

The grass isn't always greener ...

HDC Young Achievers Awards 2014 - Sven van Amelsfort

Fish your feet first – so the old saying goes. In other words, sometimes the best opportunities are right under your nose. It's something Pipiroa boat building apprentice and keen surfcaster, Sven van Amelsfort, knows better than most. He's been catching fish within casting distance of the Thames Coast shoreline for years. More recently, he's hooked into a great career just down the road from the Waitakaruru home he spent his teenage years practising the drums in.

Sven's opportunity knocked three and a half years ago on the side line of a Saturday morning football game. Chatting to Lifestyle Yachts Ltd owner, Aaron Beattie, in between cheering on Sven's younger brother's team, his mother mentioned Sven's ambition of becoming a boat builder. Beattie, who had worked for or contracted to, some of New Zealand's top Super Yacht builders before starting his own luxury boat building business in Pipiroa, was looking for someone to train. A year 12 Hauraki Plains College student at the time, Sven jumped at the offer of after school work and Beattie was impressed enough to offer him an apprenticeship when he finished school at the end of 2011.

"Sven gets involved in all areas of building boats, from the long, tiring and boring jobs of longboarding the hulls to fitting the highly polished deck gear, with the same sense of hard work and pride in what he is doing to achieve the best possible outcome," he wrote, when nominating his young apprentice for an HDC Young Achievers Award earlier this year.

To date, Sven's helped launch three luxury catamarans in the Pipiroa River at high tide, and is currently helping build a 50ft trimaran which will be used as a passenger-cargo vessel to service the Niua Islands of Tonga. The intricacy of boat building in comparison to straight carpentry is what appeals to him most about the job, along with being part of a small, close-knit team.



"There's often more opportunity than people realise in smaller districts – although I was especially lucky," says Sven.

"I'm not just a number here. In a small team your employer has more time to teach you and you can't hide or slack off. If you're not pulling your weight it's pretty obvious – the work just doesn't get done," he says.

On track to become a NZQA boat building tradesman within the next two years, Sven's put his new found skills to good use outside of work too. Having already made a set of snare drums and a snow board, he's now halfway through building a 12ft Hartley runabout at home. His Young Achievers Award was unexpected but very much appreciated and proof the grass is not always greener on the other side of the Hauraki District boundary sign.

"If you see an opportunity locally go for it," he advises others, "don't flick it off thinking another will come along and maybe don't be too picky. I know people who've turned down local opportunities and gone to Auckland and are now doing nothing."

Welcome to our dog-friendly areas

'No Dogs' signs are posted in some places for good reasons, such as at Rays Rest reserve at Kaiaua to protect the adjacent bird sanctuary. But if you're a dog owner or holiday time dog-sitter, you'll want to know about the many areas in the District where you and your pets can share a good walk or romp!

On a leash

Dogs are allowed on several sections of the Hauraki Rail Trail, if they're kept on a leash in consideration of other trail users and the neighbouring farmers. Between Paeroa and Te Aroha, dogs are welcome from the southern side of the Opukeko Stream Bridge to Ryall Road. Heading from Paeroa toward Karangahake, dogs can exercised from the Opukeko Stream Bridge to the intersection of Rotokohu Road and Te Moanui Flats Road.

Continuing to Waikino, there's another dog-friendly stretch of trail from Bridge Street at Karangahake to the gateway immediately south

of the western end of the footbridge over the Ohinemuri River, next to the Victoria Battery. At the Waihi end of the trail, head for the northern (town) side of the Hauraki Rail Trail Swing Bridge.

On the Kaiaua coast, dogs on a leash can stretch their legs between the 50kph sign at the southern boundary of the township and the Waihopuhopu Stream bridge.

Without a leash but under control

On the main beach at Whiritoa, dogs can be exercised without a leash outside peak holiday times, provided they're under the effective control of their owners or minders. However, restrictions apply from December 20 to March 1 and on public holiday weekends, when dogs are excluded from the beach and lagoon area between the hours of 9.00am and 7.00pm.

A leash is also optional in the designated dog exercise area at Kaiaua, from the Waihopuhopu Stream bridge to the Council's northern boundary.

Other specific dog exercise areas include the stop bank

land owned by the Waikato Regional Council at Ngatea and at Paeroa south of the Criterion bridge, apart from any signposted areas that may be sub-leased for purposes such as grazing.

Alternatively, dogs are free to burn off energy at Brenan Field in Paeroa, behind the netball courts at Morgan Park in Waihi, and at Waihi South Reserve in Consols Street – excluding playing field, skatepark, and children's playground areas.

Tail end

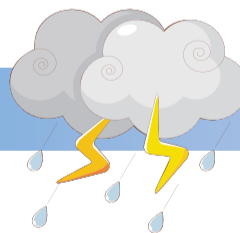
Wherever dogs enjoy the great outdoors this summer, we do remind owners to think of everyone by picking up any 'doggie doo' their animals leave.

We're happy to answer any questions about dog exercise, or other matters related to dog control or ownership. You can contact us on 0800 734 834 (from within the district) or 07 862 8609.

Wind + recycling = trouble!

"When I left my recycling bin at the kerb, a force 12 gale whipped it away and it vanished completely after strewing tins and plastic and paper rubbish all down the street."

- This may sound a lot like "the dog ate my homework", but it could happen in high winds or a storm, and severe weather events are beyond anyone's control.
- If the bins themselves are blown away and lost or damaged through no fault of the contractor, the property owner will have to pay for a replacement. Even if this doesn't happen, at the very least it's likely to cause a litter issue – aggravated if a lot of bins are involved.
- Council can't postpone a recycling collection day because of severe weather. The contractor's available people and equipment are fully committed across the three districts that the contract serves, to be able to deliver the service economically. This makes rescheduling difficult even with a long notice period, and practically impossible on the collection day.
- **What's the answer?**
- We're asking residents to use common sense about putting their bins out for collection on very windy or stormy days. If you or a neighbour is at home, it may be practical to take your wheelie bin out to 'meet' the truck. Otherwise, you may need to skip a fortnight until the following recycling day.
- If necessary, you can put out extra glass in a free-draining crate. This needs to be about the same size as the official glass crate, to allow it to be supported on the truck while the driver colour-sorts the glass.
- Don't forget that pre-paid refuse bags and recycling can be taken to the Refuse Transfer Station for free if you miss a collection.



PUBLIC NOTICES

FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

Pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act notice is hereby given that the Hauraki District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw has been reviewed and the Statement of Proposal will be available from Friday 31 October, 2014 for public submissions. The submission period closes 4.30pm on Monday 1 December, 2014.

The Statement of Proposal can be viewed on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or to request a copy please contact Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (freephone from within Hauraki District).

Submissions received will be considered by Council at a Hearing on Wednesday 17 December, 2014 at the Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa. If you wish to discuss the proposal, please contact Charan Mischewski on 07 862 8609 or email charan@hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

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 in the Council Office, William Street, Paeroa during the month of November 2014.

Audit & Risk Committee

Tuesday, 18 November - 9.00am

Ward Committees - Tuesday, 11 November

Plains Ward - 9.00am

Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm

Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

Operations Committee

Wednesday, 12 November - 9.00am

Judicial Committee (if required)

Monday 3 November - 9.00am

Monday, 17 November - 9.00am

Western Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday, 25 November - 10.30am

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday, 26 November - 9.00am

LD Covers

Chief Executive

Hauraki District Council