



HDC NEWS



RMA Amendments

The review of the Resource Management Act has been in the pipeline for some time and proposed amendments have been given considerable publicity over the years. Finally, the Amendment Bill has passed through the Select Committee stage, so is due to come up before parliament for debate. There is no indication when this will be. The government had stated its intention to pass the amendments into law prior to the general election but it is not known if this is still the case. Given the busy legislative programme and the closeness of the general election, it may be that enacting the legislation will occur after the election.

Some of the proposed amendments have been removed in the committee stage such as obligatory attendance at pre-hearings and the proposal that appeals to the Environment Court only hear the matter that is being appealed rather than the whole case, as at present.

For the average person who is seeking a resource consent the most noticeable changes will be in the conduct of Hearings. New powers have been given to Hearings Committees. A hearing panel may now direct:

- An applicant to provide briefs of evidence to council at least ten working days before a hearing.
- A submitter to provide any expert evidence at least five days before a hearing.
- That the evidence be taken as read or limited to a matter in dispute.
- That a submission not be presented if the subject matter is irrelevant or not in dispute.
- That a submission be struck out as being vexatious or frivolous, or disclosing no reasonable or relevant case.

It will also be able to call for further information during the hearing and can commission a report at the hearing, provided the applicant agrees.

As mentioned last week, at least half of each hearings committee including the chairman must be accredited with the relevant qualification from approved RMA training. All Hauraki's current Hearings panel have been accredited and it is proposed to send three further councillors for training as well, so we should be well off for qualified hearings people for a few years to come. Accrediting also requires regular refresher courses to update with the changing legislation and renewal of certification every three years.

Road Safety Co-ordinator

A new Road Safety Co-ordinator has been appointed for the Eastern Waikato Region, which includes the Hauraki District. She is Alison Ruru and will be based in Thames, serving Hauraki, Thames Coromandel and Matamata-Piako. Alison's role includes co-ordinating road safety programmes throughout the area. She will facilitate the Safe with Age Programme which is an excellent refresher course for all drivers, especially anyone about to re-sit their licence. She can arrange for this programme to be run in your area and is available to speak to community groups on road safety issues. Alison's background includes being a primary teacher, Traffic Education Officer with the Ministry of Transport, a Health Education Officer and a reading recovery teacher.

You can contact Alison on (07) 868 2335 or email aruru@xtra.co.nz.

Local Government Conference

The Mayor and three councillors are away at the moment at the Local Government Conference in Christchurch. Councillors Bruce Gordon, Bronwyn Wightman and Julie Bubb, together with the Mayor, John Tregidga and the Chief Executive, Langley Cavers have

all gone to the conference, which, as well as having the Annual Meeting of Local Government New Zealand, has many interesting and informative speakers and the opportunity to talk Council politics with councillors and mayors from throughout the country. The conference is an annual one, taking place every July. Council has a policy of sending the Mayor and three councillors to each conference.

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 25th to the 31st July 2005:

Thursday 28th July: Full Council meeting.

Funding

NB: Fundview is the database of community funding in New Zealand - a collection of all sources of discretionary grants including philanthropic, statutory, government and local government funding schemes. All of the Hauraki District Council Libraries provide free access to Fundview. If you are seeking financial assistance for any project please check out this database or if you have access to the internet you may like to look at the www.fis.org.nz site for further information.

Book Blurbs

Every month Hauraki District Libraries are adding new books to their stock. Here is a sample of those added to the shelves during the month of July.

'The Stuff of Dreams' by Eileen Ramsay.

Fourteen years ago there was a fire. A famous actor died and his lover, a famous actress, was arrested ... Now Abbots House has been rebuilt, and a mysterious woman, who hides her face and talks to almost no one, has come to live there. Kate Buchanan can't leave her tragic past behind - but nor can she remember what happened that night years before. But now snatches of her memory start to come back ... and an epic love story returns to haunt the woman who survived.

'Rage' by Jonathan Kellerman.

Eight years ago, psychologist Alex Delawere evaluated two teenage boys charged with a shocking murder. Now one of the killers is out of prison - and wants to meet up with Alex. But by the time they do meet, one of them is dead. Was Rand Duchay just another victim of an LA street crime? Or is it something more sinister? Alex and Detective Milo Sturgis follow a trail of blood that will lead them to the depths of cruelty - and straight to the heart of murderous betrayal.

'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, by J.K. Rowling.

It is the middle of summer, but there is an unseasonal mist hanging around. Harry is waiting nervously in his bedroom at the Dursley's house for a visit from Professor Dumbledore himself. What is it that cannot wait until Harry returns to Hogwarts in a few weeks time. Is it something to do with the prophecy? With Lord Voldemort? Harry's sixth year at Hogwarts has already got off to an unusual start as the worlds of Muggle and magic start to intertwine ...

'Cross Bones' by Kathy Reichs.

'Death by self-inflicted gunshot wound' is the on-scene assessment, but the victim's relatives adamantly reject that. Discovered in a closet, with advanced putrefaction, Dr Tempe Brennan is finding it difficult to determine the trajectory of the bullet. Then an unknown man slips her a photograph of a skeleton, telling her it holds the answer. With Detective Andrew Ryan, Tempe follows the clues as far as Israel and becomes involved in an international mystery as old as Jesus ... and danger.

And whether you live in Ngatea, Paeroa or Waihi, you will find these books, and many others, available in your local library, waiting for you to enjoy.

PUBLIC NOTICES



NOMINATIONS FOR 2004 CITIZEN AWARDS

The Hauraki District Council invites nominations for deserving nominees to be considered for Council's 2004 Citizen Awards. To be eligible, nominees must satisfy the specified criteria. Further information on eligibility and nomination forms can be obtained from Council's Service Centres in Paeroa, Waihi or Ngatea, or by telephoning Customer services at 07 862 8609 (or 0800 734 834 within district).

Nominations should be addressed to the Community Liaison Officer, Hauraki District Council, P O Box 17, Paeroa, to be received no later than 4.00pm on **2 September 2005**.

Reminder to Dog Owners



This reminder gives you an opportunity to register your dog(s) before July 31st 2005.

Dogs remaining unregistered after July 31st 2005 will incur substantial penalty fees.

THANK YOU



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of August 2005.

All meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, Williams Street, Paeroa, *unless otherwise advised.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WATER AND WASTES

TUESDAY 2 AUGUST 2005, 10.00 AM

HEARINGS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2005, 9.00 AM (if required)

THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 2005, 9.00 AM (if required)

TUESDAY 9 AUGUST 2005, WARD COMMITTEES

PLAINS 9.00 AM

PAEROA 12.30 PM

WAIHI 2.30 PM

COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY 11 AUGUST 2005, 9.00 AM

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 2005, 9.00 AM

*EASTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 2005, 10.00 AM

AT NGATEA OFFICE

*WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST 2005, 10.30 AM

AT NGATEA OFFICE

L D Cavers

CHIEF EXECUTIVE