

50+ at Matamata Sports Centre

Do you want to come to the pools and not be bothered by kids splashing and being too noisy? Then Matamata Sports Centre (MMS) have the session for you! Starting on April 30, from 8-10am on Thursdays the MMS will have a "NO KIDS" allowed session where you can come in and exercise in the water how you like. This is not an exercise class but just some quiet time at the pools.

You don't need to be an Olympic swimmer to enjoy the benefits of exercising in the water. Walking or kicking with a board is very beneficial as a low impact workout. MMS can provide kick boards and noodles to add some fun to your exercise.

Pool water temperatures over the winter are between 28-30 degrees, which is the ideal temperature to work out in. Each pool session only costs \$3 and you can enjoy a free spa afterwards. If you would like more information call the Matamata Sports Centre on (07) 888 4899.

Congratulations Graduates

It is that time of year again when individuals who have completed a qualification through an Industry Training Organisation (ITO) are recognised for their achievements. Each year Council, as a member of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, holds an Industry Training Graduation. This year the graduation will be held at the Matamata Memorial Hall on Wednesday 20 May.

"Council is very pleased to hold this annual event to recognise the talented individuals in our community who have gained further qualifications in their chosen occupations. The benefit is to the whole community as well as the individual," says Mayor Hugh Vercoe.

All apprentices and trainees who achieved a qualification between 1 January, 2008 and 31 December, 2008 have been sent invitations to the graduation ceremony.

For more information on the Industry Training Graduation please call Customer Services on 0800 746 467.

Community road safety funding

Thames Coromandel District Council, Hauraki District Council and Matamata-Piako District Council have funding available for local community groups and organisations for Road Safety projects.

"The funds are being offered to those groups who want to promote road safety awareness and education," says Ingrid Le Fevre, Road Safety Coordinator for the three councils, "as opposed to engineering projects".

"Its about raising awareness of road safety at a local community level," says Ingrid.

Some examples of past projects are Schools participating in student road safety programmes, and cycling groups promoting bicycle awareness. They are grass roots safety programmes.

The funds come from the New Zealand Transport Agency and are administered through the local councils on behalf of them.

"Support will be provided to those groups who are successful through the planning, development and implementation phases," Ingrid added, "we want to ensure that these

Buy Locally

In these tough times it is particularly important to support and use local businesses. Council purchases as much as possible locally and uses local tradesmen such as plumbers and drainlayers, electricians, builders, bricklayers, horticultural specialists, draftsmen, surveyors, landscapers, locksmiths, roofers and more. Council also uses other local services such as caterers, signwriters and printers.

If there are any businesses out there who would like to offer their services to Council, please send us your details and information about your business so that we can keep you informed of any relevant future tenders.

Volunteer recognition

Volunteers are the people who keep the wheels of our community turning. They are tireless workers who often don't get recognised for all the hard work and time that they put in to the community. This is your chance to nominate these volunteers so that they can be recognised and praised for their efforts.

An award ceremony will be held this year at the Matamata Memorial Centre on 16 June where local volunteers will be presented with certificates from the

Mayor to recognise their efforts in our community. This ceremony coincides with National Volunteer Awareness week.

It is easy to vote for a volunteer in your community. All you need to do is keep an eye out for the nomination form that appears in your local paper, or pick up a form from your local area office or library. Once you have completed this form just send it in or drop it off to your closest Council area office.

Waste grease, fat and oil

Large quantities of grease, fat and oil entering the wastewater system can cause a number of problems, including blockages, overflows, treatment problems, hazards to public health and Council personnel. It can also result in pollution of the environment. Please do not tip oil down the drain. If you witness any business or individuals doing this, please report it to Council on 0800 746 467. If you want to know more, you can read the Trade Waste Bylaw on Council's website www.mpd.govt.nz.

projects are meaningful and have a positive impact on our communities".

Contact Ingrid Le Fevre, Road Safety Coordinator on (07) 868 0200 or email Ingrid.lefevre@tcddc.govt.nz for an application form.

Applications for 2009/2010 (starting 1 July 2009 until 30 June 2010) close on Friday 30 May at 4pm.

Council In Focus



Your district update from Matamata-Piako District Council

Our Community Our Future



The Our Community Our Future plan (draft ten year budget) has been adopted by Council and is open for submissions. The plan sets the direction for Council over the next ten years, outlining the services provided for the community, what you can expect from these activities, and how much they will cost. The draft plan also includes key projects that will be happening over the next ten years and invites you to have your say on new proposals.

Key projects for 2009-19 include:

- District Plan changes and review
- Sludge dewatering facilities for wastewater treatment
- Matamata wastewater treatment upgrade
- Waharoa wastewater reticulation (subject to subsidy)
- Waihou wastewater connection to Te Aroha
- District-wide wastewater renewals
- Stormwater in Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha
- Improvements to water supplies in small communities
- New water reservoir in Morrinsville
- Water pipe replacements
- Footpaths and street lighting upgrades
- Road seal widening, extensions and renewals

- Matamata and Morrinsville pool refurbishments
 - Matamata library improvements
- See Volume One of the Our Community Our Future plan for more information on these projects.

In developing this draft plan Council sought feedback from the community on the challenges Council will face over the next ten years. A record number of responses were received and Council took into account this feedback when making decisions for the plan. Council now encourages you to provide feedback on the draft plan. The draft plan is available from Council offices, libraries and at www.mpd.govt.nz. Submissions close on Friday 15 May, so make sure you tell us what you think and make your contribution to the future of our district.



Morrinsville Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade

Mayor Hugh Vercoe, Peter Buckley, Chairman of Environment Waikato and Frank Healey, Environment Waikato's local councillor met recently to discuss the 12 million dollar project that will be undertaken within the next 18 months at the Morrinsville Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"We enjoyed the opportunity to go over the project, to explain what we are doing at the plant and how we are doing it," says Mayor Hugh Vercoe. Council will keep Environment Waikato fully informed of the progress during this project.

This treatment plant services the town of Morrinsville and two major industrial businesses, Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd and Greenlea Premier Meats Ltd. These

businesses will meet their share of the costs required for the upgrade. "The work we are doing is vital to meet modern environmental standards and keep large industry in our town," says Mayor Vercoe. "The upgrade will mean that we can more effectively dispose of the excess microorganisms that breakdown and remove most of the contaminants in the wastewater."



Mayor Hugh Vercoe, Peter Buckley and Frank Healey

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Mayor's message



Welcome to the latest edition of Council in Focus.

As you may be aware Council's draft budget and work programme (the Our Community Our Future plan) covering activities for the next ten years, is currently out for your feedback and submissions.

We identified the deteriorating economic conditions late last year and we have considered our budgets accordingly. Offering the same standard in all services we currently provide, at the same frequency for next year. We are proposing a General Rate increase of approximately 2%. On top of this all ratepayers connected to services such as water and sewer will have the fourth planned increase of \$82.

The economic conditions have not improved and look like they may get worse before they get better. We are aware that some people in our communities have been laid off and are now unemployed. Some large employers have reduced down to four working days a week while others do not have much work on their books. One developer has stopped short of sealing some of his new roads and grassed over the top of them, choosing to wait until times improve. All of this combined with a significant drop in our farmers incomes would indicate the need to look very closely at how we spend your rates money.

Therefore, if there are any areas of our planned work programme that are of concern to you, please take this opportunity to provide feedback as part of our formal consultation process. Submissions close on 15 May 2009 and can be dropped off at any of our Council offices or sent to Council.

If anyone would like to meet with me during this time I am happy to do so and discuss any matters of interest. Please arrange this through Customer Services by ringing your local Council office.

We have enjoyed the last several years of strong growth and development in Matamata-Piako and we remain well positioned to manage the downturn for however long it happens.

Hugh Vercoe
Mayor

New corporate software system

Council's corporate software system "Corporate Vision" is being replaced this year by a new system called "Authority".

Council uses a corporate system to record and maintain financial and consent information, other Council documents and rates. Authority will replace the current system, allowing Council to improve internal systems and improve services to customers.

Customers will see the benefits of Authority on Council's website over the next 12-18 months, with the software allowing Council to publish information such as property information, cemetery databases and various forms to the internet.

The new system will help improve accessibility to Council services, however, before customers can see their own information, we will require more details from them to help ensure their information is kept secure. You will be asked for more details when we begin setting up these links.

This is a significant development for Council. It aims to deliver exciting new outcomes for customers and staff. It is a large project, with several staff involved to ensure information is managed effectively for both now and the future.

Te Aroha Leisure Pools 10th Birthday

It's the Te Aroha Leisure Pools 10th Birthday and they are celebrating in style! There are three days of activities at the pools during their birthday weekend, including a kids pool party on Friday 22 May from 5:30pm-8:00pm, a family day with a cake cutting ceremony on Saturday 23 May – family pass only \$10, and on Sunday 24 May all kids swim for \$2.

A sausage sizzle will be available on each of these days, so bring the kids along and join in the celebrations.



Te Aroha Leisure Pools

Have you seen Council's new website?

The new website was launched in March and provides loads of helpful info about what's what in the Matamata-Piako District. "We want your feedback to help the website become a valuable resource for the community," says CEO Don McLeod. Contact Council either through the website or phone us on (07) 884 0060 to give us your ideas and suggestions.



Visit www.mpdc.govt.nz to check it out, and keep an eye out for all the exciting new features and functions that will be available later this year.

Community Board updates

To find out about what your local community boards have been doing, please go to our website www.mpdc.govt.nz and click on Our Council/Community Boards.

Notices

Rubbish Bag Vouchers – Once again the voucher system will be used to allow ratepayers to collect their rubbish bags. The vouchers will be distributed during June 2009.

You can present your voucher at any Council office during June to collect your rubbish bags. Exact dates and times will be advertised in local papers once they have been finalised.

Health Licences – Health Licences for businesses need to be renewed every year. The renewal notices for this year's registration will be sent out this month and need to be paid by 30 June. Funeral Directors need to pay their fee by 31 May.

For more information call Customer Services on 0800 746 467.

Calf Pens on the Roadside – It's coming up to that time of year again when you may be putting calf pens on the roadside. Please remember to keep your calf pens a minimum of three metres from the roadside so they are not a road safety hazard.

Rates Rebates – The last day for applying for a Rates Rebate for the 2008/2009 rebate year is 30 June 2009.

You will be able to apply for a Rates Rebate for the 2009/2010 rebate year soon. Keep an eye out on your local paper for more information.

Attention Dog Owners

Are you moving on 1 June? Don't forget to let Council know your new address within 14 days of moving to make sure you receive your dog registration notice and avoid penalties.

For more information, call Customer Services on 0800 746 467.



Have your say on Parks and Reserves

Council is developing plans to help better manage parks and reserves throughout the district.

There are three plans being developed; a 'General Policies Management Plan', which will help guide decision making on the use of parks and reserves, as well as an 'Active Reserves Management Plan' and a 'Passive Reserves Management Plan' which will provide policies and information specific to active reserves (e.g. sports grounds) and passive reserves (e.g. parks, playgrounds, and public gardens).

The plans cover a range of issues relevant to the community including health and safety issues such as lighting, fire control,

hazardous substances; recreation such as camping, fireworks displays, circuses and sideshows; heritage conservation, community consultation and much more. They also address operational issues such as tree management, pest management and naming of reserves.

Draft plans have been produced that identify the issues you raised during consultation last year. These draft plans are now available for further community input before they are adopted by Council. Submissions are open from 1 May and close at 5pm on 30 June. You can view these documents at any Council area office or library or visit www.mpdc.govt.nz to view them online. Contact your local office for more information.

Inspection of Rating Information Database (RID)

The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 requires Council to make a revised copy of its Rating Information Database (RID) available to the public from May each year. This database contains all the information that council holds in relation to each property, including the name/s and postal address of the owner/s. Council provides this information at each of the area offices (Te Aroha, Matamata and Morrinsville).

All property owners have the right to request that Council suppress their details from the public register. Requests must be made in writing on the appropriate council form. Please contact Customer Services on 0800 746 467 to get an application form.

Rates revaluation

Every three years Council must revise the value of every property in the district to ensure that current values are represented on the District Valuation Roll. Quotable Value, Council's valuation contractor will conduct revaluations during May to July of this year. This may require a valuer to visit your property during this period.

The Revaluation Notices will be posted out to all owners on 10 September 2009 with the objection period closing on 21 October 2009. All objections must be in writing and must include reasons and evidence for the objection.

Safe footpaths

Just a reminder to keep our footpaths in a safe condition for all pedestrians and mobility scooter users. Vegetation should not hang any lower than 2.5m above a footpath, and no vegetation should encroach on the width of the path.

Your assistance to help make our footpaths safe for all members of our community is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this please contact Customer Services on 0800 746 467.