Bellbird’s song heard in city reserve

The family of Dr Alwyn Seeley is delighted by news a bellbird has been spotted in the city park which bears Dr Seeley’s name.

A diminutive male bellbird (korimako) has been heard in AJ Seeley Reserve, marking a significant milestone for the Seeley family and the Hamilton ‘Halo’ project partners.

Following the news, Hamilton Halo stakeholders are asking residents who see or hear the tiny birds to report any further sightings.

Hamilton Halo is a multi-agency project which aims to entice tui and bellbirds back into the city.

Neil Fitzgerald visited the gully on 11 September. He spotted one male bellbird happily feeding on the nectar of kowhai and camellia flowers.

“It’s the first credible sighting we’ve had in Hamilton in a couple of years, so it was exciting to not only hear but to also see this shy bird,” Mr Fitzgerald says.

Hamilton City Council Parks and Open Spaces Manager Sally Sheedy says the sighting of the bellbird makes the hard work of staff and volunteers worthwhile.

“This is fantastic news as many people have put in countless hours to nurture this reserve and it’s a testament to their commitment to discover this native bird enjoying the environment.” Rachael Densem, Alwyn Seeley’s daughter, says the appearance of the bellbird in the reserve is significant.

“I’m sure the park will be impressed when they get to see and enjoy the new equipment we’re installing.”

Plenty of play at Lake Domain

An impressive new playground will be installed at Lake Domain, one of Hamilton’s main destination parks.

One of Hamilton’s most popular playgrounds is set for a major refurbishment, with work beginning in October.

The Lake Domain Playground, on the eastern side of Lake Rotoroa, will undergo a two-month transformation which will see ageing equipment replaced with modern equipment.

Mayor Julie Hardaker says, “Our kids and community want destination playgrounds - and Hamilton Lake Domain is one of our most visited family public spaces.”

“This is a significant development and it helps us deliver on creating a city for families. Our playgrounds development programme has enabled us to develop Parana Park and now the Lake Domain. Later this year the existing playground at Minogue Park will also undergo a major transformation. The redevelopment of these playgrounds reflect the Council’s new approach to playgrounds, following the adoption of its Playground Policy earlier this year.”

Sally Sheedy, Hamilton City Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Manager, says the scale of the project means there will be temporary road closures within Lake Domain and some pressure on parking.

Some items of existing playground equipment will be put into storage until decisions are made on where they can be used elsewhere.

“We’re confident that children who visit the park will be impressed when they get to see and enjoy the new equipment we’re installing.”
Have your say

We would like to hear your views on the proposed Safety in Public Places Bylaw

In response to your concerns about safety in the central city, the Council is proposing a new bylaw that will set boundaries for what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in the city. The Bylaw supports the work we are doing through the Hamilton Central City Safety Plan.

You can find out more about the proposed Safety Bylaw and submit your views at online. Or you can head along to a drop-in information meeting on Monday 13 October at noon to 1pm in the Council Reception Lounge or 5.30pm to 6.30pm in the Council Ground Floor Foyer.

Submission forms are available from the Council and online - or by phoning 07 838 6699 to request a form. Submissions are welcome until 4pm Friday 17 October 2014.

hamilton.govt.nz/safetybylaw

Tell us what you think about our Traffic Bylaw review

The city’s Traffic Bylaw deals with issues such as parking, stock movement on roads, vehicle crossings and managing bus and cycle lanes. We’re looking to update it to help us manage traffic in the city better.

Submission forms are available from the Council and online - or by phoning 07 838 6699 to request a form. Submissions are welcome until 4pm Monday 3 November 2014.

hamilton.govt.nz/traffic

Getting serious about litter

The Council has adopted sections of the Litter Act which will allow it to issue fines for littering.

Addressing littering is a key action of the recently approved Hamilton Central Safety Plan.

“We have had a lot of feedback about rubbish in the central city and it’s affect on how people feel about being in the central city. Other councils have used litter infringement successfully. We want to create central city spaces that Hamilton residents and visitors enjoy spending time in” says Mayor Hardaker.

Enforcement options will be brought back to the Council at the end of November 2014.

City Environments General Manager, Brian Croad says the Council will take a sensible approach when issuing fines.

“Our goal is to create an attractive central city that looks smart by reducing litter on our pavements and streets. We want to encourage the public to take pride in their city and dispose of litter sensibly. The fines are a deterrent; we certainly don’t intend to be heavy-handed with our enforcement,” says Mr Croad.

hamilton.govt.nz/litter

Fund available for waste initiatives

If you reduce, reuse or recycle you could be eligible for a financial boost from the Hamilton City Council.

The Council receives $50,000 annually from the Government’s national waste levy for our Council’s Contestable Waste Minimisation Fund. This fund helps support projects promoting or achieving waste minimisation in the city.

The Council’s Waste Minimisation Advisor, Kerry Skeer sees the fund as an important part of cutting the city’s waste.

“There are a lot of groups with great initiatives for reducing our city’s waste and we want to help accelerate their work. We need to encourage and support forward-thinking waste minimisation programmes and this fund lets us do so,” says Ms Skeer.

Reducing waste is a big priority for the Council which encourages alternatives like recycling and composting.

Last year the fund helped five groups, including comedy group ‘Matt and Andy’. Performer Andrew Kaye says their 15-minute show uses comedy to encourage people to use reusable cups and bottles for their tea, coffee and water consumption.

“We’ve performed to more than 8,000 people at businesses, clubs and schools to help people become more aware of recycling. The shows were really well received and we would not have been able to do it without the funding,” says Mr Kaye.

Application forms for the fund are available from the Council and online – or phone 07 838 6699 to request a form. Applications are open from Monday 6 October 2014 to Monday 3 November 2014.

hamilton.govt.nz/wasteminimisation
High energy performance promised on city’s birthday

Mayor Julie Hardaker

Let’s celebrate!

It’s been a fantastic year of celebration for Hamilton as we celebrate our 150th birthday. And now it’s nearly time for a giant birthday party.

Planning is well underway for our birthday party in the CBD on 22 November. The CBD will become a pedestrian mall for the day, with Victoria St closed from Ward St through to Hood St. The city will be transformed into a giant family-friendly party zone, with around a dozen different areas with a different theme in each one.

Attractions include street theatre, musical performances, fashion shows, vintage carnival games, a petting zoo, a classic car parade, vintage and retro markets.

There will be an enormous birthday cake to celebrate the day.

And at the end of the day there will be a big fireworks display.

The 22nd is about families coming together for a day of fun.

Celebrating our past and talking about what the future means for Hamilton has been a big part of this year. Many people have shared their stories and the central library has provided a treasure chest of photos depicting how Hamilton has grown through the decades.

I hope you can join us for the birthday party.

Just one day without singing is a very long time for 11 year old Verity, of Nawton.

“I live and breathe to sing,” the Te Kowhai School student says. Verity, who performs under her first name only, is one of the entertainers who will take to the stage in the participation zone in Garden Place at the city’s birthday party on 22 November.

The Year 6 student is the recipient of the Trust Waikato Scholarship for musical theatre. She is currently performing as Alice in the production of ‘Alice in Wonderland’ at the Riverlea Theatre. She busks regularly at Frankton Markets and also competes in cheerleading and gymnastics.

Verity writes and performs her own music and she has already written five songs for an album which she hopes will be released at Christmas. She promises a high energy routine on 22 November and has four songs picked out for performance. One of these is her own song, ‘Please Show the World’, which is currently receiving airtime on Radio Tainui. Verity is being mentored by a former ‘New Zealand’s Got Talent’ semi-finalist. She knows a career on the stage is in her future. “I love singing, it’s what I am going to do for a living – that’s my goal.”

Interested in performing at the city birthday party? Register online at hamilton150.co.nz

Eleven year old Verity is one of the entertainers at the city’s birthday party next month.

Public feedback sought on Council’s draft proposal to sell its pensioner housing

The proposal presented at the Council meeting held on 25 September outlined the preferred option to invite social housing providers to buy Council’s pensioner housing for ongoing use as social housing. If not sold to social housing providers after six months, they would be for sale on the open market.

No decisions have been made yet. The community now have the opportunity to tell us what you think of the proposal before the Council makes their final decision in November this year. A Discussion Paper on the future of the Council-owned pensioner housing was released to the public in March this year. A Council working group reported back to the Council last month with an Options Paper covering a range of options and recommending sale.

Once the consultation period has closed, submitters will have the chance to speak at a hearing before any final decision is made. Submissions forms are available from the Council and online - or by phoning 07 838 6699 to request a form. Submissions are welcome until Friday 31 October 2014. hamilton.govt.nz/housingreview

The future of Hamilton Zoo explored

Lions, a petting zoo and room for overnight stays are the ideas for the future development of Hamilton Zoo.

A working group has begun developing a new master plan for the zoo, which is the city’s second-most popular visitor attraction. The plan will show how the zoo could look in the future and how that will be achieved.

Councillor Angela O’Leary, working group chairperson, says the review is an opportunity to take a step back and look at the overall direction of the zoo.

“This is a chance for us to look at what we have now and where we are going.”

“Having a master plan in place will give us clear direction. But we cannot do this on our own. To ensure we get the future direction right, we want views from our zoo visitors. We want to know what others think we have got right and what we are missing,” Cr O’Leary says.

As part of the development of the plan, visitors and friends of the zoo will be asked what they think. An online survey has also been produced, so members of the wider community can contribute. The master plan will be created by the end of this year, and once adopted, possible developments and changes will be implemented into the Council’s 10-Year Plan and budget.

Find out more and take the online survey hamilton.govt.nz/zooplan

Fun facts about the Hamilton Zoo

- It’s home to nearly 600 exotic and native species
- Attracts about 120,000 visitors annually
- It’s ranked as number two for Hamilton attractions on ‘Trip Advisor’
- It’s home to New Zealand’s largest walk-through aviary
- It has produced and reared six white rhino calves as part of its regional breeding programme

Hamilton Zoo is home to this little Cotton-topped tamarin (tiny monkey).
We have one of two prize packs up for grabs - the prize packs include a double pass, programme book and NZSO recording. Simply email your name & phone number to citynews@hcc.govt.nz by 5pm, Thursday 9 October and you’ll be in the draw.

Your Mayor and Councillors

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For more events and further information visit www.whatsonhamilton.co.nz or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

CITY BIRTHDAY PARTY
• 22 November, 3pm to 9pm
• The Central Business District will become a pedestrian mall and Victoria Street will be closed from Ward Street to Hood Street
• The city will be divided into around a dozen precincts, each with a different theme
• There will be something for everyone - food, entertainment, music, fashion and culture
• Family focused activities finish at 9pm with a fireworks display
• Entertainment moves to the ‘Riff Raff’ stage between 10pm to 11pm. Join in our ‘Fireworks Wrap’ at 10.45pm

FIREWORKS EXPO
FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER
NOVOTEL CONFERENCE ROOMS
This Expo will provide valuable information, details on Hamilton’s economy, access to business and investment opportunities, showcase support services and allow valuable networking.

hmc.org.nz
Includes trade stands and operating layouts. The model railway enthusiasts. Featuring a variety of tracks and layouts, in different scales and different themes.

WWW.WHATSONHAMILTON.CO.NZ
9AM is your last chance to get your event tickets:

For more events and further information visit www.whatsonhamilton.co.nz or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

www.hamilton.govt.nz /hamiltoncitycouncil @CouncilHamilton