



HDC NEWS



Draft Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19

Just a reminder that submissions on the Draft Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 close this Friday the 1st of May, so if you would like to comment on the proposed actions of Council for the next 10 years, make sure you get your submission form into Council.

If you need a form or would like to view further information on the plan, please phone Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or visit Council's website, www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.



Regional Policies

An amendment to the Resource Management Act has changed the way District Councils have to pay attention to regional policies that are put into Regional Plans. Whereas the Act used to say that District Councils should "have regard to" Regional Policy Statements in their District Plans, now the Act says that District Plans must "give effect to" Regional Policy Statements.

This means that the policy statements that are put out by Environment Waikato are very important to the Hauraki District as they effectively control some of the things we can put in our District Plan.

For this reason the draft discussion document that has been put out by Environment Waikato on possible approaches for its review of its Regional Policy Statements, is of considerable interest to the Hauraki District Council and should also be of considerable interest to the citizens of Hauraki.

While much of the document is predictable, there are some aspects that have concerned our elected members and staff. There are suggestions that Environment Waikato becomes involved in heritage and landscape issues, which our council feels are very well covered already by our District Plan. After spending considerable sums gaining information from experts on these issues for our review of our District Plan, there is concern that this work will be duplicated by the Region at the ratepayers' expense.

Council staff are in discussion with Environment Waikato staff to ensure that this does not happen and to negotiate information sharing. As these issues have always been under the control of District Councils, there has been some concern expressed that local opinion on what is important in terms of heritage and landscape could well be overridden if the region takes control of these issues.

Another concern is the suggestion that the Regional Council takes over the land use controls for natural hazard zones. While this may not sound unreasonable, there is no definition of what natural hazard zones are and when one reads the text it becomes clear that we are talking about areas such as coastal zones and river flood zones. Risk avoidance rather than risk mitigation is mentioned, as is the removal of existing use rights in such areas and it is clear that protection measures such as stop banks and sea walls do not find favour with the writers of the document. We leave you to draw your own conclusions about this, but as large areas of the Hauraki District are at present protected by stopbanks it is of concern these may be designated as natural hazard zones with subsequent loss of local control of the use to which these areas can be put.

You may read the document on the Environment Waikato website. Council is putting in a submission to this document, expressing its opinions on some of these issues and, in order to do justice to the subject matter, has been allowed an extended time to get its submission in.

Snippets from the Paeroa Ward

Town Centre Sculpture

The Ward Committee has granted subsidy funding of \$550 to the artist who is sculpting an anchor stone artwork to be placed in the town centre at a place yet to be determined. The request was made to the ward from the Positive Paeroa town promoter and the Ward Councillors approved the funding because they felt that the artwork will be an asset to the streetscape and funding had also been obtained from Creative New Zealand.

Fragments from the Plains

Swimming Pool

Numbers using the Ngatea Pool were substantially down this year on the previous two years. A request to hire the town swimming pool complex for a private function has been declined because Council was unable to ensure pool safety.

history is not bunk

We all know Henry Ford was mistaken in his assertion that history is bunk. Our history gives us a sense of who we are and where we fit in the world. It also allows us to understand much of what happens now and if we can learn from it so much the better.

Some years ago Council allocated funding to assist in the production of oral history projects in each of the three wards. The initial project has now resulted in a fascinating book of memories transcribed from the audio tapes that were collected with this funding assistance.

The book, called Hauraki Memories contains most interesting accounts from many of Hauraki's older citizens' childhoods on the Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi and the Coromandel goldfields. Tales of everyday life back as far as the First World War, the Spanish flu epidemic, and the depression provide a valuable insight into how our grandparents, great grandparents and even great, great grandparents spent their days and managed to survive hard times.

One of Council's roles that does not relate to roads, rubbish, water and waste is that of being a guardian of our communities' heritage. To help fulfil this role Council operates libraries that store valuable heritage documents, supports museums in our communities, gives protection to historic buildings and sites and encourages and facilitates community projects such as this history one, which has now come to fruition.

Congratulations need to go to Ken Clover and all those who have been involved on a voluntary basis in putting this book together. It is well worth reading and it is important for future generations that these memories have been recorded. If you want to buy a copy of this document contact the Historical Society of the Hauraki Plains, 07 867 7783 (Tracey Spence).

Book Blurb

'The Last Patriot' by Brad Thor

When a car bomb explodes outside a Parisian café, Scot Harvath, Navy SEAL turned covert Homeland Security operative, saves the intended victim and becomes party to an amazing and perilous race to uncover a secret so powerful that militant Islam could be defeated once and for all without firing another shot. But as desperate as the American government is to have the information brought to light, there are powerful forces aligned against it – men that are determined it should remain hidden forever.

'Kill For Me' by Karen Rose

District Attorney Susannah Vartarian has refused to allow anyone close to her since being brutally raped as a teenager. Detective Luke Papadopoulos is fast reaching burnout working on sex crimes against children. Monica Cassidy has no one to turn to. Kidnapped and held by a paedophile ring, she barely escaped with her life when her kidnappers panicked and fled, killing five of the girls as they left. Now Monica is the only one free who can identify the ring's members, and they know where she is!

'The Chalk Circle' by Fred Vargas

Jean-Baptiste Adamsberg is not like other policemen. His methods are unorthodox: he doesn't search for clues, ignores obvious suspects, arrests people with iron-cast alibis and always appears distracted. Even so, his colleagues are forced to admit that he is very successful – a born cop. When strange blue circles start appearing overnight on Paris streets containing increasingly bizarre objects, he is alone in thinking this is not a game and far from amusing. Then... one contains a body!

And whether you live in Ngatea, Paeroa or Waihi, you will find these books, and many others, available in your local library, waiting for you to enjoy.

Elected Members Diary

Meetings for the week: Wednesday 29th April to Tuesday 5th May 2009

- Wednesday 29th April – full Council meeting
- Monday 4th May – Hearing

Public Notices



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME funding for local arts



Applications for funding assistance to local arts projects and initiatives are now being received.

The scheme focuses on projects that increase participation in the range and diversity of arts, within the Hauraki District Council area.

Application forms are available from Council offices at:

- William Street, Paeroa
- Seddon Street, Waihi
- Orchard Road, Ngatea

Applications close 4:00pm Thursday 30th April 2009

For further information contact:

Hauraki District Council
Ph: 07 862 8609
or toll free within the district
0800 734 834

Langley Covers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Thames Valley Combined District

EMERGENCY PLANNING UNIT
525 Mackay Street
Private Bag, THAMES

Phone: (07) 868-0200,
Fax: (07) 868-9586
E-mail: del@cdthames.org.nz



OPEN FIRE SEASON HAURAKI DISTRICT.

Pursuant to Section 22 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, notice is hereby given that the **Restricted Fire Season currently in force in the Hauraki District Council area of the Thames Valley Rural Fire District has been lifted effective from midnight on the 26th April 2009.**

The **Restricted Fire Season** has been replaced by an **Open Fire Season** meaning fires in the "Open Air" can now be lit without requirement of a Fire Permit.

HOWEVER, the following areas are not included in this "Open Fire Season" and will require a permit to be issued. **The Peat Dome area of the Hauraki Plains and all lands administered by the Department of Conservation.** Permits for these areas therefore, should be obtained from your nearest Council Office or Department of Conservation Office.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Dated this 20th day of April 2009.

Greg N Martin
Principal Rural Fire Officer
Department of Conservation

Del Read
Principal Rural Fire Officer
Thames Valley Rural Fire District

Del Read
PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER