



# HDC NEWS



## Getting the Most out of Tourism

One of the issues that featured in the recent survey of public opinion was the expectation that Council will encourage tourism in the district. This has certainly been a focus of Council for some time and it is interesting to note that the public see it as a way of promoting economic wellbeing in the community.

Council contributes money, along with Thames Coromandel District Council, towards the running of Tourism Coromandel. This organisation, despite its name, also covers the Hauraki District. Its job is to promote the area overseas and in this country and to encourage more tourists to come here. This task it does very well and the increase in tourist numbers to the Coromandel Peninsular and the Hauraki District has for some time been one of the highest in the country.

Once the tourists arrive, however, it is up to the communities to give them something to do or see and to encourage them to stay and to spend their money. Tourism is no good as an economic driver if the tourists merely have a look and pass through. Working with tourist operators Tourism Coromandel has recently been trying to encourage longer stays and more spending.

Council can have a further role in this operation by providing infrastructure that is attractive and which invites people to stop and stay. A good example of this is the Karangahake reserve which has become a must see stopping place for many travellers. In co-operation with the Department of Conservation, who have worked on improving the tracks in the area, the Karangahake has been so successful that the car park area is under huge pressure at peak times in the summer and so are the toilet facilities. In order for this wonderful attraction to be of value to the community, however, private enterprise needs to provide services to the travelling public that they can pay for. The café across the road from the reserve is one such as are the winery and home-stays in the area.

Any area that is starting to rely on tourism for its economy will have a proliferation of food outlets as these are necessary and desired by the travelling public. It can be seen that this phenomenon is occurring throughout the Hauraki District - Ngatea, Paeroa, the Karangahake Gorge and Waihi all have had an upsurge in cafes, restaurants, takeaways and fast food outlets in recent times. Other quality retail produce and activities are also needed to encourage spending as well, of course, as accommodation. It is not sufficient to have things to sell it is important to make your business attractive to tourists, give pleasant and encouraging service and to open at the right times. It is to be noted that several years ago virtually none of the shops in the main streets of our main towns opened at the weekend. Now almost all open on Saturday and a number on Sunday.

Council will continue to try to make this an attractive place to visit, Tourism Coromandel will continue to get visitors to come here. It is up to businesses to give the service and goods that the travelling public is after to ensure that some of the tourist money stays in the Hauraki District.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week ending 6 March 2005:

Tuesday 1st March: District Plan Committee Workshop

## Roading Matters

### Adams St Kerb and Channel

Uncertainty about the extent of the kerb and channel work in Adams St, Waihi, kerb and channel work was clarified at the January council meeting. The impression had been formed by elected members that the whole of Adams St was to be kerbed and channelled while the intended scope of the work did not include the eastern part of the street, which already has kerb and channel on one side.

Initially consideration had been given to providing kerb and channel to part of Adams St between Rosemont Rd to Silverton Rd. This was revised to include the whole of the block, but the misunderstanding arose that the whole street was now included. The funding approved would not have been sufficient for the whole street. Council officers are currently looking at options for completing the remaining length of Adams St.

A great deal of kerb and channelling is needed in Waihi and available funds are limited. It is a case of continuing to "whittle away" at the need. The next project of this type is to be done in Mackay St and the design work for that is currently being undertaken.

## Waikato Funding Expos Provide an Oasis

Hundreds of community groups looking for funding will find an oasis at the annual Waikato Funding Expos in March this year.

Up to twenty different funders under one roof in Hamilton, Tokoroa and Paeroa will provide valuable information to groups. Educational seminars covering topics such as sponsorship and social enterprise will also be run throughout the day. Key note speakers include Heather Newell, one of the country's leading commentators on non-profit sponsorship, and Di Jennings, a social enterprise advocate who will speak about her experiences of developing sustainable community projects.

Saving community groups precious time and frustration has been a key focus of the Waikato Funding Expos over the past seven years. Bringing funders, capacity builders and community group representatives together to discuss funding sources has proven overwhelmingly popular.

Sandra MacKenzie from the Expo organising committee believes that this event gives community groups a better understanding of how they can successfully apply for funding. "We all benefit from funds coming into our communities through enhanced services being offered," she says.

A Regional Expo will be held in Paeroa on March 17th from 10am-2pm and 5pm-7:30pm at the Paeroa Memorial Hall, contact John McIver on 07 862 8609. Entry to all expos is free.

## Elected Members' Diary

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6 March 2005:

Thursday 1st March -  
District Plan Committee Workshop



## RMA Course

As reported previously, members of the Hearings Committee of Council went on a two day course to Auckland recently with the view to becoming accredited for sitting on hearings. Previously the only qualifications that were needed were that of being elected members or being appointed as hearing commissioners by a Council. Now all people that hear resource consent applications are going to be required to go on one of these accrediting courses, and to complete a workbook and achieve a 50% pass in that assignment.

While some people find this rather daunting, having been away from school for a very long time, the first step of the course has been completed with no ill effects. In fact, the three councillors who went found it a very informative and interesting experience. Along with short lectures from well informed tutors there were discussion groups and role played mini-hearings which resulted in a lot of fun as councillors indulged their urges to be actors.

It was interesting to note that participants in the course not only included councillors but many highly experienced commissioners with relevant planning qualifications as even these people have to gain this particular qualification before they can continue their roles as hearing commissioners.

Councillors were pleased to find that most of the 'best practice guidelines' that they were given are already carried out at Hauraki although there should be with a little fine tuning in some areas eg calling applicants or submitters by their first names, even if known to the panel, is frowned on as it could be construed as bias. Useful tips were also given on the course such as how to distinguish between two opposing expert witnesses who have different views on a subject and the idealistic view that the expert witness must always be honest in his or her conclusions was tempered with a quote from a judge that expert witnesses at times showed "results orientated intellectual flexibility".

Hauraki's hearing panel will attempt to bring their extra professionalism to resource consent hearings from now on but do not expect a huge difference as most of the practices were no change from what has always been done.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### GILMOUR RESERVE DEVELOPMENT - ENTRANCE WAY MARKERS

The first stage of the redevelopment of Gilmour Reserve is underway, with the improvements started on the carpark and toilets. As part of this stage, it is intended that Entranceway Markers be placed in gardens at the entrance to the carpark.

The Markers should be unique, eye-catching and reflective of the nature of the park and surrounding area, and Waihi itself.

Council is inviting the public to submit a design for these Markers by 31 March 2005. The presentation should include:

- Name/contact details
- Drawing/sketch (to scale)
- Details of materials
- Construction methods
- Any other relevant information

Council will select the most appropriate design from those submitted, and will then arrange for the construction and installation.

Please send your presentations to:

Joy Mickleson  
Community Facilities Manager  
Hauraki District Council  
PO Box 17  
PAEROA

Email: joy@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

### POOL CLOSURES - END OF SEASON

Pools will close to the general public for the season at the end of the following days:

Ngatea Swimming Pool: Sunday February 27 2005

Tony Richards Toyota Paeroa Swimming Pool:  
Sunday March 6, 2005

Both pools will continue to be available for school/club use ONLY until Friday March 11 2005.

L.D.Cavers  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE