- Considering a Business Mentor?

Waikato Innovation Park offers a free business needs assessment to support your growth plans. We are available at the Paeroa office of the Hauraki District Council on the first Tuesday every month (next 'drop in meeting' is Tuesday, 1 March).

We can help you focus and plan for your business, offer advice and share useful connections. Make the smart choice now by calling us on **07 857 0538** or email businessgrowth@wipltd.co.nz to connect with a business growth advisor.