



# HDC NEWS



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## Location, location, location

Got two minutes? Take a look at our new YouTube footage showing why Hauraki is such a special place to live and base a business!

In videos ranging in length from sub-two minutes to almost five minutes, several business owners cite how they have benefited from the support of a business-friendly Council, in a District less than 90 minutes drive from Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga with their major port and airport facilities. Growing technology and infrastructure make the links even closer, and our thriving tourism sector has particularly increased business opportunities.

At the same time, the costs of living and of running a business here are lower than in the cities – thanks to affordable property prices and rentals – and there are no traffic jams or long cross-town commutes. Instead there's a sense of community, and lifestyle attractions such as the Hauraki Rail Trail, beach, bush, and countryside on the doorstep.

We want to spread the word that Hauraki encourages business development, so the Council's Economic Development Manager and Planning team are available to help with local advice. Why not share the YouTube link [www.youtube.com/user/HaurakiDC](http://www.youtube.com/user/HaurakiDC) with people you know?



## Love our libraries!

Our libraries are bucking a national trend in issuing a rising number of books, magazines and other loan items. In other districts around New Zealand, issues are commonly declining.

Patrons borrowed a total of 12,145 items during July, compared with 10,738 in July 2013. In Ngatea, the monthly figure this year was 1,578 issues, up from 1,476. In Paeroa there were 3,952 issues, an increase from 3,448. In Waihi, the number soared by almost 800 issues from 5,814 to 6,615.

District Libraries Manager Sue Lean attributes this to the opening of the new library in Waihi; and a strong emphasis over the past 12 months on weeding out dated books – keeping the collections fresh and relevant and the shelves uncluttered for easier access to new titles.

Library membership has also grown, notably in Waihi where there were 57 new members in July – more than twice the number as the same month a year ago. Since March, when the new building opened, 251 Waihi borrowers have joined the library, compared with 147 in the equivalent period last year.

While a jump in new members was anticipated, the number has “exceeded expectations,” says Waihi Library team leader Karen Wickcliffe. “A wide range of ages and backgrounds is represented, both male and female.”

The introduction of children's programmes in the Waihi Library has been a particular attraction for young families. Staff and community volunteers ran activities every week day of the July school holidays, attracting 393 participants. And a 30-minute Toddler Time focused on rhythm, rhyme and storytelling has just been established during school terms, starting at 11am each Tuesday.

The scope for similar programmes in the Paeroa and Ngatea libraries is limited by space constraints at present, but staff are looking into what could be achieved on a smaller scale until the new Paeroa library is built.

In all three District libraries, locals and visitors are taking advantage of the free wi-fi service. Last month, the total number of sessions was 3,389, significantly higher than the 2,118 recorded in July 2013.

Although library desktop computers are available, too, and getting greater use in the Ngatea Library, demand for these sessions has dropped in Waihi and Paeroa. “A lot of people are bringing in their own laptops, tablets, and smart phones,” says Karen.

To get full access to all library services, Hauraki residents and the members of neighbouring Districts' libraries can join for free.



## Inside view of sports centres

On September 1 our Councillors will check out a number of major regional sports centres and smaller provincial facilities – but there won't be time for play.

The goal of the day-tour hosted by Sport Waikato is to seek ideas about what other councils have done, as a result of Waikato Councils contributing to a Waikato regional sports facilities plan. This will provide a 'stocktake' of the facilities already operating and their condition, and assess what else is needed and where.

The first stop for Councillors will be Brian Perry Sports House in Hamilton – the head office of Sport Waikato. The itinerary also includes Hamilton's EastLink multisport complex, high performance watersports hub Lake Karapiro, the Cambridge High School gymnasium, the Cambridge Avantirome track cycling centre, the Putaruru Sports Arena, and Putaruru Primary School's Bikes in Schools programme.

## Fieldwork in the spotlight

Some drainage problems on the Paeroa Domain No.1 sports field have been caused by compaction and sealing off the playing surface during recent wet weather matches. This has resulted in sections of the field becoming wet with the underground drainage system not being able to work as well as they should.

Our turf contractor has twice 'spiked' the field to a depth of approximately 200mm – this process breaks through the surface seal, allowing the drainage to function more efficiently. However this is only a short-term fix.

We've now got our Hamilton-based turf advisor on the job, to investigate the underlying issues – literally – and provide options for addressing them. A full report will enable us to make the best decisions for the future of this asset.

## Are you entitled to a rates rebate?

Good news for low-income homeowners: the government has increased the thresholds for its rates rebates scheme, making more people eligible for a subsidy.

Ratepayers can now receive a maximum annual income of \$24,250.00, plus \$500 for each dependent, to qualify for a full \$605 rebate. People with an income of up to \$40,000 may still be entitled to some assistance, depending on the rates amount and the number of dependants in the household.

Council will send out letters to Hauraki homeowners who have previously received a rebate, encouraging them to apply again. The Department of Internal Affairs requires people to apply every year for their rebate.

Brochures are also being distributed with newsletters from all schools, so those that may be eligible because of dependants have a better chance of becoming aware of the eligibility criteria.

Rebate applicants can make a 15-minute appointment at a council office, with a Customer Services Officer. Customer Service Staff are authorised to take the statutory declaration required by the Department of Internal Affairs. Every endeavour is made to ensure that these short interviews are friendly and private.

Alternatively you can contact us to have a form posted to you or download a copy of the application from [http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/RRSApplication-form-](http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/RRSApplication-form-2013-14-A4.pdf/$file/RRSApplication-form-2013-14-A4.pdf)

[2013-14-A4.pdf/\\$file/RRSApplication-form-2013-14-A4.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/RRSApplication-form-2013-14-A4.pdf/$file/RRSApplication-form-2013-14-A4.pdf). If you are completing the form yourself you will need to get the Statutory Declaration witnessed by a Solicitor, JP, Notary Public, Court Registrar or MP, before mailing it to Council.

If you are unable to come into a Council Office, home visits are available by arrangement. Council staff really will go the extra mile to assist!

Wage or salary earners need to bring a summary of earnings and a bank interest statement, for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 to their appointment. Self-employed workers need to supply an income summary for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 from the Inland Revenue

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### 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 September 2014 at the Paeroa Council Chambers, 1 William Street, Paeroa \*unless otherwise stated.

#### Ward Committees

Tuesday, 9 September 2014  
Plains Ward - 9.00am  
Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm  
Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

#### Operations Committee

Wednesday, 10 September 2014 - 9.00am

#### Audit and Risk Committee

Wednesday, 10 September 2014 - 1.00pm

#### Judicial Committee

Monday, 8 September 2014 - 9.00am  
Monday, 22 September 2014 - 9.00am

#### District Licensing Committee Hearing

Thursday, 18 September 2014 - 1.00pm

#### Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday, 24 September 2014 - 9.00am

#### Western Plains District Drainage Committee

\*Ngatea Office, 84 Orchard West Road, Ngatea  
Tuesday, 30 September 2014 - 10.30am

#### Eastern Plains District Drainage Committee

\*Ngatea Office, 84 Orchard West Road, Ngatea  
Tuesday, 30 September 2014 - 1.30pm

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meeting was cancelled.

#### District Licensing Committee Hearing

Monday, 18 August 2014 - 1.00pm

## HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

The Hearing of Submissions will be held at the Hauraki District Council Chambers, 1 William Street, Paeroa on Wednesday, 27 August 2014 from 1.00pm onwards for the:

- Draft Local Approved Products (Legal Highs) Policy, and
- Draft Class 4 Gambling Venue and New Zealand Racing Board Gambling Venue Policy Review.

The public may attend to listen to the hearing proceedings. Only those persons that submitted on the above Draft Policies and indicated that they wished to speak in support of their written submission will be permitted to speak.

A Summary of Submissions document that includes a copy of all submissions received with a brief summary and staff comment for each submission is available to view at the Council service centres in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi.

LD Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council

Department or an accountant.

Those receiving income assistance need only bring their bank interest statement for the previous financial year, as the Council has been instructed to use pre-printed benefit schedules for this calculation, however if you have received Accommodation Supplement throughout the year you do need to supply a statement showing the amount of Accommodation Supplement received.

Applicants must have been living at the relevant property as at 1 July 2014.

The deadline for applications is 30 June 2015, but we encourage you to apply early in order to gain the benefits of the rebate throughout the rating year.