



# HDC NEWS



## Whiritoa Public Meeting

As usual, at Anniversary Weekend, a public meeting was held at Whiritoa to allow the people of that town to meet their local elected representatives and to air any concerns they may have about the running of their community. This has become a tradition over a period of some ten years or so as the Whiritoa community is a little different from other towns in that many of the ratepayers do not live permanently in the district. Anniversary weekend is chosen as one when many people with holiday homes are visiting for the weekend and are therefore able to attend the meeting.

The meeting is held in the Emergency Management Centre, which is customarily full for the occasion. This year was no exception with around sixty people attending. An apology was received from the Mayor but all the councillors were able to attend this year and the District Engineer, Ken Thompson, gave up his holiday weekend to be there to answer questions.

A report was read from the Community Facilities department which reported on the opening of the skateboard bowl and croquet green and stated that the project for the coming year was to get on with the Gateway project - signage and landscaping for the entrance of the town. This project was initiated after a public meeting last year.

Other issues from previous years were mentioned including the perennial problem of rabbits. The District Engineer reported that he had been in contact with Environment Waikato, which is responsible for rabbit control and that it is considering releasing the rabbit calesi virus in the area which should give some level of control.

The sewage treatment plant is reported to be working well but that the irrigation area for effluent may need to be extended in the near future.

Detailed information on the volumes of rubbish collected in the inorganic collection held at Labour weekend was not available but the collection took a full week to complete indicating an increase on previous years.

The newly formed liaison committee reported to the meeting that it was concerned with safety issues such as lighting on the walkways. There was some suggestion that now there was a liaison group formed that the annual public meeting may not be necessary. This was not well received by the meeting and it became apparent that the public value the opportunity to get together to air their views in front of their elected representatives.

Reports from the Surf Club and Fire party indicated the valuable role they play in serving the community in saving life and property. Appreciation from the community was expressed for these groups.

Matters raised by members of the community included the lack of a liquor ban and it was explained that that was because of an error this year but that it would not happen again. There had been a problem of congregations of young people exhibiting threatening behaviour to members of the public and discussion took place on the possible remedies to the situation. It was generally agreed that the police presence in the community was greatly improved this year but that they needed to patrol later at night - between the hours of 11:00pm and five in the morning when the problems occur.

Concern regarding the huge increase in valuations in the area and what they would do to people's rates was expressed and it was explained that, as Whiritoa's valuations had gone up disproportionately with the rest of the district, it would pay more, but that only a portion of the rate bill is dependent on valuation. The rest is in uniform charges and fees for services such as sewerage. The most recent valuations do not affect rates until the new financial year starting in July.

The meeting concluded with members of the public congratulating the Council for the professional manner it goes about tackling the tasks that it undertakes and thanking elected members and staff for their support.

## Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs

Just before Christmas our district had a visit from a representative from the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs. This group was set up with the aim of improving employment opportunities throughout the country and combating the unemployment problem. The group has grown to cover 78% of the mayors throughout the country including our Mayor who is one of the core group.

The Deputy Mayor, John Tregidga, and the Chairman of the Planning and Finance Committee, Mary Carmine, spoke with the representative of the group who told them of the aims and strategies of the taskforce.

The goal of the group is that by 2005 no young person under 25 years will be out of work or training in our communities and by 2009 all people in our communities will have the opportunity to be in work or training.

Some of their strategies are:

- \* to advocate privately with government on issues that impact on youth unemployment
- \* to drive relationships with government agencies
- \* to work with imaginative private sector initiatives
- \* to establish a monitoring framework that measures progress towards their goals.

Council has an economic development strategy which has taken the emphasis off trying to get industries to locate in the district and put it on to creating an environment that will encourage people to live here and to set up business here. Council also wishes to encourage any private initiative that will provide training or employment opportunities. It may be that such initiatives could gain funding from the taskforce as it has some catalyst funding which it uses towards promoting initiatives that are likely to produce an increase in employment, particularly of young people.

If you wish to know more about the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs you could try the website [www.jobslatter.org.nz/mtfjobs.htm](http://www.jobslatter.org.nz/mtfjobs.htm)

## Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 9th to the 15th February 2004 -  
Thursday 12th February - Morning: Works Committee  
Afternoon: Planning and Finance Committee

## Congratulations to the Mayor

Councillors expressed their congratulations to the Mayor, Basil Morrison, for his inclusion in the New Year's Honours list at the January meeting of Council. The Deputy Mayor, on behalf of councillors, expressed his pleasure at the well deserved award for long and valued service to the community and the sentiments were approved by acclamation from the rest of the elected members. The Mayor received the high honour of "Companion of the NZ Order of Merit" or CNZM.

## Water Conservation

Well we did it again! Every time we publish water conservation articles in the height of summer it seems to rain. Within a week of our last efforts the whole district was subjected to torrential downpours that would have been greatly appreciated by gardeners and farmers alike. Please do not think that this lets you off the hook in regard to being sensible about conserving water. Although you can relax a little, good conservation practice should become a habit and should be practised all the year round.

## Safer Hauraki

In July 2000 Council and the then Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) signed an agreement that saw the launching of the safer community council (SCC) initiative within the Hauraki District. Over the years this initiative was well represented by agencies such as community probation, police, health, education, work and income, and local community trusts including Iwi.

In 2002 the Crime Prevention Unit moved to the Department of Justice and early last year they instigated a review of the Safer Community Council model. The result of this review for Hauraki and a number of small Council's is that the CPU will not continue funding that model; instead they would consider supporting crime prevention projects that are presented to them by the local authority. The CPU intends to visit Councils to discuss in more detail the options that are available to them should they intend to seek funding for crime prevention initiatives.

If you are interested in being involved or want to know more please contact John McIver at the Paeroa office.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### GAMBLING POLICY HEARINGS

Pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, public notice is given that the hearing of submissions for the Gambling Policy will be held as part of the ordinary Council meeting in the Hauraki District Council Chambers, William St, Paeroa beginning at 1:30pm on Thursday 26th February 2004.

### 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 Pipe Bands Parade organised by Paeroa Pipe Bands & Tattoo Committee 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: Saturday 14 February 2004 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.

Road to be closed: Normanby Road between Arney Street and Mackay Street, Mackay Street, Willoughby Street between Hall and Arney Streets and Belmont Road between Station Road and Normanby Road Paeroa.

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic: Divert to Station Road and Arney Street Paeroa.

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.

### 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 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: Saturday 14 February 2004 from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Road to be closed: Woodlands Road Waihi (2 kilometres from end 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.

L.D. Cavers  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE