



# HDC NEWS



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HALF NUGGET START 2015

Photo: Asse Bosch – Lumina

## Chance to strike the Nugget!

Our early gold seekers needed an appetite for adventure and plenty of grit. Entrants in the Nugget Multisport Festival on 7 May mightn't need to be quite so tough, but they're being lured into the same hills and the prospect of being richer for the experience.

The event takes in the goldmining town of Waihi, the spectacular Waihi Beach to Homunga coastline with its towering cliffs and hidden beaches, bush trails, private farmland, and the Martha Mine near the finish line at Waihi's iconic Cornish pumphouse. Two multisport race options and three runs offer individuals and teams the chance to cycle, paddle, foot it or mountain bike through this diverse and stunning scenery.

Entries for the sixth annual festival are ahead of the same time last year – when numbers swelled to a record 890, says event director Mark Samson. While one entry has been received from as far away as Alberta, Canada, it's close-to-home support that is notably growing. "Historically, Auckland has provided our strongest market, but so far this year, Waikato and Bay of Plenty entries are virtually level with those from Auckland."



ON THE RUN AGAIN:  
Leon Rutter-Smith – pictured leading his age-group in the 2015 national triathlon champs in Auckland – is looking forward to the 21km trail run in this year's Nugget multisport festival.

One local who has fronted up for every event is Waihi College head science teacher Leon Rutter-Smith. The Waihi Beach resident has competed in full Nugget teams, taken on the Half Nugget solo, and tackled the 21km trail run – which he has entered again this year.

Leon describes the course as "brilliant, scenic and challenging. The event is well organised, with great support from the community and great marshals. [Living here] means no travelling or accommodation costs – and entry fees stay in this community! I can even jog to the start line as a warm-up... perfect!"

The Nugget evolved from the Waihi-based event in the trans-Tasman 2010 Anaconda Adventure Race series. It was then run by a professional event management company for three years, until being gifted to the Vision Waihi Trust in 2014.

Mark says the Council has "backed the Nugget from year one with a grant from the Waihi ward, and many past and present local Councillors kindly work as marshals on the day. This support is very much appreciated, and along with our other sponsorship has helped to build the event into one of the largest multisport events in New Zealand."

All the local event crew work on a volunteer basis, and all proceeds go to local charities, he says. "It's great for Waihi and the District, and helps to raise the profile of the area amongst a very large audience."

The course has been slightly tweaked for 2016, by removing the street section at the end of the mountain bike leg, and altering the final run at Martha Mine due to drilling activity. The event prize giving venue has also shifted, from the Waihi RSA to the Waihi Memorial Hall, so everyone can fit in and enjoy the comfort of seating.

Each of the races has junior, open, and age-group prize categories (from 40-plus Masters through to 60-plus Legends), and some amazing spot prizes are on the line. **Entry information is available on the event website [www.thenugget.co.nz](http://www.thenugget.co.nz).**

## Happy camping in Hauraki

If you're freedom camping in Hauraki, we hope you enjoy the attractions, hospitality and services of our District. The Council encourages responsible freedom camping – recognising that it's part of Kiwi culture, and for many visitors a valued tourist experience. We especially value the cooperative relationship we have with the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association, as we try to protect sensitive areas and at the same time make campervan owners welcome.

But before you head out, it's important to check where you are allowed to freedom camp and whether any restrictions apply, says Local Government New Zealand president Lawrence Yule. "People should also remember to keep their vehicles secure when unattended, and take all rubbish with them."

In the Hauraki District, Ray's Rest at Kaiaua offers absolute beachfront sites for self-contained vehicles displaying current certification, on the only Council reserve where camping is possible. (This excludes the south end of the reserve, adjacent to the Department of Conservation wildlife refuge.)

In Ngatea, designated motorhome parks and a dump station can be found behind the Hauraki District Council office. In Paeroa, there is overnight parking, toilet facilities and a dump station in Marshall Street beside Railway Reserve, just metres from the Hauraki Rail Trail. Another dump station is located at the Victoria (Rocket) Park in Waihi.

Our freedom camping sites are available for a maximum one-night or two-night stay in any calendar month, as indicated by the onsite signage. Please adhere to these limits so that many people have a chance to camp there.

Check the signs for other special conditions, too. For instance at the Paeroa Railway Reserve there's a facilities fee of \$5 per vehicle per night, which must be prepaid at the Caltex service station in Belmont Road.

Photo: Ray's Rest Reserve, Kaiaua



## Karangahake toilets to close for upgrade

We're set to make improvements to the Karangahake Reserve toilets: re-leveling and then re-surfacing the floors, and installing soap dispensers and hand dryers. We'll need to close the facilities while the work takes place, for an estimated two weeks from Monday, 11 April.

With the reserve being one of our most popular visitor attractions, there's never a "quiet" time, and we need to get the job done while the weather allows. So we're using the window of opportunity between Easter and Anzac weekend, to try to minimise inconvenience to the public. Portaloos will be onsite during this period, or rail trail users may wish to make a pit stop at Waikino instead.

We thank people in advance for their understanding, and are sure the end result will be appreciated.

## My bit of rubbish won't make a difference

That's probably what some local residents think when they get into the habit of filling supermarket bags with household refuse and popping them in one of our street bins.

Even if you live alone and don't generate much rubbish, every little bit DOES count. One of our town bins has often been emptied at 5am, only to be full again by 8am! These bins are provided for the use of locals and travellers who need to dispose of items such as food and drink packaging. Please use a prepaid Council kerbside collection bag for household rubbish, or take it to a transfer station.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### LIQUOR BAN 2016

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw that the consumption of alcoholic liquor, the bringing of liquor or of empty liquor containers and the possession of liquor or empty liquor containers in the public places identified below is hereby prohibited during the periods identified below.

#### LIQUOR BANS - WHIRITOA

All public places including roads, beaches and reserves are included in the prohibition for the ANZAC Weekend Public Holiday.

#### Dates and Times – Whiritoa Liquor Ban

During the ANZAC Weekend Public Holiday being from 4.00pm Friday 22 April 2016 to 4.00am Tuesday 26 April 2016.

#### LIQUOR BANS – PAEROA, NGATEA AND WAIHI

That the consumption and bringing into and possession of liquor in all public places including, roads and reserves are *prohibited at all times* within areas of the townships listed below:

#### Waihi

- Within the 50 kilometre speed limit areas of Waihi township, and
- Within the 70 kilometre speed limit of Parry Palm Avenue, east of the Margaret Street/ Kensington Road intersection to the 50 kph speed limit sign east of the Martin Road/ Baber Street intersection.

#### Paeroa and Ngatea

- Within the 50 kilometre speed limit areas of the Paeroa and Ngatea townships.

#### PENALTIES

Any person who commits an offence against the prohibition may be convicted and fined up to \$20,000.

#### POWERS OF POLICE

The Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw authorises any member of the New Zealand Police to act under sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Act 2002, including the exercise of the power under section 170(2) to immediately and without further notice search a container or vehicle.

LD Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council