

Hauraki blazes economic trail to Beijing



FRIENDLY COOPERATION: From left: Vice Chairman of Beijing Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr Shen Baochang, Hauraki District Mayor John Tregidga, and Coromandel MP Scott Simpson.

The moon wasn't blue, pigs weren't flying; but a visit from senior political leaders of Beijing to the Hauraki District last Saturday was almost as unlikely and much more significant, says Hauraki District Mayor John Tregidga.

"Beijing is one of the world's largest economies. For its political leaders to visit Auckland or Wellington would be a big enough deal, but for them to come to Hauraki is not only astounding but a real credit to the hard work Council has put into fostering a positive business relationship between the two regions," he says.

The visiting delegation, headed by Beijing Municipal Committee Chairman Shen Baochang, included the chief executive officer and production manager of Beijing Allied Faxi Food Company, which is currently establishing an ice cream export manufacturing plant at Kerepehi.

"There's a huge demand for European foods in the People's Republic of China, especially from young and

modern Chinese, as the nation experiences massive growth and living standards rise for many. For instance the consumption of ice cream is increasing by 25 to 30% each year," says Mayor Tregidga.

Tenders for the Allied Faxi ice cream factory construction are expected to be advertised within six to eight weeks and company representatives have confirmed around 50 people will be employed there. Of those, only four or five specialists will come from the People's Republic of China," he says.

Paeroa Ward Councillor Toby Adams, who chairs Council's Economic Development Committee, says this all bodes extremely well for Hauraki, which offers good soils and climate and is advancing plans to establish a food technology and production hub at Kerepehi. He made two trips to China last year focused on business opportunities, including one with Council Economic Development Manager, David Fielden.

"This visit has cemented the two region's developing relationship and confirmed our Beijing visitors are seeking further investment opportunities in New Zealand, especially in food-related industries," says Councillor Adams.

Saturday's civic reception at the Council chambers in Paeroa included a greeting from Coromandel MP Scott Simpson, and the signing of a 'Friendly Cooperation Agreement' to formalise both parties intent to pursue further economic development opportunities. Some of those opportunities were the subject of a presentation by the Council and director of local company AgriSea NZ Ltd, Jill Bradley.

The guests then travelled to Ngahutoitoi Marae in Paeroa, where they were honoured with a full powhiri, a kapa haka performance by local children and students, and a dinner featuring seafood and other traditional kai.

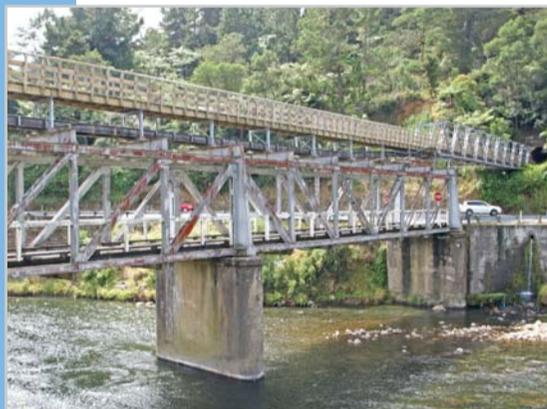
"We were very fortunate to be hosted there, and for the Beijing visitors it was a unique cultural experience," says Mayor Tregidga, "It was a privilege to welcome such an important delegation to Hauraki."

Bridge to get a paint job

The Crown Hill road bridge at Karangahake is being repainted – a job that was last done more than 20 years ago.

The project is planned to begin on the 9th March but could be delayed to the 16th March due to establishment processes. This is to be completed about mid-May, weather permitting. To make best use of the dry season the contractor will need to work on most Saturdays during this period. The bridge will remain open throughout, though traffic controls will be in place when necessary and delays can be expected at these times.

We apologise for any inconvenience to locals and to Hauraki Rail Trail users accessing the nearby carpark, but thank people for their patience and understanding.



Need a resource consent?

Changes from the Resource Management Amendment Act 2013 that will come into effect this week, will assist towards reducing the timeframes for processing resources consents.

These changes require fuller and clearer information at the time of making your application, with the Council having 10 working days (previously 5 working days) to either accept an application or return it if incomplete. This enables us to consider the extra information and ensure it's 'fit for purpose' – so we can process consents more efficiently in the long run by reducing or eliminating delays and costs arising from requests for further detail.

The other main difference is the time allowed for decision-making on notified or limited notified applications. This is 130 working days (about six months) for fully notified applications, 100 working days (about 4½ months) for limited notified applications, and 60 working days for such applications that don't involve a hearing. For non notified applications the former 20 working day processing period remains.

If there is a hearing, all parties must supply their evidence beforehand and this time has been extended from 5 working days to 15 working days in advance of the hearing.

Applicants must now provide their evidence 10 working days before a hearing; and submitters' expert evidence is due 5 working days before a hearing.

Under the 'old rules', the timeframes focused on a set number of working days for various stages of the process, but some aspects – such as hearings and suspended days – weren't included. Therefore a notified application on which a decision was scheduled within a total 70 working days could actually take significantly longer.

These changes will give more certainty for applicants and affected parties about when a resource consent decision will be made. The applicant or the Council can still suspend the application, but the total suspension period can't be longer than 130 working days.

For further clarification on any of the above feel free to contact our Duty Planner at the Council.



Eyes on the road for 25th Battle of the Streets

Battle of the Streets competitors may not have made it on to the start grid on February 22 – but while the organisers are still "mopping up" after rain prompted the first-ever cancellation of the event, they're already focusing on next year's 25th anniversary race meet.

Although the rain subsequently cleared, the difficult decision to call off racing for safety reasons was the right one at the time, says race secretary and Positive Paeroa town promoter Jo Tilsley. "Looking after our riders is always our number one priority."

In the words of clerk of the course Trevor Heaphy: "I would rather have to deal with unhappy racers and disgruntled spectators than deal with widows or coroners."

Full refunds have been offered to ticket purchasers, and disappointment aside, "we have experienced huge community support," says Jo. As intended, the Paeroa Promotions Trust is now planning the milestone 2016 meet.

Regardless of the cancellation, some people did do a sweep of the course. Council workers and contractors were out before sunrise on the 'mornings after', as the normal cleanup is still needed after hay bales and other materials have been removed. This involves an estimated 30 hours of staff labour, plus additional resources such as a large street sweeper. It's our way of getting behind what we anticipate will continue to be a great community event.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WATER RESTRICTIONS

From 16 February 2015

Notice to all residents of the Hauraki District

River levels remain low, making it necessary to restrict the use of water, in accordance with Council's Water Supply Management Plan relating to its consents to take water from rivers and streams.

For Waihi, Waikino, Mackaytown and Karangahake until further notice a ban is placed on the use of lawn and garden sprinklers. Only hand held hoses may be used until the situation improves.

If you see water leaks or excessive usage or wastage of water in your area, please report this to Council.

Information regarding ways residents can conserve water can be found on the Hauraki District Council website at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.



Click on the SmartWaterUse logo.

It may be necessary to increase the level of restriction if the dry weather period is extended. Your cooperation and efforts to conserve water now contribute to ensuring that water is available for essential and emergency needs.

For further inquiries please phone (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the Hauraki District, no cell phones).

Ken Thompson
 District Engineer
 Hauraki District Council

HDC CONSOLIDATED BYLAW

MINOR AMENDMENT TO HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED BYLAW

Pursuant to Section 156(2) of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is hereby given that on 25 February 2015 the Hauraki District Council adopted minor amendments to the Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw; section 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 in Part 1: Introduction and Schedule 8 of Part 3: Public Safety. The amendments were made for administrative purposes and do not affect an existing right, interest, title immunity or duty of any person to whom the Bylaw applies.

The Bylaw can be viewed at the Council offices and libraries in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi or on Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz. A copy can be obtained by calling 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

L D Cavers
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council