



HDC NEWS



Ngatea's Millennium Bridge

As part of the Millennium celebrations, a team of enthusiastic Hauraki Plains residents including Councillor Valda Laurich, had a dream to celebrate the new millennium and to commemorate the unique local history of the area, by building a working model of the original Piako River Bridge. The replica was planned for the Tilbury Reserve, adjacent to the current bridge. This dream is well on the way to reality. Most of the materials for the bridge have been purchased, the foundation piles are in place and the group hopes to have the construction of the bridge completed early in the New Year.

The opening of the Ngatea Bridge was fundamental to the development of the Ngatea township, the Hauraki Plains community and communications from Auckland through to Tauranga. The model bridge, which will be a scaled working replica of the original, will provide an excellent educational resource for studies on a number of topics including the development of transport and communications, early settlement of the Plains and local politics. As the Hauraki Plains approaches the centenary of its development and settlement it is important to look back to how it was shaped. The early days focussed of the use

of the Piako River for transport and access to the land and the bridge was an important part of that transport system.

The replica of the centre span will be six metres long by 1.5 metres wide and the tower will be six metres high from the deck. A particular feature of the original bridge was the centre opening span that was lifted by winches and had large circular counter weights that ran down a steel, parabolic shaped channel. These features are being recreated in the replica. Due to the complexity of the project, it has been difficult to prepare an accurate cost estimate for the construction of the bridge, however the present estimated cost is \$87,000. To date, the community group has raised \$36,000 by way of donations and fundraising. Significant contributions have also been made in the form of time and services provided by organisations that have provided assistance with the design, and supply of materials for the bridge. The value of this sponsorship has been assessed as \$22,600. The balance of the funding required to complete the project is \$28,400. Council agreed at its last meeting of the year to give a grant to the project from the Power New Zealand share interest.

Clean up New Zealand

While Clean up New Zealand Week for 2001 may be well over, plans for a similar, bigger and better week for 2002 are well under way. Many volunteers throughout the country undertook to clean up certain areas and removed tonnes of rubbish from our highways and byways, railways and waterways in September last year. Some of the volunteers were so shocked by the amount of rubbish collected that they vowed never to throw an item out of a car window again. **And that's the point!!!**

If all citizens observed normal civic duty and responsible behaviour, there would be no need for "Clean up New Zealand Weeks".

The Clean up New Zealand Trust works to raise community awareness of the need for every

one of us to take positive and practical action to preserve our environment for future generations.

Right now the trust's main aim is to help minimise New Zealand's waste problem. Far too many people use their local and natural environment as a trash can to dispose of waste. As a country, we send huge volumes of resources to landfill for burial, which instead could be recovered, reused or recycled. Clean up New Zealand Week is currently the major

annual activity of the Trust, to encourage New Zealanders to play an active role in protecting the environment while helping to raise awareness about the country's waste issues. For more information visit www.cleanupnz.org.nz.



Round the Wards

Plains Ward Meeting

- A request to develop further the skateboarding facility in Ngatea received some discussion at the last Ward Committee meeting. It was important to establish the need for expansion of the facility. Siting of the facility was of particular concern due to the possibility of a second astroturf on the domain.
- A landscape drawing for a proposed memorial wall site was presented to the Ward Committee. Staff had held discussions with members of the New Zealand Institute of Monumental Masons and they were very impressed with the concept and had offered some valuable advice regarding the finishing touches. A separate panel could be dedicated to Returned Servicemen, and it was commented that this would be an ideal site for Civic services to be held.
- The Committee agreed to underwrite the maximum of \$1500 towards the 2001/2002 New Year celebrations in the Hugh Hayward Domain.
- The water main attached to the Pipiroa Bridge is to be upgraded to a 100mm pipe at an estimated cost of \$37,000.

Paeroa Ward Meeting

- After several complaints about the Railway Reserve toilets - they were due to be painted before Christmas including the floor with a non-skid surface - the committee agreed that the whole aspect of public toilets in Paeroa needs to be addressed as part of the Paeroa Freshlook 2010.
- The footpath capital works budget was increased by \$32,000 to accommodate upgrading of the footpath along Willoughby St which is in a bad state of repair.
- The footbridge over the Hikutaia River at Wires Rd is in a bad state of repair and dangerous. Council has agreed to fund 50% of the cost of repairs, provided that Thames Coromandel District comes up with the other half. The footbridge is used in times of flood when the river cannot be crossed by motor vehicles.
- The Ward agreed to make a contribution of \$2000 towards the loss made by the Paeroa Guy Fawkes celebration. The ward had underwritten the event in case of cancellation but in actual fact it was not cancelled but postponed twice. The Lions Club, however, suffered a considerable loss on the event so the Ward Committee decided to grant the money anyway.

Waihi Ward Meeting

- A grant was made to the Waihi Croquet Club for assistance to remove the hedge at the western end of the lawns and replace it with a timber fence.
- A fun run is being planned to coincide with the centenary of the gazetting of Waihi as a borough in 1902. The planned route would more or less follow the boundary of the borough as it was in 1989 when it became amalgamated with other authorities to become the Hauraki District. The Ward Committee granted \$500 towards the event.
- The creation of a path around Gilmour Lake using the pavers taken from the main town centre when the streetscape was started is virtually complete. Consideration will be given to lighting the area.
- It was agreed to paint signs on the footpaths of the Waihi CBD advising of the prohibition of skateboards and cycles. Many complaints have been received regarding the continued use of the area by cyclists and skateboarders. A letter is also to be sent to the police requesting their support on the matter.



Whiritoa Public Meeting

The normal public meeting that is held at Whiritoa each Anniversary Weekend has changed days this year, due to another community event on the Sunday. The meeting is now to be held at the Community Centre on **Monday 28th January 2002 at 10.30am**. It is traditional to hold this meeting in view of the large number of absentee ratepayers that have property at the beach. The meeting is for councillors to meet the residents and ratepayers and for people to raise issues of concern to them.

PUBLIC NOTICES



LIQUOR BANS 2002

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 709A Local Government Act 1974 that the consumption of alcoholic liquor, the bringing of liquor or of empty liquor containers and the possessions of liquor or empty liquor containers in the public places identified below is hereby prohibited during the periods identified below.

LIQUOR BANS

Whiritoa

All Beach and Reserve areas.
The roads - Fishermans Bend, Kon Tiki Road, Tuna Place and Moray Place.

Dates and Times ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND 2002

During the Anniversary weekend public holiday period being Friday 25th January 2002 to Tuesday 29th January 2002 inclusive, and the hours of 4.00pm to 4.00am daily.

PENALTIES: ANY PERSON WHO COMITS AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE PROHIBITION MAY BE CONVICTED AND FINED UP TO \$500.00.

POWERS OF POLICE: ANY CONSTABLE MAY ARREST ANY PERSON ACTING OF ABOUT TO ACT CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PROHIBITION.

ANY CONSTABLE MAY SEARCH ANY PARCEL, PACKAGE, BAG, CASE OR OTHER CONTAINER IN POSSESSION OF ANY PERSON INTENDING OR ABOUT TO ENTER ANY PLACE DESCRIBED IN THIS PROHIBITION.

L.D. Cavers
General Manager

Closing the Waihi Refuse Tip

Another call on the community coffers that is facing Council over the next few years is that of closing rubbish tips. Gone are the days when you just covered the site with fill, topsoiled it, planted grass and sold it. A resource consent from Environment Waikato is needed and stringent rules are likely to apply regarding the covering and subsequent monitoring of the sites to avoid materials leaching out and polluting the environment.

An application has been prepared for consent to close the Waihi refuse tip, which is now only operating as a transfer station until the new station in Dean Crescent is open. A report to the Ward Committee and Works Committee estimates the cost of the necessary work at \$632,000. One of the main things in the design is the placing of a clay cap on the tip to stop water getting into the fill area, thereby limiting leachate generation. At Waihi, any leachate produced will be collected and pumped to the sewerage treatment plant for treatment. This of course will be an ongoing cost. The most cost effective solution is seen as having a 450mm layer of clay on the top to limit the amount of leachate that is produced that will need pumping and treating. The consent application will be lodged shortly.