



# HDC NEWS



## What's UP in HAURAKI

### Waihi Ward

#### Donation of a Picnic Table

The Waihi Ward Committee has graciously accepted the donation of a picnic table from Phyllis Porteous to be placed at the area near the foot of Colebrook Road in Waihi. The area borders the Waitete Stream and is a pleasant place to stop and picnic.

#### Waihi Cemetery

The Waihi Ward Committee has also recommended that Council accept the kind donation of a seat from Claire Dillon for the Waihi Cemetery. The bench type seat will be installed in the ashes wall area of the cemetery.

The sexton shed at the Waihi Cemetery is nearing completion. An upgrade is being made to refurbish the shed, office and toilet.

#### Weed Spraying

Some discussion among Ward Councillors occurred at the last meeting on a letter received from a ratepayer in Whiritoa regarding spraying the grass verges for Onehunga weed. While some councillors were keen to get the spraying done while the spray season was upon us, others were concerned that the rest of the Whiritoa population might not feel the same. It was therefore agreed, to refer the matter to be discussed at the next Whiritoa public meeting to be held in January when the feelings of the public could be gauged. If the consensus from that meeting is to spray, then the job will be scheduled at the same time the District Sports Grounds are sprayed next year. Meanwhile, from November to February it would be advisable to wear your shoes on Whiritoa grass verges.

#### Event at Morgan Park

The Ward Committee has recommended that Council approve the use of Morgan Park for a community event to be run by Newmont Waihi Gold to celebrate 20 years of mining in Waihi. The community event will include the showing of an open-air movie and is scheduled to occur on the 5th December.

#### Rocket Slide Mural

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the mural that has been in production for some time will have been installed on the rocket slide at Victoria Park. The mural depicts children inside the rocket.

#### Whiritoa Playground

New equipment has been ordered for the playground at Whiritoa. The Ward Committee has settled on a rope climbing tower to complement the playground equipment that is already there.

### Plains Ward

#### Ngatea Swimming Pool

Since the pool was heated two years ago we have been experiencing some water loss due to underground pipes leaking. This has just been rectified with a line being installed in the pool and all the 32 jet holes through the side of the pool being blocked off. The pool has also been re-painted. Due to the unavailability of Lifeguards, the pool is now scheduled to open on the 10th November instead of the 1st November.

## Elected Members Diary



Meetings for the week of 29th October to the 4th November 2008:

Wednesday 29th October – full Council meeting  
Monday 3rd November - District Plan Committee workshop

#### Hugh Hayward Domain, Ngatea

The soccer and the No. 2 rugby fields are about to have underground drainage installed. Over the last few years it has become impossible to either use or mow these fields because they become very wet during the winter months causing the fields to become covered in long grass. The new drainage system will see an improvement in the field's condition so sports people may enjoy it all year round.

### Paeroa Ward

#### Paeroa Swimming Pool

The heating of the pool is well under way and will be completed in time for the opening of the summer season on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The pool will be heated to a pleasant 27 degrees.

#### Paeroa Domain

Lights are about to be installed on the No. 1 field on the Paeroa Domain. This work will be done by the Council staff and contractors. The lights will illuminate the field for those that wish to participate in sporting events and for those special community events held on the domain during the late evenings.

## Access to Council land drains

Now is the time of year to remind all residents living or farming alongside open drains about maintaining sufficient clearance from drains to allow Council staff and contractors to undertake their drain maintenance activities.

Council's Land Drainage Bylaw requires a minimum distance of 15 metres from the top edge for maintenance access. This applies to buildings, fences, trees, crops, stacks of materials including bailed hay and silage situated near drains.

A reduction in the 15 metres distance may be approved on application to Council, providing there is enough room to allow access for a spray tractor or excavator.

It is also timely to remind people that the drains are not the place for rubbish, or any other deposits such as used engine oil, paint equipment washings etc. The first instance is clear enough; rubbish in drains causes blockages, sometimes at the important points such as culverts and pump screens, which leads to the obvious outcome of flooding and risks to people and property, not to mention the unnecessary additional work required of Council staff to attend to these nuisances.

The second is also surely self evident; chemical pollution is detrimental to the environment, threatening fish life in all the downstream waterways, which are all the major rivers flowing through our district.

Fortunately, instances of deliberate deposition of toxic material to Council's drains and waterways are rare, but it has been observed in recent times.

There is a provision for penalties for those persons found committing a breach of Council's Land Drainage Bylaw.

Fencing of open drains to prevent stock access is a requirement of the District Plan. Stock exclusion has benefits ranging from ease of access to improvement in water quality.



## AVOID being the victim of a DOG ATTACK!

What can do when you find yourself in a potentially dangerous situation with a dog who is acting aggressively?

- Recognise that dogs go through a series of postures when they are feeling threatened.
- Try and keep your body language relaxed.



#### An Aggressive dog will:

- Make itself bigger by raising its hackles and standing on the tips of its paws
- Lift its lips to show its teeth
- Bark, growl or snarl
- Lay its ears back
- Have its tail raised
- Stare directly at what it's threatening.

If a dog starts to act aggressively towards you should **Stop and Stand Still**, making sure the dog stays in front of you (as most dogs try and bite from behind).

#### Tips to keep safe:

- Allow the dog room to escape
- Remain calm and don't run
- Do not scream or yell
- No sudden movements
- Avoid eye contact with the dog
- Try to ignore the dog
- Act confidently (Fear may increase your risk of getting bitten)
- Never approach a dog if there are puppies around
- Never approach a dog while it is eating