



# HDC NEWS



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## Fit4Farming tour hits the road

Bikes outnumbered cars down Ngatea's main street at 9am last Friday, as the Farmstrong Fit4Farming Cycle Tour rolled out of Pioneer Park at the wet start of a 1400km journey to Bluff. About 200 community members joined the 20-strong peloton of farmers and sponsors for the first 10km to Kerepehi School, helping to promote farmer wellbeing by raising awareness of the benefits of being fit and active.

Tour leader and instigator Ian Handcock said the organisers were "rapt to get a lot more supporters than we expected, especially in the rain." The Waitakaruru dairy consultant and former farmer hopes hitting rural roads will inspire New Zealand to be the fittest farming nation in the world, in an increasingly automated and management-focused industry where a lifestyle of sitting on tractors, quad bikes and at the office desk has put farmers at high risk of heart disease, weight problems, injuries, burnout and depression.

That message was close to home for Ngatea farmer/contractor Andrew Welch, who pedaled to Kerepehi in his gumboots as part of a big Ngatea Primary School contingent of

students, staff and parents. Eleven-year-old Ashling Welch said she'd prepared for the ride for about two months by cycling a daily 6.8km with her dad.

Another group of more than 15 cyclists had trained together too, along with peloton member Peter Gasson. They all share a weekly spin session, held in an implement shed on a Miranda farm. "It's pretty social – biking, a bite to eat and a beer," said Peter. But regular exercise had made a "tremendous difference" to him as a dairy farmer.

Mayor John Tregidga and Councillor Gill Leonard were also aboard bikes, with the Mayor describing the tour as a great initiative. "I was surprised when I realised that with modern farming practices, farmers are often no fitter than anyone else. With our dairy farmers under a load of stress right now, it's important to spread awareness that taking time out for physical activity improves the ability to manage stress."

Gill found the pace of the public 10km ride easy, but knows from 37 years as a farmer's wife that farming is no easy road. She said the Fit4Farming campaign links well with the Hauraki Plains Ward "Elephant



ROLLING START: Mayor John Tregidga leads the way down Ngatea's main street.

in the paddock" social initiative – assisting farmers to access the right help in times of stress and depression.

From Kerepehi, the peloton picked up the pace to pedal on to Cambridge, via Te Miro Mountain Bike Park for a rural schools bike extravaganza. Day 1 left everyone smiling, and a No.8 wire attitude took care of the only glitches: a couple of blowouts and punctures and a chain malfunction on the mayoral bicycle.

The March 18 to April 2 event will continue as it began: on country roads, and incorporating community events at towns along the way. Supporters can follow the tour on [www.facebook.com/Fit4Farming/](http://www.facebook.com/Fit4Farming/).



Councillor Gill Leonard and Council property manager Dennis Lees stand on a stage one section to view progress at Northern Estate.

## New subdivision on the way

At the Council's Northern Estate residential subdivision in Ngatea, underground stormwater work is finishing and sewerage infrastructure is more than half complete. The roads are being shaped and metalled, and leveling is underway ready for expected sealing in late April.

Councillor Gill Leonard, who with Mayor John Tregidga turned the first sod at Northern Estate last year, is excited to be watching progress on a project that will bring growth to the Plains. She anticipates the development off Mahana Road and bordering Pipiroa Road will be especially attractive for families – offering affordable sections close to good schools and sports facilities and Hugh Hayward Domain, yet away from main road noise and traffic.

Six of the 22 sections have already sold and about 100 people have lodged inquiries, says Council property manager Dennis Lees. "We're on track for the stage one titles to be available by the end of July. With the drainage all in, the weather shouldn't affect progress now. The next step will be kerb and channeling."

Lee Carter of Bayleys Real Estate, which is marketing the properties, says interest is being shown in every stage, including the largest sections in stage four.

He believes the new subdivision will be a huge boost to the growth plans of the town he grew up in. "It's now becoming much more than a rural service community. New families are moving in, and although the high-priced Auckland property market is a catalyst, they're not predominantly Aucklanders as some people have perceived. Many are like returnees like myself – coming back to the District after several years away."

He says the desirability of the Council's last subdivision in Benner Drive has been evident, and the north-facing Northern Estate sections have the appeal of even better orientation for the sun as well as larger road frontages. "This will allow for a lot of flexibility in design when looking at positioning homes, and allow for different layouts to maximise sunlight and the functionality of living spaces."

## Lawns in order

The green, green grass of home may not be so idyllic when it's growing in our cemeteries and reserves and on our road berms faster than we can mow it.

Recent extreme weather conditions – high temperatures topped with a good dose of rain – have resulted in prolific grass growth around the District, so we are struggling to keep up with the needed mowing. We've had a number of inquiries about this, and are working our way around as quickly as possible. Meanwhile we appreciate people's patience and understanding.

In cemeteries, there's one thing people can do to make our lawn mowing job easier: ensure that flowers or ornaments are placed clear of the grass. We have no problems with the tributes themselves – we just don't want to them to go under the mower, or to have to frequently stop and move items out of the way. Thanks for your help!

## COUNCIL AND 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 April 2016.

**Judicial Committee**  
Monday, 11 April 2016 - 9.00am  
Thursday, 28 April 2016 - 9.00am

**Ward Committee Meetings**  
Tuesday, 12 April 2016  
Plains Ward - 9.00am  
Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm  
Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

**Operations Committee**  
Wednesday, 13 April 2016 - 9.00am

**Economic Development Committee**  
Wednesday, 13 April 2016 - 1.00pm

**Western Plains District Drainage Committee**  
Tuesday, 26 April 2016 - 10.30am

**Eastern Plains District Drainage Committee**  
Tuesday, 26 April 2016 - 1.30pm

**Ordinary Meeting of Council**  
Wednesday, 27 April 2016 - 9.00am  
LD Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR EASTER

Due to Monday 28 March 2016 being a statutory holiday, kerbside collections scheduled for that week will be carried out a day later than normal.

Please see the schedule below showing the dates for collections in the Waihi ward for the week of 27 March to 2 April.

Collection Day	Township	What to put out
Tuesday 29 March	Whiritoa	Refuse and recycling
Thursday 31 March	Kerepehi	Refuse and recycling
	Ngatea	Refuse only
	Turua	Refuse and recycling
	Waitakaruru	Refuse only
	Kaiaua	Refuse only
Friday 1 April	Waihi	Refuse and recycling
	Waikino	Refuse and recycling
	Karangahake	Refuse only
	Mackaytown	Refuse only
	Paeroa	Refuse only

Collection days will be back to normal starting Monday, 4 April 2016.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH NOTICE FLUSH OUT YOUR TAPS

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Hauraki District Council



## ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION PARADES AND SERVICES

Citizens are invited to attend the following Public Commemoration Services

### PLAINS WARD

The Service to be held in the War Memorial Hall at 11:15am on MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016. The Service will be preceded by the Parade, which will assemble in Pipiroa Road behind the RSA at 10:30am.

Organisation Markers are requested to report to the Parade Marshal at 10:30am.

The Parade will commence at 11:00am proceeding to the War Memorial Hall via Pipiroa Road and Orchard West Road.

RSA Services Dress – Mufti and Service Medals. Wreaths will be laid during the service.

JP Tregidga MNZM JP G. Leonard JP  
MAYOR CHAIRPERSON  
Hauraki District Plains Ward Committee

### PAEROA WARD

The Service to be held in the War Memorial Hall at 9:15am on MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016. The Service will be preceded by the Parade, which will assemble in Marshall Street behind the RSA at 8:30am.

Organisation Markers are requested to report to the Parade Marshal by 8:30am.

The Parade will commence at 9:00am proceeding to the War Memorial Hall via Wharf Street, Belmont Road and Normanby Road.

RSA Services Dress – Mufti and Service Medals. Wreaths will be laid during the service.

JP Tregidga MNZM JP JM Bubb JP  
MAYOR CHAIRPERSON  
Hauraki District Paeroa Ward Committee

### WAIHI WARD

The Service to be held in the Memorial Hall at 11:00am on MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016. The Service will be preceded by the Parade, which will assemble in Seddon Street beside the RSA at 10:30am.

Organisation Markers are requested to report to the Parade Marshal at 10:30am.

The Parade will commence at 10:45am proceeding to the Memorial Hall via Seddon Street.

RSA Services Dress – Mufti and Service Medals. Wreaths will be laid during the service.

JP Tregidga MNZM JP HT Shepherd  
MAYOR CHAIRPERSON  
Hauraki District Waihi Ward Committee

All organisations and persons wishing to present wreaths are asked to advise John McIver, telephone 0800 734 834 or 07 862 8609 no later than 4.00pm on Friday 15 April 2016.