



# HDC NEWS



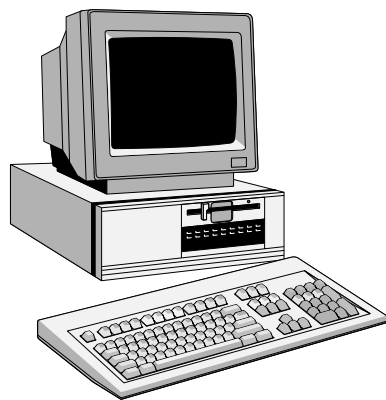
## High Speed Internet?

Up until now residents of the Hauraki District have effectively had access only to dial up internet services. Larger businesses have been able to justify use of dedicated connections, which offer significantly higher speeds than conventional dialup can offer.

The education sector is feeling the effect of the limitations of dialup internet access. The limited performance does not provide for acceptable quality video conferencing that is becoming in demand to retain students locally.

Government has been promoting Broadband initiatives in order for the country to become wired for speed. Broadband is loosely defined as high-speed internet access, which is desirable for the education, health and business sector.

Telecom has a proposal before Council that if Council underwrites the capital expenditure required to bring all exchanges in the area up to ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) capacity, Telecom will install ADSL, oth-



erwise known as Jetstream. If agreed customer levels are then achieved Council will not have to front up with any money. Subscribers must be on a business plan, not residential customers.

Government has also announced plans to ensure that Broadband is available to all schools, targeting initially all secondary schools. It is important that any initiative from Hauraki is linked in with other initiatives to get maximum benefit for mini-

mal outlay.

The Planning and Finance Committee resolved to recommend to Council that it identifies interest within the business communities of Ngatea and Waihi to commit to connecting to Telecom's Jetstream services. It also recommended to monitor developments within the education sector to determine the likely timing of the rollout of Broadband to the Hauraki District further to announcements made in the 2002 budget.

## Doctor Crisis

At their last meeting, members of the Planning and Finance Committee discussed the community initiative to get doctors to the Waihi area. The matter was raised as late item and Councillors were told that the group would be grateful for funding from Council towards the relocation costs of doctors from other countries. No success has been had in attracting New Zealand doctors to the practice. It is thought that the long hours and heavy workload discourages people from coming to rural areas.

The committee supported the community initiative in principle but many members are reluctant to use ratepayers' money for this purpose. It was seen as a matter that should be dealt with by Central Government. A letter from the group will be discussed at the full Council meeting at the end of the month.



## Sewerage Charges for Schools

An Act of Parliament with a wonderful name – The Rating Powers (Special Provision for Certain Rates for Educational Establishments) Amendment Act 2001 (otherwise known as the Donnelly Bill) – is causing some concern at Council. Recently Council amended its own rules about charging properties with multiple toilet facilities, such as schools, hotels, motels and the like, to give what it thought was a fairer sewerage charge. The charge that we came up with did not take the number of pans in the school into account but worked on the school roll to determine the charge.

The new Act, which Council must now follow for schools, has an interesting and complicated formula for working out the sewerage charges, which includes the

number of pans in the school. This means that if a school has more pans than are needed, as in a school with a falling roll, they will pay much more than on the Council method. Unfortunately Council has no option in the matter and must charge according to the legislation. The result is that a school such as Paeroa College, with less than 300 pupils and lots of pans will end up paying much more than before, whereas Waihi College, with a roll of over 800 and less pans than Paeroa College, will pay less.

The Act will be in force for only one year after which it will be superseded by other legislation and it is hoped that we can return to a more rational approach.



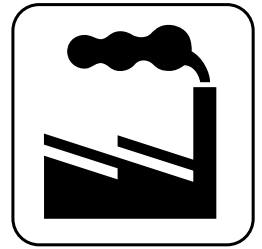
## Turua Church

The acceptance of a tender for the purchase of the Turua Church was recommended to Council by the Planning and Finance Committee at its last meeting. The price accepted was \$65,000 for the land and building.

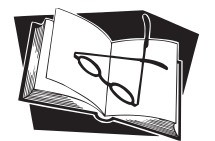
## Industrial Zones Plan Change

A change to the District Plan that affects industrial zones has been in the pipeline for some time. A letter has recently gone out to property owners in industrial areas and has apparently confused many. The main purpose of the change is to reduce the number of kinds of industrial zone and to take out the really heavy or noxious industries as a permitted use in any zone.

This type of industry, it is proposed, will need a resource consent wherever it goes. Councillors are to have a workshop on the issue to help them understand the changes. Meanwhile, if you are confused, contact the Council offices, but for most owners of industrial land there will be little difference to the present situation in what you can do with your land.



## Elected Members' Diary



For the week 24th June to 1st July 2002:

Thursday 27th June – Full Council meeting – all elected members, followed by afternoon tea for retiring drainage committee members.

Friday 28th June – Special meeting to consider report on information centres – all elected members.

## Extraordinary Election

Following the death of Paeroa Ward Councillor, Des Johansen, an extraordinary election (by-election) must be held. At a Special Meeting on the 13th of June Council resolved to allow the early processing of documents for this election. This means that the returning officer will be able to feed the results into the computer as they come in as was done in the last local body election. This should allow the results to be out soon after noon on the final day, which is the 31st August.

Nominations for the position of ward councillor for the Paeroa Ward close on 12th July and the voting papers will be out on the 9th August.

## Offer of Land

The owner of a small parcel of land situated across the river from the Karangahake Reserve has offered the land into Council ownership. The land is not freehold but is leased from the Crown under a Miner's Tenure Right. As the lot is surrounded by land owned by the Department of Conservation, the Planning and Finance Committee resolved to recommend to Council that the offer be declined and that the suggestion be made that the land be offered to DoC.

## PUBLIC NOTICES



### GREENWASTE ACCEPTANCE AT PAEROA AND WAIHI REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS

In order to assist residents in the clean-up operation following the storm event of 20/21 June, an amnesty on the normal fees for greenwaste disposal will apply until 8 July 2002. During the amnesty period greenwaste will be accepted free of charge at the Paeroa and Waihi Refuse Transfer Stations.

### WAIHI RECYCLING DEPOT AND TRANSFER STATION Dean Crescent, Waihi. OPENING 1st JULY 2002

Days OPEN:  
5 days per week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Hours OPEN:  
8.00am to 4.00pm

The Bulltown Road Waihi Tip will be closed to the general public from Saturday 29th June 5.00pm onwards.

The Dean Crescent site caters for residential and small load refuse disposal, up to a nominal maximum of 2 cubic metres per load. Bulk loads, that is loads over a nominal 2.0 cubic metres, will only be accepted by prior agreement and normally will have to be taken directly to the Paeroa Refuse Transfer Station or, arrangements made to dispose of them directly at the Tirohia landfill.

Any queries, please phone Barry Somers or Len Whittaker on 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or 07 862-8609 during normal work hours.

Ken Thompson  
DISTRICT ENGINEER