

Check out our library holiday activities

Looking for a school holiday destination? Our libraries are fun, friendly and cosy places to be.

From July 11 to 25, the **Waihi Library** will have a drop-in programme on every weekday, starting at 1pm. The 60 to 90-minute sessions include bird discovery, musical entertainment, leaf art, crafts, board games, puzzles, and learning secret codes. All materials will be provided and all activities are free, thanks to the generous support of community volunteers. Local and visiting school-age children are welcome.

Paeroa and Ngatea Library will have colouring sheets and other holiday take-home activities available.

We also have lots of new – and old favourite – books and other loan items to check out, such as the finalist titles in the 2016 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults. Our librarians are happy to help you find the perfect holiday fix: whether you just want to curl up with a good read or DVD, or get inspiration for some cooking or a winter project.

Visit the Hauraki District Libraries Facebook page to keep up to date with what's happening at our libraries, or to share your library likes with others!

THE GREAT INDOORS: 12-year-old Makayla Langdale-Hunt enjoys a fabric art session during last July's Waihi Library school holiday programme.



How satisfied are you with Council services?



This is not just another survey! Next week the Council will commence its triennial survey of Hauraki District residents' satisfaction with Council services. It's an opportunity for you to provide constructive feedback on our performance, and for us to use the results as part of our future planning and reporting. The 2016 survey will begin on July 13 and end on August 10.

As well as asking what residents think of Council services in general, specific topical questions will help inform this year's newly elected or re-elected Councillors about current issues facing the District, and guide them in setting priorities for the next three years.

While the survey of 400 people is usually carried out solely by landline phone, this year we have an option for respondents who prefer to engage online. The online questionnaire will be accessible via a Facebook link – so watch out for the post if you'd like to participate in this way.

In conjunction with the satisfaction survey, we're also undertaking two other surveys for recent building consent and resource consent applicants. So if you are randomly chosen from a list of people who have used these Council services in the past year, you may be called and asked to give us your thoughts. It's possible you could be called more than once, due to the random selection process – but don't worry if this happens, as all three surveys are for separate purposes and your feedback on all relevant matters would be appreciated.

What we'll be asking:

- Which township you live in or closest to
- Your age group and gender (but not your name and address)
- Various questions related to communications, recycling, ultrafast broadband, rates, and perceptions of Council
- Various questions regarding your satisfaction with the Council's services in general
- If applicable, questions pertaining to a building or resource consent application that you have lodged (or someone has lodged on your behalf) during the last year.

We won't be asking personal questions other than those listed here. If you are concerned with a phone call you've received, please contact our office on 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or 07 862 8609.

The Council is using the expertise of an external company, Versus Research, to undertake the survey work over the next month. So if you get a call from one of the surveyors, please give them a friendly Hauraki 'hello' and take a little time to answer the easy questions.

Going the whole hog

Have you heard the one about the much loved pet kune kune pig living happily inside his owners' Hauraki home?

Dogs may get a lot of press, but they're not the only focus of the Council's animal control services and bylaws. You may be surprised by the variety of animal issues we respond to!

Wandering stock do cause problems – and for farmers and lifestyle block owners, winter is a good time to check and repair fences to make sure animals are securely contained. Good farm fencing is especially important in view of the new Health and Safety at Work Act that came into effect in April, should there be a motor vehicle accident involving stock.

In the interests of public safety, avoiding nuisance, and animal welfare, the Council also has bylaws related to the keeping of specific animals. For instance, pig keeping isn't permitted in urban areas, and even on rural properties their numbers are limited.



Poultry have requirements for their housing, including size and type of construction. They cannot be kept within 10 metres of a dwelling, factory or any other building; or within two metres of an adjoining property boundary.

Roosters can't be kept in the residential zones of Paeroa, Waihi and Ngatea – and we probably get more complaints about them than any other animals apart from dogs. Often, the offenders appear to have been dumped from elsewhere. If this happens, we ask that property owners try to remove them. If this isn't possible, our helpful animal control officers may be able to assist.

Beekeeping in urban areas requires prior permission from the Council – which is likely to be given only if all the closest neighbours give their approval. This may need further consideration in future, with the current environmental campaigns encouraging more beekeeping, and some schools even teaching it. Meanwhile, one application in Ngatea has been declined because a neighbour objected, even though the adjacent school welcomed the initiative.

Getting on with your neighbours can go a long way in sorting out many animal issues. Otherwise, if you have inquiries or concerns about the control of animals or the bylaws that apply to them, you can contact the Council on 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or 07 862 8609.



Rain brings down stream of rubble

The recent slide of more rubble down the Martha mine's failed north east wall has been visible – and audible – from the pit rim walkway. But there's been no actual new rockfall (up until time of going to press). Rather, loose debris left on the top half of the face after the major slip on April 26 has slid down as a result of heavy rain, especially overnight on Saturday June 25 and during last week.

Waikato Regional Council rainfall figures, recorded 5km away at Golden Cross, show that 160mm of rain fell in the nine days from June 22 to 30: including 60mm in a single day (midnight to midnight) on June 22. Another 19mm of rain was measured the following day, 17.5mm on June 27, 31.5mm on June 29, and 14.5mm on June 30.

With so much water acting as a lubricant, the movement of debris was expected – and we're expecting more of the same, particularly at the top east and west sections of the wall failure, until all the loose material settles at a more stable angle.

The slippage, which remains totally confined within the mining licence area, is "not surprising and has been exacerbated by rain," says Mayor John Tregidga. However he believes potential further developments are a concern. "Careful and close monitoring needs to continue; and as well as receiving regular updates from Oceana Gold, the Council has its own independent consultants involved."



SLIPPERY SLOPE: Heavy rain has acted as a lubricant on the failed north east wall of the Martha pit.