



HDC NEWS



Soil Contamination... Beware!

Readers of the Hauraki Herald article on October 28, 2005 may have read a press report on a recent council meeting where Council had to allocate funds to clean up a section in Turua that had been used as a works depot for a land drainage board. An area of soil in a shed on the site had become contaminated because a herbicide chemical had dripped and spilled from a spray tank over a number of years. The section had later been on sold for residential purposes.

Council became involved again in the site, when years after its use as a works depot, the then property owners asked for the soil to be tested. The contaminant level in the small area exceeded the level recommended for land in residential use. With the chemical being concealed in the soil its presence was not evident until these tests were carried out. The family were moved out and were accommodated elsewhere until permanent accommodation could be found.

So, Council found itself in a situation it hopes it will not get into again. Council is grateful that the young family, owners of the site where the contaminants had been spilt, acted in a responsible and helpful manner through out the ordeal. It was not easy for them to be accommodated in alternative lodgings with young children while a solution was found. The family did seek the appropriate advice to assist their situation and they financially contributed to a property exchange. We appreciated their willingness and co-operation to seek a resolution considering the surprise that both they and Council received on discovering the presence of those spilt chemicals.

This is a lesson to Council insofar as safety to the environment and work place is concerned and more so when selling a section previously used industrially for residential purposes. Clearance of contaminated soils must to be conducted under controlled procedure and conditions. The chemical monitoring industry does not accept next best practice if asked to provide a validation of a site clearance.

The message to readers is to act carefully with the storage and use of harmful chemicals. Do not be casual with them. The cost of cleaning the site later is expensive.

Waihi Hazard Zones

Council has asked its Chief Executive, Langley Cavers, to prepare a brief of work for the reconvening of the Hazard Assessment Working Party that worked on defining the hazard zones in Waihi after the collapse several years ago. Much better geotechnical information is now available than there was at the time of the original report and the hazard zone area now must include the mining licence area. This is necessary because of the imminent closure of the pit. The Company needs to ensure pit slope stability and when the pit is closed Council needs to know what possible use can be put to areas within the mining licence.

One of the extra pieces of information available is that while mining there has been an opportunity to observe the formation of the chimneys that work to the surface, sometimes causing collapses. Engineers have gained a better understanding of how these chimneys work by observing excavated chimneys in the open pit. The probability of collapses occurring within the already defined hazard zones now needs to be reviewed in light of this new information.

Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week of the 14th to the 20th
November 2005

Monday 14th November: District Plan Committee
workshop

Thursday 17th November: Hearing

Why Colour?

An intriguing situation has arisen relating to dog registrations. The Department of Internal affairs has made a decision to reject any upload of dog and owner records that do not meet its minimum requirements. The Department's computer system only recognises a list of ten colours whereas Council's records have a list of forty different colour combinations for our canine friends. Similarly the breed lists do not match. Much staff time will be necessary to ensure that the details we hold on dogs are compatible with those required by the Department.

Meanwhile, the issue of the owners' dates of birth is also a problem as Council has not asked for dates of birth in the past, although the legislation indicated that it should, as many people object to this. The Department has made an interim decision to accept entries without this information but Council will have to gather it as soon as possible. So, whether you consider this is an invasion of your privacy or not, if you own a dog you can expect to be asked for your date of birth before long. Please remember that council officers do not make the law. They only administer it.

Emergency Power

Council has decided to buy an emergency generator for use at the Council headquarters at Hauraki House in Paeroa. It was considered that in the case of civil emergency such a generator would allow the centre of the District to continue its operation for civil defence and other purposes. The mobile generators we already own would not be suitable because in an emergency they would most likely be in use or be inaccessible. For example, any located in Waihi would be unlikely to be available as in most conceivable emergencies the gorge is likely to be closed. The cost of such a generator and the necessary improvements to the existing switchboard and wiring is around \$115,000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ROAD TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Hauraki District Council, for the purpose of an event organised by Positively Promoting the Plains, proposes to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.

During the proposed period of closure the following provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road: Divert to Darlington Street and Kaihere Road Ngatea.

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of his objection and grounds thereof in writing before 29 November 2005 at the office of the Hauraki District Council at William Street, P.O. Box 17, PAEROA.

Road proposed to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic:

River Road between Orchard East Road and Factory Lane, Orchard East Road (State Highway Two) between River Road and Darlington Street Ngatea

Period of proposed closure: Thursday 15
December 2005 from 6:30pm to 7:00pm.

L D Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Clear Audit

Council has adopted its annual report for the last financial year and the Audit Report from the Audit Office has given it an unqualified opinion.

This means that the auditors found that both our report and the summary of the report were done in accordance with all the rules.

Council is in a healthy financial state. Annual reports and their summaries are available from Council offices for public perusal.

SITUATIONS VACANT



MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Hauraki District Council is seeking to appoint a Management Accountant to join the Corporate Services team at their Paeroa Office. The office is centrally located approximately one hour from Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, and situated at the base of the Coromandel Peninsula with fantastic beaches and native bush walks at the doorstep.

This will be a challenging and interesting position with the main purpose being to provide accurate, timely and useful information and advice required to meet the demands of the organisation

We would love to hear from you if you have

- An Accounting Degree
- Ideally Chartered Accountant qualifications or are studying towards them
- Previous experience in decision making along with the ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure
- Excellent written and communication skills
- Experience in Local Government would be an advantage

In this key role you will be responsible for

- Financial reporting and forecasting
- Presentation and analysis of results to end users
- Overseeing the Accounting Technician
- Assisting in the implementation of a new financial software suite

In return you can look forward to:

- A user friendly workplace where the need for work-life balance is appreciated,
- Developmental opportunities to enhance your career and work life,
- A competitive remuneration package.

For Application forms and Job Descriptions
please contact HR Advisors

Sue Greenville or Christine Laurenson
(07)862 8609

E-mail jobs@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or
Visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz
Application packs are also available from the
Council's offices
in Paeroa, Ngatea or Waihi.

Applications close on 25 November 2005

TENDER

VEHICLES AND PLANT

Council has a range of vehicles (cars and utes) and small items of plant (chainsaws, mowers) for disposal by way of tender.

Items include a Maxima Sedan, Rodeo Ute, Primera Wagon, Sentra Hatchbacks (4), Galant Sedan, KubotaL4200 4*4 tractor, Trimax mower, plate compactor, rammer, Stihl Chainsaws.

A schedule of the items offered for tender and conditions of tender are available from Council's offices in Ngatea, Paeroa & Waihi or by visiting our web site at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz and checking the News section.

L D Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE