



HDC NEWS



Obituary

Councillors and staff were saddened to learn recently that Councillor Bronwyn Wightman had lost her long battle with cancer. Bronwyn, who was a popular elected member from Waihi, always threw herself into her work with tremendous enthusiasm and, even when she was not well, her courage meant that few would have gathered that there was anything wrong.

Her particular interests included the Water and Waste Committee and in sport and recreation for which she held the Council portfolio. Because of this interest she represented Council on the Waihi Pool Committee and as a trustee on Sport 'n' Action. She was also active in the Economic Development and tourism areas, having been the council representative on the Go Waihi Committee and Tourism Coromandel. She was a very valuable member of the District Plan Committee and recently, despite her illness, completed her qualifications as a hearing commissioner.

Bronwyn's value as a councillor is hard to overstate. She had a clear understanding of issues and a habit of going straight to the nub of the argument of the moment. She had a ready wit and was renowned for her sense of humour and witty verse, which she produced to honour many occasions.

She will be sorely missed by both elected members, staff and by the public whom she represented.



Election

While it may seem a little early to be thinking about it, it seems reasonable to draw your attention to the fact that there is an election in October. Council representation will not change this year and so there will be a need for four councillors to be elected from each of the Paeroa and Plains wards and five councillors from the Waihi ward along, of course, with a Mayor, elected by the whole district.

Current councillors will be considering their positions and deciding soon whether they will be standing for election again and so it is time that other members of the public should also be deciding whether they wish to put their names forward to help in the decision making for their community. If you have an interest in your community and feel that you have the time to spend several hours a month attending meetings then it would probably be an advantage to gain an understanding of how Council works.

There are several ways of going about this: reading this column is a start, reading the Long Term Council Community Plan and checking out the Council website would also be a good idea. Aside from that, attending some of the Council meetings would be very helpful to assist in your decision making process.

Please remember, it is probably a generalisation but the best councillors are usually those who come in with a general interest in serving and working towards the development of their communities rather than those who have an axe to grind or a single-issue agenda that they wish to push.

The Year in Review

At the last Council meeting of last year, the Chief Executive, Langley Cavers, reviewed the year of 2006. The most prominent achievements of the year were

- The adoption of the Hauraki Community Plan and the positive comments that were received from the Office of the Auditor General on this strategy document.
- The completion of Stage 2 of the Paeroa Streetscape project and, in particular, the way that Council's own workforce was able to manage the project to minimise disruption to the community impacted by the physical works.
- The financial support that Council was prepared to provide to major community initiatives such as the installation of the new AstroTurf in Ngatea and the relocation of buildings to the Goldfields Railway yards in Waihi
- The continued development and upgrading of the Gilmour Reserve in Waihi
- The upgrading of the Paeroa War Memorial Hall to a modern community facility
- The completion of the first stage of the trunk main upgrade from Kerepehi to Huirau Rd.

Another feature of the year was the high level of recruiting that has been taking place as we had a higher than normal number of staff members leave and there was an increase in staff numbers in the regulatory department as we try to cope with the increasing level of building and land use consents.

In looking forward to the issues of the 2007-year we are still heavily involved in strategic planning although at a lower level than last year. 2007 will be the year of:

- The District Plan review
- A Development Contributions policy
- A Communications Strategy
- The completion of more Asset Management Plans
- Bylaw reviews
- Liquor Licensing policy review
- Challenging the representation arrangement for the Waikato Regional Council
- And, of course, a local body election.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of 22nd to the 28th January 2007
Thursday 25th January - Full Council Meeting



Whiritoa Annual Public Meeting

Monday 29 January 2007 10:30am at the Whiritoa Emergency Centre

This is an opportunity for residents & ratepayers of Whiritoa to raise local government issues that concern them with Council members.

Whiritoa Refuse Collection Schedule

Anniversary Weekend:

Monday the 29th of January collection will be at 4.00pm

Waitangi Day:

Collection as normal on the 5th February at 7.30am

Easter:

Monday the 9th of April collection will be at 4.00pm

Any queries, please call the council offices during working hours
on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from inside the district).

Refuse Transfer Station Opening Hours for Anniversary, Waitangi and Easter Weekends

	Paeroa	Waihi
Anniversary Day (Monday)	Open	Open
Waitangi Day (Tuesday)	Open	Open
Easter Friday (Friday)	Closed all day	Closed all day
Easter Monday (Monday)	Open	Open

L.D. Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

HAURAKI
DISTRICT COUNCIL