

Hitting the trail a winter warmer

What to do when a Sunday morning serves up frost, ice, a bone chilling breeze, and fog that the sun can't shift? For 137 people on July 3, the answer was to generate their own heat – by footing it from Tirohia to Te Aroha in the first leg of Sport Waikato's 2016 Trail Trilogy fun run and walk series.

Though it wasn't a race, the leading individual entrants set a brisk pace to complete the 13.3km in less than an hour.

Council utilities engineer Dave Richards, whose family team clocked 1 hour 13 minutes after taking on the whole series on the Hauraki Rail Trail last year, says the "freezing" conditions were just part of the challenge. "For me it's about fitness. Entering the events with my high school age son and daughter makes me get out and train, especially with the distances growing progressively longer each month. But they're achievable, especially with the relay option."

The next leg of the series is 21.6km "half marathon" from Waihi to Paeroa on August 14. The finale on September 18 will cover 29km from Paeroa to Thames; or for real distance junkies there's a 100km "ultra".

The family-friendly low-cost Trilogy promotes "off-peak" winter season use of the cycle trail, and gives locals an opportunity to enjoy it in a different way.



FINISH LINE: Entrants arrive at Te Aroha Railway Station.

The events also benefit our towns – with many visitors staying on to buy lunch and enjoy other local attractions – and support community sports groups which receive donations in return for providing volunteer assistance.

For more information about the series, or to enter either or both of the remaining events online, visit www.sportwaikato.org.nz

Council grant will get school's bikers on track

Young cyclists at Ngatea Primary are on a roll. With the assistance of Sport Waikato, they're gaining riding and safety skills through the Bikes in Schools programme, take part in community events like the start of this year's Farmstrong Fit4Farming Cycle Tour of New Zealand, and have received funding for a fleet of school bikes. The only thing missing is a place to ride them.



But soon, students will have a 240m compacted gravel cycling track around the school boundary. Councillors recently approved a Ngatea Ward grant of \$2110.60 that will cover the purchase of construction materials from Kerepehi Transport Ltd. Principal Neil Fraser says the school enormously appreciates the Council's support. "The exercise track is a way we can promote safe, off-road cycling as part of the Bikes in Schools programme, and community members will be able to use it too. It's not a new concept – similar projects have proven successful in a number of schools, including Waihi East."

He says this one has been in the planning for about 15 or 16 months, with the idea that it could merge with the proposed track to run along the border of the Hugh Hayward Domain, and ultimately with the proposed link track to the Kopu-Kaiaua section of

the Hauraki Rail Trail. That has already been discussed by the Ngatea Domain and Hall Management Committee.

The school track – all on school property or the adjoining council land boundary – will start near the playground and run from east to west along the northern fence of the playing field toward the Domain. It will then turn south, passing the trees on the border between the Domain and the school

field, and end between the community swimming pool and the events centre.

Parent and community volunteers have offered their time and use of tractors and other equipment to build the track, says Neil. The timing of construction will depend on the weather – with the fields very wet at present – and the other commitments of the "work force", especially through calving season.

Deputy Mayor Bruce Gordon is delighted that the cycling track is getting off the ground, saying the school is to be congratulated for its initiative. "This will provide a great activity for the children, and a stepping stone toward 'real adventure' on the Hauraki Rail Trail, now that development of the Kopu to Kaiaua leg is starting. I saw the concept at another rural school a couple of years ago, and thought then that it had huge merits."

PUBLIC NOTICE

2016/17 DOG REGISTRATION FEES

Pursuant to Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 the Hauraki District Council by resolution of Council on 30 March 2016 fixed the Dog Control Fees for this registration year - 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

2016/17 Fee Scale (including GST):

Fee Classification	Fee	Fee if paid after 31/07/16
General Dog (entire)	\$82.00	\$123.00
General Dog (de-sexed) ** Vet certificate required	\$67.00	\$100.50
Responsible Owners License (R.O.L.) Dog (entire)	\$52.00	Loss of Licence
Responsible Owners License (R.O.L.) Dog (de-sexed) ** Vet certificate required	\$37.00	Loss of Licence
Dogs in excess of (3) three	\$27.00	\$40.50
Dangerous Dog (entire)	\$123.00	\$184.50
Dangerous Dog (de-sexed) ** Vet certificate required	\$100.50	\$150.75
Replacement tag	\$5.00	

** Vet certificate required for de-sexing rebate

Pound and miscellaneous fees:

First time impoundment	\$50.00
Second time impoundment	\$80.00
Third time impoundment	\$130.00
Sustenance fee per day	\$12.00
Microchipping fee	\$47.00
Consent to keep more than 2 dogs in an urban area	\$52.00
Responsible Owner Licence Scheme application fee	\$32.00
Responsible Owner Licence property inspection fee (R.O.L. transfer from another Council)	\$25.00

Would you like a reduction in dog registration fees?

Have you thought about obtaining a **RESPONSIBLE OWNER LICENCE (R.O.L.)**?

Council's Responsible Owner Licensing scheme rewards those dog owners who keep their dogs under control at all times, and have a good registration history, with a reduced fee (from \$82.00 to \$52.00, or \$37.00 if the dog is de-sexed).

The major criteria to obtain a Responsible Owner Licence are:

- Complete the prescribed application form and pay the non-refundable application fee of \$32.00.
- Have a good record of registration payment history/no complaints, impounding, infringement notices, etc in the preceding 12 months.
- Dog control staff of the Hauraki District Council will inspect your section for a securely fenced property (certain criteria applies).
- Pass a simple written examination on dog care and owner legal obligations.

An information pack and application form are available by telephoning 0800 734 834 (free call within the District) or 07 862 8609, or they can be downloaded from Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz. Copies can be collected from one of our service centres at William Street, Paeroa; Rosemont Road, Waihi; Orchard West Road, Ngatea.

Note: Failure to register your dog by 31 July of any year will disqualify your R.O.L.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Street lighting contract a win-win

If you drive, cycle, walk or run in urban areas after dark, or are conscious about safety and security around your neighbourhood or workplace, you probably appreciate having streetlights.

The Council recently invited tenders for the maintenance of District street lighting over the next three years (2016 to 2019), and has awarded a \$299,388 contract to McKay Ltd.

That's good news as we seek to get the best value for ratepayer dollars: the price was not only the lowest of the tenders, but more than a third less than the \$480,000 we estimated.

How is this possible? McKay has the current Matamata-Piako District Council streetlight maintenance contract, so they can take care of Hauraki's smaller network using its existing Hamilton-based plant and labour resources.

The company also has the equivalent contract for the South Waikato District: another comparable street lighting network. So the Hauraki work will result in further efficiencies for McKay, and financial savings for us.

The contract covers administration, management, monitoring, inspection, repair and renewal of road and amenity streetlights on a regular basis. Under a priority-based five-year streetlight renewal programme, about \$40,000 per year is planned to be spent on LED replacement lights around the District.

Winter-proof your road trip

Hauraki motorists may have "got off lightly" compared with some neighbouring districts when non-stop rain brought road closures and traffic delays last Friday. But close-to-home slips and surface flooding highlighted the need to drive to the seasonal conditions. Now is a good time to remember a few NZTA tips for safer winter travelling.

- On wet, frosty or foggy days, drive more slowly than you normally would and allow greater following distances. It only takes a split second to lose control on slippery roads, and it takes longer to stop. Frost is more severe at daybreak, so while it may not be frosty at 6am, it may be a different story an hour or two later.
- Increase your visibility by driving with your vehicle lights on and dipped, even in daytime hours.
- Obey emergency and road closure signs. Follow the directions of traffic management personnel and heed speed limits. Any restrictions in place are there for the safety of road users and workers.
- Plan your trip. Allow extra time, and check current and forecast road and weather conditions before you start, on highwayinfo.co.nz or by calling 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49). Local updates can be found on the Council's Facebook page.