



HDC NEWS



District Plan Issues Significant Indigenous Vegetation

Councils are obliged to protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation. While there may be some dispute about what is considered significant, Council has engaged an expert in the field to determine where these areas occur in our District. The contracting of this expert assistance has been shared with Environment Waikato, which also needs the information for its plans. Areas of significant vegetation may not just be significant because they are pristine native forest. It may be that an area is only remnants of regenerating bush containing weeds but if, for example, it forms a link between other areas of good forest it is significant because it allows passage of forest dwelling birds from one area to another.

Our expert, Dr Gerry Kessels, has mapped areas of significant indigenous vegetation throughout the district and if there is one on your property you should have received a letter by now to tell you of

this. This mapping has been done by aerial photography and has not been "ground truthed". This means no one has been to your place to have a look at the bush area on the ground. It may be that you disagree with the statement that your area of bush is significant and you may dispute this by contacting Council. If it remains in the Draft District Plan you will have an opportunity to object at the time submissions are called for.

Other areas may be small but containing remnants of uncommon species. These may have been missed by the aerial survey so if you think you have something special that should be added to the list for protection and have not received a letter then contact us.

The result of having your patch of forest listed for protection in the new District Plan means that if you wish to clear it or alter its botanical, ecological or wild life value, you will need a consent to do so, which may be declined unless you can give very good and valid reasons for the clearance.

Elected Member's Diary

Meetings for the week: Friday 30th October to Tuesday 3rd November 2009

- Monday 2nd November – Hearing (if required)



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 November 2009.

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

Hearings Committee

Monday 2 November 2009, 9.00am (if required)
Monday 16 November 2009, 9.00am (if required)

Ward Committees

Tuesday 10 November 2009,
Plains 9.00am - Paeroa 12.30pm - Waihi 2.30pm

Council Meeting

Wednesday 11 November 2009, 9.00am
Wednesday 25 November 2009, 9.00am

Western Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday 24 November 2009, 10.30am

L D Cavers

Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Rates Rebate REMINDER!

Now you all have your rates assessments for the year do not forget to get in your application for a rates rebate if you qualify. If you have an income under around \$30,000 you may well be eligible for some rates rebate. To claim this or to check if you are eligible, you will need the following:

- Your Hauraki rates assessment for the year
- Your Environment Waikato rates assessment for the year
- Your water rates bills
- Proof of your annual income – e.g. notice from Inland Revenue

Phone the Council and make an appointment with one of our friendly team for a confidential appointment to assess what you are entitled to and to claim it. You can do this at any time until the 30th of June next year but the sooner you do it the sooner you will get the benefit. You must apply every year.

Check out the Paeroa War Memorial Hall

It is disappointing to note the lack of use being given to the Paeroa War Memorial Hall of late. This hall is an excellent facility that has been improved vastly in recent years.

It has a modern and very user-friendly kitchen and is available for hire at reasonable rates. You can hire the main hall, the supper room, or the whole complex and it is right in the middle of town, accessible to all.

So after that commercial, how about considering your town hall as a venue for your next function, wedding, party or other event.



Meet the Authors Event @ the Paeroa Library

As part of their **New Zealand Book Month** celebrations this October, Hauraki District Libraries is hosting two 'local' authors at Paeroa Library – Willow Rand and Graham Sturgeon.

Willow and Graham will speak about their two very different lives, their books and the inspirations behind their writing. Whitianga based Willow is a natural healer and cancer survivor. Through herbal remedies Willow beat cancer in 3 months and has since developed her own products to aid in emotional self-healing. Her book "My Love Myself" was published in 2004.

Thames historical novelist Graham has written two books, "Dustoff for Willie Peters: a New Zealand hunter's journey through Vietnam" in 1998 and last year's "Beneath the Southern Cross". Beneath the Southern Cross is a ripping yarn of a young American whaler captured by Maori in the early 1800's.

Copies of the books will be available for purchase on the night at a special price and the authors will be only too pleased to personally sign these. Wine and nibbles will be provided for a thoroughly refined literary evening.

We look forward to seeing you on the night, for more information or to RSVP please call into Paeroa Library or phone (07) 862 7194.

When: TONIGHT - Friday October 30th 6pm onwards - Light nibbles and refreshments provided - No charge

Increasing Understanding between District and Region

The Regional Council (Environment Waikato) is at present developing its Regional Policy Statements. These are policies that carry weight for the whole region and, under the Resource Management Act, have to be adhered to by Councils in their District Plans. For this reason they are of considerable interest to Council, particularly as we are at present reviewing our District Plan.

Initial discussion documents gave us some concern as to the possible ramifications of some of the things that were being considered and for this reason, and the fact that many of the regional councillors were elected for the first time at the last election, Hauraki invited regional councillors to tour our district with us to see first hand what makes Hauraki tick.

The visit started with an overview of the district presented by Hauraki District Council's Chief Executive and followed with the bus tour of the district. The day was well patronised by both regional and district councillors and concentrated on the drainage of the Hauraki Plains and how essential the present drainage and stop bank systems are to the District and the economy. Councillors also saw the subdivisions and new housing that had gone in around Ngatea.

A visit to the Waihi Mine and the hazard zones was undertaken at the request of the regional councillors. The visit was seen as very successful in allowing councillors to see first hand how changes to the Regional Policy Statements could affect our area.

The day was seen as, not only a good opportunity for regional councillors to see what their policies could mean to our District but to allow councillors from both District and Region to engage in discussion about our area and the policies that may affect it.

New Zealander of the Year Awards



Do you have an unsung hero in your neighbourhood? Do you know someone who is working tirelessly for others? Or is there someone who inspires you each and every day?

If so, you may like to consider nominating them in one of the categories in the New Zealander of the Year Awards. There are five categories: New Zealander of the Year, Senior New Zealander of the Year, Young New Zealander of the Year, Community of the Year and Local Heroes.

The New Zealander of the Year Award winner will be selected for his or her major contribution to our nation. They will have also have shown an ability to inspire us all through achievement and outstanding service to the country and its people.

The Senior New Zealander of the Year award is open to anyone aged over 60, and will celebrate an amazing ongoing contribution, while the Young New Zealander of the Year will be between 15 and 30, and will have already made a positive impact on the nation.

The Local Heroes Awards will recognise outstanding contributions to communities and their people.

Entry is free and open to all New Zealanders. Nominees must be New Zealand Citizens and must have been resident in the country for two years or more.

Nominate now at www.nzawards.org.nz or contact the Awards Office on free phone 0508 692 927 for more information.