



# HDC NEWS



## Tourism in the District

The Council's Economic Development Officer reported to the February meeting of the Planning and Finance Committee on the activities of Tourism Coromandel. Continued growth had been experienced in the tourism industry in the Coromandel/Hauraki districts particularly in the spring and autumn periods, which the organization has been targeting. The Hauraki/Coromandel area is now seen as one of the top five destinations in New Zealand for overseas visitors.

The latest statistical reports show that in Tourism Coromandel's area International visitors have increased by 60% over the past four years compared to 21% nation wide. Focus is now to be on increasing the length of stay within the region.

### Spa Pool Fencing

Council has an obligation under the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act to enforce the legislation relating to swimming pool fencing. This includes spa pools. Under the Act, Council can allow a dispensation for a pool fence if some other method has been used which would lead to the pool being no less safe than if it had a pool fence.

A number of exemptions have been given for lockable covers to spa pools but councillors are nervous about giving these as they rely on the memory and reliability of the owners to replace the covers when the pool is not in use, unlike a self-locking gate, which closes without relying on human memory.

Recent experience with a spa pool that had been granted an exemption, has shown that the pool was left uncovered for a considerable period. The Planning and Finance Committee considered whether the exemption should be removed but the inspector's report that the pool now complied gave members a change of heart, and they resolved that a letter be sent to the owners, indicating that if Council inspectors found it uncovered again the exemption would be automatically revoked.

## Sister Cities

Hauraki's Sister City arrangement with Jiading in China is yielding its first goodwill educational exchanges. Planning for two teachers and four students from Jiading to visit Hauraki is now complete and the visit will take place in April. It will be followed by a return visit in July of two teachers and four students from the Hauraki District to Jiading.

The former principal of Waihi College Mr. Harry Shepherd is to travel to Jiading on a three to six month teaching appointment in the middle of the year.

A draft strategic plan has been prepared for the setting up of a Sister Cities Group in our Hauraki community. A public meeting is planned to set up a Sister Cities Board. All projects relating to sister cities are to be self-funded. It is hoped that as well as good will and understanding between the two communities economic opportunities will also present themselves.

The Planning and Finance Committee has recommended to Council that two people (the economic development officer and one councillor) attend the Sister Cities Convention in Masterton in April. This convention is to focus on associations with China so is seen as being particularly relevant to Hauraki.

## Combating Toilet Vandalism

At its last Ward Committee Meeting the Waihi Ward Councillors considered the problem of continuing costly vandalism to the public toilets. A proposal from staff to lock all toilets except one at night met with a mixed response. The suggestion was to leave only the Haszard St toilets open at night with a sign on the Victoria St, Morgan Park and Gilmour Reserve blocks directing people to the central block in town.

Two councillors expressed reservations regarding the Victoria Park block, which is used frequently by the passing public, particularly truck drivers. While councillors acknowledged that the passing public enjoy the convenience and the ratepayers pay, it was felt that the consequences of not having the facility available at night could be unpleasant. It was felt that for truck drivers, in particular, it was not likely that they would detour into town and that if the toilet was unavailable the park was likely to be used anyway, and would become unsanitary.

It was therefore decided, that the Gilmour Reserve and Morgan Park toilets would be locked at night but that, for a trial period, Haszard St and Victoria Park would remain open.

## Beachcare Group Wins Community Award

Whiritoa's Beachcare group has won a Best Community Group award at a national coastal conference in Dunedin.

The group has won a certificate and \$250 of plant vouchers awarded by the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network at their annual conference. The award is sponsored by the Taupo Native Plant Nursery.

The group is a partnership between the Whiritoa community, the Hauraki District Council and Environment Waikato. Over the past 10 years it has constructed 11 access-ways onto the beach, removed invasive exotic weeds such as acacia sophora, pampas and boneseed and maintained the beach by re-establishing native sand-binding grasses on the front of the Whiritoa dune.

It has also produced two permanent interpretation signs telling the community and visitors about the Beachcare group and the importance of protecting the beach and dune environment.

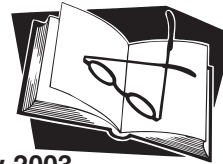
The group holds regular working-bees, often on weekends because a large number of the group's members work or are non-resident ratepayers.

Last year it conducted a comprehensive community survey of all ratepayers and held public meetings to look at strategic directions for the next few years. As well as maintaining focus on restoration of dune vegetation, issues such as water quality of the lagoons and shade will now form the basis of the group's activities for the next 10 years.

<http://www.ew.govt.nz/whats happening/mediareleases/index.htm>

## Elected Members' Diary

Meetings This Week  
Meetings for the week 23rd to 29th February 2003  
Thursday 27th February: Full Council Meeting.



## Why Dogs Should Not Roam!



The more we allow dogs to roam, the more we strengthen their natural primitive instincts.

On one hand we are expecting the dog to be our domesticated pet and family member and on the other hand, by allowing them to roam, we are encouraging the dog to maintain its state of wildness, to master the law of survival and to make decisions based on genetic inheritance. The dog becomes confused and frustrated trying to distinguish between two types of lifestyle (wild canine predator or domesticated pet).

### There are two main behavioural influences:

These are genetic inheritance and environment.

**Genetic inheritance** means those natural canine instincts. These are enhanced when the dog is allowed to roam free.

**Environment** means training, conditioning, domestication, kennelling, feeding, supervision and the human association.

### Roaming can be the cause of;

**Aggression:** Uncontrolled dogs constantly expand their territorial boundaries and after a while they will challenge any intruder, be it four legged or human, should they venture onto its domain. Because survival is probably the strongest instinct, a dog will soon treat non-threatening situations as threatening. Dogs are not equipped with the necessary reasoning to comprehend. Survival matters the most.

**Barking:** Because of the frustration created between complete freedom and then confinement the dog will soon resort to crying, howling and barking, when restrained.

**Worrying Stock:** Dogs are creatures of habit. They worry stock to practice their hunting skills. Any breed of dog will do this. If this stock didn't run away the dog probably wouldn't chase it.

**Digging holes:** Pure frustration

**General:** If there were no roaming dogs there would be no anti-dog public, less unwanted pups, no vehicle accidents involving dogs, less spread of disease, no dog faeces spread all over our beautiful country, no impounding fees to pay and a lot more stable, healthy human/dog relationships.

The Dog Control Act 1996 and Council's Control of Dogs Bylaw 1991 require dogs to be under control at all times. For everyone's benefit please keep your dog under proper control.

REMEMBER !!! 2003/2004 REGISTRATIONS  
DUE 31 JULY 2003

## PUBLIC NOTICES

creative  
communities  
NZ

Hauraki District

H A U R A K I  
D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

### CREATING COMMUNITIES SCHEME FUNDING FOR LOCAL ARTS

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ARTS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED.

THE SCHEME FOCUSES ON PROJECTS THAT INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN THE RANGE AND DIVERSITY OF ARTS, WITHIN THE HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM COUNCIL OFFICES AT:

WILLIAM STREET, PAEROA  
SEDDON STREET, WAIHI  
ORCHARD ROAD, NGATEA

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 4:00pm  
FRIDAY 28 MARCH 2003

For further information contact:  
John McIver  
Hauraki District Council  
07 862 8609  
Toll Free within District 0800 734 834

L. D. Cavers  
GENERAL MANAGER

H A U R A K I  
D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

Ratepayers are reminded that a 10% penalty will be incurred on all second instalment 2002/2003 rates unpaid at the close of business on Wednesday 26 February 2003.

### 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 13 March 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:

Golden Valley Road WAIHI between Landlyst and Ngati Tangata Roads.

Period of proposed closure:  
Sunday 6 April 2003 from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

L.D.Cavers  
GENERAL MANAGER