



HDC NEWS



Chinese Visitors Impressed

Five visitors from our sister city in China, Jiading, visited Hauraki early last week. None of the group had been before and it included one of the Deputy Mayors of Jiading. It is to be noted that Deputy Mayors are members of the Civil Service in China not elected representatives. The group was accompanied on their tour by our Deputy Mayor, John Tregidga, and the Council's Economic Development Officer, Chris Hale. The Mayor and the General Manager were unable to welcome the group as they were at the Local Government Conference in Rotorua.

After arriving Sunday night and being welcomed with tea at the Council chambers on Monday morning, they visited the Karangahake Reserve and took a short walk up the old pipeline track to view the Waitawheta River with its spectacular scenery and old mining relics. They were particularly interested that there were once houses at Karangahake and now there is a reserve and scenic beauty spot. At Waihi they had a look at the mine and saw a gold pour, which they found most impressive. They were amazed that they were allowed in to watch the gold pour and felt very privileged.

On Tuesday they visited the Chinese soft drink factory in Paeroa and a dairy farm on the Plains. Probably the most important part of their visit was to meet with Secondary School Principals to discuss the proposal for exchange visits of children. The main thrust of the visit is to promote goodwill and understanding of our two cultures. They see New Zealand as an incredibly clean and wholesome place to live and have a great desire for their young people to come here to learn the language and western customs. One comment of interest, in response to a statement from one of our councillors about New Zealand young people travelling overseas, was "Why would they ever want to leave this country?" It appears familiarity breeds contempt.



STV or not STV?

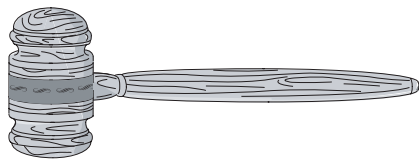
Councillors are looking forward with interest to the Special meeting to discuss whether Hauraki goes with STV at the next election. The meeting is to be held at the end of this week and will inform the Council on the details of the system. It is understood a few councils have already decided to stick with first past the post but of course they may have to change those decisions if they have to have a referendum and that comes out in favour of STV.

In preparation for this week's meeting the returning officer, Gary Paterson, gave councillors a mock ballot paper at the last council meeting with one side to be filled in as FPP and the other as STV. Councillors were to elect breakfast foods (three to be elected) from a list of seven foods: cereal, toast, fruit, oatmeal, bacon, eggs, and steak. After some difficulty experienced by councillors who failed to read the instructions, the ballot papers were returned to be tallied up. It is understood that the results are now known but will not be announced until the meeting on August 9th. Inside information has it that the FPP result has turned out different from the STV result. The question, of course, is whether that is, in fact, a fairer representation of the public's preferences.



Contributors must Pay

The Court of Appeal has dismissed an appeal by high country farmers against the rating of their properties for the Piako River Scheme by Environment Waikato. This decision has far reaching consequences both in the rating implications for this particular scheme and in other areas.



The gist of the situation is that if your land contributes to flooding downstream it is reasonable for councils to rate you to some extent for the drainage and flood protection on the low lying areas. In the Piako case, The Court of Appeal found that the appellants' land drained naturally in such a way that it contributed to the need for the work and that its current use materially contributed to the need for the scheme. If the court had found in favour of the high country farmers, the farmers of the Hauraki Plains who are directly affected by the Piako scheme would have had a much higher rating burden.

A Strange Tale

It's never too late to return overdue books. Recently Paeroa Library had a 2-volume set of Art and Literature books returned. The sender who remained anonymous, apologized for the length of time it had taken to get the books back saying it was a long story but circumstances beyond the writer's control had prevented their earlier return. The writer claimed and we have no reason to doubt that claim, that the books were removed from the Library about 1925! This has to be a record for having overdue books returned and we are very grateful to our anonymous reader.

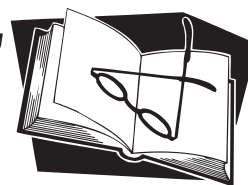


So What's a Quorum?

The question arose at the last Works Committee meeting, when there were only three committee members present, as to what a quorum for a committee is. Standing orders say that for any committee (including subcommittees) the quorum is two (of which one must be an elected member) unless Council has otherwise determined. This, of course, meant that the three at the Works Committee formed a quorum. The quorum for a Council Meeting is half the members (including vacancies) if the number of members is even or a majority if the number is odd.

At the full council meeting it was decided that Hauraki would adopt the "half or a majority" quorum for committees and subcommittees. Had this resolution been in place at the time, this would have meant that the last Works Committee would have been unable to function for want of a quorum as the number on the committee (including vacancies) is seven, making four a quorum.

Elected Members' Diary



Week of 5th to 11th August 2002.

- Monday August 5th: Ward Committees - all elected members
- Tuesday August 6th: Water and Waste Consultative Committee - Sel Baker, Ian Troughton, Bronwyn Wightman, Mary Carmine, Basil Morrison. **(Cancelled)**
- Wednesday August 7th: Hearing - John Tregidga, Mary Carmine, Bruce Gordon, Mike Hayden.
- Friday August 9th: Special Meeting on STV - all elected members.

Farewell to Wayne Laurenson

At the conclusion to the last full council meeting councillors were sad to farewell Wayne Laurenson who has been on the staff of the Hauraki District Council and its predecessor the Hauraki Plains County Council for twenty-five years. In his most recent role in Council he has been the Community Facilities Manager, a job which brought him into contact with many members of the general public and into a close working relationship with councillors. At his farewell councillors paid tribute to Wayne's hands on approach to problems and willingness to get things done. All councillors knew that they had only to present a problem to Wayne to get an almost instant response. Applications for a replacement are currently being sought with applications closing on 12 August 2002.

Underground Working Party

The Waihi Technical Underground Working Party report on the risks that the hazards identified in the February report, which was due to be completed by July is still incomplete. Council has set a date for the receipt of the report as the 22nd August. This should give the party time to complete the report. The meeting, which is likely to be held with the public excluded to protect property owners, will be held in the Council Chambers at 1:00pm. Members of the working party and the peer reviewer will attend the meeting.

SITUATIONS VACANT



General Quarry Worker Tetley's Quarry

We are currently seeking to appoint a General Quarry Worker to undertake general quarry duties that contribute to the overall running of Tetley's Quarry. This is a hands-on position within the Tetley's Quarry Business Unit, which is situated on Steen Road, Waitakaruru.

The ideal candidate needs to have a current drivers licence and a heavy traffic licence, be a team player and be practically minded. An understanding of quarry products and general quarry procedures would be an advantage.

Prospective applicants should first obtain the job description and application form from the Council's offices in Paeroa, Ngatea or Waihi, or phone

Erin Wood on (07) 862 8609, e-mail jobs@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz to acquire your copy.

Applications close at 4pm on Monday 19 August 2002.

A wage rate will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Hauraki District Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer