

## District Plan Issues - Retaining High Quality Land

A number of factors have contributed to a fresh look at the issue of retention for the high quality land throughout the District for productive purposes. These include the issue of climate change that could have an impact on the lower lying areas of the Hauraki Plains and other factors that have become highlighted over recent years such as peak oil, and population pressures.

While the retention of highly productive land for productive purposes has always been a priority in our current plan, the move is to firm up rules to give our high quality soils more protection and to ensure the best use of this good land.

Main subdivision changes include:

- Increasing the minimum subdivision standard on the Hauraki Plains from 6 to 40 hectares;
- Retaining the minimum subdivision standard in the Waihi Basin at 6 ha;
- Outside Plains & Waihi Basin provide for lifestyle lots – up to 5 lots from one property, otherwise retain the 40 ha minimum.

It is thought that these changes:

- Allow for population growth and lifestyle properties in areas that are not so versatile for productive purposes;
- Retain the Hauraki Plains as predominantly a dairying region;
- Allow the good land in the Waihi Basin to be available for a wide variety of productive uses such as horticulture as well as dairying.

Activities outside those directly associated with rural productivity will be subject to resource consent in these areas.

Resource consents will also be required for earth works and buildings in Significant Landscape Areas in the Rural zone, generally the western and eastern hills. These consents will allow Council to consider visual effects in these areas. Next week we will deal with Significant Landscape Areas and their protection in more detail.

## Elected Member's Diary

Meetings for the week: Wednesday 23rd to Tuesday 29th September 2009

- Monday 28th September District Plan Committee Meeting



## Public Notices

### CONTESTABLE SOCIAL FUND 2009

**Applications for funding assistance to social service sector projects and initiatives are now being received.**

The Contestable Social Fund is the direct or indirect financial support provided by Council to enable social service type community groups, organisations or individuals to contribute toward achieving Community Outcomes as identified in the Hauraki Community Plan.

The fund focuses on activities that enable organisations, individuals, their families, hapu and communities to set goals and achieve them – these include factors such as education, health, the strength of community networks and associations, financial and personal security, rights and freedoms and level of equity, within the Hauraki District Council area.

**The policy and application forms are available from Council offices at:**

- William Street, Paeroa
  - Seddon Street, Waihi
  - Orchard Road, Ngatea
- and on our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

**Applications close 4:00pm Friday 30 October 2009**

for further information contact:  
**Community Development Officer**  
**Hauraki District Council**  
**07 862 8609**  
**toll free within district 0800 734 834**

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

## Truck Parking Bylaw

Councillors voted to put the proposed bylaw prohibiting the parking of heavy vehicles on residential streets in Ngatea on hold for two months for further investigation after considering submissions on either side of the argument.

It is clear that the parking of heavy vehicles on residential streets is very annoying to many people and it is also clear that prohibiting this would also be very inconvenient for many truck drivers. While trucking firms really should be responsible for providing their own secure overnight parking, it has been common practice for drivers to take their vehicles home with them to the detriment of other residents in the neighbourhood.

It is not Council's responsibility to provide parking for trucks but in an effort to accommodate the number of trucks that park overnight in Ngatea, Kohunui Street was suggested as a possible parking area as it is industrial and the presence of trucks will not annoy the neighbours. As there is not enough space in Kohunui Street to park all the trucks that stop overnight in Ngatea, councillors asked staff to see if they could think of any other suitable areas that could be used and to have one last attempt to get the trucking firms to solve the problem themselves. If no other solution is forthcoming the bylaw is likely to be enacted in two months' time.

## Is your Dog a good dog?

Canine Good Citizen is a National Certification Program for everyday owners and their dogs that give an understanding of how to train your dog to deal with everyday situations.

All dogs, purebred or crossbred over the age of 12 months can participate, and through the program will be trained and conditioned to act with good manners in the home, in public, or in the presence of other dogs.

A full list of Registered CGC (Canine Good Citizen) Clubs can be found on the New Zealand Kennel Club website, [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz) or contact your local dog obedience club 'Leading the Pack, No. 1 K9' on 07 862 3756 or 027 276 6690 for further information.



## Thames Valley Deerstalkers and the HDC Contestable Social Fund



HUNTS course range training – undertaking rifle and shotgun use

In December 2008 Thames Valley Deerstalkers were successful in applying for funding to the **Hauraki District Council's Contestable Social Fund**. The funding received was \$2,230 which contributed to the resource materials and training costs of a coordinated HUNTS program.

The HUNTS program is a course designed to provide the skills needed for general outdoor safety coupled with, hunting skills, self reliance, discipline and working as part of a team. Not only are ethics and ecological theories taught, but navigation, trip planning, bush craft, marksmanship, safety, tracking techniques and personal responsibility are also covered.

Thames Valley Deerstalkers were eligible for the Contestable Social Fund due to their contribution towards the criteria of *'Integrated provision of quality health and social services throughout our District – we support the development on new initiatives that address well-being of those in need and of our community in general'*.

The HUNTS courses have proven for the association over the last 20 years to be an outstanding stepping stone particularly for youngsters as they venture into the wider spectrum of life. This course helps to ensure the vibrancy and transfer of knowledge and skills to others in our rural communities.

Maureen Coleman, President of Thames Valley Deerstalkers says *"The very positive feedback and excellent reports that come back to the club and the organisation from so many sectors is conclusive proof that these HUNTS courses have been invaluable for all concerned. The participants have certainly made the most of the extensive course content to help further their chosen paths in life and are in the process; contributing so much back to their communities on a daily basis. We are extremely grateful for the awesome support provided for this aspect of the course and it has been a pleasure to help enhance the lives of those undertaking the programme."*

Council is pleased to be able to offer a fund which helps its community groups and organisations in the District and supports the work done by Thames Valley Deerstalkers. It is evident from the outputs of previous HUNTS programmes that the independence, along with

the teamwork skills and personal growth gained is an attribute to the club, and a benefit for those in the community taking part.

Hauraki District Council's Contestable Social Fund round for 2009/10 is now open and is available to those community organisations doing work to progress the Contestable Social Fund criteria mentioned above. Applications are available from Council's service centres, or go online to download a form from [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz) if you would like to apply.



HUNTS instructor Maarten Verschuuren of TVDA gives extra help to Sharn Curran as part of the Navigation weekend up the Maratoto Valley