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Long awaited art wall unveiled



HISTORIC OCCASION: Art wall project manager Con Kiernan and Mayor John Tregidga celebrate the unveiling.

It's been 35 years since Waikino's riverbank village and pedestrian swing bridge across the Ohinemuri were swept away by flood. It took seven years of planning and fundraising by the old Waikino Liaison Committee and a subcommittee of the present Waikino Liaison Society to build the replacement memorial bridge that was opened in March 2014. Two years on, the memorial art wall that's the second installment of the project was finally unveiled in a community celebration last Saturday.

"It has taken a bit longer than anticipated and it's a huge relief and pleasure to see it finished," said Diane Kiernan, chairman of Memorial Bridge and Art Wall Committee. "But Rome wasn't built in a day. After a lot of beavering away, this is our community's legacy for future generations."

The eight-metre long tiled double block wall which highlights the artistic creativity of the area was designed by Con Kiernan, Simone Warne and Rod Hawkins, with Con and Simone acting as construction project managers. It incorporates six mixed media panels depicting heritage aspects of Waikino: early flora and fauna, Maori history, Victoria Battery mining days, art and an alternative era, the flood and its repercussions, and future vision. Created by respective commissioned artists Michael Coles, Trevor Heighway, Irene Wilcocks, Christine Burne, Michael O'Donnell, Shona Laing and Con (all locals or with strong links to the area), the pieces are linked by the river that runs through them.

Mayor John Tregidga said that unveiling the wall was "a historic occasion for this community. I know a number of people here remember 1981, when not only the bridge and buildings were lost, but part of Waikino [itself]."

He said there was always a determination to erect another bridge, "and now we have an extra asset in the wall." The Mayor paid special tribute to Diane for her perseverance and leadership in getting the project accomplished, and promised that the associated car park to be contributed by the Council is on the way.

Diane said the wall project has been generously supported by the Council and the Department of Conservation, as well as the Lottery Grants Board, Trust Waikato, the Waikino Tavern, and many local businesses and volunteers.

The wall's central wagon wheel was donated by the Department of Conservation from the Victoria Battery site, as were two feature manhole covers and a bogey that provides a nearby seat – thanks to a new deck crafted from recycled rimu by Dave Cole. So it was fitting that DOC representatives Tawera Wilson and Des Brownlee took part in the unveiling; with Tawera's karakia answered by a specially written tribute song from Shona Laing.

Con encouraged people to add their own blessing to the wall, with a message "please do touch". And yes – it is strong enough to withstand another flood.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Community members take in the artwork.

Centre gets new lease of life

The Patetonga-Kaihere Playcentre building in Top Road is no longer needed for its original purpose – but has been gifted back to the community that was instrumental in raising funds for its construction in the 1970s. Ownership has been transferred from the Waikato Playcentre Association to the recently incorporated Patetonga-Kaihere Community Centre Society, which has also taken over the lease of the site on the council-owned Patetonga Domain.

While the disestablishment of the local Playcentre marks the end of an era, the handover means the centre's future is assured and its community use will be widened. A children's play group and an art group are already using the venue weekly, and hireage is likely to increase with the nearby Patetonga Hall reaching the end of its suitability as a public facility.

The society will manage the use, maintenance and preservation of the centre and its associated amenities, for the benefit of the whole community. Where day-to-day upkeep was previously undertaken by a small pool of Playcentre families, there are now more resources to draw on – and a local retiree has already offered to mow the lawns regularly.

"There couldn't be a better outcome for the community," believes Councillor Greg Harris. He says the facility was built with community money together with Waikato Playcentre Association funds and assistance from the then County Council – using local labour and PD workers. So it's appropriate that the present Council can continue supporting it through the new lease agreement, even keeping the rent at its historic level of \$10 per annum.

An initial five-year lease has been signed, with provision for two further five-year terms.



Situations Vacant



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Hauraki District is booming!! Due to an increase in resource consents and building enquiries we are ramping up our staff numbers to cope with the work-load in our planning and building control teams by offering 4 new positions.

Council expects high standards of service delivery for the benefit of our community so if you like to work hard and take pride in what you do, this could be the job for you. The successful candidate will belong to an organisation which has respect, communication, positive attitude and commitment as its core values and provides a supportive and encouraging work environment.

Each position has set criteria of knowledge and skills that can be viewed in the position descriptions available on our website.

This is your opportunity to take up an interesting and satisfying career move where you can contribute directly to the future of the community.

For further details or to apply electronically please visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz, or contact:

Sue Greenville on 07 862 5024, or
Julie Sweeney on 07 862 5023

Applications close 16 July 2016

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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 Chambers, William Street, Paeroa during the month of July 2016.

Judicial Committee (if required)

Monday, 11 July 2016, 9.00 am

Monday, 25 July 2016, 9.00 am

Ward Committee Meetings

Tuesday, 12 July 2016

Plains Ward – 9.00 am

Paeroa Ward – 12.30 pm

Waihi Ward – 2.30 pm

Operations Committee

Wednesday, 13 July 2016, 9.00 am

Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, 13 July 2016, 1.00 pm

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday, 20 July 2016, 9.00 am

Western Plains District Drainage Committee

Tuesday, 26 July 2016, 10.30 am

LD Covers

Chief Executive

Hauraki District Council



Save our drains for rain

Have a business plan

Keeping chemicals out of our stormwater network is just as important at work as at home. Think "Only rain down the drain". All other waste liquids belong in the sewerage system.



At workplaces such as industrial or automotive businesses where chemicals or cleaners are handled outdoors, have a plan to ensure they're disposed of responsibly and lawfully. Recently we received a complaint when a mechanic was noticed allowing coolant to run into a street drain, leading to a local stream. Coolants and antifreezes often use glycol as the primary active ingredient – the same toxin that sparked a worldwide scandal in the mid-1980s when it was added to some Austrian wines to make them sweeter and more full-bodied.

Bottom line: you wouldn't want to drink it, so don't put in our water!