

Thursday, 28 May 2015

Waihi Ward Reflections

This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council



Nuggety competitors strike record

It's a record! On May 9, 898 people pedaled, paddled, and footed it in the fifth annual Nugget MultiSport Festival – almost doubling last year's athlete numbers across the five event options. Of the participants, 75 were Waihi or Waihi Beach residents making the most of the spectacular terrain right on their doorstep.

For regular veteran competitor Bruce Robinson, who grew up in the area, "The Nugget is special because it's in the territory where I have run, sailed, walked, hunted, swum, and dug for shellfish all my life". So supporting a hometown event is a big part of his enjoyment, but he also says that "some fixtures on the sporting calendar are just great" – and this is one of them.

"Each leg is achievable by a moderately fit person in a team, yet the race is big enough and difficult enough for the multisport junkie. It's great to see the event growing for Waihi, and gaining popularity as a community-run festival." After being sidelined five days out from the 2014 race by a mountain bike fall that broke his collarbone, Bruce this year completed his third solo full Nugget challenge: 32km of road cycling in two stages, a 10km harbour paddle, a 10km coastal trail run, a 23km mountain bike leg, and a final 2.2km run inside the Martha Mine pit.

"The Nugget and the Half Nugget, drew increased fields, with numbers up in the



SOLDIER ON: Bruce Robinson (right) completes his third solo Nugget, passes a Nugget team. Photo courtesy of Asse Bosch www.lumina.net.nz

21km, 10km and 5km off-road runs", said event director Mark Samson. The overall gender split was 50/50 male and female.

The Nugget began as the Waihi-based event in the trans-Tasman 2010 Anaconda Adventure Race series. It was then professionally owned and run for three years, until being gifted to the Vision Waihi Trust in 2014.

The result is a truly local event. While community volunteers, sponsors and participants have always got behind it, 100% of the proceeds now go back to the community – to boost the major sports facilities redevelopment

project planned at Morgan Park. Mark says this year's contribution to Sport'n'Action Waihi for that purpose will be significant.

The Council has supported The Nugget since it started; for the past two years the Council has contributed \$500 toward the running costs. "The festival is unique and caters for all ages and abilities, says Councillor Harry Shepherd, himself a volunteer marshal.

Another sponsor, Paul Anderson of Diamonds on Seddon, says the event is "great for the town".

The next Nugget is already in the planning for May 7, 2016. Save the date!

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGES TO KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Due to Monday, 1 June 2015 being a statutory holiday, kerbside collections scheduled in the Waihi Ward for the week 1 to 6 June 2015 will be carried out a day later than normal. The schedule below shows the changes to the collection days.

Township	Collection Day	What to put out
Whiritoa	Tuesday 2 June	Refuse only
Waihi	Friday 5 June	Refuse only
Waikino		Refuse only
Karangahake		Refuse and recycling

Collection days will be back to normal starting Monday, 8 June 2015.

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Smoother route now set in concrete



Locals and visitors of all ages frequent the path around Gilmour Lake, on foot or on wheels – pushchairs, children's bikes, mobility scooters.

Now the route is even more user-friendly, with a 260m 'cobblestoned' back section of the path replaced with concrete. Since the pavers were laid more than eight years ago, tree roots and ground conditions had caused many of them to shift and become potentially hazardous.

We thank people for their patience and understanding in taking diversions while the work was in progress. We hope everyone enjoys the smoother, safer, and attractive result!

Have your say about Census 2018

Statistics NZ wants to hear your views about the next census and is inviting you to take part in an online discussion forum open until 10 June 2015 via www.statistics.govt.nz.

This is the first time Statistics NZ has engaged online with the public about the content of census, and it is an important step in ensuring the 2018 Census is relevant for New Zealand.

Statistics NZ has developed a 'Preliminary view' of content for the 2018 Census based on its review process to date. The online forum will be structured around these topics, with current thinking – including proposed changes – a starting point for discussion.

Statistics NZ is encouraging people to respond to its initial recommendations, share their views and discuss issues that matter to them with other Kiwis.

The best opportunity to influence census content is to make a formal submission, via www.statistics.govt.nz. The formal submission period will be open from 18 May until 30 June 2015.

Statistics NZ welcomes all engagement and will listen carefully to everyone's views, but will need to find the right balance between making changes to better reflect New Zealand today and being able to compare data over time. Factors such as the length and complexity of the questionnaire will also need to be considered.

Following consultation, Statistics NZ will analyse the submissions and aim to confirm final content for the 2018 Census in early 2017.

The online discussion forum will be live from Thursday 30 April to Wednesday 10 June. People can make formal submissions online from Monday 18 May to Tuesday 30 June 2015. Both tools can be accessed via www.statistics.govt.nz.



Award pushes all the right buttons

VIRTUAL UNDERGROUND: A young Gold Discovery Centre visitor gets a close-up appreciation of modern gold mining.

Please do touch! That's the philosophy of the attraction which this month won the Best Visitor Experience accolade at the 2015 ServiceIQ New Zealand Museum Awards.

Waihi's Gold Discovery Centre is about doing rather than looking, says General Manager Eddie Morrow. "It's about pushing the buttons and cranking the handles to make the story of Waihi gold mining unfold. We want visitors to go away with an 'experience', so I'm particularly happy that this is the award we have won. This new category focuses on being interactive – not your traditional museum."

Eddie says it's fantastic to receive such high recognition on a national level so soon after the centre's opening just eight months ago. But it's been years in the planning: the project led by the Vision Waihi Trust was announced in 2007, as a way of bringing economic benefits to the community that would be needed in a post-mining future.

In 2009 the venture obtained \$1.8m of funding from the Government's Major Regional Initiatives fund. It then survived the global economic downturn that resulted in the withdrawal of the New Zealand Mint as a key partner; and though its site was changed from a planned new building to the remodelled existing premises, the final centre opposite the Cornish pumphouse has more exhibition space, and incorporates a new regional i-Site.

Mayor John Tregidga says the award "endorses the original concept of creating a national visitor attraction, where it will be enjoyed not only by our local and domestic visitors but also the many international visitors who pass through our region. Waihi is fortunate to have such a high quality attraction."

"The Council has been a project partner since the early stages, investing \$70,000 toward the concept plans. We contributed \$375,000 to the development and fit-out of the Gold Discovery Centre and i-Site, and met the consenting costs. We've also agreed to provide annual funding of \$85,000 for five years as an operating grant to the i-Site."

Eddie says the public-private partnership – also including Newmont Waihi Gold and the Ryan Family Trust – has been essential. "Without it, the centre wouldn't have become a reality."

Award judges hailed the Gold Discovery Centre as "a community-driven project with a tourism attraction outcome in mind, successfully completed to a high standard and offering a variety of experiences".

This week, the centre was presented at the TRENZ Expo in Rotorua – New Zealand's premium annual international tourism trade show for tourism operators and overseas buyers.