



# HDC NEWS



## Economic Development UPDATE No. 14

### OUR JIADING SISTER CITY

The Sister District relationship with Jiading District of Shanghai in China, is proving to be an excellent relationship and of great benefit to the young people that take part in the student and teacher exchanges. In the 2008 exchange, 18 students from our three colleges were able to travel to Jiading and experience the Chinese hospitality and culture. The experience gained provided these students and the 5 teachers who accompanied them, a unique insight into the Chinese culture that most visitors to China will never experience. The group reported their experiences to Council in November and provided power point presentations on their trip. Jiading students and teachers will arrive in Hauraki early February and will be home hosted by the students who visited Jiading last year. In future only 12 students will be able to participate each year.

Mayor, John Tregidga, led a small delegation of five people to visit Jiading in late October 2008 for five days and the group looked at tourism and rural manufacturing opportunities. A group of six Jiading Government officials will visit Hauraki in March 2009 and meet with the Mayor and Council.

### THE KARANGAHAKE GORGE

A working party involving the Department of Conservation, the NZ Transport Agency (formerly TRANSIT and The Land Transport NZ) and Hauraki District Council have been meeting to consider the implications that the development of attractions within the Northern Kaimai Heritage Park will have on infrastructure, such as parking and toilets, with particular focus on Karangahake.

A report was completed in December 2008 identifying issues and opportunities for development. Visitors to the area continue to grow and do the costs of the infrastructure (toilets, roading, parking and services) required to handle these visitors. These costs should not fall solely on the Hauraki rate payers. The Karangahake Gorge provides visitors with a unique insight into our local history, and the Department of Conservation has done an excellent job in opening up and interpreting the area.

### THE WAIHI DISCOVERY CENTRE

Building concepts are now confirmed and being used for the purpose of developing the RMA application.

The Heads of Agreement is now in a final form with some minor issues around dates and timelines for specific tasks to be confirmed. All partners are now comfortable with the agreement and we should see the document signed off over the next couple of weeks.

In a parallel process the RMA application is being developed. At this stage most of the consultants and expertise required have prepared scopes for the work they will provide to form part of the application.

### BUSINESS AFTER FIVE

Business After Five meetings are held in Ngatea (quarterly), Paeroa (monthly) and Waihi (monthly) on a regular basis. These meetings are informal and allow the business community to get updates on events in the Hauraki District and to network with others in their business community. The meetings are hosted by businesses and light refreshments are provided. Invitations are emailed and mailed to all businesses. Any business person wishing to attend should ensure their name is on the business database by contacting either Brian at Go Waihi (07 862 3030), Anee at Positive Paeroa (07 863 6999) or Gray at Positively Promoting the Plains (07 867 7299).

### AQUACULTURE

The work to instigate a change to the Coastal Plan to allow for the farming of fish in the Hauraki Gulf has been put on hold until potential changes to the Aquaculture legislation and the RMA are clarified, as there are costs involved and the Hauraki Coromandel Development Group did not want to incur unnecessary expenditure. Central Government and the Aquaculture Industry see the huge export opportunities in developing our aquaculture and the Hauraki Gulf provides an existing Aquaculture Management Area (AMA) that can be utilised without taking up any new water space.

The mussel industry in the Gulf will expand in the existing AMA over the next five years and this will bring opportunities for local processing and related facilities.

### COROMANDEL CUSTOMER CARE

The Coromandel Customer Care programme is being planned for 2009. The programme is to run at the "quieter" time of year for businesses and focus on improving Customer Skills in the region. A workshop is planned for each town in the region and each town has a "champion" who will be in touch with the business community about the programme. Participants will learn not only customer service skills but also about the attractions in their region. The cost is \$90 incl GST, with lunch provided, and is organised in partnership with Wintech. Businesses are encouraged to enrol their staff.

### LEADERSHIP

The Hauraki Coromandel Development Group will be running its Leadership programme for 2009. The two day programme aims to provide our younger leaders, in our two districts, with practical aspects of Leadership that relate to both the business and community, taught by experienced business leaders. Participants are selected via nominations from Councillors and industry leaders. The programme is provided free of charge to the chosen participants.

## HAURAKI COMMUNITY PLAN WHAT'S IN IT?

Over the last few weeks we have been introducing you to some of the aspects of the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19, which is our name for our Long-Term Council Community Plan as prescribed by the Local Government Act 2002 (The Act). The Act determines what we have to publish in our plan and tells us how often we have to publish it. Long term plans have to be released in the middle year of each electoral term; this means that they are published every three years with the information outlining what is planned for the next ten years, but with the next three in more detail.

Perhaps most important of all, plans must outline what Council intends to do on each activity that Council is involved in. This includes the financial planning of how much things are going to cost, how they are going to be paid for and what affect all this is going to have on rates and charges for the next ten years.

The plan must also report on the Hauraki Community Outcomes, which have been identified by the community as being what the community seeks to achieve, and how far these have been progressed. Council must go back to the community every six years to review these outcomes and whether they are still current and what the community wants, or whether there are more outcomes that may need to be added, or a change in the focus of the current outcomes. The current outcomes were identified three years ago, so they do not have to be reviewed at this time.

This Plan must contain some of the important policies of Council such as the Revenue and Financing Policy and other policies that are important in the financial management of the Hauraki District.

The Hauraki Community Plan divides all Council's activities into groups and each activity tells you how we provide that activity, what level of service we try to attain, and any possible changes to this over the life of the plan. Then we show where the money will come from and what the cost of operating that service is.

The key activity groups are:

**Governance and Leadership Group** – this is democracy and includes such things as the production of this plan, the District Plan and the consultation process, as well as elections and the Council meeting and decision-making process.

**Network Services Group** – this includes roads, water, wastewater, land drainage and refuse – the bulk of the things most people associate with Council.

**Community Services Group** – this includes community facilities such as libraries, swimming pools, sports facilities, halls, public toilets and cemeteries.

**Community Development Group** – this includes economic development, town and district promotion, awards ceremonies, and support and facilitation for partnerships with social service organisations.

**Regulatory Services Group** – here we have all those activities where Council is obliged to be the regulator of – resource management planning, building, community protection including health, rural fire control and animal control.

In addition to the ten year outlook, Council has identified key issues that are likely to affect the Hauraki District over a longer period of time. As reported before, we are calling these our 'key community issues' which includes the topics of climate change, sustainability and the changing demographic of our district. Each of these topics are a discussion document for the community to give feedback on. We have provided several options for dealing with each key issue for you to review and comment on.

So you can see that this Plan is not going to be a small one. Throughout the document we have linked with sustainability principles and showing how the activities we are proposing affect the four well-beings of the community – environmental, cultural, economic and social. We encourage you to give this draft plan or its summary document some serious consideration, and to provide your opinion to Council by completing a submission form. Remember - the draft plan will be available in April.

## Smart Water Use

### Discounts for Quality Water-Saving Products

Five outdoor water-saving products will be available to Waikato residents at a 20% discount off the regular retail price from early February to 30 April 2009. The Nylex products are a:

- soaker hose
- eco-seep hose
- trigger gun
- water/tap timer
- microspray irrigation starter kit

Discount vouchers for these products are included in the upcoming issue of Envirocare arriving in your post box the first week of February. Vouchers can be redeemed at Mitro 10, Mitro 10 MEGA, Hammer Hardware and Palmers stores throughout the Waikato region.

## Elected Member Diary

Meetings for the week: Wednesday 28th January to Tuesday 3rd February – Back to work!

- Wednesday 28th January – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 2nd February – Hearing (if required)
- Tuesday 3rd February – Water and Waste Consultative Committee

## Public Notices



### 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 February 2009.

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

### Hearings Committee

Monday 2 February 2009, 9:00 am (if required)  
Monday 16 February 2009, 9:00am (if required)

### Consultative Committee Water & Waste

Tuesday 3 February 2009, 10:00am

### Tuesday 10 February 2009, Ward Committees

Plains 9:00am; Paeroa 12:30pm; Waihi 2:30pm

### Council Meeting

Wednesday 11 February 2009, 9:00am  
Wednesday 18 February 2009, 9:00am Extraordinary Meeting (LTCCP 2009-19 WORKSHOP)  
Wednesday 25 February 2009, 9:00am

### Western Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday 24 February 2009, 10:30am

### Eastern Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday 24 February 2009, 1:30pm

## FIRE BAN - HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL 20 December 2008 to 8 February 2009

The Fire Ban covers rural land within the Hauraki District east of State Highway 26 from Hikutaia to Paeroa, north of State Highway 2 through the Karangahake Gorge from Paeroa to the Hauraki District Council southern boundary with the Western Bay of Plenty, including Department of Conservation lands and forest areas owned by Matariki Forests and NZ Super Fund.

Thank you for your co-operation. Please direct your inquiries to any Hauraki District Council office.

### BARBEQUES

The fire ban does not apply to gas fire barbecues and at this stage does not apply to solid fuelled proprietary barbecues, solid fuelled permanent brick-concrete barbecues and fires in incinerators or brick incinerators that are fitted with spark arrestors, but please take the following safety precautions:

- To be at least 5 metres from buildings, timber fences, trees or other combustible material.
- Not to be lit during strong wind conditions.
- Pressure water system with hose to be available nearby.
- To be supervised by an adult.
- To be extinguished on completion.

Should weather conditions cause the fire risk to increase to an unacceptable level, solid fuelled barbecues and incinerator fires may need to be more strictly controlled.

### WATER RESTRICTION

Notice to Residents of the Hauraki Plains (includes Netherlon, Kerepehi, Turua, Waitakaruru, Ngatea, Orongo, Kopuarahi, Pipiroa, Maratoto, Hikutaia and Tirohia).

Due to the current spell of dry weather, water demand has risen significantly and water levels are low. It would be appreciated if residents could conserve water where possible. At this stage it is necessary to impose a restriction on the use of lawn and garden sprinklers. Only hand held hosing will be permitted until the situation improves.

Unfortunately it may be necessary to impose further restrictions on water use if the dry weather continues. Your co-operation and efforts to conserve water now ensures that water is available for essential and emergency needs. For further inquiries please phone (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within Hauraki District - no cellphones)

L D Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council