



HDC NEWS



Nationwide Issues

From time to time it is important to look at the bigger picture in Local Government and to consider how national issues may or may not affect us. Here is a summary of some of the issues that are reported in the latest Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) news letter.

School Closures:

Local Government is calling for a more consistent approach to the closure of schools. Although the Government has given a five year reprieve from further reviews, it is felt that this is not helpful to those already under review. Local Government's stance is that schools are frequently community centres, which maintain community networks in rural New Zealand and these aspects and the functions of being drivers of economic development within regions should be taken into account in any reviews that take place.

Youth Participation:

LGNZ has been working with the Ministry of Social Development to produce a toolkit on child and youth participation in Local Government. The guide is for Councils who wish to involve young people up to the age of 25 in Council planning and decision making. Although a number of Hauraki councillors have been keen to undertake some sort of programme involving young people in council affairs nothing has eventuated because of difficulties in deciding how such a programme would work. It is hoped that this toolkit will provide ideas that may be able to be adapted for use with our Council.

Film Friendly Councils:

A quarter of New Zealand Councils have adopted the New Zealand Local Government Filming Protocol which allows councils to develop policy and planning processes to support film makers and film co-ordination in their districts. It is known that one major film was shot in our district (at Dickey's Flat). While a number of commercials have also been made and there do not appear to have been any problems with those people gaining any consents needed, it may be as well for Hauraki to consider the matter in a more formal manner. Some of the spectacular scenery our district is blessed with in the Karangahake Gorge area could well form a backdrop for many a good tale.

Race Relations:

The Race Relations Commission has outlined its objectives for 2004 which include a national plan of action for human rights and a race relations strategy for New Zealand. The Commissioner Joris de Bres hopes that councils can assist in these issues by promoting Te Reo Maori and International Race Relations Day.

Sustainable Development:

LGNZ has established a Sustainable Development Project Team to assist councils to contribute to the government programme of action on sustainable development. The programme contains five work strands: water, energy, cities, children and youth and Infusion. Maybe we will have to wait for the team to produce a guide before we know what that last one means.

Correcting the Local Government Act:

The Minister of Local Government, Chris Carter, has undertaken to have a drafting error in the Local Government Act corrected before the election in October. As the Act stands it means that nobody who is standing for election as Mayor can also stand as a councillor. This was not intended so the Minister has included the change in the Local Government Amendment Bill that was tabled in the house on the 29 March 2004.

LAPP Disaster Fund:

Central Government's Disaster Recovery Plan says that 40% of the cost of reinstatement of damaged infrastructure, in the event of a natural disaster, should be paid by the local authority. The LAPP (Local Authority Protection Programme) fund is a cash accumulation mutual pool established to assist its 49 member local authorities to meet this obligation when disaster occurs. Representatives of LAPP have visited the flood affected councils in the Rangitikei, Manawatu and Horowhenua areas and are confident that the Fund is well positioned to ensure that all valid claims can be met. Hauraki is a member of the programme.

Foreshore and Seabed:

The current Government proposal on the Foreshore and Seabed is that they be declared public domain. However, the Maori Land Court will be able to award a customary title that would sit alongside the public domain title in such a way that there would still be reasonable and appropriate public access. A "Customary Right Declaration" would provide general authority for a right holder to undertake an activity unless the principles of sustainability have been encroached upon. The proposal confirms the Resource Management Act as the primary tool for regulating environmental effects of all activities in the foreshore and seabed.

Local Government Conference

This year the Local Government Conference focuses on sustainable development. The conference is to be held in Auckland in July and Hauraki has agreed to send four councillors. Normally, when the conference is held in the North Island three councillors and the Mayor attend. The Mayor, at present, goes to these conferences as President of Local Government New Zealand so the funding that would have been spent on his attendance will be used for sending an extra councillor.

Possibility of Award

Boffa Miskell Ltd, the landscape designers of the Waihi Streetscape project have entered the Waihi Streetscape project in the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects 2004 Pride of Place Landscape Awards.

The objectives of the awards are:

- To encourage best practice and quality landscape works in New Zealand
- To enhance the recognition of the landscape profession and the practice of landscape design and implementation within New Zealand
- To recognise and celebrate excellence in landscape architecture within the membership of the professional body.

With the possibility of an award, it was suggested that it would be appropriate for representatives from the Hauraki District Council to be present at the ceremony. Council decided at its last meeting to send the Mayor and the Chairman of the Ward, Sel Baker, to the award ceremony to take advantage of any publicity which may be available for the town should we receive an award.

Assistance for Tennis and Squash

The Paeroa Ward Committee has allocated \$5,000 from the Paeroa Community Recreational Facilities Development Fund to assist the Paeroa Tennis and Squash Club to upgrade their car park. The organisation had already raised \$15,000 towards the project which was estimated at around \$20,000. The funding from Council should allow the project to proceed.

Library Book Review

'Tara Flynn' by Geraldine O'Neill

This debut novel will be a must read for all the Maeve Binchy fans.

The first half of the novel is set in a small Irish village in the 1930s & 40s and focuses on the heroine. Tara's mother dies when she is very young & she is brought up by the grandfather who encourages Tara's love of learning. At school Tara befriends the richest and poorest girls in her class: these friendships shape the rest of Tara's life. By the time she leaves school Tara has the makings of a successful businesswoman and her future seems assured till a series of tragic events involving the family of the man she loves unfold and Tara flees to England.

In the second half of the novel, Tara finds both material success & a charismatic new lover in England. However, she can never forget her first love or the people who wronged her. There are a number of intriguing sub-plots concerning Tara's family and friends interwoven throughout this novel.

'Heart Of Coal' by Jenny Patrick

This is the sequel to 'The Denniston Rose' set in the isolated West Coast coal-mining settlement of Denniston. As New Zealand enters the 20th century, spirited 22 year old Rose has to decide who or what will be her destiny. Michael Hanratty, Brennan Scobie or the close-knit community of Denniston itself. Friendships, marriages, babies, breakdowns and bereavements provide challenges and changes for Rose as both she & the young country develop.

With the loss of daylight saving and the Easter break upon us now is the time to catch up with some good reading.

The libraries will be closed over the Easter weekend including the Saturday morning.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Pursuant to section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is given to the public that Hauraki District Council's Draft Hauraki Community Plan (LTCCP Statement of Proposal) has been prepared. Public submissions and comments are invited. A summary of the draft document will be distributed to Hauraki District residents and ratepayers.

The complete Hauraki Community Plan can be viewed from Thursday 8th April at the Council offices and Libraries in:

- William St, Paeroa.
- Seddon St, Waihi.
- Orchard Rd, Ngatea.

This document can also be viewed on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or by requesting a copy by contacting 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

Submissions close at 4.00pm on Wednesday 19th May 2004. Submitters will have the opportunity to present submissions at an extraordinary Council Meeting to be held at the Paeroa Council Chambers on Thursday 3rd June 2004.

Council staff are available to discuss the content of the document during the submission period. Clinics with interested groups or individuals can be arranged by contacting Jolene Corbett on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MANGATARATA RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Plains Ward Committee is to hold a public meeting in the Mangatarata Community Centre (Bowling Club) at 1.00pm on Wednesday April 14 2004, to elect one member from the public onto the Mangatarata Reserve Advisory committee. The Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of the Hauraki District Council who oversee and advise Council on the management of the Reserve. This election is to meet the membership requirement for the Advisory committee. The balance of the Committee membership is completed with two further members from the public, three members from the Hauraki Golf Club, two members from the Hauraki Bowling Club, and one member from the Hauraki District Council.

A welcome is extended to any person who has an interest the wellbeing of the Reserve.

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 one day 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 11 April 2004 from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Road to be closed: Golden Valley Road, Waihi
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.

L.D.Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PS - The Libraries now provide access to Fundview

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 5th to the 11th April 2004:

Monday 5th April - Ward Committee Meetings and Extraordinary Meeting to consider the draft LTCCP



Thursday 8th April - Hearing