



HDC NEWS



Scenes from the unveiling of the Hauraki Plains Memorial Wall on Anzac Day

Summit Day - Thursday 29th May

A proposal has been put forward from the Sir Edmund Hillary Trust for a celebration on 29th May, which is the 50th anniversary of the ascent of Everest. The suggestion is that each person walk, run, or cycle to the highest point in each town and donate a five dollar note to the trust when they get there.

The Sir Edmund Hillary Trust exists to support movements, groups and organisations that promote programmes designed to assist young people to participate and benefit from outdoor activities. It also promotes environmental protection and other charities within New Zealand as well as charitable trusts in the Himalayas.

The key for this celebration is to involve local councils, schools and organisations to promote the day so that the community feels ownership of the programme and people will be more likely to get involved.

- Summit Day is a once in a lifetime event.
- Summit Day encourages kiwis to be the best they can.
- The Sir Edmund Hillary Trust is working to keep Sir Edmund's philosophy alive.
- The trust wants to foster a new generation of achievers.
- The trust wants to encourage every kiwi to contribute \$5 to help achieve the trust's objectives.
- It is a chance for our towns to tell Sir Edmund how much he means to New Zealand.

We will let you know, through this column, definite details of the events for Summit Day in our towns at a future date.

Pensioner Flat Rents

Council owns a number of pensioner flats in Waihi, Ngatea and Paeroa. These have been inherited from the amalgamating authorities and are to provide low cost housing to pensioners who are in need. In recent years Council has debated the setting of the rental for these units and has a policy that the flat rental should not be subsidised by the ratepayers but also that the flats should not make a profit. An estimate of what rentals should be to give a break even point was made and rents went up no more than \$6 per week per year until they reached this point. Only two sets of flats still need to increase \$6 to bring them into line with the other units of similar size and facility around the district. These are the old units in Kenny St Waihi and the Railway St flats in Paeroa.

The recommendation for this year, therefore, is that the rentals of these flats rise by \$6 per week and all the others remain at the present rental. At this level a very small profit (around \$2000) has accumulated over the last two years, which is there for extraordinary maintenance. At this point the forecast is for no further increases for a few years unless unforeseen maintenance crops up.

Grants for Promotion

The Planning and Finance Committee recommended two small grants out of the Economic Development budget at its last meeting.

A sum of \$1000 is recommended for the Waihi Gardens Open to view group to assist with the design of initial promotional material. The group involves 12 gardens, which are being promoted as a tourist experience and add to the existing attractions centring in the Waihi area. The objective is to cater for a range of interests amongst tourists, encouraging them to stay longer and spend more money.

The second grant recommended to Council was that of \$2000 for the Positively Promoting the Plains group to help with identifying and branding a Plains logo and the development of welcoming signage.

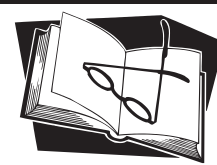
Walkway Named

The Waihi Ward Committee has recommended to Council that approval be given for naming signs to be erected at either end of a pedestrian walkway through the subdivision between Walmsley Rd and Gladstone Rd in Waihi. The walkway is to be named after the original owner of the land and subdivider the late Mr Ernie Pearce. The signs are to be purchased and erected by the Pearce family. The permission to erect the signs is to be conditional on gaining consent from the owners of the fences on which the signs can be attached.

Welcome Signs

The Planning and Finance Committee were shown the design of new Welcome to Hauraki signs at its last meeting. Apart from a few "I don't like the colour" comments the signs gained the approval of the committee as replacement for the rather drab looking ones, which are at present in position on all our major entrance ways into the district. The new signs will be on vinyl and will be graffiti guarded.

Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week 28th April to the 4th May:
No meetings this week.

Repair of Coxhead Bridge

Repairs to the number three bridge on Coxhead Rd started in mid February. The original scope of the work included the replacement of the northern abutment and supporting piers and the replacement and bracing of the centre pier. However, when work started and part of the deck was removed, the extent of the decay to the beams was significantly greater than could be seen from recent inspections.

As the beams had decayed to such an extent that the structural integrity of the bridge came into question, it was decided to replace all wooden beams with single span steel beams. As the new beams are single span the centre supporting piles will be removed. The wooden deck will be replaced with larger sized timbers and steel guardrails installed. The total cost of the repair will be around \$80,000.

Sign Thefts:

Your Help Needed

The roading manager reported to the last Works Committee meeting that the theft of road signs, particularly in the Plains ward has continued to increase. Nineteen signs have been stolen along Reservoir, Awaiti Canal and Awaiti West Roads. All the stolen signs were relatively new and comprised of curve warning, chevrons, intersection warning and Give Way signs. Nearly all the signs have been removed from the support posts with these being left in place undamaged. All the signs were replaced but several of the replacements were also stolen about a week after their installation.

The police have been advised and are following leads. It appears that the removals are systematic theft for profit not just trophy hunting. The cost to the ratepayer of this little episode is around \$4,500. If anyone has any knowledge of these activities or sees anything suspicious regarding road signs please contact the police or Council.

PUBLIC NOTICES



PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ROAD TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Hauraki District Council, for the purpose of an event organised by **Thames Valley Car Club Inc**, proposes to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.

During the proposed period of closure the following provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road: no traffic shall be held up for a period exceeding 30 minutes.

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of his objection and grounds thereof in writing **before 14 May 2003** at the office of the Hauraki District Council at William Street, P.O. Box 17, PAEROA.

Road proposed to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic:

Hamilton Road KEREPEHI

Period of proposed closure:

Sunday 15 June 2002 from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

L.D.Cavers
GENERAL MANAGER