



HDC NEWS



Accreditation at Last

With the introduction of the new Building Act, Councils need to apply for accreditation as building consent authorities to continue to operate their building inspection systems. In order to gain accreditation Councils need to have their systems upgraded and inspected to meet the new requirements of the Act. The deadline for becoming accredited was the end of June this year and Hauraki District Council has been working hard towards accreditation for some time.

It was thought that we would reach the standard some time ago, as all the things we thought needed to do had been done, only to find that there were other standards that had to be attained.

Finally, we have been sent our certificate to show that we are an accredited building consent authority, so credit goes to all those in the building control department for their perseverance and hard work to get us to that stage.

Hauraki is the 31st Council to become accredited so you can see there is some way to go nation wide. If a council has not gained accreditation by the deadline they will not be able to continue with building inspections or the granting of building consents. Because so many Councils are struggling to achieve accreditation by the deadline, the government has just extended the deadline to the end of March of next year to allow the remaining councils to get up to the required standard or make other arrangements.



Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the 26th May to 1st June 2008:
Wednesday 28th May – full Council meeting



PUBLIC NOTICES

RATES REMINDER

A reminder that all third instalment rates remaining unpaid after the close of business on Wednesday 28 May 2008 will incur a 10% penalty.

L.D. COOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

General Elections *Are you ready for it?*

We have a General Election coming later this year to choose a new parliament and government. In order to vote you must be enrolled

If you are 18 years or older and eligible to enrol, the law says you must be on the electoral roll. If you are 17 years of age you can provisionally enrol to take effect when you turn 18. Once enrolled you must keep your details up to date.

You may have seen the enrolment drive that has started in the media. Please fill in any changes of details on forms sent through the mail or visit www.elections.org.nz for further information or to enrol on line.

Community Outcome 9 - Infrastructure

This is the last in the series looking at how Council contributes to the achievement of the Community Outcomes that were decided in consultation with the public before our last Long Term Plan was put in place.

Council can report on contributions made to Community Outcome 9 - *That long-term planning ensures that our future infrastructure requirements meet the growth and development opportunities of our district.*

This outcome points towards what most people would consider is the core function of Councils. Certainly the major expenditure items of Council include the infrastructural issues relating to roads, water, sewerage, drainage and rubbish. The outcome, however, focuses on planning for growth to ensure that the services that Council provides keep up with growth and changing demands.

There are three points here that are topical at the moment. The first and overarching activity is the ongoing work that is happening on reviewing and upgrading our Asset Management Plans. Extra staff have been working on these to ensure they adequately cater for the long term management of our assets.

Water Restrictions Lifted

Just in case you had not worked it out, the restrictions on the use of hoses throughout the District has been lifted. While this has not been notified, we have simply stopped advertising the hose ban. With all the recent rain, water levels have ceased to be critical so now that you do not need to use your hoses, you can if you want to.

Seriously though, do not forget to exercise caution in the use of water. We should always be vigilant in conserving water and if we want to live sustainably we should use as little as possible. It is well to get into the habit of using short showers rather than deep baths as a regular thing, only using the dishwasher when really necessary and doing only full loads of washing. Similarly, do not leave the hose running while washing your car or the tap running when cleaning your teeth. Above all, check for leaks and dripping taps and have them fixed. If these little habits are practised all the year round you will have less problems coming to terms with a dry summer of restrictions and you will do your pocket a favour.

Walking and Cycling Strategy

While talk about the Walking and Cycling Strategy seems to have been going on for ever, we have at last, come to the point of letting the tender for the production of the strategy. We have had a scoping study done and now we will get underway to do the full strategy.

Walking and Cycling Strategies are to determine what is needed to get people out of their cars and on to bikes and feet. The strategy will highlight where additional infrastructure such as footpaths, walkways and cycle lanes will give the most benefit and a formal strategy is necessary to access government funding to subsidise such infrastructure. It is expected that the whole study and report will be complete within about 10 weeks.

Te Whangai Trust

At its last meeting, Council received a presentation from a voluntary group of people from across the District who have formed a trust to help long term unemployed and the environment at the same time.

The Te Whangai Trust works out of Miranda where it has established a native plant nursery and employs long term unemployed people in a family style situation where they are fed breakfast and lunch and generally are nurtured into work ethics. The nursery produces large quantities of native plants and gains contracts for planting in such areas as Environment Waikato's clean streams programmes.



SKILLS FOR YOU. SKILLS FOR THE WAIKATO

Skills for you. Skills for the Waikato

The 'Get a Life' programme is to draw public attention towards achieving a greater sense of both employment and training opportunities available in the local communities. This is significant not only for school leavers, but also those people at the stage of wanting to retrain or upskill in their current workplace, or to improve their employment opportunities.

Check out the 'Get a Life' activities and stall holders in your town –

Tuesday May 27th 10am – 7pm at Thames Wintec Campus

- Thames Hospital
- Thames Coromandel District Council
- Thames Pak 'N Save
- Careers Services
- V.E.T.E.L
- Insight
- Workbridge
- IDEA Services
- IRD
- CAPS Hauraki
- Health Career Promotion
- Hauraki Apprentice Coordinator and Modern Apprenticeship Coordinator
- Wintec

Wednesday May 28th 10am – 7pm Paeroa Memorial Hall

- Careers Services
- Apprenticeship Co ordinator/and Modern Apprenticeship Coordinator
- CAPS Hauraki
- IDEA Services
- Wintec
- Insight
- IRD

Thursday May 29th 10am – 7pm Waihi Wintec Campus

- Wintec
- Careers Services
- Insight
- Apprenticeship Co ordinator/and Modern Apprenticeship Coordinator
- Hauraki Enterprise Agency
- IRD
- IDEA Services

Friday May 30th 10am – 6pm Ngatea Memorial Hall

- Wintec - Thames
- Careers Services
- Insight
- V.E.T.E.L
- Apprenticeship Coordinator/and Modern Apprenticeship Coordinator
- IRD
- IDEA Services