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Changes to 2014/15 Fees and Charges

This week, changes to the Council's fees and charges for the 2014/15 financial year (1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015) have come into effect.

When the proposed fees and charges were consulted on earlier this year, Council received two submissions – both opposing the suggested increase in the library magazine rental fee. This was amended after the hearing of submissions in May; and the Council recently adopted the new schedule. Its main changes relate to four areas:

Corporate Services – a new fee has been introduced for the delivery of electronic information on USB.

Community Services – library overdue fees have increased to encourage prompt returns. A few other fees have risen to cover costs; and some charges have been standardised. New fees apply to lost or damaged items, debt collection charges, and withdrawn items available for sale. Refunds or partial refunds may be paid if a lost item is returned.

Building and Regulatory Services – changes reflect actual costs or reallocation of costs, for example the increased processing costs for higher value building consents over \$100,000 and some changes to resource consent fees.

A range of liquor licensing fees have been introduced as legally required by the new Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Solid Waste Services – fees have been increased by the consumer price index (CPI) in accordance with the solid waste contract at refuse transfer stations, and the refuse bag charge has increased by 10 cents to \$2.20 per bag.

Library fee changes widen access

What's changing in our libraries as 2014/15 Council Fees and Charges take effect from 1 July? The short story is: not much.

Magazines will now cost \$1 to borrow for a week-long period, up from 50 cents. This increase reflects the price of the magazines, and although a further one-week renewal is available, we hope it will encourage quick turnaround of each title so that more people can borrow them while they're fresh.

In another related change, new magazines will remain in the library for everyone to read until the next issue arrives, to give everyone a chance to catch up on the latest releases. Overdue and penalty charges have likewise increased as an incentive for prompt returns.

The cost of printing on A4 paper will also rise, by 10 cents per page to 30 cents.

However the previous charge of \$1 for reserving an item owned within the District Libraries (in Ngatea, Paeroa, or Waihi) will drop to 50 cents, which will cover any transit between towns.

"We want to promote District use of our whole book resource, and we're working toward 'floating' more of our total combined collection," says libraries manager Sue Lean. "It's less about money than providing for wider readership – making more titles available to more people."

Library fees and charges are reviewed annually, with a full list available from any of our libraries or Council offices. The changes apply to adult and non-book items – there are no increases for children's items – and our fees compare well with those of neighbouring libraries.

Membership remains free for residents; and for members of surrounding districts' libraries, thanks to reciprocal agreements with Matamata Piako, Western Bay of Plenty, Thames-Coromandel and Waikato District Council libraries.

PUBLIC NOTICE

2014/15 ANNUAL PLAN AND FEES AND CHARGES

2014/15 Annual Plan

Pursuant to section 95 of the Local Government Act, 2002, the Council advise that following the submission process and consideration of the submissions at its ordinary meeting held on 28 May 2014, the 2014/15 Annual Plan was adopted at an ordinary meeting of Council on 25 June 2014.

The Council would like to thank those who were involved in the submissions process and for providing valuable feedback to Council.

2014/15 Fees and Charges

Pursuant to sections 83 and 150 of the Local Government Act, 2002 and other legislation enabling Council to set fees and charges, the Council has reviewed and adopted its amended schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2014/15 year at its meeting of 25 June 2014. The new Fees and Charges will become effective from 1 July 2014.

Copies of the adopted Annual Plan and the Fees and Charges are available to download from Council's website at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or you can request a copy by calling the Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or collect a copy from any of the Council offices or libraries in William Street, Paeroa; Seddon Street, Waihi; or Orchard Road, Ngatea.

LD Cavers
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council

A TREE for every year

Two hundred trees being planted on public sites around Paeroa are not just any trees. They're a gift to the community from the town's combined churches, to mark 200 years since the gospel was first preached in New Zealand.

Adults and children from the six contributing churches gathered on the Railway Reserve extension a fortnight ago to plant the initial 70 trees. These natives – including kowhai, pittosporum and hebes – honour the Maori people and their chiefs like Rurutara who were the original spreaders of the gospel, says project instigator and Paeroa Baptist Church pastor Alan George.

The other churches involved are St Mary's Catholic Church, St Paul's Anglican Church, Paeroa Co-operating Parish, Paeroa Elim Community Church, and Paeroa Bible Chapel – and members joined forces again last weekend at Te Moananui Flats, adjacent to the Hauraki Rail Trail. Here, ornamentals have been planted for their colour, together with mandarin, apple and plum trees. The varieties were chosen because their fruits ripen in different seasons, and will be edible "on the spot" by passing cyclists. Locals will also have free access to the harvest.

Alan says the exotic specimens are a tribute to pioneer missionaries like Samuel Marsden who first proclaimed the gospel in 1814, and Octavius Hadfield who later ministered to



Above: In the foreground are Isaac, Georgia (behind the Hebe) and Roz Begbie helping the combined churches plant trees in the Railway Reserve, Paeroa.

Maori at their request. The fruit trees are all the more fitting because as well as sowing spiritual seeds, the missionaries partnered with Maori to introduce new crops of nutritional and economic value such as wheat.

"Just as they did, we want to give something to the community," says Alan. "We are thrilled to be planting the trees, and excited about the sites Council has made available. The Council has drilled the holes, too, making our job easier in stony ground. The Parks and Reserves Manager has been hugely supportive.

"We imagine people picnicking under the branches in years to come; and at the Railway Reserve the trees will help screen the industrial area."

Plans are underway to install storyboards telling some of the history behind the trees, and to hold a celebration event when the planting stage is complete.

Dirtywork an enjoyable challenge

Students of Paeroa's Miller Ave School can only imagine the sight of extensive kauri groves that once dominated the Coromandel forest canopy.

But they're helping the Kauri 2000 Trust to recreate significant stands of the majestic trees on public land on the Coromandel Peninsula by planting 100 kauri at Hutchinson Reserve. It was the school's second such effort, repeating an initial planting of 100 trees two years ago.

The three-year-old seedlings were propagated for the trust by members of the Habitat Enhancement and Landcare Partnership (HELP) in their nursery at the Waihi College Farm Unit; and when volunteer Warwick Buckman delivered them he stayed to lend a hand with the planting.

Despite steep and slippery clay terrain that made the work heavy going, he

said the students – mostly Year 7s – enjoyed the challenge. "None of them became sideline watchers. They all kept looking for plants to plant."

Fortunately the children didn't have to muscle in to dig the holes – that job was done by periodic detention workers.

Hutchinson Reserve, off Gobles Road, was gifted to the Council by the late Robert (Bob) Hutchinson about 10 years ago, with the intention that it would promote community education about the native bush it protects.

The Council has improved road access to the 80-hectare bush block; and is investigating appropriate future development such as a proposed education day-centre shelter and potential extension of the walking tracks.

