Kick off

FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 is now only weeks away. Hamilton will be on the world football stage. Read more on page 4.
Chief Executive
Richard Briggs

I wanted to introduce myself properly. I’m the new Chief Executive of Hamilton City Council, and have now been in the job six months. Having been the CFO first, I already knew Council pretty well – and certainly our job in balancing the books very well – but becoming CE has opened my eyes to a whole range of new and exciting projects, challenges and triumphs that Council delivers every day.

In the past few months our councillors have made some big decisions for the city and it’s our job as Council staff to make them happen. Whether it’s the emotionally moving ANZAC parade and celebration, the fantastic events at Claudelands, Seddon Park, Waikato Stadium, the ICC Cricket World Cup and the FIFA U20 Football World Cup or a world-class zoo, museum, gardens and pools. Whether it’s the engineers and technicians that keep our water supply running and treat the waste water, or the arborists who maintain and plant our trees and city scapes, the transport teams that keep our roads moving or the hundreds of people that support the organisation and community from the municipal building – they all keep this city running every day. We are constantly striving to improve, and you’ll see this reflected in what and how we deliver services to you.

So – you can probably guess – I’m passionate about Hamilton, about the residents of Hamilton and about the Council. And there is no better day then when someone from out of town says “Wow – I had a great time visiting Hamilton – I had no idea there was so much to do and see.”

We are a growing city and this provides us some exciting yet big challenges. I encourage you to have your say on our plans for the next 10 years – you can do that on our website. Enjoy all that Hamilton has to offer and thank you for keeping up to date on Council news by reading City News.

Hamilton.govt.nz/10Yearplan

ANZAC Day honoured in style

It’s been 100 years since our ANZAC veterans scrambled onto the shores of Gallipoli, but their heroics were fresh in the minds of Hamiltonians who attended this year’s ANZAC Day commemorations.

Thousands of Hamiltonians, young and old, took part in Hamilton’s ANZAC Day Dawn and Civic parades.

Commemorations included a number of special tributes to mark the occasion. Tributes to the fallen soldiers ranged from the renaming of Bridge Street to ANZAC Parade, with temporary signs installed for ANZAC weekend (the permanent ones will be erected on 1 December when the name officially changes) to the placing of 203 white crosses at Memorial Park. The crosses are a Returned Services’ Association (RSA) initiative and signify the sacrifice of servicemen from the Hamilton/Waikato region who died in WWI.

Both parades took in the moving scene of 6000 handmade poppies which lined the route from Victoria Street to Memorial Park. It also passed by the recently erected Sapper Moore-Jones statue on Victoria St and the new Ieper (Ypres) Memorial Garden. The garden acknowledges those who fought and died in WWI.

Mayor Julie Hardaker says it was an emotional moment for all who attended the two events.

“ANZAC Day has a special place in the New Zealand psyche, because we lost so many of our young men in battle. Many Hamiltonians use this day to honour the sacrifice and contribution their family members made.”

Mayor Hardaker says the commemorations have received enormous support from Hamiltonians.

RSA President Len Knapp says this year’s service was a fantastic tribute to our servicemen and women.

“Hamiltonians can be proud of how we as a city have honoured our ANZAC veterans. It was truly a beautiful occasion.”

See more photos from our ANZAC service on page 6.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS
- District Licensing Committee
  6 May – 10am
- Dog Control Policy and Bylaw Subcommittee
  7 May – 10.30am
- Business and Investment Subcommittee
  13 May – 9.30am
- Civil Defence and Emergency Management Subcommittee
  13 May – 1.30pm
- Extraordinary Council
  19 – 21 May – 9am
- Finance Committee
  21 May – 1.30pm
- Strategy and Policy Committee
  26 May – 1.30pm
- Ordinary Council
  29 May – 1.30pm
- Community Forum Subcommittee
  3 June – 9.30am
- District Licensing Committee
  3 June – 10am
- External Funding Subcommittee
  3 June – 1.30pm
- Extraordinary Council
  4 June – 9am

COUNCIL NEWS
- City honours war veterans with street named ANZAC Parade
- Young war poet will help launch Waikato WW1 exhibition
- Applications open for multi-year community grant

Contact us if you have any questions or comments regarding Hamilton’s City News please contact:

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OR
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Hamilton
The central city transformation begins

The Central City Transformation Plan is nearing completion after 12 months of evidence gathering and meetings with groups and organisations. It’s a practical, comprehensive long-term response to the challenges faced in the CBD and development of it began with an economic analysis. Back in the 1960s and 1970s Hamilton’s CBD was a thriving place. Many people remember cars parked in Garden Place, our very own Hamilton department stores, and in those days almost everyone did their business in town. Since then, we have seen the demise of the central city and despite a number of reports on perceived issues and potential solutions, there is still no complete answer.

We are not alone; most cities are facing, or have faced, this challenge. Up until the 1970s big and small cities across the world had bustling CBDs and their dominance in retail and entertainment was not challenged. But easier access for cars, the rise of suburban centres and the indoor mall, and the loss of a distinctive central city identity have eroded the economy of central cities.

Most cities responded to the challenge by replicating the suburban shopping formula and attempting to compete with suburban malls. This has failed, and in some cases been held responsible for further economic decline. Others have provided more parking, undertaken physical works and provided events. These are part of the solution, but are not enough on their own, and they are not a long-term answer.

Developing the Central City Transformation Plan has included examining what has worked in cities around the world similar to Hamilton. There are success factors for CBDs like safety and a very high standard of amenity. But others like size, smaller CBDs are far more successful, having a major anchor like a university or a significant government presence and maximising an historical or unique character that people and visitors can identify with are strong influencers of success. The key to successful CBDs is people, office employees and people living in and around the central city.

Hamilton’s been there before with a plan, more than 30 of them in the last 30 years in fact, but most have not been comprehensive or actioned. What do we know is it does matter to Hamilton’s identity and prosperity to have a vibrant, active and commercially successful central city.

Public input sought for skate track

Hamilton residents have a chance to say what they think about Hamilton Roller Skating Club’s plans to build a speed skating track, next to the existing enclosed rink in Melville Park.

This proposed facility is not covered by the existing management plan for the park, and construction of the track will require the Council to grant a new community occupancy lease to the club.

Sally Shrody, Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Manager, says the club’s request is likely to gather considerable interest across the community, so it is important for the Council to ask the city’s residents and stakeholders what they think.

“A key role for the Council is determining what views there are on any proposal, and it is important to bear in mind the Hamilton Roller Skating Club’s proposal is in line with Melville Park’s purpose as a recreation reserve.”

The club will finance the construction itself and be responsible for the track’s management and maintenance.

Consultation is open for a month and began Friday last week. The public can make submissions online, or give their feedback to a hearing panel. hamilton.govt.nz/melvilleskate
City prepares for FIFA U-20 kick off

Waikato Stadium is the venue for five match days during the FIFA Under 20 World Cup New Zealand 2015, the biggest football tournament New Zealand has hosted.

Current and future stars of the world’s most popular sport will descend on Hamilton in coming weeks as the city steps onto the global football stage.

Waikato Stadium is one of seven venues for the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015, the world football body’s second most important male tournament after the FIFA World Cup.

It’s the second time Hamilton has hosted a FIFA tournament, following the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup in 2008. It’s also the second world cup the city will be a part of in 2015, after three successful match days during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 in February and March.

Councillor Rob Pascoe, Hamilton’s World Cup Ambassador, says match-goers will get a chance to see some of the global game’s future superstars.

“The teams coming to Hamilton are among some of the most exciting in world football – Colombia and Uruguay bring that exciting South American football pedigree, Portugal come out of Europe with a reputation as an exciting team, and Senegal have shown before they are a match for any nation,” Cr Pascoe says.

Other nations to compete in Hamilton will be the Middle East country of Qatar — the top qualifier out of the Asian conference — and African qualifiers Mali, who will bring a different style of football to the tournament.

The city also hosts two knock-out matches as part of its involvement in the tournament.

Cr Pascoe says Hamilton’s involvement in the tournament is due to a collaborative arrangement with H15, a group of local businesses and stakeholder organisations which have pledged financial support to cover half the cost of hosting the matches.

“The support of H15 remains crucial to Hamilton being part of the tournament,” Cr Pascoe says.

As well as world class football, a number of additional activities have been planned to involve the city and region’s residents in the tournament.

A Futsal court will be set up in Garden Place, giving Hamiltonians and visitors a chance to form teams to compete in a special hybrid form of football played on an artificial surface. The court was installed last Saturday and will be operated by the Waikato Bay of Plenty Football Federation team.

Also in Garden Place from 23 May will be Fever Pitch, a specially-branded on-site information portal where visitors can find out more about the tournament.

An Adopt-a-Team initiative encourages residents and school classes to throw their support behind one of the visiting nations.

School students will also be involved in creating artwork to line the walking route from Garden Place to Waikato Stadium.

Waikato Museum will explore football’s origins, and the history of football in the Waikato region with a special exhibition, The Beautiful Game, which will also include exhibits from New Zealand’s involvement in the 1982 and 2010 FIFA World Cups.

hamilton.govt.nz/worldcup

Rules around the pitch

Waikato Stadium Turf Manager Karl “KJ” Johnson writes about the challenges of producing playing and training surfaces to meet FIFA’s exacting standards.

With any world cup comes high expectations and exposure, with our venues on show for the entire globe to see.

The governing body of world football has very specific requirements for pitches hosting their tournaments, but H15’s Turf Services Team is on-track.

We worked to FIFA’s pitch guidelines in 2008 when Waikato Stadium hosted matches in the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup, and that has assisted us in being prepared for the enormity of this year’s tournament.

This is the second-biggest men’s football tournament behind the FIFA World Cup.

To ensure we meet the guidelines, several FIFA delegates have already visited our shores and left behind one of the visiting nations.

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hamilton.govt.nz/worldcup
Dig this! Arbor Day

More than 12,000 plants will find a home in the fertile soil of Waikarekare at this year’s Arbor Day event, on 29 May.

Arbor Day planting is an annual event for the Council, held every May. It’s the major community planting exercise on Hamilton’s calendar, drawing up to 3000 people to the park, on the northwestern outskirts of the city.

“One of the important aspects of Arbor Day is it builds on the momentum the project has gathered over the past 10 years,” says Jeremy Froger, the Council’s Natural Environments Team Leader.

Mr Froger says Arbor Day presents teachers with a great opportunity to get their students out of the classroom and into a natural learning environment.

“We do get good numbers of school students involved in Arbor Day, and we’re very keen to see that continuing. The teachers and the children can make a small but vital contribution to what is recognised as a nationally-significant urban ecological restoration.”

Similarly, companies and organisations can take the opportunity to turn Arbor Day into a staff team-building exercise.

“What we’ve seen in previous years is a number of businesses bringing out teams of staff to work together, and that has some real value – fresh air in the lungs, gumboots on the feet, a little bit of physical labour…it’s good earthy stuff,” he says.

Participants in this year’s Arbor Day will plant a mix of 15 species, including two varieties of Pittosporum and Totara. The species are eco-sourced and selected specifically to recreate the original habitat of the location. Hamilton Zoo – right across the road from Waikarekare – is offering schools free educational talks following the Arbor Day plantings. Students will be inspired by a range of speakers, where they will learn how their planting efforts will help restore Waikarekare to its natural ecosystem. Schools can register their interest in the education talks by emailing zoo.education@hcc.govt.nz.

Residents urged to consider neighbours when lighting backyard fires

Hamilton residents are encouraged to consider the comfort and safety of their neighbours before lighting fires outdoors. The New Zealand Fire Service is called to investigate more than 250 complaints about nuisance fires across Hamilton each year.

The Council’s Environmental Health Manager, Peter McGregor urges Hamiltonians to consider alternatives to burning rubbish.

“Some backyard fires not only cause a nuisance to others through smoke, ash and odour, they also affect people’s health, especially those with asthma and respiratory problems,” says Mr McGregor.

Last year the Council introduced a new bylaw to help manage nuisance fires. The Open Air Burning Bylaw sets out safe conditions for lighting fires and gives the Council and fire service authority to extinguish nuisance fires if necessary.

A new brochure, A Guide to Outdoor Fires, provides guidance around what people can and can’t burn on their property and tips on safe burning. hamilton.govt.nz/outdoorfires

ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING WASTE:
• home composting
• taking organic waste to the Hamilton Organic Recycling Centre, Wickham Street, Frankton
• arranging shared bins or green bag services
• kerbside recycling of paper, glass and aluminum
• use school plastic recycling programmes.

WHO TO CALL:
• if a fire is causing a danger to people or property call 111
• to report a fire causing a nuisance through smoke, ash or odour, call the Council on 07 838 6699.

To register for the Arbor Day planting contact parksopenspaces@hcc.govt.nz
Out and About

More than 15,000 Hamiltonians took part in this year’s ANZAC Day commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.
Management Plan review for Hamilton Lake Domain

Meeting future community aspirations is the focus of a review of the Hamilton Lake Domain Management Plan.

Hamilton Lake Domain and Innes Common are two of the city’s most popular locations for both residents and visitors and, under the Reserves Act, the Council must have a management plan.

“The current management plan is due for revision, and it’s the Council’s role to develop a new one in consultation with the community,” says Sally Sheedy, Parks and Open Spaces Manager.

“Management planning enables the Council to identify appropriate uses and activities for reserves and assists with the day-to-day management and decision making. It is an opportunity to find out community views and preferences and to provide for them,” she says.

The management plan review process is expected to take about seven months, and the initial consultation period is one of two opportunities the public has to comment. The second opportunity comes later in the process when a draft of the new management plan is available for viewing.

Miss Sheedy says Hamilton Lake Domain continues to grow in popularity, and is a favoured location for families after the opening of the new playground late last year.

Across the two parks, there are a number of assets, activities and stakeholders, including The Verandah Café, Innes Common’s position as a sports venue, the use of the lake itself for waka ama, yachting, model boat racing and the popular walkway which circumnavigates the entire lake and is popular with joggers and walkers.

hamilton.govt.nz/lakedomainplan

10-Year Plan – have your say

Our draft 10-Year Plan sets out our priorities, plans and budget for the next decade – and we want to know what you think. You have until 15 May to get back to us with your feedback, ideas and suggestions.

We’ve organised a series of engagement sessions which replace the formal hearings process we used previously, and the last one is on 6 May, 11.30am – 1.30pm, at Purdie Hall in the Link Community Centre, Te Aroha Street. It’s your chance to talk to the Mayor and councillors about their plans for the city over the next 10 years and let them know your views.

We also want your opinion on the draft Revenue and Financing Policy, Rates Remission and Postponement Policy and our Development Contributions Policy. You can also have a say through social media, or submit written feedback. Submission forms are available online, or at any of Hamilton’s libraries.

Facebook: Post to Facebook.com/HamiltonCityCouncil using #Ham10YP
Twitter: Tweet @CouncilHamilton using #Ham10YP

All submissions and feedback must be received by 4pm next Friday (15 May).

hamilton.govt.nz/10yearplan

GETTING INFORMED: Members of the public talk to the Mayor and councillors about the Council’s draft 10-Year Plan
KIA MAGIC VS SOUTHERN STEEL  
SUNDAY 10 MAY  
CLAUDELANDS ARENA  

The last time these two netball teams met in 2014 the Magic were disappointed to come away with a loss – so they’ll be looking to redeem themselves. Make sure you’re there to witness all the on-court action.  
CLAUDELANDS.CO.NZ

2 DEGREES COMEDY CONVOY  
FRIDAY 15 MAY  
FOUNDER’S THEATRE  

Steve Wrigley (7 Days) is back from the US to host the 2degrees Comedy Convoy, as part of the 2015 NZ International Comedy Festival. They’ve lined up a hilarious group of top comedians from across the world and New Zealand, to keep you laughing all night.  
HAMILTONTHEATRES.CO.NZ

TAINUI SECONDARY SCHOOLS’  
KAPA HAKA FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY 16 MAY  
CLAUDELANDS ARENA  

The best teams of the region will be battling to be one of four teams to represent Tainui at the next national competition held in Hastings, 2016. The event celebrates and encourages excellence in Te Reo Māori, the Māori Language and Māori Performing Arts in the spirit of kinship, nurturing and maintaining positive relationships and networks.  
CLAUDELANDS.CO.NZ

WOMEN’S LIFESTYLE EXPO  
SATURDAY 16 - SUNDAY 17 MAY  
CLAUDELANDS  

Come and enjoy a unique shopping experience from crafts to fashion, sample gourmet wine and food, new makeup and skincare. Now one of the largest events held in Hamilton the two-day expo will include around 180 companies from throughout New Zealand and feature a Taste of NZ Zone, NZ Handcrafts Zone, Fashion Zone and more.  
CLAUDELANDS.CO.NZ

FOSTER AND ALLEN IN CONCERT  
SUNDAY 17 MAY  
FOUNDER’S THEATRE  

Legendary Irish folk music duo, Foster and Allen (Mick Foster and Tony Allen) have been in the music charts throughout their 40-year career. They’ve released more than 30 albums, many of which entered the UK albums chart.  
HAMILTONTHEATRES.CO.NZ

NZSO - INTO THE STORM  
THURSDAY 21 MAY  
FOUNDER’S THEATRE  

Taste the salt of a bitterly cold ocean voyage with Benjamin Britten’s Four Sea Interludes from his masterpiece opera, Peter Grimes. Then lionhearted British violin star Anthony Marwood takes on Britten’s brilliant and imaginative Violin Concerto, which pushes the violin to the extremes of its power.  
HAMILTONTHEATRES.CO.NZ

COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA  
WEDNESDAY 27 MAY  
FOUNDER’S THEATRE  

From Biggs Holiday to Ring Crosby, Frank Sinatra to Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughan to Ella Fitzgerald, the Count Basie Orchestra has provided the supremely distinctive sound and swing behind some of the greatest singers of the modern age. Directed by veteran trumpeter Scotty Barnhart, the 18-piece Count Basie Orchestra features a peerless array of instrumentalists with combined credentials that have topped the upper echelons of the international jazz world for decades.  
HAMILTONTHEATRES.CO.NZ

EARLY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS III:  
THE CRAFTSMAN  
THURSDAY 28 MAY  
WAIKATO MUSEUM  

Early music specialist Mark Macdonald examines the relationship between early music, craftsmanship, art and social history in this series of talks every second Thursday.  
WAIKATOMUSEUM.CO.NZ

SLEEPING BEAUTY  
SUNDAY 24 MAY  
FOUNDER’S THEATRE  

Moscow ballet La Classique invites the whole family to an evening of spectacular ballet bringing to life Tchaikovsky’s fantastically popular score. In this two-act fairytale performance La Classique will capture the imagination, the passion and the magic of Sleeping Beauty. A hugely enjoyable dance spectacular for ballet lovers of all ages.  
HAMILTONTHEATRES.CO.NZ

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS  
FRIDAY 5 JUNE  
CLAUDELANDS ARENA  

Featuring some of the greatest athletes and entertainers on the planet, the Harlem Globetrotters have wowed crowds around the world for eight decades with their ball handling wizardry, basketball artistry, theatre and comedy - all adding up to one of a kind family entertainment!  
CLAUDELANDS.CO.NZ

THE FABULOUS FLETCHER  
COLLECTION - CURATOR’S FLOOR TALK  
THURSDAY 21 MAY  
WAIKATO MUSEUM  

Hear the curator of the Fletcher Collection, Peter Shaw, speak about New Zealand’s most impressive corporate art collection.  
WAIKATOMUSEUM.CO.NZ

ED BYRNE - ROARING FORTIES  
FRIDAY 22 MAY  
CLARENCE STREET THEATRE  

As part of the 2015 NZ International Comedy Festival the self-confessed “miserable old git” Ed Byrne, is coming to Hamilton. While for others, hitting 40, might result in a crisis that prompts the purchase of a sports car, Ed embraces it with open arms.  
HAMILTONTHEATRES.CO.NZ

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WHERE TO GET YOUR EVENT TICKETS:  
HAMILTON i-SITE, ON THE CORNER OF CARO AND ALEXANDRA STREETS, IS AN AGENT FOR TICKETEK AND DASH TICKETS. THE i-SITE IS OPEN 9AM TO 5PM WEEKDAYS AND 9.30AM TO 3.30PM WEEKENDS.