

2010 *Wishing you all the best for the New Year*

Council Service	January 2010					
	Thurs 31 Dec	Fri 01 Jan	Sat 02 Jan	Sun 03 Jan	Mon 04 Jan	Tues 05 Jan
All Council Offices	8am to 4:30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	8am to 4:30pm
Paeroa and Waihi Libraries	9:30am to 5:30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10am to 4:30pm
Ngatea Library	8am to 4:30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	8am to 4:30pm
Refuse Collection Days Including recycling	Waihi Waikino Karangahake Mackaytown Whiritoa	Paeroa Ngatea	Whiritoa	-	Whiritoa	-
Paeroa Refuse Station	12:30pm to 5:30pm	Closed	12:30pm to 5:30pm	12:30pm to 5:30pm	Closed	12:30pm to 5:30pm
Waihi Refuse Station	Closed	Closed	10am to 4pm	10am to 4pm	Closed	Closed
Paeroa Swimming Pool	7am to 9am 12noon to 5:30pm	Closed	11am to 5pm	11am to 5pm	11am to 5pm	7am to 9am 12noon to 5:30pm
Ngatea Swimming Pool	7am to 9am 12noon to 5:30pm	Closed	11am to 5pm	11am to 5pm	11am to 5pm	7am to 9am 12noon to 5:30pm

## 2009 - The Year in Review

At this time of the year it is customary to look back on the year that has passed and reflect on the good and the bad. Over the holiday weeks we will look at various aspects of Council work and review what is happening, then, in the New Year, will start anticipating what 2010 may have to offer. But here are some of the major events of 2009.

- The major focus for the first part of the year was getting the Long Term Plan complete with all the consultation that it entails including having the budgets and objectives set in place for the next ten years. The Hauraki Community Plan, as we named it, involved a review of all policies, a detailed review of all estimates and a complete review of the Revenue and Financing Policy.
- Alongside the Long Term Plan considerations, work continued on the review of the District Plan and since the completion of the Long Term Plan the District Plan has now become the main focus. This was released in draft form for public consultation in October and since then Council has been busy considering and replying to feedback and our consultants have been modifying the draft Plan accordingly.
- Environment Waikato released its draft discussion document on the Regional Policy Statement Review. Regional Policy Statements could have a huge effect on how resource management issues are dealt with in our district, as it is compulsory for District Councils to put them into effect. For this reason we have continued to have input and discussions with the region, along with neighbouring councils, on areas of concern in this document.
- The Mayor went on leave in the middle of the year for an overseas holiday and we managed without him but it was good to see him back again.
- We have had visits from delegations from overseas countries from areas that wish to have stronger ties with our district. These include New Caledonia, China and Taiwan. While the Mayor was on holiday, he visited a town in France with links to Waihi and an official 'Sister City' visit was made by the Deputy Mayor and some business people to Jiading in China in September.
- The new government made an impact on Local Government by proposing modifications to a number of pieces of legislation that affect our sector. The main ones that have actually been changed are the Resource Management Act streamlining and simplifying and the Auckland Governance. The changes to the RMA are likely to have a small effect on the processing of resource consents but these are not expected to be noticeable to the general public, whereas the Auckland Governance may mean Hauraki has the Kaiuia area added to its boundaries.
- The recession has coloured our thinking when it comes to financial planning, which included deferring capital projects. It has also had an effect on our planning department with a reduction in consents but the day to day running of Council and the work on keeping our District environment clean, our infrastructure in good repair and our communities well and happy continues.
- We have had to programme an estimated \$4,000,000 worth of road repairs because of the previous year's drought.

So it has been a busy year and next year has the potential to be even more so. We will look forward to what is in store for us for the 2010 calendar year in another article in the near future.

## DIY and Renovations



### Planning on doing renovations or DIY projects this summer season?

If so here are two tips to ensure you do not make a costly mistake.

**Firstly**, many of the renovations you are likely to do may well need a building consent. If you are not sure if the task you have in mind does or does not need a consent, then **it will not cost you to ask**.

Our helpful Building Consent Team can answer your questions all through the holiday period (except for the statutory holidays and weekends), but if you don't fancy calling us, then you can also go to our website, which has a mountain of handy information for the renovating types. If you are not sure and you go ahead and do the work, which then turns out to be requiring a building consent – **it could cost you to remedy the situation**.

**Secondly**, sometimes you may think that a building project does not need a building consent, BUT the project may well contradict a planning rule or standard of either the District Plan or Resource Management Act.

A quick call to one of our friendly Duty Planners here at Council (and if you are using Council's free phone number a free call), can save you a lot of money in the long-run. Alternatively if you think of an idea at the weekend, a trip online will give you access to our current District Plan, which will highlight the rules you have to abide by within the District.

We are here to help, and **an initial question or consultation is free so please do ask us**.

We have a Building Inspector and a Planner working through the holiday season, so if you have a question please take the time to ask.

Contact Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District). Our website is [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz). So here's wishing you a happy holiday season from your regulatory team.

### Public Notice



#### COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of January 2010.

All meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa\* unless otherwise advised.

**Western Plains District Drainage Committee**  
Tuesday, 26 January 2010, 10.30am

**Council Meeting**  
Wednesday, 27 January 2010, 9.00am

L D Cavers  
Chief Executive  
**Hauraki District Council**

## Road Safety Reminder

Council's Road Safety Co-ordinator would like to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and along with Council remind you to drive responsibly and be aware of others on the road, especially during this festive season.

A few reminders and tips to remember include:

#### Alcohol

- It's simple - if you are planning on drinking, plan NOT to drive.
- Plan nights out in advance, think about how you are going to get home – ensure you have a sober driver, a taxi or a place to stay before you leave for the night.

#### Speed

- Slow down on the roads and ensure you drive to the conditions.
- Promote safe driving amongst your friends and family, don't encourage racing or speed challenges.
- Speak up if you are feeling uncomfortable as a passenger. Taking a stand against speeding will encourage others to drive safely.

#### Hand-held mobile phones

- Drivers must not use a hand-held mobile phone, unless the device is completely hands-free or mounted securely to the vehicle and touched infrequently and briefly.

#### Motorcycles

- Remember if you're riding a motorcycle or moped that was manufactured before 1 January 1980 you are required to turn on the headlights or daytime running lamps.

#### Drive to the Conditions - Sun Strike

- The bright sun can make it harder to see when driving. Have sunglasses handy to help with the glare, keep your windscreen and windows clean and take it slow on the roads.

#### Accidents

- In the event of an accident be aware of your location by paying attention to recent road signs.

#### Preparing for a long journey

- Tune your radio, program your CD player or plug in your ipod prior to embarking on a journey.
- Allow time for unexpected delays.
- Carry some food and/or drink with you in case you are delayed or detoured.
- Ensure you plan for your trip and are well rested.

#### Safety Belts

- Wear your safety belt regardless of the length of your trip

#### Turning

- When turning right keep your wheels facing forward so if hit from behind don't get pushed into oncoming traffic.