



HDC NEWS



Kerbside recycling starts this week

Council is introducing kerbside recycling for all areas that currently receive Council's refuse collection. Collections will commence on the following days.

Thursday 3rd July
Waihi, Waikino,
Karangahake and
Mackaytown

Friday 4th July
Ngatea and Paeroa

Monday 7th July
Whiritoa



If you are in the Council's rubbish collection area, you should, by now, have received your plastic recycle bin and an informative brochure, as a guide to help you dispose of your refuse and recyclables.

If you haven't received your recycle bin please ring the Council on 0800 734 834 and they will pass this information on to the contractor.

Remember:

- Rinse your plastic bottles, squash and place in the bin.
- Rinse your cans, squash and place in the bin.
- Rinse your glass bottles and place in bin.
- Place the bin on the kerbside on your usual rubbish day.
- Alongside your bin you can put tied bundles of paper and/or cardboard preferably in tied plastic bags.
- If you have other rubbish, use an official pre-paid bag, obtainable from local supermarkets and Council Offices.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the 30th June to the 6th July:



No scheduled meetings.

Less Now Could Mean More Later

The need to save power has been impressed upon people in recent weeks to prevent the possibility of power cuts later in the winter.

Please heed the advice being given in the nationwide publicity campaign or we could be in for a dark and cold second half of the winter.

Council is doing its share of power saving, initially by turning off unnecessary appliances and lights in the Council Offices.

The next step is to switch off ornamental lighting that is not needed for security purposes, as we did a couple of years ago when the same problem loomed. So, unfortunately for those who have been impressed by the bright red lights on the ornamental fountain in Gilmour Lake, it is likely that they will not be turned on again until the spring.

Trees and Roads

While there is nothing nicer than a row of trees down each side of a road to form a delightful avenue, there are some situations where trees and roads do not mix.

The dry summer just past has highlighted an issue with trees on the Hauraki Plains, which crops up from time to time. When there is a lack of water in the soil, particularly where there is estuarine clays and peat, the trees take any water available from the surrounding area and the soil shrinks. If this is next to a road the foundation of that road shrinks and the road is likely to deform and go into corrugations and potholes.

Please do not plant trees next to roads, particularly on the Hauraki Plains.

In other areas trees can damage roads in other ways such as dropping leaf debris on the surface which can cause slipperiness and damage to the surface, so please think before you plant trees.

Consider how high they grow, whether their root system is going to invade roads, footpaths, drains or sewerage lines and whether the leaf fall is going to be a problem. Remember, even evergreen trees drop their leaves – they just do it all the year round not just in the autumn.

We would like to encourage people to plant trees but make sure the plantings are appropriate – and stay away from the roads.

walking and cycling strategy

Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy is being researched and put together by consultants and an interim report on progress was presented to Council at its last meeting.

The strategy covers ways of getting about our towns without using cars and deals with the issues of footpaths, linkages between them and the destinations people are likely to need to reach.

When we have adopted the Walking and Cycling Strategy, we can apply for subsidy funding for improvements and capital work related to improving our footpath and cycleway network. Without the strategy we are not eligible.

It is therefore hoped that there will be significant improvements in the next few years in our footpaths and associated infrastructure such as pram crossings and road verges.



A Clean Gulf

The Hauraki Gulf forum, which our Mayor, John Tregidga chairs, was set up to get some consistency in the regulation of the surrounding areas with the aim of keeping the waters of the Hauraki Gulf clean and healthy for wildlife and human use alike.

At the forum's last meeting a talk was given by a Fonterra representative about their Clean Streams Project. The aim of the project is to get farmers to fence and preferably plant the banks of all streams wider than a stride and deeper than the top of a gumboot. He reported good progress on this issue and on the campaign to get all farmers to engage in nutrient budgeting. Nutrient budgeting involves soil testing to determine how much fertiliser to apply to get maximum benefit for the pasture and minimal runoff or discharge to ground water.

The recent "State of the Environment" report put out by the Forum highlights that there is a huge amount of nitrogen getting into the Gulf from a variety of sources. It mentions Fonterra's 'Clean Streams Accord' but points out that farmers are lagging behind targets.

The other issue of major concern is that of heavy metals that are continuing to contaminate the Gulf. These are largely from the older industrial areas of Auckland and more attention needs to be given to the management of stormwater and wastewater discharges from the metropolitan area.

On the good news side – contamination by organic chemicals such as pesticides are low by world standards and the microbial contamination of waters in the Gulf is reducing. This latter is thought to be a direct result of the huge investment that Councils have put into wastewater treatment plants over the last few years.



Mangatawhiri Deviation Getting There

Transit's latest newsletter tells us that the Mangatawhiri deviation, which, although not in the Hauraki District will have an effect on Hauraki residents, is on the 'downhill run to completion'. The document reports that the base course is half done and the seal is 30% complete.

As the work moves towards linking with the existing highway, it will have an increasing effect on motorists that travel the road towards (or away from) Auckland.

There is no completion date predicted yet, but it is expected to be finished ahead of schedule before the summer holidays. It is hoped that the new stretch of highway will reduce the road toll in that area, which has been a black spot for many years.