



HDC NEWS

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Food hub a talking point on Chinese trip



Above: The Hauraki District Council Delegation is welcomed by students of the TaiChung Municipal Hui-Wen Elementary School.

Ice cream was at the top of the itinerary when a Hauraki District Council delegation visited Beijing, Shanghai and Taiwan last month. Mayor John Tregidga, Chief Executive Langley Cavers, and Operations Committee Chairman Councillor Toby Adams were joined by the chairman of the Auckland Maori Statutory Board, David Taipari (whose costs were not met by the Council).

On arrival in Beijing, the group's first engagement was meeting representatives of the Chinese ice cream company that's set to open an export factory in Kerepehi. The discussions also involved local government officials, and were augmented with a first-hand look at the company's local operations.

"We were left in no doubt about the growing Chinese taste for ice cream. Consumption has risen more than 30% in the last two

years," says the Mayor. "The company is firmly committed to the Kerepehi production plant, which will be totally for export to China."

With the two-week trip focused on economic development, talks centred too on potential for further Chinese investment at Kerepehi, which is becoming established as a District food hub with 'clean green' attraction for overseas enterprises.

In Jiading, Shanghai, with which Hauraki signed a sister city agreement in 2001, the delegation met new Mayor Gao Yun, and visited the schools currently involved in the exchange programme between the two districts: Jiading No.1 High, Sisu Jiading Experimental, and Zhong-guang High School.

Other stops included the Jiading Library, and the Auto Museum where there was a chance to test-drive new electric vehicles. These were impressively quiet – if expensive.

The final four days of the trip were spent in Taiwan at the invitation of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, with a view to further developing the relationship established through the Taiwanese-backed Waihi Academy.

Welcomes were extended by the Taipei City Council, the Council of Indigenous Peoples, the Taiwan Eel Farming Industry Development Association, and the Aquaculture Development Association. Interest was expressed in Hauraki mussels, as well as our milk.

Brief visits were made to Taichung City schools, Yunlin County, Tainan and Kaosiung Cities, and Pingtung County. A Yunlin art towel factory was especially fascinating, says the Mayor – with towels handcrafted into virtual sandwiches, cakes, roses, and other creations.

The "full on" trip was well worth the cost, believes the Mayor. "It resulted in some new investment opportunities, and built on our 14-year association with Jiading, where we have become highly regarded and respected. It's all around personal relationships."

has offices at Auckland, Victoria and Canterbury Universities.

While most of the learning assistants are based at urban schools, a Hauraki District Council economic development initiative resulted in Selina being posted to Paeroa, where she is hosted with a local teacher.

"At first I was upset not to be in Auckland; that instead I would be teaching in eight schools here," she says. "But after two weeks, I was so excited. I'm very lucky to be here. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming."

In contrast to the quiet, structured classes in which Selina has spent the past 8½ years since completing an English degree at Harbin Normal University, New Zealand students have much more freedom to move around and express themselves, she says. "Another challenge is that this is my first time teaching young children and I love them."

In fact Selina now hopes that when she returns to Beijing she can teach primary pupils there – especially as her own son is six, the age at which Chinese children start school.

"I think the younger you are, the easier it is to learn another language. Five and six-year-olds only have a limited attention focus and we have lots of games, but Year 5 and 6 students learn a lot and are very outgoing. Some can already have a dialogue in Mandarin, and it's wonderful when they call out and greet me on the street."

The most common questions Selina gets from Kiwi kids are "How old are you?" (31) and "How do I write my name in Mandarin?" There's a lot of interest, too, in multi-storey Chinese apartment houses, the size of Selina's school (2000 students) and whether she knows all the children's names (No).

At 40-pupil Karangahake School, 10-year-old Hamish Pennell says Selina's photos of China are "amazing", and he'd like to travel there. Evita Luckman, also 10, says having the chance to learn Mandarin is cool. "It's quite exciting, especially writing some Chinese characters. In English, we don't have to worry about drawing the lines in a certain order." Naomi Laslett, aged 9, enjoys the humour in Selina's lessons.

Principal John Doran is delighted to have Selina teaching at Karangahake, where her bubbly personality makes her a perfect fit. He says the cultural exchange is "a great opportunity for the future". Teachers are learning along with students, and the school is looking into everyday ways to build on the once-a-week lessons.

Councillor Toby Adams, Chairman of the Economic Development Sub-committee, says teaching languages like Mandarin to Hauraki students is a key component of Council's new approach to economic development. "This is the language of one of our key 21st century trading partners and we are delighted that the Ohinemuri school cluster saw the benefits and decided to be involved. With the recent attraction of a Chinese company to Hauraki, students who learn Mandarin will enhance their job prospects both here and on the international stage", said Councillor Adams.

Council's Economic Development Officer, David Fielden, says "knowledge of Mandarin and of Chinese culture is becoming increasingly important in New Zealand, with trade links growing between the two countries, and China being our biggest export market. The Hauraki District is already benefiting from the relationship, with a Chinese company preparing to open an export ice cream company in Kerepehi".

Mandarin on the curriculum



Above: Karangahake School senior students enjoy a lesson with Selina.

Where would you be if you heard excited greetings of "Hello, teacher!" in Mandarin?

Chances are, in a classroom at Karangahake, Paeroa, Netherton or Hikutaia – where Guo Xiaoshuai is helping primary and secondary students to learn Mandarin and understand Chinese culture.

Xiaoshuai, known to her local students as Selina, has swapped her job teaching English to Beijing teenagers for a one-year contract in the Ohinemuri Schools cluster. She's one of 70 Mandarin learning assistants working in New Zealand as part of a Chinese Government-funded initiative set up in 2010 under the bilateral Fair Trade Agreement, to promote understanding and raise the quality of Chinese education in Kiwi schools.

The programme is administered through Hanban, the Chinese Language Council International, and is managed in New Zealand by the Confucius Institute which

Through the Forum, city and district councils together with the Waikato Regional Council are cooperating on a work programme over six areas: roading, planning, bylaws and policies, economic development, water and wastewater, and governance. Actions already underway or completed include a consistent road classification system; an economic development strategy aiming to improve standards of living and help people,

communities and businesses reach their potential; and a review of shared services water and wastewater services.

Now, progress is being made on creating a Waikato spatial plan – think town planning on a regional scale. The word spatial simply means 'related to space', particularly referring to how things fit together in spaces or units. So where best should health services and education centres be located?

SITUATION VACANT

GIS ADMINISTRATOR

Here is an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic, self motivated GIS whizz to join the Hauraki District Council in a permanent full-time role.

As GIS Administrator, you will have responsibility for the administration of Council's GIS and the maintenance and development of the spatial datasets that Council uses to deliver its services. You will be providing the technical expertise for the manipulation and analysis of Council's spatial data, and will ensure that the organisation's spatial data is stored appropriately and reliably delivered to council staff to meet their business requirements.

A minimum of 3 years experience in the administration of GIS is essential. A relevant tertiary qualification is preferable. You will also need to have a working knowledge of network and computer infrastructure, web servers and SQL databases. Previous experience in the administration of Intranets and use of MapInfo and QGIS would be an advantage.

For further details or to apply electronically please visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or contact Sue Greenville on 07 862 5024 or Julie Sweeney on 07 862 5023

Applications close on 23rd May 2014

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PUBLIC NOTICES

WATER RESTRICTIONS

FROM 1 May 2014

Notice to residents of the Hauraki District.

For all areas of the District, until further notice, all water restrictions are lifted.

Thank you for your cooperation in observing the water restrictions through the dry season.

Rainfall and the diminishing demand have improved the situation enough to lift the water restrictions.

Efforts to conserve water help to ensure a reliable water supply for all users as well as essential and emergency needs. Information about ways of conserving water can be found on the Hauraki District Council website at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz, by clicking on the SmartWaterUse logo.

For further inquiries please phone 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (not from cell phones) from within the Hauraki District.

Ken Thompson
District Engineer
Hauraki District Council



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 May 2014 in the Hauraki District Council Chambers, 1 William Street, Paeroa.

Judicial Committee (if required)

Monday, 12 May 2014 - 9.00am

Monday, 26 May 2014 - 9.00am

Ward Committees - Tuesday, 13 May 2014

Plains Ward - 9.00am

Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm

Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

Operations Committee

Wednesday, 14 May 2014 - 9.00am

District Plan Committee

Thursday, 15 May 2014 - 10.00am

An 'In Committee' Meeting will be held for the purpose of considering Appeals to the Proposed District Plan

Audit and Risk Committee

Tuesday, 20 May 2014 - 9.00am

Western Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday, 27 May 2014 - 10.30am

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday, 28 May 2014 - 9.00am

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Regional sports and recreation facilities? Council playgrounds and amenities? Collections of industries? How many of these areas will be needed, and what size? These would be some of the key elements in the proposed plan.

Hauraki District Council supports a joint committee being formed to lead this project.