



# HDC NEWS



## Contestable Social Fund Applications Close Tomorrow

A final reminder that applications to Council's Contestable Social Fund close tomorrow. If you want to apply for funding to help deliver a service, event or initiative that provides benefit to the Hauraki community, or if you need financial help with the completion of a project, call into one of the Hauraki District Council offices in Ngatea, Paeroa or Waihi or download an application form on [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

## Stepping It Out

During the month of October, Council staff and elected members have been participating in the Push Play month challenge to walk at least 10,000 steps a day. Most councillors and the Mayor have been contributing well to the team total and averaging their 10,000 while some have been doing even better. Last year's leader, Bruce Gordon, is currently leading the bunch averaging well over double the required 10,000 steps.

Among the staff, the teams from the various departments have been having mixed success but it is fair to say that most are taking the challenge seriously and are reaping the benefit of extra exercise.

So what have you done for Push Play month? If the answer is nothing, how about trying for November. You will be surprised how much better you will feel for a little additional exercise.

## Looking Back

While it is good to look forward rather than backwards, particularly when it comes to rugby games, there is some benefit in looking at the past to see where we have come from and to get everything in perspective. Now that the election is over, it is reasonable to look back over the last term of office to see what has been achieved.

This term has actually been dominated by legislation changes. It is the first full term since the passing of the new Local Government Act, which radically changed the way in which Councils had to operate. The main focus of this change was on consultation and planning so the first major activity of the term was the enormous effort that went in to the consultative procedure to formulate the community outcomes for our district. That done, the effort moved into putting together our LTCCP (Long Term Council Community Plan).

Council gained much satisfaction from praise given to it from the Office of the Auditor General on the quality of our LTCCP, which is a document outlining Council's plans for the next ten years, in general, and the next three years, more specifically. While the process took a lot of staff time, and therefore money, it was a robust process and the end product does make it clear what the focuses of Council are to be for the future and how things are to be paid for. The object of the legislation is for 'no surprises', and the fact that the LTCCP has to be redone every three years in the middle year of the election cycle makes for stability – no "new broom syndromes" possible.

The other main legislative change that caused a lot of work for Council is that of the revision of the Building Act. Work done on getting our Council to the point of being accredited for building inspection under the Act has been huge and it is a credit to our staff that we have been at the forefront of the country in this matter and will be one of the first group to make the list of accredited providers of the service.

Other activities that have been to the fore in the past three years have been work on social policies, the Youth Forum, which is just about ready to swing into action, and our Positive Ageing Strategy. In the works area we have continued to seal unsealed roads and to improve the structure of our urban streets by doing extra kerb and channel work, the Waitakaruru Sewerage Treatment Plant is up and running and the Waihi STP has been upgraded. Work also continues on Paeroa's streetscape upgrade.

The review of the District Plan has taken three years of discussion and is now in the process of being written so that public consultation can take place next year. This brings us to looking forward to the next three years and we will deal with that in more detail in a later paper.

## Plains Issues

### Pipiroa Rd Streetlights

Considerable discussion has been had both at the Ward Committee and at Council on the subject of the new streetlights in Pipiroa Road. The issue is that the streetlights are actually there to light the road but in most places they also serve the purpose of lighting the footpath. In Pipiroa Road the footpath is well separated from the road and there is a fear that the lighting will not extend that far. The Ward Committee has decided to put an extra light on the pole near the Scout Hall to ensure the footpath gets enough light for the young people who may be waiting for rides there and a trial light with only one lamp is also to be installed to see if it is necessary to put double header lights on the rest of the poles.

### Ngatea Domain

To improve the efficiency of car parking, the area between the Rugby Club and the AstroTurf is to be marked so that cars will not park in such a random manner. This should allow for more cars to fit into the area.

### Turua Jetty Vandalism

Recently the pontoon on the Turua Jetty was deliberately punctured and part of the structure was stolen from its position under the walkway. Repair work is to be undertaken at a cost to the community of around \$5000.

### Ngatea Main Street Trees

Two Melia trees, which were recently removed from the main street after being damaged by vandals, are being replaced with a different species. The new trees are box elders. Box elders are the trees grown in Waihi's streetscape design where they have grown well and provided no problems.

## Waihi Matters

### Rocket Slide

The new slide at the 'Rocket Park' has been installed and opened by the Mayor, who went down it several times for the benefit of the press. It seems to have the thumbs up from the neighbourhood children and visitors alike who have been making good use of it over the school holidays.

### Gilmour Lake

Council has again had to remove some Canada Geese that had made their home at the park. These birds become aggressive in the breeding season and attack people. Some feral roosters have also been removed.

The offer of a memorial seat that councillors accepted some time ago has caused some surprise as it nears its completion. The seat is a little more than was bargained for and is a huge horseshoe, shaped in solid kauri. The magnificent structure will be ideal for group picnics and is to be sited facing the lake and the stage structure.

## E-day Success

In September Council participated in National E-day. This was an opportunity for people to bring electronic waste to designated collection points for recycling. The collection was free to the consumer and the collected computers, printers, mice, cartridges, monitors etc were then transported to Hamilton City Council, which was one of the country's official collection points. From here the waste will be taken to recycling plants in New Zealand and overseas.

Our refuse collector, Streetsmart, transported the e-waste from the Hauraki District to Hamilton free of charge and the Waihi collection was very efficiently organised by Tim Morgan and the volunteers from the Waihi information centre. Our thanks to all those involved.

## Elected Members Diary

Meetings for the week of the 29th October to the 4th November 2007

Wednesday 31st October – inaugural Council meeting including swearing in of new councillors

Wednesday 31st October to Friday 2nd November – Councillor workshop in Rotorua.



## Dog Control Consultation

Under the Dog Control Act, Council needs to have a bylaw, which among other things states where dogs can and cannot be exercised. When the current bylaw was due for revision and was put out for consultation earlier in the year, a number of submissions were received from Whiritoa at both ends of the dog control spectrum, the main issue being that of exercise areas and whether dogs should be allowed on the beach.

As there appeared to be a lot of feeling in that community on the issue it was decided to delay the enactment of the bylaw until a further round of consultation had been gone through specifically with the Whiritoa people.



Results of a questionnaire that was sent out were inconclusive despite a large response rate. A public meeting was held at Whiritoa on Labour Weekend and a large number of people turned up. The crowd was predominantly dog owning, which is understandable considering that the purpose of the meeting was solely to discuss dogs but nonetheless there were still differences of opinion amongst those present.

The most obvious consensus view to come out of the meeting was a desire to be a little more relaxed in terms of dogs on the beach during the winter months with the exception of school holidays and long weekends. Council will now have to consider the options put forward, in light of the comments received, and will make a decision on the final wording of the bylaw.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

HAURAKI

## CONTESTABLE SOCIAL FUND

Applications for funding assistance to social service sector projects and initiatives are now being received.

The fund focuses on activities that enable organisations, individuals, their families, hapu and communities set goals and achieve them – these include factors such as education, health, the strength of community networks and associations, financial and personal security, rights and freedoms and level of equity, within the Hauraki District Council area.

The policy and application forms are available from council offices at: William Street, Paeroa; Seddon Street, Waihi; Orchard Road, Ngatea; and on our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

Applications close 4.00pm Wednesday 31 October 2007

For further information contact:

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