



# HDC NEWS



## HDC Citizens and Young Achievers Awards

### Gerald Davis - an indispensable cog in the Whiritoa community...

It never snows at Whiritoa Beach. Which is partly why Gerald Davis travelled half way round the world to live there. Leaving Canada in the midst of a January 1992 ice storm and arriving in New Zealand at the height of summer, he and wife Karen couldn't wait to don t-shirts and jandals.

"We really wanted to get away from the ice and snow. The ability to grow things all year round was a big pull too," says the former school principal, who fell in love with New Zealand while holidaying here in 1985.

Originally settling on a Waitakere lifestyle block, the couple discovered Whiritoa Beach during a weekend with friends who owned a bach there. Swept off their feet, they bought their own beach section a few weeks later and lived in a tent on it for a year while Gerald and their son-in-law built their current home using pine and macrocarpa milled from their Waitakere property. Well away from the sound of school bells, but close enough to bigger centres should the need for better amenities arise, it was the perfect place for Gerald to flick off his school shoes for good. Replacing them with a pair of gumboots he now grows veggies all year round, along with around 30 varieties of fruit - including Island bananas that would get frost bite from a postcard picture of a Canadian winter.

"I don't miss any of that big city stuff - it's in the same category as snow," says Gerald. "If two cars meet in Whiritoa, that's a traffic jam for us these days."

No stranger to voluntary work in Canada, where he helped

set up Camp Quality for kids living with cancer, he's since become an indispensable cog in the Whiritoa community.

"Things like that (voluntary community work) seem to find me," he says, "They gravitate towards me - it's been a pattern of my life. I go to a meeting and say something and next thing I know I've got a job."

He's not complaining though. Secretary, chairperson, or committee member of most Whiritoa organisations, including the Village Library, Volunteer Rural Fire Force, Beach Care, and Liaison Association, he also finds time to edit and write articles for community newsletter, Whiritoa Tidings, and has recently organised a Thursday morning coffee club.

"It's totally about satisfaction and having a purpose. I've been retired for 20 years; it keeps me involved and active," he says.

Although honoured to receive a Citizen's Award he's more interested in the accomplishments of the District's Young Achievers.

"I think what the Council is doing in honouring our younger people is terrific. I've worked with young people all my life and I'm really tickled that that was done. I was much more interested in that (on the Awards night) than my own stuff."



## Residents book in for computer help

A pilot programme of library-based computer mentoring has taken off in Paeroa, as locals grab the opportunity to get free one-on-one help.

New resident Garth Smith launched the sessions last month, using a model from Hamilton Central Library where he was among the first volunteers in a now 20-strong team.

The 32-year-old grew up with computers and definitely feels at home in libraries - with a degree in literature contributing to his broad general knowledge. He initially offered his time and skills helping Hamilton library patrons "as a way of getting my foot in the door. Then I found that I really enjoyed doing it."

Most people who use the mentoring service start with scant knowledge of computers - they may not even own one - so it's rewarding to see their skills and confidence grow, says Garth. "The one-on-one factor is a really big thing, and the response in Paeroa has been overwhelming."

Common requests include learning how to set up email, access the internet, create CVs, use a tablet, or transfer photos from a cell phone to a computer. People have also sought advice on buying the right devices for their needs.

The sessions are tailored to each individual, using either a library computer or the client's laptop or tablet. While the biggest demand so far has been from senior citizens, people of all ages down to teens have made appointments (arranged through the library).

At present the mentoring is being offered from 11.00am to 1.00pm each Tuesday, but days and times could be changed or added. "The more interest we get, the bigger we can grow it," says Garth.

Library staff hope that in time the scheme can be extended to other libraries in the District, says librarian Lesley Young. "So we would love to hear from more people interested in becoming mentors, in the Waihi and Ngatea areas as well in Paeroa."

**Appointments for computer mentoring can be made through the Paeroa Library. Anyone interested in joining a team of volunteer mentors (training provided) should also contact the library.**



New Paeroa resident Kerry Marquand gets some tips from Garth Smith.

## Ngatea's turn for JP Clinics

Need a JP (Justice of the Peace) in the Hauraki Plains? We're bringing them to you, through weekly clinics like those launched successfully in Waihi and Paeroa earlier this year.

**The free service will operate from the Council's Ngatea Service Centre each Tuesday from October 21, with a JP available to members of the public between 11.00am and 1.00pm.** 'Drop ins' are welcome, or 30 minute appointments can be made at the Service Centre or by phoning the Council.

Most of us need the services of a JP at some time - to certify copies of documents, witness a signature on a document, or perhaps complete an affidavit or declaration.

Until now, residents have needed to make direct individual contact with JPs, who may not be available at a given time. So while personal arrangements are still an option, the clinics have been initiated by local JPs to establish easy and regular access to their services and cut the necessity to visit a JP at his or her home or workplace.

"It will be a benefit for people to know they can access a JP at a certain time and in a neutral place, in privacy," says Councillor and JP Gill Leonard. "Also, a couple of long-term Plains JPs have recently retired, which has spread more workload to the rest of us - especially those who run a business as well. So this will be a great all-round service as already proven in the Paeroa and Waihi areas, and it will be up to the community to take advantage of it."

Hauraki JP Association registrar, Kris Purden, says the Council venue meets the criteria of being centrally located, physically accessible to all clients, and culturally inclusive. It offers an appropriate degree of privacy, plus space and comfort for any clients who are waiting, and facilities such as the internet and a photocopier. Importantly, the Council is also able to provide the venue at no cost, as all JPs are volunteers and do not claim any expenses.

"We are grateful for the Council's support for this project, and hope it will prove to be an asset for the Plains," she says.

It will be possible to complete many requests on the spot, while others can be quite complex and may take extra time or require a referral.

Clients using the clinics can help by making simple preparations: for instance by bringing a form of photo ID in case it is needed, and bringing original documents as well as copies (if the copies need to be certified). Documents should not be signed beforehand.

**Phone appointments for the Ngatea JP clinics, or the clinics in Waihi and Paeroa held on Mondays and Tuesdays respectively, can be made by calling the Council on 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or 07 862 8609.**

## Public Notice

### Kerbside Refuse and Recycling Collection - Labour Day

Due to Monday 27 October, 2014 being a statutory holiday, all collections scheduled for that week will be carried out a day later than normal.

Please see the schedule below showing the changes to your collection day for the week of 27 to 31 October 2014.

Township	Collection Day	What to put out
Whiritoa	Tuesday 28 October	Refuse and Recycling
Kerepehi	Thursday 30 October	Refuse and Recycling
Ngatea	Thursday 30 October	Refuse only
Turua	Thursday 30 October	Refuse and Recycling
Waitakaruru	Thursday 30 October	Refuse only
Kaiaua	Thursday 30 October	Refuse only
Waihi	Friday 31 October	Refuse and Recycling
Waikino	Friday 31 October	Refuse and Recycling
Karangahake	Friday 31 October	Refuse only
Mackaytown	Friday 31 October	Refuse only
Paeroa	Friday 31 October	Refuse only

Ken Thompson  
District Engineer  
Hauraki District Council

## SITUATION VACANT

### Economic Development Support Officer

(Fixed-term 6 months)

If you have a positive can-do attitude and attributes that reflect our values of respect, communication and commitment, then we would love to hear from you.

As the Economic Development Support Officer you will be responsible for a variety of administration tasks as well as investigating and facilitating development opportunities in the Hauraki District.

The successful applicant will be highly computer literate and be able to interact positively with people from all walks of life. Meeting agendas and minutes, report preparation and assisting with events and functions will all be part of this role so an ability to be organised and accurate will be key attributes.

A Tertiary degree in Business and 1-2 years of relevant experience is preferred.

This role is for a fixed-term period of 6 months.

For further details or to apply electronically please visit our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz), or contact:

Sue Greenville on 07 862 5024, or

Julie Sweeney on 07 862 5023

**Applications close on 7 November 2014**

**"At Hauraki District Council... it's more than just a job!"**

LD Covers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council

## Waihi Library to close its doors for a day

Labour weekend is taking on extra meaning at the Waihi Library - with the builders returning to complete some final plastering and exterior work on the new facility.

This work needed to wait until a suitable long weekend, and as it will require ladders and scaffolding being erected around the entrance pillars at both sets of doors, **the Waihi Library will be closed on the Saturday morning of October 25** in the interest of public safety.

We'll be advertising the closure at the Library, as well as on the District Libraries website and Facebook page. We apologise for any inconvenience. However, residents are always welcome to use our Paeroa library on the Saturday morning.

Waihi borrowers will get an 'extension' on any books and other items that would normally be due back on October 25.