



HDC NEWS



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Shared sports facilities is Councillors long term game plan

A hands-on visit to some of the Waikato Region's top sporting facilities recently has provided plenty of food for thought for Hauraki District Councillors and Council Community Services staff.

"Practical things are often so much better than sitting round a table talking," said Deputy Mayor, Bruce Gordon, "When you can actually physically see what's happening somewhere else, you can go home and cut your cloth to suit."

The trip, which included a tour of world class Lake Karapiro rowing complex and a visit to a cleverly constructed, low budget multi-sports facility in Putaruru, reinforced the view that shared sports facilities are the way to go. For instance, around 60,000 players from Whangamata, Morrinsville, Matamata, and further afield, swing their sticks on Ngatea's high quality hockey turf every year. To try and duplicate something like that in every community is not going to work, said Deputy Mayor Gordon.

"Most towns have netball courts of some description, but it would be good to focus on having one really quality Netball Centre somewhere," he said.

Paeroa Ward Chairperson, Julie Bubb agrees. She's long supported the idea of creating high quality regional facilities, not necessarily in the Hauraki District but within driving distance of the District, and says the field trip cemented this idea. She's seen some top notch facilities close to shared Council boundaries in the Nelson/Tasman region.

"Everyone wants amazing facilities in their town but we simply can't afford to have them in every centre. Regions need to pool resources and be prepared to share more facilities," she said.

Waihi's Morgan Park development project, which aims to create a central sporting hub for at least 14 different sporting codes, is a good example of how sharing facilities within a town can work too, Waihi Ward Chairperson, Harry Shepherd, said.

"Not only will this development centralise sports in Waihi, it will mean clubs can share overheads and other costs – as they say a problem shared is a problem halved."

For Deputy Mayor Gordon it's all about looking at the big picture in terms of facilities without getting parochial about it.

"We need to look at sites for shared facilities that will work for the whole region without saying you can't have it there because it's not in my town."

How happy are you?

Paeroa drivers are happier with the state of our roads (excluding highways) than motorists in Waihi and Ngatea. People in town are cheerier about what comes out of their taps than their gumboot-wearing counterparts. Almost everyone is content with our library services, and less than half of us are prepared should an earthquake or other Civil Defence emergency rumbles our way.

That's according to the results of this year's Annual Satisfaction Survey. Every year we organise an independent survey to help us work out how satisfied you are with our services. If you're one of the 400 random residents called by a Key Research Ltd representative this June/July – thank you taking the time out of your busy day to answer our questions.

According to you, we've improved our resource consenting process, building services, land drainage, and the quality of our water supply, but you need a bit more help understanding our decision making processes – not to mention a bit more encouragement in the area of emergency preparedness. If you haven't already – write up a Civil Defence plan and get an emergency survival kit organised today!

For more Civil Defence information go to www.getthru.govt.nz

Summary of Survey Results 2014 the highs and lows

Council services:

- Wastewater – 94% satisfied (98% in 2013)
- Libraries – 96% satisfied (96% in 2013)
- Sports Fields and Reserves – 90% satisfied (94% in 2013)
- Swimming pools – 87% satisfied (87% in 2013)
- Solid waste – 87% satisfied (86% in 2013)
- Stormwater – 74% satisfied (83% in 2012)
- Quality of Council water supply – 81% satisfied (79% in 2013)
- Building services – 79% satisfied (78% in 2013)
- Roading – 72% satisfied (72% in 2013)
- Resource consent process – 76% satisfied (71% in 2013)
- Land drainage – 76% satisfied (70% in 2013)
- Value for money of Council supplied water – 63% satisfied (69% in 2013)

Other Council functions:

- Customers confident in Council decision making – 72% (76% in 2013)
- Customers understanding of Council decision making processes – 62% (60% in 2013)
- Those in the community who are prepared for a Civil Defence emergency – 41% (44% in 2013)

To review the full results go to the Council website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or for further information call the Council on 07 862 8609.

Concert livens up Council Chambers

It wasn't quite the Vector Arena, but the inside of Hauraki District Council chambers was certainly a bit livelier than usual last Friday afternoon when the Mayor, Councillors and Council staff were treated to an impromptu concert by the Silk Road Cultural Exchange group from Taiwan.

Staying at the Flying Phoenix Trust Academy of Studies, just out of Waihi, the group was booked to perform at the Auckland War Memorial Hall to a sold out show last Sunday night. With an hour or two up its sleeve last Friday the group offered to perform for Council in acknowledgement of its connection with the District.

Hauraki District Council Community Development Officer, John McIver, said the performance comprised of singing and music from a wide range of unusual instruments he'd never seen or heard of before, that certainly gave him an appreciation of the group's cultural expressions. One of the instruments was quite cleverly used to make a variety of animal noises including a horse and a frog. "It was one of those little teasers, like a taste. It would have been good to see the full performance" said John.

Hauraki District Mayor John Tregidga said Council was very privileged to hear the group perform. Mr Wen-Lung Wang who played the Erhu (Taiwanese violin) has performed in many countries and Mr Hung-Ju Lee is an exceptional Chinese ink and wash artist.

"Due to our contacts with Taiwan and the Waihi Academy, Hauraki has been very fortunate to have seen such talented people perform," he said.

Before heading back to Taiwan the group plans to return to Paeroa for a performance at the Ohinemuri Retirement Home, followed by a formal Maori welcome at Ngahutoitoi Marae.



Recycling Hot Tip!

Clean plastics graded from 1 to 7 can go into your kerbside wheelie bin – look on the underside of the item for a triangular recycling logo with a number in the centre.

Creative NZ Communities Scheme Funding

The District Assessment Committee consisting of Councillor Harry Shepherd and community representatives including Anne Leonard, Dermot Kelly, John MacReady and Iwi representative Winn Brownlee along with the Community Development Officer meet twice a year - September and March - to consider applications for funding under the Creative NZ Communities Scheme.

For the 2013/14 term the committee received 15 applications requesting \$32,296.37. These were assessed by the committee who approved 13 applications allocating funds totalling \$14,679.40.

The successful applicants were:

- **Troupe Waihi** - \$900.00 towards a street theatre
- **John Mulvay** - \$500.00 towards a large mural
- **Paeroa Little Theatre** - \$798.00 toward the production of "Nobody's Fool"
- **Paeroa Society of Arts** - pottery group - \$500.00 towards a box making workshop
- **Waikino Victoria Hall Assn** - \$800.00 towards the arts and craft exhibition
- **Waihi Arts Centre and Museum Inc** - \$1,500.00 towards the art exhibition
- **Thames School of Mines and Mineral Museum** - \$795.40 towards the heritage art paint making workshop
- **Paeroa Pipe Bands and Tattoo Committee** - \$1,000.00 towards the highland dancing competitions for youth
- **Sundaise Festival and Productions** - \$1,850.00 towards the two day festival
- **Waihi Art Club** - \$816.00 for the mixed media painting workshop
- **Victoria Hall Association** - \$1,000.00 for the arts craft exhibition
- **Tricia Legg** - \$3020.00 contribution towards the cultural exchange of florists and floral arrangements
- **Glass Creative** - \$1,200.00 for the art exhibition brochures

The Paeroa representative has advised that he will be leaving the area; we are currently advertising for member(s) to the Assessment Committee in time for the September allocation round.