



# HDC NEWS



## Honouring Service the the Community

In 1991 a programme to honour service to the Hauraki Community was started by Council. It involved giving awards to people nominated by the community for their dedication and selfless service. Unfortunately no awards have been given since 1998, simply because the award has been forgotten.

In an effort to revive the award, Council's Planning and Finance Committee has recommended that the Council introduces two awards, the higher level of which is the "Hauraki District Council Citizen's Award for Outstanding Service to the Community" and that a maximum of four such awards be made annually. The second award "The Hauraki District Council Citizen's Award for Service to the Community" allows a maximum of six awards to be made annually. A special committee combining the Mayor and the Ward Committee chairmen will decide on the recipients each year with nominations being called for in May and the awards being presented in July. It is possible that next year's awards may be given out earlier than this.

So be considering anyone you think should receive a nomination and be looking for invitations to nominate. Nominations are required from two or more people and should fit the following criteria:

- The nominee must be resident in the district at the time the services were rendered.
- The services for which the nominee is recommended must be related to activity within the Hauraki district or activity direction benefiting the Hauraki District.
- Awards will not be made where nominees have been rewarded by payment of wages for services rendered.
- Awards will not be presented posthumously.
- An award may recognise outstanding long term service to a community organisation(s); or
- any other activity or action which is considered worthy of award by the Council.

## Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the  
22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2004



Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March: Full Council Meeting

## Intersection Improvement

One intersection regarded by many as a black spot is to get immediate safety treatment. The intersection of Pukekauri and Frankton Rd in Waihi has been the site of many crashes over the years and has had various remedial measures applied to it.

The contract has now been let for work to include offsetting the road so that the Pukekauri to Old Tauranga Rd route does not go straight through. Many of the accidents appear to have been caused by motorists on this route not stopping or giving way.

An offsetting of the two roads may encourage drivers to stop at the stop sign as they can no longer drive straight through but must make a turn.

## More on Menacing Dogs

With the introduction of the new legislation on "menacing" dogs Council had to make a policy on whether it would require these dogs to be neutered or not. The law says that these dogs must be muzzled when in public and may be required by Council to be neutered. The idea behind the neutering of the special breeds such as the American Pit Bull Terriers is to prevent further breeding and proliferation of these varieties. This is clearly the intent as the law prohibits the importation of the breeds into the country. The other factor in neutering is that neutered male dogs may become less aggressive.

In view of these factors, Council's Planning and Finance Committee has recommended that Council's policy should be to neuter all pure bred and cross bred dogs that belong to the selected breed that are required to be declared "menacing". Other dogs that are declared menacing due to observed behaviour are to be assessed individually as to the benefits of neutering.



## Street Lighting

A problem with lighting outages in a couple of streets in Waihi was discussed at this month's Works Committee. The lights had been out for some time and councillors wondered what had to be done to get them fixed, particularly in view of the fact that Council has been looking at extra street lighting for safety reasons in a number of areas. There is no direct relationship between Council and the network supplier. Council can only approach the network through its power supplier and the process is therefore difficult. The committee expressed its concern about the situation which was seen as a security and possibly a safety issue.

## Youth in Local Government Conference

A request for a contribution towards the cost of a "Youth in Local Government Conference" received favourable consideration from the full Council meeting last month.



A donation of \$250 towards expenses would halve the cost of one young person to attend the conference, which is to be held in Dunedin in July.

The conference will cover issues such as Civic Youth, Sustainable Futures, and Youth Employment and will be open to anyone with an interest in youth issues in local communities.

A special youth rate for attending the conference will apply and it is this that Hauraki's small contribution will help to subsidise.

## Walking and Cycling

The government has a draft strategy out aimed at getting more people to travel on foot or bicycle. Similar campaigns in both England and the Netherlands have resulted in great increases in cyclists and pedestrians while reducing the numbers killed and injured.

The idea is to get the cyclists and pedestrians separated, where possible, from the vehicular traffic. To this end, Councils are charged with producing a walking and cycling strategy and some have spent a lot of money producing such strategies and even more money in implementing them.

The objective has a twofold benefit. Not only will it reduce congestion on roads, particularly in urban areas, if a proportion of car drivers become cyclists, it will have a health benefit for the people concerned. On the other hand, it is difficult to see that a New Zealand campaign will have the same success rate as one in the Netherlands due to the hilly nature of many of our urban areas and the rainy winter weather.

Maybe Ngatea would be a good place to start.

## Speed and Youth

The Land Transport Safety Authority is starting a campaign to encourage young drivers to take care as they gain experience after they first get their restricted driving licence. Every year there is an average of 1,400 crashes involving drivers on their restricted licence. This means that restricted drivers are overrepresented in the crash statistics. The campaign is aimed at encouraging restricted drivers to develop the thinking skills needed to help them keep safe on the road. Seventy four 15 to 19 year-olds were killed on the roads last year – more than half in speed related crashes.

New measures are also being introduced to cut down on the serious and repeat drink drivers and on speeding.

- Speed cameras are being used more widely and anywhere.
- You can have your licence suspended on the roadside for 28 days if you exceed the speed limit by 40k/hr or if you are found to have a blood alcohol content of 130mg/100ml.
- There is also immediate roadside suspension for anyone caught with a blood alcohol of over 80mg/100ml who has a previous drink driving conviction in the past four years.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME FUNDING FOR LOCAL ARTS

**APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ARTS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED.**

THE SCHEME FOCUSES ON PROJECTS THAT INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN THE RANGE AND DIVERSITY OF ARTS, WITHIN THE HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM COUNCIL OFFICES AT:

WILLIAM STREET, PAEROA  
SEDDON STREET, WAIHI  
ORCHARD ROAD, NGATEA

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 4:00pm  
**WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH 2004**

#### For further information contact:

John McIver  
Hauraki District Council  
07 862 8609  
Toll Free within District 0800 734 834

## Hauraki Crash Reduction Study

The LTSA, along with Opus is carrying out a crash reduction study in the Hauraki District in March.

A review of the accident database covering our road network for the last five years is underway to determine crash sites, crash patterns and to identify any black spots or black routes for use in the study.

A black spot is classified as a location that has 3 or more serious or fatal injury crashes or 5 or more other crashes over a 5-year period.

## Komata Reefs Road

Heavy rain over the summer period has caused the river to undermine a section of Komata Reefs Rd. To fix the problem, Council contractors are to cut into the adjoining bank and realign the road away from the river and the defective formation.

This excavation requires the removal of some native trees, mainly totara, at the top of the bank. Council's Works Committee recommended that the trees be offered to Iwi for carving purposes prior to removal. This would put the trees to good use and reduce a small part of the contractors work load.