



# HDC NEWS



## Opening of the Freshlook Park

The first stage of Paeroa's Freshlook 2010 has been completed with the reconstruction of the park affectionately known as "Bottle Park". Just prior to Christmas a short opening ceremony was held to mark the completion of the project. This was attended by many people associated with the planning and construction of the park and by councillors from Paeroa and Waihi. At the conclusion of the ceremony members of the planning committee had their photos taken in front of the bottle as thousands of tourists have had before.

The park, which has yet to be named, has been totally overhauled with the moving back of the bottle, paving, car park and plantings. The moving of the bottle grabbed nation wide media attention, which prompted councillors to quip that it would be cheap publicity to move it once a year to make nation wide television.

The new position of the bottle allows people to take photos without stepping back on to the road. The area in front of the bottle has been paved and an attractive mosaic of a cut lemon is inlaid into the pavement to mark the spot to take photos from. Running from the lemon mosaic are metal discs of various sizes depicting bubbles, which look very effective.

Information panels tell the story of Lemon and Paeroa and the rubbish bin is in the shape of a lemon. To complete the theme there is a grove of lemon trees setting off the car park. The addition of the car park improves the safety of the area and it is well used. Numerous tourists stopped during the time the opening ceremony was taking place. After the bottle area has been looked at, tourists can take a stroll up the path over the stop bank to view the river or continue down the path under the Criterion Bridge into town.

At the ceremony the Mayor cut the ribbon to the bottle area and complimented the many people responsible for the planning and organization going into this project. He looked forward to the next stage of town centre improvements and stressed that Council and community should not lose its nerve but press on to revitalise the rest of the town.

The design for the new park was done by Rachel de Lambert of Boffa Miskal. Rachel also designed the town centre improvements in Waihi. The name of the park is still to be decided, the front-runner, and the current favourite, is "Ohinemuri Reserve".



## User Pays or Rates

The article on rubbish disposal charges last week discussed the reasons why the Hauraki District Council has seen fit to increase them. The full cost of refuse disposal will eventually be met from user charges. This will be phased in so there will be an increase in 2004 and again in 2006. To counterbalance this refuse disposal charges in your rates demand will decrease as the user charges increase. This year 30% of the cost of rubbish disposal will still come from rates, from 2004 to 2006 only 15% of the cost of will come from rates. From 2006 onwards, it is proposed to have no refuse disposal component in the rates. All costs will be carried by the people disposing of the rubbish.

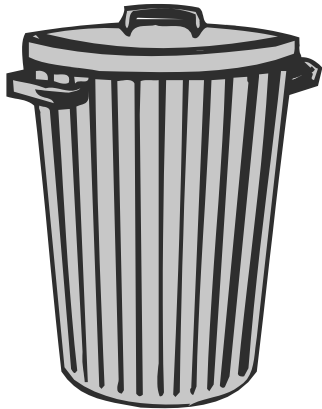
Do not confuse this disposal charge with the charge for refuse collection, which is only paid by people who have a collection at their gate. This fee covers the cost of collection and disposal of one 60 litre bag from your gate each week and applies to residents in towns with a weekly rubbish collection. If you wish to dispose of more than one bag per week you must buy a sticker from your local supermarket, dairy or Council office to put on the extra bags.

The Government has implemented a zero waste strategy and has recommended that councils throughout the country move to a "thrower pays" policy. While there is no compulsion on Council to do this, Hauraki District Council is committed to reducing solid waste going to land fill.

Remember, recyclables are still free at the transfer station and you can minimize your costs by reusing and recycling. Compost your green waste, mulch your trees and shrubs with lawn clippings and take your glass, plastic bottles and aluminium cans to the recycling depots. If you do all these things the average family should not produce more than one 60 litre bag per week of rubbish and your disposal costs will be minimal.

Council is investigating the option of a district wide twice-monthly kerb-side collection of newspaper and cardboard for recycling. Whether this happens or not depends on costs, which presumably would have to be taken out of rates, and the project would only be implemented if the cost to the ratepayer was very low. The option of burning your paper and cardboard is not considered environmentally friendly although it is no worse than burning wood or coal for heating in the winter. Newspaper can be torn up and composted, or wet and used as weed matting under lawn clippings or shredded garden waste.

In summary, if you make an effort to reduce the waste produced by your household, any increase in waste disposal charges at the transfer stations should affect you only minimally.



## Elected Members' Diary



For the week of 27th January to 2nd February 2003  
**Thursday 30th January: Full Council meeting – all elected members.**

## River Levels Update

Despite a small amount of rain falling in January, the levels of the Ohinemuri and Waihou Rivers remain low. When these rivers are low there is a problem with servicing the water requirements of the Hauraki Plains, not because of the volume of water available, but because at particularly high tides the river silts up and the water flowing to the Kerepehi treatment plant becomes very dirty. This means that the treatment plant can only process the water slowly and the output is therefore lower than normal.

It is very important that consumers, particularly on the Hauraki Plains, take great care not to use more water than necessary. Use only hand held hoses to water your garden, take short showers rather than baths and above all check your water meter regularly to see if there are any leaks. If there are, make sure you get them fixed. Even a dripping tap can use an incredible amount of water over time.

## Low Noise Road Surfaces

Chip seal has been the main method of sealing roads in New Zealand for some seventy years and it may interest you to know that the method was perfected in New Zealand for New Zealand conditions. It has served us well as a relatively cheap method of sealing long stretches of highway. It is, however, fairly high maintenance, less comfortable to ride on than asphalt and is noisy when tyres move over it.

Major contractors are now investigating new mixes of asphalt that reduce road noise. While asphalt is about three or four times as expensive as chip seal, it can last three times as long. Where noise reduction is important this can tip the balance in favour of asphalt. Auckland and North Shore have now stopped chip sealing all roads to reduce wear and noise.

## PUBLIC NOTICES



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is given that the following special meeting will be held for the purposes of making a decision on elected members remuneration.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
 Wednesday 19 February 2003, 10.00 am  
 Council Chambers, William Street Paeroa

## THE FOLLOWING REFUSE DISPOSAL FEES SHALL APPLY FROM 1ST FEBRUARY 2003

The following charges include GST

| Nominal Description      | Load Size       | General Refuse  | Clean Green Waste or Clean Soil. |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Bag of Rubbish           | Kleensac        | \$1.50          | \$1.00                           |
| Car                      | 0.2 m3          | \$5.00          | \$3.00                           |
| Station wagon            | 0.4 m3          | \$10.00         | \$7.00                           |
| Small trailer            | 1.0 m3          | \$24.00         | \$17.00                          |
| Large trailer            | 2.0 m3          | \$48.00         | \$34.00                          |
| Compactor Trucks - Waihi |                 | \$72 / m3       | \$50 / m3                        |
|                          | All Large Loads | \$85 / tonne    | \$60 / tonne                     |
|                          | All Recycling   | Free            |                                  |
|                          | Car Bodies      | \$50 unstripped | \$25 stripped                    |

## CLOSURE OF ROAD TO ORDINARY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a hill climb event organised by Thames Valley Car Club Inc. the following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the period of closure the following provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road.

Period of closure: Sunday 2 February 2003 from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Road to be closed: Rotokohu Road, PAEROA from James Thorp's gateway to the end.

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic: No traffic shall be held up for more than 30 minutes.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

## LIQUOR BANS

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 possession 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

#### WAITANGI (NZ) DAY 2003

During the Waitangi (NZ) day public holiday period being Wednesday 5th February 2003 to Monday 10th February 2003 inclusive, and the hours of 4:00pm to 4:00am daily.

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

**POWERS OF POLICE:** ANY CONSTABLE MAY ARREST ANY PERSON ACTING OR 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