



HDC NEWS



The best small town rowing club in New Zealand

According to more than one visiting expert, Hauraki Plains College and Districts Rowing Club has some of the best training water in New Zealand. The Club's mission statement is to be the best small town rowing club in New Zealand.

"Our river is absolutely fit for the purpose," says committee member Mike Speedy, "we're training on a 4km long canal that's straight as an arrow. Hauraki has produced more than a dozen international athletes since 1974."

He's one of a group of dedicated locals whose dream of building an Olympic standard, launching pontoon on the Piako River at the Rowing Club, opposite Hauraki Plains College, has recently come true.

Up until a few weeks ago, rowers, who traditionally train at first light, have had to clambour through mud and skid down a slippery wooden ramp in the dark to get to the water – not always an easy task with a \$35,000 boat carried by four kids. This Sunday, Club and community members, will attend the grand opening of the pontoon that has changed everything.

"It will make such a difference to our efficiency in training," says Speedy, "we'll be able to spend so much more time on the water, as opposed to mucking around getting boats into the water."

As often happens in small communities, a group of passionate locals got together in 2011, came up with a plan, and decided to make it happen. Rowing Club committee members Dennis Williams, Mike Speedy, Chris Whitton and Henri Schipper drove to Wanganui to look at the Wanganui Rowing Club's pontoon, following advice it experienced similar tidal conditions to those on the Piako River. Silage making, phone book delivering, casualty calf collection, and other fundraising initiatives followed. The local community donated hugely to the cause. Trust Waikato and Hauraki District Council chipped in. North Power supplied street lighting. Environment Waikato donated and placed tanalised piles. Ten floating concrete and polystyrene segments were pre-fabricated in a local workshop by club members. Concrete foundations the size of two cricket pitches were poured on the stop bank beside the College. Lastly, the pontoon segments were put together and attached to a 10m long, 3m wide steel



Ready to launch: The finished pontoon in the calm waters of the Piako River. Photo courtesy of Mike Speedy

and timber walkway with hinges to allow for the fluctuating three and a half metre tide.

Hauraki District Deputy Mayor, Bruce Gordon says the finished product is a real credit to the rowing club members who've made it happen.

"Their input has been tremendous. It's an absolutely outstanding project and a real community asset – not just for the rowing club but for the rest of the community too. Already kids are fishing off it and it will open doors for other things like kayaking and Waka Ama," he says.

For the Rowing Club it's all about providing opportunities for local kids.

"We're pretty proud of what we've achieved," says Speedy, "We knew if we created the right infrastructure, slots would get filled and that's exactly what's happened. We now have a coach, (Campbell Clayton-Green) who's competed in two Olympic campaigns and current Club president Natalie Sorenson, is a past NZ rower. We've got an Olympic quality launching facility. We will carry on pumping out individual, class athletes – it's that simple."

The official opening of Hauraki Plains College and Districts Rowing Club's new launching pontoon is at 1.00pm this Sunday September 28, opposite Hauraki Plains College. All welcome.

Let's get engaged!

Feedback needed on draft Significance and Engagement Policy

Obviously we're not asking you to marry us, but we do have a proposal for you.

In August this year, Central Government passed a number of amendments to the Local Government Act, 2002, one of which requires us to develop and adopt a Significance and Engagement Policy, to replace our existing Significance Policy.

What is a Significance and Engagement Policy?

They say honesty is the best policy – but this one's pretty interesting too. The idea is to provide Council with a how-to guide on community engagement around important issues and decisions. How and when should we consult with you? Should we hold public meetings? Write you letters? Phone you at home? Invite you out for a drink? Just joking about that last one – but you get the idea.

We've had a good think about it and developed a draft policy which includes a Community Engagement toolbox to assist us in determining the level of engagement required for different types of issues and decisions.

Now we want to find out whether we've understood what's important to you and, in particular, how you'd like to be involved with important proposals and decisions.

Do you have an opinion about what the really important ("significant") issues are to our community and how or when the community should be involved when Council is making decisions about them? - tell us about it!

We've put together a survey around all this that we really hope you'll take the time to fill out. It can be downloaded (along with the draft policy) from our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz – or simply phone 07 862 8609 or call into one of our offices or libraries in Paeroa, Ngatea or Waihi to pick up a copy of these documents.

Council will be accepting completed surveys from Friday 26 September to Friday 10 October, 2014. We look forward to hearing from you!

When will the new policy come into effect?

Council is required to adopt a Significance and Engagement Policy no later than 1 December, 2014.

What would you do in a civil defence emergency?

It's Get Ready Week and there's no better time to start thinking about what you would do if a natural disaster hit right now.

What would you do if a natural disaster hit while you were in your car?

What would you do if you couldn't get home that night?

www.getthru.govt.nz

According to our recent Satisfaction Survey less than half of you have a household emergency plan prepared, an emergency survival kit on hand, or a getaway kit at the ready.

Right now is the perfect time to put something together. Tomorrow may be too late.

Tip: If you have pets, domestic animals or livestock remember to include them in your emergency planning too. Do you have any emergency food and water supply for them? If in the event of an evacuation, do you have a plan in place to ensure pigs, poultry and horses are secure with access to shelter, food and water?

PUBLIC NOTICES

INTENDED AGRI-CHEMICAL APPLICATION

Weather permitting, herbicide applications will be made to property administered by Hauraki District Council. This will include Parks & Reserves, footpaths and walkways. Both Roundup and Versatill will be used between the months of September 2014 to January 2015.

This work will be carried out by the Council's C&M Department, contractors or Waihi Walkways.

All applicators will be Grow safe accredited.

For further details please phone Hauraki District Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834.

CANCELLATION OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Western Plains District Drainage Committee
Tuesday, 30 September 2014

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Public meeting

Talisman Gold Mine Exploratory Underground Drilling and Blasting Resource Consent

How does this affect me?

How does this affect the environment?

Does this mean there will be mining in the Karangahake Gorge?

Last year Hauraki District Council granted resource consent to New Talisman Gold Mines Ltd to undertake exploratory underground drilling and blasting at the existing Talisman Gold Mine in Karangahake.

Over the last few weeks there has been some speculation and misinformation around what this actually means.

Hauraki District Mayor John Tregidga, Councillors, and Council staff invite all local residents and ratepayers to attend a public meeting to address any concerns and answer questions around this resource consent.

Where: Paeroa War Memorial Hall

When: 6.00pm, Tuesday September 30

Do you need a Computer Tutor?

Having trouble understanding your computer?

Before you biff it out the window in frustration or take to it with a hammer, we may be able to help.

A computer mentor will be available soon at Paeroa District Library to offer free one-on-one help with things like setting up an email account, or writing a CV.

To make an appointment give us a call on 07 862 8609 (0800 734 834 within the District) or pop into the library and see us.

