



HDC NEWS



Further Investigation into Water Sources for Waihi

The search continues for a suitable new water supply for the Waihi township and Waikino. Continued use of a large proportion of the Walmsley and Waitete streams is not feasible under current rules laid down by Environment Waikato. For some time Waihi has been looking for alternatives to the present supplies, which, although adequate for the town's use, do not allow sufficient flow for the healthy ecology of the streams during the summer months.

Extensive investigations went into the possibility of using bore water from Waimata but the resource was found to be marginal and therefore not a viable option. Other options are:

- * to move the intake to a lower point on the Walmsley where the flow is greater and to build an off stream storage reservoir alongside
- * to pipe water from an intake on the Waitawheta stream
- * to use an intake on the Waitekauri Stream.

Cost-wise the Waitekauri is the cheapest option followed by the off-stream storage and then the Waitawheta. Recent reports on the Waitekauri option have been encouraging, stating that the risks associated with the option are low - the greatest risk being associated with gaining suitable resource consents. Environment Waikato has data regarding the health of the Waitekauri stream ecologically but detailed analysis of the water quality for a potable supply is lacking. A recommendation has therefore gone to the works Committee that four months of water testing at weekly intervals be carried out on the lower Waitekauri River, the upper Waitawheta River and the Walmsley Stream. The total cost of the tests will be in the order of \$4800 and the results will enable a fair comparison to be done among the three options being considered.

Stormwater Discharge Consents

The comprehensive stormwater discharge consents that were applied for by Council to Environment Waikato have been granted for a period of twenty years. Conditions applying to all the consents related to monitoring of scouring and erosion, gross pollutants, suspended solids and other contaminants and determination of the need for debris traps on the basis of the monitored information.

There are specific site related conditions such as the provision for reconstruction of a flume channel in Adams St, Waihi, and investigation and provision of solutions for the Whiritoa Beach front discharges. Development of stormwater management plans for all areas is required. The conditions may be reviewed on each five-year anniversary of the granting of the consent.

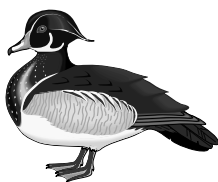
More on Biodiversity

A new web-site has been established with the latest knowledge on biodiversity and the legislation that covers it. It also lists the funds to which both organisations and individuals can apply to help conserve biodiversity on private land. Biodiversity refers

to the range of species in an area and includes such tracts of land as patches of forest, wetlands, sand dunes, etc. Areas with native species of plants in them can be valuable resources of food and habitat for a wide range of animal species from invertebrates to fish, frogs, lizards and birds.

The new site is a joint effort between DoC, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Fisheries, and the Ministry for the Environment. So anyone with an interest in conservation should visit the site and particularly those who have a patch of native vegetation that they are interested in preserving. You may learn something to your advantage.

The site address is:
www.biodiversity.govt.nz



Major Leak

Excess consumption on the Karangahake water supply for some time has given rise to the thought that a leak was likely somewhere on that supply.

A specialist leak detection company was employed to locate the leak and it was found that a galvanised service lead had rusted through giving a major leak. The leak has now been repaired.

Anti-Speed Ads

A new advertising campaign aimed at the target audience of young speeding males has hit the television screens. The advertisement features three young hedgehogs driving through a fictional town of Hoggsville. The ad was screened at cinemas and selected TV channels from February through April. If you have viewed the ad, some of the toilet humour and language may not have appealed. If this was the case you can be sure that you were not the target audience.

Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week: 21st to 27th July 2003
Thursday 24th July: Hearing (if required).

PUBLIC NOTICES



REMINDER TO DOG OWNERS

This reminder gives you a last opportunity to register your dog (s) **before July 31st 2003**. Dogs remaining unregistered after July 31st 2003 will incur substantial penalty fees.

L D. Cavers
General Manager

Reduce Your Rubbish

It appears that the message is not getting through regarding the need to reduce the amount of rubbish going to land-fills. The Utilities Manager reported to both the Ward Committees and the Works Committee this month that the tonnage of rubbish being accepted at the district's two refuse transfer stations is increasing. At the Paeroa Refuse Transfer Station, which is the only one with long term data available, the growth is 8% per annum, while the combined total, over a shorter period, has a growth of 3% per annum.

The increase in charges at February this year resulted in a rapid drop off but this did not last and tonnages are back up continuing the previous trend.

There are many simple things you can do to reduce rubbish at home or at work. Why not start by:

- * thinking about what you buy
- * recycling all that you can
- * composting your garden rubbish and kitchen scraps
- * becoming a rubbish reduction champion at work.

Burning rubbish is not a solution - it pollutes the air and may release toxic substances particularly if plastics are involved. However if you do have a log fire you can use newspaper twists as fire starters. A sheet of newspaper, rolled, twisted, and tied in a knot makes excellent kindling.

And now's the time to get rid of your newspapers in another environmentally friendly way if you have a vegetable garden. Most people have bare parts of their garden at this time of the year. Spread your newspapers, whole thickness, over the bare ground then wet them thoroughly. (Choose a still day!) Cover with a thick layer of lawn clippings, shredded branches, or compost. When it comes time for spring planting fork the lot through and plant your crops. By then the newspaper and other organic mulch will have decomposed and the garden will have been kept weed free for this period. Not only will your actions have added valuable nutrients to the ground for your plants to take up, but the soil texture will have been improved as well and you will find a proliferation of those friends of every gardener, earth-worms.

For more information visit www.reducerubbish.govt.nz.

SITUATIONS VACANT



The Hauraki District Council is a progressive local government organisation serving the Waihi, Paeroa and Plains areas.

The Council is currently seeking to appoint a full time:

Corporate Planning Assistant

This position based in the Paeroa office is part of the Planning and Environmental Services Department. The core duty of the role will be to provide administration assistance to the Corporate Planner.

The successful candidate will have strong administration skills enabling them to provide assistance with co-ordinating the Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan together with formulating Asset Management Plans. Proven research skills would also be an advantage. The ability to adapt to change and have a creative and flexible approach to work are also essential.

If you have sound computer skills in a variety of applications including word, excel, access and ideally framemaker and the ability to quickly adapt to new programmes together with the skills outlined above we would welcome your application.

Prospective applicants for this position should obtain the application form from the Council's offices in Paeroa, Ngatea or Waihi, from the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or phone Penny Cutler, Human Resources Advisor on (07) 862 8609.

Applications for this position should be at the Council by 4pm Monday 11 August 2003.

Hauraki District Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer