



# HDC NEWS



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Hauraki RSA patron Des Williams, his son Murray Williams and his granddaughter Kimberly Williams remember two earlier generations of their family members whose names are inscribed on the Ngatea Domain memorial wall.

## Keeping the Anzac legacy alive

"We will remember them" – 100 years after the first Anzac Day, those words were echoed around the District last Monday. But our citizens' services were as much about the present and future as the past.

Speaking at the service in the Paeroa War Memorial Hall, Paeroa College principal Doug Black said he was overwhelmed by the warmth and kindness with which he was welcomed to the town two years ago. "I shudder to think about the impact of war on such a small community. Ensuring that we remember this great sacrifice for the next 100 years is our responsibility."

While today we might feel safe being so far away from conflicts incited by extremist and fundamentalist views, "that is short-sighted and complacent. Imagine what horrors might have occurred if the attitude of our Anzacs was that we were safe because we were so geographically isolated." He said we now need to talk to and educate our present generation of young people, encouraging and supporting them to think about what is right and to be grounded and present in their local community.

At Waihi's civic service, Waihi Heritage Vision chairman Kit Wilson said honouring our servicemen and women was not just about wearing a poppy and saying "we remember". What really gives their sacrifice meaning is to make sure through service to our community "that the society we are part of was worth serving, worth fighting for, even worth dying for".

He said his own father had served in Burma during World II, but like many veterans never talked about his experiences or feelings. "From what I understand, he was a sergeant with a group of men who rescued downed pilots in the jungles. Or he might have just been a mechanic sent in to retrieve scarce aircraft parts long after the plane crashed. How is it that I don't know?"

"Firstly, as a teenager during the Vietnam War, I thought all war was bad and therefore all people who went to war were bad. Secondly, when my Dad was ready to talk in the twilight of his years, I was 'too busy' to listen. It's one of the major regrets of my life that despite part of a team that has produced over 60 oral histories about people in and around Waihi, I was always 'too busy' to do the same with my Dad. Don't make the same mistake I did."

Mayor John Tregidga paid special tribute to the World War II veterans who were part of Hauraki Anzac commemorations – like Paeroa's Arthur and Millie Fletcher. Though their number is dwindling, he said growing community involvement in Anzac services "bodes well for this day to keep being remembered".

For Hauraki RSA's homegrown patron Des Williams, the civic service at Ngatea brought together three generations of his family who have served their country. Des joined the New Zealand Army in 1953 with the compulsory ninth intake; then stayed for two decades – mostly with the Territorials but including a tour of duty with the Regular Force in Malaysia.

His son Dr Murray Williams, who lives in Hamilton, has served as a medic in East Timor with the civilian volunteer health service; and Murray's daughter Sub Lieutenant Kimberly Williams joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in 2014 after completing an engineering degree in 2014. Following six months of weapons engineer training in England, the now Devonport-based 25-year-old was a flag bearer in the Ngatea Anzac parade.

The three said it was "very special" to mark Anzac Day in Ngatea together for the first time, with several other family members – and to honour two previous generations of Williams' whose names are inscribed on the Ngatea Domain memorial wall.

This year, more than 20 names were unveiled after the civic service by Hauraki Plains College head boy and girl, Gus Barrier and Brylie Gordon.

## Demolition makes way for new chapter of history

Now you see it... soon you won't. The building at No.5 Mackay Street, opposite Paeroa Domain and the Paeroa Cooperating Church, is being demolished to clear the site for the town's new library.

The building has had a colorful history since it was constructed in the 1930s: serving as factory premises, a mortuary, a restaurant, a wines and spirits store, and an office complex. The Council purchased the property in December 2009, and in recent years it's been a base for staff in our construction and maintenance business unit.

The interior is currently being stripped by contractors, and the building will then be taken down. So safety fencing, netting and signage will be in place – and we apologise for any inconvenience that may be caused by noise and disruption in the immediate vicinity. Following the demolition, we hope construction of the purpose-built library will begin in the middle of this year.

For Councillor Julie Bubb, the new building "can't come soon enough" and the progress toward it is exciting. When she visited the existing library last week, "being school holidays it was absolutely bursting at the seams with patrons. I also recently visited the Palmerston North Library which overlooks the city square, and it showed how much amenity value there is in a library overlooking a park. Bring it on!"



**DAYS NUMBERED:** the building that's being demolished on the site of the new library.

## Does your business need some magic beans?

**An initiative between Hauraki District Council and Waikato Innovation Park (WIP) aims to help local businesses with high growth aspirations climb as high as they can go.**

Based at the Paeroa Council Service Centre on the second Tuesday of every month WIP Business Growth Advisors are available to all Hauraki businesses

"Council's economic development team has been developing a relationship with the Park for a few years now and we're really excited they've seen the potential for business growth in Hauraki," says Hauraki Economic Development Committee Chair Councillor Toby Adams.

WIP services are aimed at helping businesses gain knowledge, connect with the right people, and grow. Services include a free business needs assessment to support business growth plans, along with free access to the government funding programmes offered by NZTE and Callaghan Innovation. The Park's Business Growth Advisors can also facilitate business access to the Food Innovation Network which provides services and facilities for food manufacturing businesses developing new products.

The main criteria for WIP assistance is the desire to grow.

"We currently work with companies across the Waikato, plus into Bay of Plenty and Taranaki for some programmes, and will now be working more closely with Hauraki," says WIP Business Growth Advisor Peter Davey. "We're very interested in helping local businesses that are wanting to grow, facing technical roadblocks, or looking to take on new skills that will enable business growth."

To make an appointment contact:

- WIP Business Growth Advisor Peter Davey, mob: 021 124 9425 or email: pdavey@wipltd.co.nz
- Hauraki District Council Economic Development Officer Paula Trubshaw, mob: 021 190 5878 or email: paulat@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Waikato Innovation Park Business Growth Advisor Peter Davey (left) and Hauraki District Council Economic Development Committee Chair Toby Adams are excited about the new business growth initiative.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Please see the public notice section of this newspaper for the **Council and Committee meetings** to be held in May 2016.

### SITUATION VACANT

Please see the situation vacant section of this newspaper for the position advertised for a **Community Services Manager** or view it online at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/jobs](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/jobs).

## Reminders!

### Get your submission to Council now!

Public feedback on the Draft Dog Control Policy 2016 and Draft Dog Control Bylaw 2007 closes at 4.30pm on 2 May 2016.

### Kerepehi Meeting - 3 May

Kerepehi residents – don't miss a date with us next Tuesday, 3 May. That's when the Council will host a 7pm public meeting in the Kerepehi Hall, to share updates on community matters raised at an earlier meeting in February.

Hot topics discussed at that gathering included the coming upgrade of the Kerepehi wastewater treatment plant to treat effluent from the new Allied Faxi ice cream factory, and employment opportunities for locals at the factory (although the Council has no jurisdiction in this area).

Concerns about drinking water quality, drainage, footpaths and driveways were also aired; and a report from the Kerepehi Hall Committee signaled a need to raise the targeted hall rate.

As well as "following up" at next week's meeting, the Mayor, Plains ward councillors and Council staff will present some township entrance sign options for discussion.

All Kerepehi community members are welcome.



## PPP launches Hauraki Plains Business Network

With a number of recent developments across the District, including the Ngatea residential subdivision, new businesses coming to the area and a growing tourism industry across The Coromandel, Positively Promoting the Plains (PPP) community group has been looking at ways it can engage, support and grow business development across the Hauraki Plains community.

Alex Quinn, chairman of the PPP group, said with a number of new families and businesses basing themselves on the Plains it was timely for the group to review how it communicates, engages and encourages networking amongst the local business community.

As a result, the group is launching the Hauraki Plains Business Network. The intention is to provide a channel to support the local Hauraki Plains business community through a series of networking and business development events. The Network would also like to improve communication through the wider

Hauraki Plains business community by implementing a regular "Business on the Plains" newsletter.

PPP committee member and network lead, Jason Davis said, "The intention of the Hauraki Plains Business Network is to provide businesses across the Plains the opportunity to network with local business neighbours on a regular basis and build a stronger sense of community."

"The event is free for all to attend - whether you're a retailer, café, or farming business on the Plains we'd love to see you there and discuss the direction we're taking with marketing the region and supporting business and community initiatives."

For further information about the event please contact Jason Davis on 027 227 2647 or via [Jason@sustainableinsurance.co.nz](mailto:Jason@sustainableinsurance.co.nz)

**The inaugural networking event will be held on Wednesday 4 May from 6.00pm to 7.30pm at the Ngatea Hall Lounge.**