



# HDC NEWS



## Housing For The Elderly

Traditionally, many councils throughout the country have built housing for the elderly, otherwise known as Pensioner Flats. This came about over the years because of subsidies available from the Government and a need for good housing for people who had achieved their senior years without large amounts of capital and who were struggling on their pensions. The rents were originally subsidised by the ratepayers but as time went by the political climate changed and it was seen as inequitable for pensioners who own their own home to be subsidising those who did not.

In Hauraki, pensioner flats were owned by three of the amalgamating councils that made up the Hauraki District and so Hauraki has flats in all three main towns. Although a policy decision has been made that the flats are not to be subsidised by rates there is also a policy that Council does not make money from the flats. In other words, it is agreed that the pensioner flat account should just break even. This means that the rentals for the flats are somewhat below the market rentals that are charged in the rest of the community.

At one time there was a long waiting list to obtain a flat and each time one became available those on the waiting list were considered and interviewed by a subcommittee of Council to find the most needy person who would fit into the particular block of flats that had the vacancy. In recent years, however, the waiting lists have become very short and frequently when there is a vacancy there is only one person waiting to fill it. And occasionally we have flats that are vacant for a time before we can find a suitable tenant.

At present, all the flats are occupied, but vacancies do occur from time to time when tenants move on. The flats are in good condition as we usually take the opportunity to do maintenance work whenever a flat is vacated. They are mainly one bedroom unfurnished units suitable for single people although a few are suitable for couples.

If you know anyone who is a pensioner, is in need of housing, and has limited capital it may be a good move to suggest they put their name down on the waiting list for a flat. This can be done at any of the council offices by filling in the appropriate forms.

## Swimming Pool Report Dec 2005

Well with summer almost here the swimming season has started at both Ngatea and Paeroa public swimming pools.

Over the winter both pools have seen significant maintenance and upgrades including leak-proofing and a new lick of paint for the Ngatea Pool, and a complete overhaul of the toilets and changing rooms at the Paeroa Pool including disabled access, non-slip floors, new toilets and hot shower facilities.

Once again both pools will be patrolled by a team of 8 Lifeguards, who are qualified in First-Aid and have all completed the National Pool Lifeguard Award.

Information on entry fee's and opening hours have been regularly advertised in the HDC news, and are also available from the Lifeguards on request.

We would like to remind all patrons that the Pools are for everyone's enjoyment, and therefore the Pool Rules will be enforced to ensure everyone is safe and having a pleasant experience at these facilities.

A further reminder that children under the age of 8 years must be actively supervised by someone aged 16yrs or older at all times. Unsupervised children will be asked to stop swimming.

In January, the Lifeguards will be introducing a Learn-To-Swim programme for children aged 5-12yrs. Look out for our flyers, or ask any of the lifeguards for information. The Muster and Registration Day will be Friday 6th January, 9am at the Paeroa Pool. This programme is additional to the Learn-to-Swim classes offered by the Paeroa Swimming Club - and is available to anyone not enrolled in the Paeroa Swimming Club Classes.

Finally, the Lifeguard Team would like to offer you all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you all at the pools this summer.



## Economic Development Update 2

Earlier in the year the Economic Development Officer provided you with some insight into the Economic Development role within HDC and in particular what work was being done with Thames Coromandel District in a regional partnership.

This issue will cover the Customer Care programme, Hauraki Sister Cities Group, Leadership, Industrial land and Business opportunities.

### Customer Care

We all know how important it is to be treated with care and respect. We want our region (Hauraki and Thames Coromandel) to become known for providing excellent service and customer care. The Coromandel Customer Care programme has been developed to put our region to the forefront and build a reputation as the best. The programme was developed with the Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec) and is now available to our districts. No other district in NZ has such a programme. Not only does the programme help build excellent Customer Care skills but it also focuses on our area and the excellent activities and environment we have to offer and at \$90 incl GST per person for a full 1 day workshop is very affordable.

A series of workshops will be run around the region on a regular basis for the next 3 years and we want all businesses to take part. You will be amazed to find out what your region has to offer and be able to tell our visitors as part of the great service you will provide. Good service will also increase the amount of money that visitors spend in our region which is good for everyone.

To find out more information or register for a workshop call Wintec in Thames 07 868 6469

### Hauraki Sister Cities Group

Hauraki has enjoyed an exciting Sister City relationship with Jiading District of Shanghai in China for the past 4 years and it has grown stronger each year. This year 13 students and 3 teachers undertook a two week exchange, 2 teachers were exchanged for 1 month and Harry Shepherd ex principal of Waihi College has spent up to 3 months for the past 2 years assisting Jiading Bureau of Education with training of Chinese teachers of English. We received a visit from three Chinese college principals who were hosted by the Waihi College and they visited the Hauraki District colleges to gain an insight into our education system. Waihi College principal Alistair Cochrane and Harry Shepherd were invited to the Chinese Education Conference in Shanghai and presented papers on education. This reflects the high esteem the relationships between our schools and Jiading schools hold.

Every second year a small Local Government group have made an exchange visit for up to 7 days and this has been a huge exposure for those who have made the exchange.

### Leadership

Recognising that growth in an area is driven by good leadership, a 2 day programme was prepared to expose potential leaders in our area to some high profile leaders from around NZ. The presenters included Ian Farrelly of ASB Rural, Henry Van der Heyden, Chairman of Fonterra, Annah Stretton of Stretton Clothing, Mike Williams Chairman of NZ Labour Party, Dallas Fisher of NDA Engineering Ltd, strategists and professional coaches. Attendees for this first programme were selected from nominations from Councillors.

Thirty eight people in the 25 to 50 age group had a very rewarding two days and the programme attendees' evaluation feedback highlighted how beneficial they found the programme.

People were chosen from all walks of life including teaching, farming, the arts, business, tourism, local government, recycling, community enterprise, Iwi organisations and aquaculture. Based on the successful outcome, a programme will be run in 2006.

### Industrial land

We have received a number of enquiries over the past year for commercial and industrial sites within the District. The Dean Crescent industrial subdivision in Waihi developed by Council has now been completely sold and some properties in Paeroa have attracted good business tenants. Council is now to develop some land at Kerepehi as an industrial site with a range of lot sizes to cater for large and smaller enterprise.

One of the barriers to attracting business has been the availability of industrial sites and affordable housing for employees. Property prices in all our towns have increased significantly in the past 2 years and the availability of labour locally is being tested forcing prospective employers to look further afield. The central location of our district between the ports of Tauranga and Auckland and proximity to Hamilton are an attraction for prospective business operators.

### Business Opportunities

When an existing business or a new business to the district wants to do business with Council it is important that we are as helpful and cooperative as possible. Facilitation of these business enquiries is part of the Economic Development role.

Council has identified that rather than going out and chasing economic development opportunities, we need to focus on things such as making our district a great place to live (e.g. town centre upgrades and good infrastructure and community facilities). But we all have a role to play in this development and it comes in many forms. If people hear of a potential opportunity or a business development then please bring it to the economic development officer's attention so that assistance can be provided if required.

PUBLIC NOTICE		H A U R A K I DISTRICT COUNCIL					
Service Hours Christmas-New Year 2005/2006							
	Mon 02 Jan	Tue 03 Jan	Wed 04 Jan	Thu 05 Jan	Fri 06 Jan	Sat 07 Jan	Sun 08 Jan
All Council Offices	CLOSED	CLOSED	8:00am to 4:30pm	8:00am to 4:30pm	8:00am to 4.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
Paeroa Information Centre	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED	CLOSED
Libraries							
Paeroa & Waihi Libraries	CLOSED	CLOSED	10:00am to 4:30pm	10:00am to 4:30pm	9:30am to 5.30pm	10:00am to 12noon	CLOSED
Ngatea Library	CLOSED	CLOSED	8:00am to 4:30pm	8:00am to 4:30pm	8:00am to 4:30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
Refuse							
Refuse Collection Days	Whiritoa (4pm)			Karangahake Mackaytown Waihi, Waikino & Whiritoa	Ngatea & Paeroa		
Paeroa Refuse Transfer Station	8:00am to 4:00pm	8:00am to 4:00pm	8:00am to 4:00pm	8:00am to 4:00pm	8:00am to 4:00pm	8:00am to 4:00pm	8:00am to 4:00pm
Waihi Refuse Transfer Station	10:00am to 4:00pm	CLOSED	10:00am to 4:00pm	CLOSED	10:00am to 4:00pm	10:00am to 4:00pm	10:00am to 4:00pm
Public Swimming Pools							
Paeroa Pool	12:00pm to 6:00pm	12:00pm to 6:00pm	7.00am to 8.30am - Lane Swimming, 12noon to 1.00pm - Lane Swimming, 1.00pm to 5.00pm - Public Session, 5.30pm to 6.30pm - Lane Swimming			12:00pm to 6:00pm	12:00pm to 6:00pm
Ngatea Pool	12:30pm to 5:00pm	12:30pm to 5:00pm	12noon to 1.00pm - Lane Swimming, 1.00pm to 5.00pm - Public Session, 5.00pm to 6.00pm - Lane Swimming			12:30pm to 5:00pm	12:30pm to 5:00pm
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