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Speakers are back 'home' for Anzac Day



After the 6am Dawn Parades ushering in Anzac Day tomorrow, 'homegrown' guest speakers will address most of the district's public commemoration services.

Major William (Billy) Vince will speak at the 9.15am service in the War Memorial Hall in Paeroa, the town where he was born and raised by his grandparents. He was the only boy among eight siblings; and as a descendant of Ngati Tamatera, he spent a lot of his younger years around Te Pai O Hauraki and Ngahutoitoti Marae.

Billy attended Paeroa Central School and Paeroa College and joined the New Zealand Army as a storeman/clerk in 1977 at age 17. In his 28 years as a soldier he worked mainly in field force and training units before being promoted to commissioned officer ranks. Currently based at Waiouru, he has had postings throughout New Zealand and in Singapore; and has served on deployments to Australia, South East Asia, the United Kingdom, Europe, East Timor, Canada and the United States.

Flight Lieutenant Patricia Smith (nee O'Neill) will share some of her experiences at the 11.15am service in the Ngatea War Memorial Hall. Patricia attended Ngatea Primary School and then Hauraki Plains College. As a secondary student she paved the way for her career in joining the 37th Thames Squadron Air Training Corps – so it's fitting that current Ngatea members of the squadron will this year be among the many young people involved in

the Anzac Day civic service.

After leaving school Patricia enlisted with the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and her service has included a stint in the Solomon Islands and eight months in Afghanistan. Now in her early 30s, she's based at Whenuapai with her pilot husband and their children.

At Kaihere Hall, where the 9:30am Anzac Day service is organised by the Kaihere Community Committee, Trentham-based Warrant Officer Class 1 Paul 'Macka' McKinney will speak to an expected 200 people. He grew up in the community, spent five years welding at Quinn Bale Boys (now Quinn Engineering), and played rugby for Hauraki North – an association he maintained when he joined the Army at age 22.

In his 29-year career as a driver and commander, Macka has twice been deployed to Egypt as part of the peace process between Egypt and Israel, as well as to Angola and to East Timor. He says this last deployment, helping to restore stability and normality, was particularly rewarding. "We identified with the family and community values, and thanks to the practical contributions typical of Kiwis, we were able to bring in clothing, toys, books and stationery – supplying hospitals and getting schools up and running."

Macka still loves and enjoys serving his country, and considers it an honour to share aspects of that at Kaihere's Anzac commemoration. He has a real sense of "coming home" to people he grew up with and who have meant a lot to him.

In the Waihi Memorial Hall at 11am, the key speaker will be local resident Hugh Moran, an Army veteran and a past president of the Ttirangi RSA. His move to Waihi was partly influenced by the town being home to some

fellow members of his company in Vietnam.

Hugh's Anzac address will focus on a man he was once privileged to meet and talk to – whose name has been made familiar by the prestigious annual ANZ RSA Cyril Bassett VC Speech Competition. "But who was Cyril Bassett? Most people don't know," he says.

Everyone is welcome to attend the civic services, which will be preceded by street parades. In Ngatea and Kaihere the services will be followed by the unveiling of names on the respective memorial walls.

The Waihi Memorial RSA will also hold a short 8am ceremony at the Waihi Cemetery.



Accessibility - have a say in our audit

Accessibility: ease of physical access.

In a Council context, how readily can residents or visitors park their vehicles? Access community halls, pensioner housing, reserves, swimming pools and playgrounds? Use footpaths, libraries or online information?

Audit: a systematic review or examination, typically involving independent assessment.

That's where you come into our upcoming audit of Council facilities, mobility spaces, footpaths, kerb ramps, crossings, street furniture; tactile aids, and temporary traffic management work. As independent users, we'd like your feedback about any accessibility issues in the towns of Waihi, Paeroa and Ngatea.

As part of our Accessibility Action Plan to provide for a coordinated improvement of Council-owned assets and activities, we're hosting open invitation community meetings on Wednesday 7 May, in liaison with CCS Disability Action and an expert accessibility auditor. Our contracted auditor will give a short presentation, and town maps will be provided at each venue to enable people to pinpoint specific areas of concern. While the focus will be on the town centres within a cordon of about 500m, key areas outside that may be included in the official audit that takes

Operation Wasp Control

A plague of wasps is keeping Council staff busy in parks and reserves around the district, dealing with up to eight nests per day.

In total, between 40 and 50 nests have recently been poisoned – many times more than usual, says parks and reserves manager Steve Clark. The problem has been attributed to an almost frost-free winter last year, followed by a warm summer. And the present situation is likely to continue until the arrival of a cold snap.

Meanwhile, anyone noticing wasp nests on reserves should report the location to the Council.

place shortly afterward.

The meetings follow informal discussion groups in the three communities last September, which resulted in a number of issues raised by residents being incorporated in the Accessibility Action Plan.

Your ongoing views are important, so mark your diary with these opportunities on 7 May to contribute to the auditing process. No RSVP is required.

Waihi Memorial Hall tea room: 10 - 11.30am
Paeroa Council Chambers: 1 - 2.30pm
Ngatea War Memorial Hall tea room: 3.30 - 5pm

Anyone with queries can contact Charan Mischewski on 0800 734 834 (from within the district), or email charan@hauraki-dc.govt.nz .



PUBLIC NOTICE

TENDER FOR GRAZING KAIHERE ROAD - NGATEA

Council invites tenders for the grazing of land at 246 Kaihere Road, Ngatea. The area of land for grazing is 39.83ha. The term of the lease is 1 year with 1 year right of renewal total 2 year term starting from 1st July 2014.

Details of the tender are available from Council's Paeroa Service Centre, William Street, Paeroa or by phoning Dennis Lees, Property Manager, on 07 862 8609 or 027 4875609.

The last date for receipt of tender is Friday 16th May 2014 at 4.00pm .

Council reserve the right not to accept any or every tender submitted.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

