



HDC NEWS



Swimming Pools

The Hauraki District Council operates two swimming pools – one at Ngatea and one at Paeroa. In addition, the Waihi Ward contributes \$10,000 per annum in rate money towards the running of the Waihi Community Pool, which belongs to Waihi College.



In response to elected members' thoughts on extending the season of the Ngatea Pool by providing some heating, the Community Facilities Manager has come up with a review of operations of the two Council Pools and has identified some issues for attention.

1. Human Resources

- Difficulty attracting and retaining suitably experienced and qualified staff each season.
- Lack of consistency of remuneration rates.
- Training/health and safety regulation/uniforms.

2. Water treatment/temperature

- Maintaining water quality to the required standard.
- Maintaining average temperature that encourages pool use.

3. Patronage

- Downward trend of users.
- Providing effective programmes to retain existing and attract new users within the existing budget.
- Admission charges.

To address some of these issues the Community Facilities Manager has made some recommendations to Council. They include:

- Council providing training and uniforms for staff.
- Signage and advertising for the pools.
- Consistency of opening times
- Consistency of charges to schools and clubs.
- Promotion of season tickets at a 20% discount on gate charges.

The Paeroa and Plains Ward Committees have discussed the report and it will come up for discussion at the full Council Meeting at the end of the month. The report does not deal with the practice of removing all fees for the month of January, which has been trialled in the past two seasons. No decisions have been made about possibilities of extending the season by heating the pools. The solar unit at the Paeroa Pool has been described as only taking the chill off the water and not being suitable for extending the season. Pools are renowned throughout the country as being facilities needed for healthy community lifestyles but that never pay their own way and are always subsidised by the ratepayer. Use of pools throughout the country is declining.

Luck or Witchcraft

Councillors had a few laughs at the last Council meeting when it was reported that those who had attended the Local Government Conference in Queenstown were stranded there through the airport being closed by fog. It was noticed that Councillor Carmine had returned prompting the query as to how she had managed to get back. "I flew," she replied. "What – on your broomstick?" came the retort. The councillor was not offended but wished she had thought of the retort first. To set the record straight, she had been lucky enough to be booked on one of the few flights that were able to leave that day. The others made their ways back the next day, or in the case of the general manager, several days later as he had an ear infection and was not allowed to fly.



Is this You?

At the recent Local Government Conference a thought provoking address was given by the departing chief executive officer of Local Government New Zealand, Mr Peter Winder. Mr Winder spoke about the new look of Local Government in the present situation after the passing of the new Act. One of the aspects of his talk that raised a laugh and nods of understanding among elected members present was his list of public expectations. See if you fit into any of these categories. The reality of the situation is in brackets after each comment.

The Mayor is the boss and he calls the shots. (The Mayor only has one vote at Council meetings).

Just get on and do it. That's what we elected you for. (Any significant change in service delivery has to go through a long consultation phase)

The rates are too high. (Most councillors would agree but it is difficult to stick to legal requirements, keep our communities moving and keep rates down).

The services that you deliver are inadequate. (You can't have it both ways. You get what you pay for).

The Council is a waste of time and money. (Try doing without – roads, street lighting, libraries, parks, storm water, drainage, water, sewerage etc, etc, etc).

A growing "Stop the World" constituency. (With the ageing population an increasing number of people who have had their time in the sun and now do not want to pay for the future as they will not be here. Is this fair?)

Sustainable what? (A desire for a clean green environment as long as it does not mean any inconvenience or cost. Clean green environments have to be paid for.)

And just to cheer you up, he also listed pending and new regulation reform which is likely to affect future costs and future rates. They are: Prostitution, Gambling, Building, Dog Control, Food Safety, Public Health (drinking water), Aquaculture Management, Hazardous substances and new organisms, Oceans.....

It's enough to make you want to become a hermit.

Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week 18th to 24th August 2003.
Thursday 21st August: Hearing (if required)

Oak Removal

Two large oak trees in the Paeroa Domain were removed recently as they posed a threat to public safety. A report from a registered arboricultural contractor recommended their removal as they posed a "significant danger". The removal was carefully planned and undertaken promptly. The trees were felled and removed between the 13th and 17th of July at an estimated cost of about \$5000 each. The trunks and larger limbs have been milled into slabs and stored for future use. There is a reasonable quantity of quality wood that would be suitable for furniture or use in buildings. A complete assessment of all trees in the Domain is being undertaken to identify and prioritise future arboricultural management issues.

Town Centre Gardens

With the beginning of a new financial year, work has started on the implementation of new levels of service for the Town Centre Amenity Gardens.

In Waihi, the day lilies have been cut back and all garden beds re-mulched with fine grade bark. The Hebes that were suffering from disease have been removed and healthy specimens from the lower part of the street used to fill gaps further up. The lower part has been replanted with another species that is not so disease prone. The roses have been pruned and fertilised and the fine lawn in Martha Court is to be renovated. It is proposed to plant wildflowers on the mound in Wallnut Park in the spring.

In Paeroa, the shrubs in planter boxes are being pruned to improve traffic visibility. Other shrubs at the Railway Reserve are also to be pruned and replaced where necessary. Annuals are being replaced, lawns renovated and gardens re-mulched with decorative bark. The roses along the side of the War Memorial Hall are to be removed and the ones in the front, pruned.

Public Notices



HUGH HAYWARD DOMAIN, NGATEA SPORTSFIELDS AND GRANDSTAND

Summer Allocations -
Summer Seasonal Use
1 OCTOBER 2003 - 31 MARCH 2004

Applications, on the prescribed forms, are called for the Summer Seasonal Use of Sportsfields and Grandstand Facilities located in the Hugh Hayward Domain, Ngatea.

If your organisation wishes to use either or both facilities on a regular basis during the dates detailed above, applications must be received by FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2003.

Application forms are available from Council's Ngatea Service Centre.

Joy Mickleson
COMMUNITY FACILITIES MANAGER

Freshlook 2010 Public Meeting

Pursuant to Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is given that a public meeting will be held at the Paeroa War Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 19th August so Council can provide Paeroa residents with further insight to the Freshlook 2010 roading programme. Any concerns residents have regarding the Freshlook 2010 programme may be raised at the meeting.

Elected members and Council staff will be in present to speak to attendees. All residents and property owners of Paeroa Ward are welcome to attend. If you have any queries on this programme prior to the meeting, please contact Ken Thompson on 07 862 8609, or 0800 734 834, from within the District.

Jolene Corbett
CORPORATE PLANNER

SITUATIONS VACANT



Exciting Civil Engineering Opportunities

Hauraki District Council (HDC) is a progressive organisation, with a mission to be a successful and innovative provider of services and facilities for all who live in or visit the district. Encompassing some spectacular scenery, the Hauraki District lies at the base of the Coromandel Peninsula and is bordered on the firth of Thames and the Hauraki Gulf.

Civil Engineering Technician

HDC is currently seeking to appoint a Civil Engineering Assistant to join the In-house Professional Services Business Unit based in the Paeroa Office.

The In-House Professional Services Business Unit is an expanding engineering unit providing professional civil engineering services to Council's Asset Managers and Planning & Environmental Services Department.

Core duties involve:

- Surveying, investigation and design of water, wastewater, stormwater and roading projects as required;
- Contract document preparation and supervision;
- Project management;
- Customer service and quality assurance.

A working knowledge of the Local Government Act, Health & Safety in Employment Act and Resource Management Act would be of an advantage, however not essential.

If you are looking for a challenging but rewarding career opportunity within the Hauraki area, you should obtain the job description and application form from the Council's offices in Paeroa, Ngatea or Waihi, or phone Penny Cutler (07) 862 8609, e-mail jobs@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz to acquire your copy.

Applications for this position close at 4pm Monday 1st September 2003. Salary will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

LD Cavers
GENERAL MANAGER