



# HDC NEWS



## More Tips to Reduce your Rubbish

### Reduce:

- When buying goods look for those with reusable packaging such as products in glass jars rather than plastic.

### Reuse:

- Use the bins in your supermarket car parks and other places around the towns that take used clothing and resell it for charity. Most of these take not only used clothing, but other useable household items.

### Recycle:

- Bare ground in your garden in the winter? Cover with whole newspapers, soak with water and place lawn clippings, compost or mulch thickly on top. By the spring both the newspaper and the clippings should be largely decomposed and you can fork it over and plant your spring crops. The garden should be weed free too provided you do not have perennial weeds such as convolvulus or oxalis.

Visit the web-site [www.reducerubbish.govt.nz](http://www.reducerubbish.govt.nz).

## Road Safety Statistics - Pluses and Minuses

While it was reported earlier in the year that the road toll continued to decline the figures for April have sent that positive trend firmly into the red. Forty-six people died on the roads in April, which is twenty-one more than last year. Up until May 161 people died on New Zealand roads, which was 23 more than at the same time last year. During April, twenty of the deaths were car or van drivers, twelve were passengers, nine were pedestrians, four were motorcyclists and one was a truck driver. Thirty-six of the forty-six killed died on the open road, fifteen of those being single vehicle crashes where the driver lost control and/or ran off the road. We leave you to speculate as to likely contributing factors to those crashes.



Another interesting statistic reported in the May edition of the LTSA Road Safety magazine is that open road speeds continue to decline. The percentage of drivers travelling at over 110 kph has reduced to 10% from 15% in 2001 and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is now 109kph whereas it was 110 in 2001. The number of drivers killed with excess alcohol in their blood, however, increased from 55 in 2001 to 60 in 2002. The use of safety belts and child restraints continues to increase.

## More Passing Opportunities

For some time Council has been consulting with Transit on the traffic problems in the Karangahake Gorge. The Gorge is a State Highway and, as such, is under the control of Transit New Zealand. Transit's funds are limited and it is seen as unlikely that any huge improvements will be done to the road between Paeroa and Waihi in the foreseeable future. Councillors, therefore, have been pushing Transit to do some smaller projects to improve the flow of traffic through the gorge. One of the major problems is seen as the frustration levels that build up when drivers are delayed by slow traffic, as there are very few passing places in either direction.

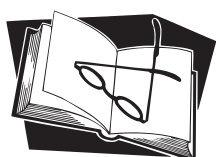
Transit has now come up with proposals to improve and increase the passing opportunities on either side of the gorge in an attempt to reduce driver impatience and thus the potential for crashes.

The first of these options is that of Turners Hill where the work has already started to extend the passing lane for eastern bound traffic. The western bound passing lane has been permanently closed. Closer to Paeroa the straight just beyond the 50kph speed limit is due to be given a pull off zone for slow vehicles. Further on, in an area known locally as Richie Simmonds straight, it is proposed to realign the road to give a gentler curve and to create west bound passing lane. At Campbell Rd, near Waihi, the proposal extends the passing lanes in both directions. Councillors have been asked for their comments and had some discussion on the detail but were generally in approval of the concepts, which they hope will improve traffic flow and safety on a road with a relatively high accident rate.

## Stormwater Discharge Consents

Advice has been received from Environment Waikato that consent for four stormwater discharges for the urban areas of the District have been granted for a term of twenty years.

## Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week: 30<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2003  
 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July: Special meeting to confirm the Annual Plan.

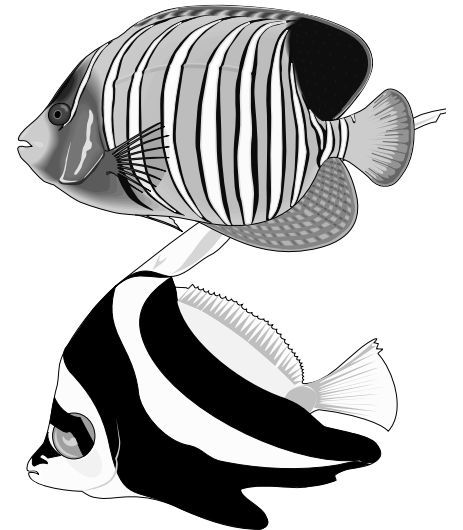
## Ngatea Entrance

Concept plans for a "gateway" concept as an entrance to the western end of Ngatea have been presented to Council. A number of different options were suggested by architects including such things as kahikatea trees, swamp grasses, mock stopbanks, cabbage trees and sculptures. Council also has to decide on the extent of any improvements to the entrance.

Some councillors were dubious about the planting of kahikateas for fear of restricting visibility and the request for a favoured option could not be decided on at the Ward Committee meeting as councillors felt it required considerable thought and consultation. The options will be presented to various community groups for feed-back.

## Fish Tanks and Treated Water Supplies

From time to time pet fish die shortly after their fish tanks are cleaned and the water changed. The immediate concern is that something in the water has killed the fish. To a degree this is correct. The water is treated and chemicals added to a standard acceptable for human consumption. Some fish and plants are less tolerant to certain chemicals and can be adversely affected. Freshwater fish can be killed by normal drinking water chlorine concentrations, sudden temperature and pH changes, and household chemicals. To avoid problems we suggest the following:



- Use a water aging agent available from pet shops or stand the water in a clean container for 24 hours before use.

- Avoid sudden changes in water temperature. Allow the new water time to become the same temperature as that in the fish bowl.

- Avoid sudden changes in pH. The pH of old fish tank water can vary markedly from tap water. Try not to change all the water at once. You can buy pH testing paper from fish suppliers.

- Do not use cleaning agents to clean the bowl especially ammonia and chlorine based products. Rinse the bowl well after cleaning. If in doubt consult a fish care specialist.

## Paeroa Croquet Club Grass

The Paeroa Ward Committee has received a letter from the Paeroa Croquet Club requesting assistance from Council in the disposal of the lawn clippings from their greens. This is only one request Council has received for assistance from organisations and individuals for help in disposing of green waste since the waste disposal fees went up. In this case the Ward Committee considered the matter and resolved to increase the current funding allocation for the club from \$1000 to \$1140 to provide for the payment of the refuse disposal fees.

Other requests in Waihi for assistance from private individuals in disposing of fallen leaves from Council owned trees have not met with a favourable response as councillors have felt that people should compost. The Croquet Club is a community organisation providing a valuable facility for the public on public land and Paeroa councillors felt it was worthy of support especially as the amount required was so small.

## Ngatea Swimming Pool

The Plains Ward Committee is considering the pros and cons of heating the Ngatea public swimming pool. While the cost, including ongoing costs, would be relatively high, heating the pool would extend the season over which the pool could be used and therefore would increase its overall usage and the service being provided to the public.



The Committee has called for a report of options including the covering of the pool. There has been \$10,000 provided for capital expenditure on the pool in the 2002/2003 financial year and this will be added to by another \$10,000 in the coming year.

## Requests for Financial Assistance

Each ward of council budgets a certain amount each year for assisting community groups that apply for help with special projects. The sums allocated vary from ward to ward and are not high. The manner in which these funds are distributed also varies with Paeroa and the Plains having specific times to consider applications for funds whereas Waihi deals with applications as they crop up.

Paeroa has just had its second round of allocations for the financial year with a sum of \$3787.50 in the budget available for use. They allocated \$160 to the Thames Valley Special Olympics for the hire of the Paeroa War Memorial Hall for an annual indoor bowls event. A request from the Paeroa Community Support trust for assistance from the centre was also considered and \$1000 was allocated to help them with their work.