



HDC NEWS

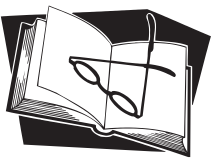


Naming the Park

The Park with the L&P Bottle in it, which has been extensively redesigned recently to be a well-patronised tourist spot, has, at last, been given an official name. Although affectionately called "Bottle Park" by most of the population, it was thought that this name was not classy enough for the attractive and interesting rest area and suggestions had been called for. A number of good suggestions were forthcoming, including the final choice of Ohinemuri Park. It has also been suggested that the walkway that leads from the park under the Criterion Bridge be named Asher Cassrells Walk. This is in tribute to Asher Cassrells who was the first trader in Paeroa and builder of numerous commercial properties in Paeroa, including the first Criterion Hotel and the existing Criterion Hotel.



Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week 5th to the 11th May:
Monday 5th May: Ward Committees.
Thursday 8th May: Hearing.

Community Consultative Group

A community consultative group is being set up to examine issues, plans and proposals for the Golden Legacy (that is the closure procedure for the mine) in Waihi. The group will consist of representatives of interested groups in the Waihi area, in particular sporting and tourist groups. The object is to ensure that the structures and facilities that are left in place when the mine closes are those that will benefit the town to the greatest degree so that the town can flourish after mining has finished. Council's representatives on the group will be the Mayor or his appointed substitute, the Waihi Ward Chairman, Sel Baker, and the Waihi Mining Liaison Representative, Don Lockwood.

At the last Council meeting the independent facilitator for the group was approved by Council. He is Mr Tim Clark from Hamilton. Mr Clark is an experienced barrister and mediator, and he will be assisted by Sharon Stewart, another barrister and mediator from Tauranga. Costs for the facilitator and the administration of the consultative group will be met by Newmont Waihi Operations.

Exchange Visit Postponed

While Hauraki's students and teachers who were to participate in the exchange with Jiading in China were prepared to go ahead with the visits as planned, nervousness about the threat of SARS from China has forced the postponement of the exchange for a couple of months.

The situation will be reassessed later in the winter.

PAEROA TOWN CENTRE TOILET TRANSFORMATION!

The public toilets adjacent to the Information Centre in Paeroa will be closed for upgrading during May.

The toilets are being renovated in the same style as those in the Karangahake Gorge Picnic Area - stone and glass brick walls, raised roof line, panelled interior walls, stainless toilet fittings. The end product will be fresh, clean, and modern.

During the closure, the public are asked to use alternative toilets at the Paeroa Domain in Willoughby Street.

The Belmont Street toilets will be re-opening in time for Queen's Birthday weekend.

Dog Attack

Three dogs were put down recently after they savagely mauled a domestic pig. Council officers were horrified at the ferocity of the attack and did not hesitate in ordering the destruction of the dogs.

Meanwhile, the policing of the proposed dog control laws, which will require all dogs to be fenced in a secure area with access to a door of each house, is a matter for consideration. The requirement will not come into force until 2006 but presumably the councils will have to inspect properties and enforce the requirements. This is likely to be an added expense on the rates, or fines where dog owners do not comply.

Paeroa Community Grants

The Paeroa Ward Committee approved a number of grants to assist groups in the community at its last meeting. The Fire Service was seeking \$1762.48 for electrical components for a power generator. The Committee gave them \$250 providing the brigade came up with the rest of the money themselves.

The Paeroa Volunteer Drivers were allotted a grant of \$500 to help with the administrative costs of providing the service, which transports community service card-holders and those under 16 to medical specialists at public hospitals.

A remission of rates was requested by the Paeroa branch of the RNZ Plunket Society on their Wharf St property. This committee consists of only four people and struggles to gain income to cover its costs. While the Ward Committee was unable to remit rates, it granted the society \$500 towards paying them.

The Paeroa Ward has \$8,000 allowed in the estimates each year for discretionary grants.

SMOKE ALARMS NOW REQUIRED IN HOUSES

SMOKE ALARM REGULATIONS AMENDED

As from 22 April 2003, automatic smoke detection and alarm systems will need to be installed in new homes and other new household units that do not already have such a requirement.

That is the intended result of an amendment to the building code (clause F7) to require that:

"Appropriate means of detection and warning of fire must be provided within each household unit."

In coming to this decision, the Building Industry Authority commissioned a cost/benefit study, which supported the option of mandatory installation of single station battery operated smoke alarms.

Effectively, the mandatory installation in new dwellings and new household units would achieve a significant improvement in fire safety at a reasonable cost.

The amendment does not apply to existing homes, but the regulations will mandate the installation of smoke alarms when a building undergoes an alteration or change of use to become a home or when any alteration is made to an existing home that requires a building consent.

The building code amendments specify performance criteria for smoke alarm systems.

For more details contact one of Council's Building Monitoring Officers.

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Those Geese Again

When the Waihi Ward Committee's minutes came up for discussion at the full council meeting last week, the geese on Gilmour Lake raised their long necks again and were discussed in full. It appeared that considerable consultation had gone on in the intervening weeks with arguments on both sides of the issue being presented to councillors.

A number of residents and ratepayers had come out in support of retaining the geese while others, particularly parents of young children, had rejoiced in their impending removal. Elected members heard of children afraid to leave their cars but of others who enjoyed the presence of the interesting and intelligent birds.

Council has a responsibility to all residents and the park is for the enjoyment of all. It was pointed out that at present the large numbers of the geese are detracting from the enjoyment of the park by small children and some elderly folk, so the final decision was that the numbers be reduced to six. This is an increase on the two, recommended originally by the Ward Committee. The other eight geese will be relocated to a rural property.

PUBLIC NOTICES



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 14 May 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:

Hamilton Road KEREPEHI

Period of proposed closure:

Sunday 22 June 2003 from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

L.D.Cavers
 GENERAL MANAGER