

## 5.0 Key Achievements in 2008/09

(NGA TUTUKITANGA 2008/09)

Under the three Strategic Framework areas - *Investing In Our People, Creating Identity and Prosperity and Protecting Our Future* — this section reports on a selection of notable highlights for Council's activities during 2008/09.

### Investing In Our People

#### Working Bee Targets Crime, Truancy and the Environment

Crime, truancy and the environment were the targets for up to 2,000 volunteers involved in Council's March 2009 Working Bee, which builds on the success of last years Enderley Working Bee.

Council again joined forces with the New Zealand Police and members of the Mormon Helping Hands Team to address crime and truancy hotspots and build on environmental projects in the city. This year's Working Bee also brought on board Ontrack in an effort to combat vandalism and graffiti along the city's rail corridors. Six projects formed the basis of the weekend:

- Graffiti removal along the length of the Hamilton rail corridor.
- Undergrowth and track clearance at Donny Park as a crime and truancy prevention measure.
- Native plantings at four key ecological sites including Waiwhakareke, Newstead School, Pukete Farm Park, and Beetham Park.

The Working Bee provided an opportunity for the Police, Council and the community to work together to combat vandalism and generate positive neighbourhood activities.

#### Graffiti 0800 Number Proves a Hit

Hamilton's 0800 TAGBUSTERS number was launched in July 2008. After one year of operation it received calls from 1,383 Hamilton residents reporting nearly 3,906 graffiti removal jobs. Three crews and a

contractor are in operation throughout the city removing tags for these callers as well as from an array of Council assets. These regular removal operations have proven vital in maintaining the cleanliness and perceived safety of Hamilton's toilets, parks and city streets.

The operation has moved from strength to strength over the year, with the TAGBSUSTERS number and email address now sign-written on Council's vehicle fleet. Calls continue to come in, meaning the crews are busier than ever.

#### Recognyz Youth Awards 08

The Recognyz Youth Awards were held for the third time in October 2008 at the Clarence Street Theatre. This is a Hamilton City Council and Youth Council led awards night, in collaboration with local youth service providers. Thirty-three exceptional young people were up for awards for everything from community involvement to innovative ideas, music, culture, arts and overcoming adversity.

Taking the stage on awards night were Hamilton's chart topping band, Elemen P and other entertainment from the Waikato Drummers, Fusion Dance Company, The Evergreens and RockQuest runner-up Jimmy Leigh. Elemen P kept their promise - at the close of the night the band invited some 100 youth fans, award winners and their friends onstage to celebrate the end of Recognyz 08, the Hamilton youth Awards, in rockstar fashion.

### **Early Food Control Plans give Competitive Edge to Hamilton Businesses**

Council is encouraging local food businesses to voluntarily implement Food Control Plans now to gain a 'competitive edge' before an upcoming law change. Food Control Plans will soon become a legal requirement of the Food Bill, which is designed to give food businesses a set of procedures and records to help them simply and effectively manage food safety.

Food operators who register their Food Control Plan with Council are exempt from the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974, as their Food Control Plan sets the rules for their business. Council's Environmental Health Officers are responsible for ensuring that the operator's Food Control Plan is appropriate for their business and that it is being properly followed.

By voluntarily implementing Food Control Plans now, local food businesses will be one step ahead of their competitors and will signal to customers they are serious about food safety. The public will be able to easily identify businesses with approved Food Control Plans by the green 'Serious about Food Safety' sticker displayed in their windows.

### **Top Dignitaries Unveil Te Parapara Garden Stage Two**

A \$433,000 grant from the Lottery Significant Project Fund enabled Council to complete Stage Two of the Te Parapara Garden at Hamilton Gardens, New Zealand's first public traditional Maaori garden.

Te Mara, Stage Two of Te Parapara Garden was opened in December 2008 by Hamilton Mayor Bob Simcock in the presence of Te Arikinui Tuheitia Paki, the Maaori King and the Honourable Anand Satyanand, the Governor-General of New Zealand.

Local Maaori leaders have been involved throughout the Garden's planning and design process. The practices and symbols of local hāpu and the knowledge and

guidance of local kaumaatua have helped to determine the shape of the new garden.

Named Te Mara because of its traditional function as a cultivated garden, visitors will enter the space via Te Ara Whakatauki, or the path of proverbs. The approach uses plantings to tell the story of the journey of the Tainui people from their homeland in Hawaiiiki to the former pa site Te Parapara, on which the garden now stands.

Te Parapara will have a valuable role to play in helping to conserve and tell the stories of local hāpu and enable the wider community to gain a deeper understanding of the culture and sophistication of Maaori horticulture. There are no publically accessible traditional Maaori gardens anywhere in New Zealand and Te Parapara is set to become the truly unique taonga and feature of Hamilton Gardens. The third and final stage of Te Parapara is expected to be completed by May 2010.

## **“Te Papapara is set to become the truly unique taonga and feature of Hamilton Gardens”**

### **The Verandah at Hamilton Lake**

With cutting edge sustainable design, stunning views and a service range which caters for everything from an ice cream or coffee to a business lunch or cocktail party, The Verandah at Hamilton Lake is the new place for all Hamiltonians to be.

Starting out life as a relatively small tearoom, over the past 25 years the now demolished former facilities were amended, added on to and adjusted to accommodate the changing needs of its customers. By 2007, when the buildings were demolished, the materials, style and layout of the Lake Tearooms had made

them difficult to maintain, unattractive and unable to operate either efficiently or effectively as a café and function centre.

In light of these issues and the location's huge popularity as a recreational facility, Council identified the need for significant redevelopment of the site. The brief was to deliver a redeveloped building that was in line with the guiding principles of the CityScope urban design strategy; that was contemporary and could be considered iconic but was also capable of respecting the natural environment in which it was to be located.

Anyone who was present at the July 2009 opening of The Verandah or who has been through its doors will agree that it is a superbly functional facility with an iconic identity which marks it out and yet fits with ease into the ambience of the lakeside setting. For more information about The Verandah, visit [www.theverandah.co.nz](http://www.theverandah.co.nz).

## “The Verandah at Hamilton Lake is the new place for all Hamiltonians to be”

### **First Review of Hamilton's Prostitution Bylaw**

The first review of Hamilton's Prostitution Bylaw 2004 commenced in September 2008.

The objectives of the bylaw are to support the purpose and intent of the Prostitution Reform Act 2003. The bylaw enables commercial sexual service providers to operate within Hamilton in a manner that both meets demand for services and addresses community concerns and sensitivities. It allows for the establishment of brothels in city areas where the effects associated with their operation can be

readily controlled and limits their operational exposure to children and young people.

The review process included informal stakeholder consultation as well as formal public consultation between 15 April and 22 May 2009. The majority of the 276 submissions showed substantial support for the amended bylaw, with only two opposing it and two that sought amendments.

As a result of the review, Council decided to retain its existing Prostitution Bylaw largely unchanged. The review has reinforced that Council's Prostitution Bylaw is working effectively. Over recent years it has been tested in both the High Court and Court of Appeal and been successfully defended on both occasions.

## **Creating Identity and Prosperity**

### **Building Unit Successfully Achieves BCA Re-accreditation**

The Building Unit successfully achieved Building Consent Authority (BCA) re-accreditation on 29 May 2009. This accreditation with central government allows the Unit to operate as a BCA in terms of the Building Act 2004. Without accreditation the Unit cannot carry out its regulatory functions.

This was a three-step process involving a series of assessments by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ). These assessments are rolled out through to 2013 and cover phase 1 - initial competency assessment for all staff and accreditation; phase 2 - documentation and systems, together with a re-assessment of competency for all staff; and the final phase which includes the balance of quality control and measures.

Re-accreditation is an ongoing process and occurs every two years. The Building Unit has achieved phase 1 and more recently phase 2. Phase 2 has been achieved two years ahead of the proposed timeframe

and the Unit is among only a few to have achieved this milestone. This means that the Unit has unlimited scope to process all building projects and inspect them with no restrictions on the complexity of the project. This achievement demonstrates that Hamilton City Council is at the leading edge of quality control and best practice in terms of customer service and building control.

### **CBD Shoppers Benefit from Free Meter Parking on Saturdays**

Council's support for new initiatives to assist the CBD's viability was demonstrated through its trial of parking meter free weekends that commenced on 15 November 2008. Although it is free to park all day on Sundays, Council extended this to Saturdays for the trial period. Time limits on meters (in most cases one hour) were still enforced on the Saturdays during the trial period to ensure regular turnover of carpark spaces for the benefit of shoppers and visitors to the central area.

The cost to Council was estimated to be around \$5,800 in lost revenue from parking fees each Saturday during the trial period (with the overall reduction in parking revenue anticipated to be around \$300,000). This was considered acceptable given that the initiative drew people back into the CBD, as well as making it a more vibrant place during the traditional Christmas and New Year shopping period of December 2008 and January 2009.

Council relaunched the free parking trial on 29 August 2009 to celebrate the completion of the CityHeart physical works along Victoria Street. The new trial will measure public use and resulting opinion of 'free weekend parking' in the city centre, with no time limits applying.

The results of the parking trial will also provide an input into the review of parking management for Hamilton.

### **Ministry Survey Rates Hamilton Tops for Development**

In June 2008 Council achieved an overall 99% efficiency rating for processing

resource consent applications in the Ministry for the Environment's (MfE) latest two-yearly survey. Council achieved a 100% score for non-notified consents as all were processed within the Resource Management Acts (RMA) required time of 20 days.

The MfE survey helps monitor the implementation and operation of the RMA. It also allows comparisons to be made between local authorities, promoting performance benchmarking, and stimulating discussion and the sharing of good practice.

Whereas the national overall average of resource consent applications being processed on time was only 69%, Council's outstanding result validates its focus on thinking smarter about processes and adding value by proactive engagement with customers.

Since 2002 Council has operated a 100% money back guarantee on application fees if it is over time for non-notified consents. This demonstrates the organisation's commitment to providing timely resource consent decisions. For all consents Council has taken the innovative step of engaging applicants in pre-application meetings and informal meetings with affected parties to work through solutions which, where possible, all parties agree to. Rather than potentially costly and protracted legal stand offs, this makes for a much better development solution in the community and saves ratepayers money.

In the 2008/09 financial year Council processed 100% of resource consent applications within the statutory timeframes of the RMA.

### **Launch of SODA Inc.**

In October 2008, Wintec and Council announced the official establishment of SODA Inc., the city's new creative industries business incubator aimed at encouraging and enabling economically successful businesses within the creative industries sector to thrive in Hamilton. SODA Inc. is one of the flagship projects

of the city's Economic Development Strategy.

SODA Inc. is a high-tech custom-designed suite of offices located on the mezzanine level of the refurbished Meteor theatre. Council recently completed renovations on the building, including major work on the mezzanine level for the incubator, and Wintec undertook the fit-out of the mezzanine to complete its transformation into an interactive open-plan contemporary workspace. Council has a 40% shareholding in Soda Inc.

**“encouraging and enabling economically successful businesses”**

#### **Launch of Opportunity Hamilton**

In July 2009 Opportunity Hamilton, the city's new economic development agency, was launched. Opportunity Hamilton is funded in part by Hamilton City Council, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Work and Income New Zealand and the Young Enterprise Trust. Formerly known as the Business Development Centre, the organisation has served the city in an economic development role for over 20 years.

Predominantly working with entrepreneurs and business owners who are starting up and growing their companies in the city, one of Opportunity Hamilton's additional roles is promoting Hamilton as an ideal place to locate (or relocate) a business. The agency is also playing an active role supporting Hamilton International Airport as it sets up a new regional tourism organisation. Additionally, it is helping to grow exports and job opportunities within the Waikato aviation industry through its work with the Waikato Aviation Cluster.

#### **Funding for Innovation Park**

Waikato Innovation Park is New Zealand's growth hub for Ag-Biotech businesses. The park is located on 17 hectares of land next to the Ruakura Research Centre, home to AgResearch, HortResearch, Landcare and Dexel. It is in close proximity to the University of Waikato Campus.

In December 2007, Council resolved to invest \$2.4 million into Innovation Park to enable development of at least one new building on the site. This investment was made in March 2009 and is subject to an interim funding agreement to secure Council's interest until the investment structure is determined. It is anticipated that the final structure will be confirmed in the latter half of 2009 with the finalised structure likely to be a Council Organisation.

Council's funding contribution was also supported by contributions from the Ministry of Economic Development's Enterprise Partnership Fund (\$2 million towards the new building and \$2 million towards operating expenditure) as well as debt funding from Innovation Waikato.

This total investment will mean that the Park will increase its economic contribution to Hamilton and the national economy. The increased significance of the Park may in turn attract businesses on a global scale.

**“growth hub for Ag-biotech business”**

#### **\$6 million Capital Injection into Hamilton International Airport**

With Air New Zealand's withdrawal of trans-tasman services on 25 April 2009, Council's payment of \$6 million into Hamilton International Airport as a 50% shareholder was part of supporting a critically important strategic asset. The capital injection was to ensure that the airport is in a strong position to take up

opportunities that will arise when the economy picks up.

This was the first capital call-up since the Crown's share in the airport was sold to the five shareholding councils (Hamilton, Waikato, Waipa, Matamata-Piako and Otorohanga) in 1993 for around \$3 million. Since then the councils have seen the net asset value of the airport, with its 266 hectares of land, increase to over \$60 million.

The new capital was to allow the airport company to continue with its long-term plans, including meeting upcoming obligations for the development of its new commercial and industrial estate, Titanium Park. The park covers 63 hectares and has just recently been rezoned from rural and aviation use to commercial and industrial.

After the withdrawal of Air New Zealand's trans-tasman services, Council worked with the Airport Board and other shareholders to attract another carrier. In June 2009 International airline Pacific Blue announced that it would start flying from Hamilton to Australia in the first week of September 2009.

#### **Second Annual Hamilton 400**

The inaugural Hamilton 400 was a major success. It was always going to prove challenging to build on this success in 2009, especially when considering the current economic climate.

As with any first-time event, a number of areas for improvements were identified in 2008, which the event promoter and Council worked together to rectify in 2009. This included a new track build programme to minimise disruptions to properties situated on the circuit; an increase in grandstand seating and decrease in ticket numbers to improve visibility for spectators; and the construction of an additional footbridge from Commerce Street over High Street to assist with pedestrian flow.

Overall 121,000 spectators attended the April 2009 event across the three days,

with millions of dollars injected into the local economy.

#### **Fight of the Century**

Hamilton further cemented its reputation as an events destination with a 'can do' attitude earlier this year when it secured the right to host the David Tua versus Shane Cameron 'Fight of the Century' boxing contest.

Hamilton secured the contest above Auckland, Waitakere and Wellington, with initial plans to host the event on 6 June 2009 at a 'fully covered' Waikato Stadium. However, when an injury to Shane Cameron forced the event to be postponed for several months and ruled Waikato Stadium out as the venue, Council continued to work with the event promoters Duco to ensure the fight could be accommodated at the alternate venue, Mystery Creek, on 3 October 2009.

**“reputation as an events destination with a ‘can do’ attitude”**

#### **National Award for Hamilton Brand**

Hamilton City Council's strategic planning and vision for the development of the Hamilton brand scooped silver at the Nexus Awards in March 2009. The national awards are regarded as the most rigorous and hotly contested forum for New Zealand's marketing industry. Council was the only local government finalist in the awards amongst some of the country's leading companies and brands including TVNZ, Ezibuy, Progressive Enterprises and Foodstuffs. With a gold award not presented in the Strategic Vision category, the silver award is considered a tremendous achievement against very strong competition.

### **Hamilton Secures RWC 2011 Games**

The announcement that Hamilton will host three pool games at Waikato Stadium during the Rugby World Cup 2011 was a great achievement for the city, particularly considering so many venues were vying for hosting rights.

It was confirmed in March 2009 that Hamilton will host the All Blacks when they take on the winner of the Asia qualifier on 16 September 2011, before hosting Wales twice - first when they go up against the winner of the Oceania qualifier on 18 September 2011, and then when they face Fiji on 2 October 2011.

Hamilton's successful bid was the result of an outstanding effort by Council staff and a strong regional partnership with other local councils and funders. Overall 40 pool games were allocated to 13 venues across the country.

### **Hamilton in Hi-Res**

A collaborative effort between Hamilton City Council and Google means high resolution satellite imaging of Hamilton is now available on Google Maps. A web mapping service application offering street maps and directions free for non-commercial use, Google Maps previously only featured very high level images of Hamilton.

The high resolution colour GIS maps were supplied by Council and uploaded by Google in April 2009, meaning crystal-clear images are now viewable. The hi-res images can be viewed by typing [www.maps.google.co.nz](http://www.maps.google.co.nz), searching 'Hamilton' and selecting the satellite view.

### **Waikato Museum Exhibition Marks Human Rights Day**

An exhibition providing an insight into the lives of refugees opened at Waikato Museum in December 2008, coinciding with celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The exhibition ran until April 2009.

*Walk with Me*, toured by the Petone Settlers Museum and sponsored by the Department of Labour, aimed to connect people with refugees who have resettled in New Zealand. It highlighted some of the circumstances that force people to leave their homes and the issues confronting them from the time of leaving their homeland to resettling in a new country.

The exhibition aimed to challenge people's perceptions, raise awareness of the issues surrounding refugees, assist refugees in the process of resettling in the Waikato Region, and provide a 'safe' place for refugees to visit and take part in debating issues and sharing their stories.

### **Waikato Museum Celebrates 150 Years of the Kiingitanga Movement**

An exhibition celebrating 150 years of the Kiingitanga movement in the Waikato was held at the Waikato Museum between October 2008 and April 2009.

*'Te Puna Kai: Visual Tales along the Poukai Trail'* was a photographic exhibition that captured key moments at Poukai Marae throughout the region. The photos represent a time of change for Te Kiingitanga, and have resulted in a record that will help people learn and a nation remember.

The Te Puna Kai exhibition has been a collaborative project for Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust and Waikato Museum, and has marked another phase in the relationship between Tainui and the Museum.

### **Da Vinci's Creations on Display at Waikato Museum**

*The Da Vinci Machines*, an international exhibition that has attracted record visitor numbers at all New Zealand venues in which it has been displayed, ran between 14 March and 23 August 2009.

The exhibition showcased 60 interactive machines based on the original drawings of Leonardo da Vinci and crafted by internationally acclaimed Florentine artisans Teknoart, including his flying

machines, war machines, and nautical, hydraulic and architectural innovations.

Visitors to the exhibition were invited to touch and handle the models to gain a first-hand appreciation of how they work. Each model was accompanied by explanatory notes and illustrative panels featuring Da Vinci's drawings.

#### **Restoration Commences on the Rangiriri Paddle Steamer**

Restoration work began in February 2009 on the historic land wars vessel which brought the first colonial settlers to Kirikiriroa - the future site of Hamilton, on 24 August 1864.

The conservation of the PS Rangiriri is an important step towards protecting one of the city's significant heritage assets. Council obtained support from the Department of Conservation, Tainui and Environment Waikato to secure resource consent to lift and conserve the vessel as well as providing interpretive panels on site to educate visitors about the vessel's history and significance.

The initial conservation stage (project cost \$242,900) involved de-silting the hull, building a retaining wall and supports, re-siting the boat, water blasting/repainting the hull, and surrounding it with new timber and cobble work.

On 22 June 2009 the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board's Environment and Heritage Committee approved \$181,000 funding, which will enable the protection and interpretation stage to take place. This stage will see a canopy and lighting put in place at the vessel's new site along with interpretative panels.

#### **10-metre Waka Installed at Rototuna**

A new public art installation by Dion Hitchens in Rototuna (situated at the intersection of Borman Road and Resolution Drive) took on an exciting new form, with the raising of seven waka in September 2008.

Placed in the formation of the Kiingitanga symbol of the Matariki star constellation, the 8-10 metres tall waka express the heritage and history of the area, with symbols embedded into the top of each waka telling stories to represent Tangata, the human history of the land, and symbols at the bottom representing Whenua, the natural history of the land.

The name of the installation will be announced at the special opening ceremony and blessing scheduled for October 2009.

#### **Passing Red Installed at Pit Lane**

A new public art installation by Gaye Jurisich runs along the full length of the Hamilton 400 V8 Supercars pit lane on Mill Street. This piece of art represents the flow of the race track or curves of a meandering river.

Designed by a nationally acclaimed local artist and brought to life by an internationally successful local firm, Passing Red is something Hamilton will be able to be proud of for generations to come. The official opening ceremony took place on 21 July 2009.

**“something  
Hamilton will be  
able to be proud of  
for generations to  
come”**

#### **The Best of the Best at Clarence St Theatre for Season09**

Theatre fans had the opportunity to enjoy the best of New Zealand theatre in Hamilton at the Clarence Street Theatre in 2009. Season09 is a biennial theatre series, which runs on alternate years to FUEL Festival of NZ Theatre. The inaugural season was held in 2007 and featured three productions sourced from Auckland and Wellington.

Hamilton City Theatres collaborated with some of the country's best theatre production companies to bring three productions to Hamilton for Season09, which ordinarily would not have shown here.

Running from February to August 2009, Season09 included 'Te Karakia' (a love story of religious and racial challenge, forgiveness and hope, set amidst the maelstrom of the 1981 Springbok Tour) held on 25-28 February 2009; 'Four Flat Whites in Italy' held on 15-18 July 2009; and 'Whero's New Net' (the story of Whero Mahana, a musician with songs of grit and tears pulsing through her veins, who travels to London to chase a dream far away from New Zealand) held on 5-8 August 2009.

## "an exciting project that will bring substantial benefit to Hamilton"

### **Claudlands Redevelopment**

The Claudlands redevelopment has probably been consulted on more than any other project carried out by Council and community support for it has proven strong. This is an exciting project that will bring substantial benefit to Hamilton, estimated to attract over \$30 million each year. Due to open in mid 2011, Claudlands will provide the city access to many sports and entertainment events that currently do not come to Hamilton.

The redevelopment was first proposed as part of the 2006-16 LTCCP and since underwent three further public consultation processes as part of the 2007/08 Annual Plan, the publicly notified Resource Consent, and the Proposed 2009-19 LTCCP. Taking into account the

results and community support from consultation processes, Council decided to commence redevelopment of the Claudlands Events Centre.

A resource consent was applied for in November 2008 to build the 5,000 capacity indoor arena. Public notification of the resource consent application for the arena was given on 19 November 2008. The resource consent was heard by an independent commissioner and resulted in 95 submissions being made to the hearing. The application was subsequently approved on 6 May 2009. No appeals to the application were lodged.

The remainder of the Claudlands development is able to proceed as part of the current District Plan zoning rules and does not specifically require resource consent. The development includes building the indoor arena primarily for concerts and sports events, but will also be integrated with a new exhibition hall and a conference area on the site.

The main contract for construction of the 5,000 capacity indoor arena was awarded following an extensive tender and vendor proposal evaluation process. Early engagement with the successful contractor has allowed final detailed designs to be extensively worked through prior to construction and any potential opportunities for cost savings to be identified. Physical works on the indoor arena began in July 2009.

Work on the conference and exhibition facilities will commence from November 2009, which will involve the redevelopment of the existing Main Hall into a conference area with a 1,000m<sup>2</sup> space on the lower level and a 250m<sup>2</sup> space on the upper level. The exhibition facilities will include the proposed demolition of the existing East Wing and the construction of two new halls of 2,000m<sup>2</sup> each. This will enhance the indoor exhibition capacity across the venue to approximately 9,000m<sup>2</sup> in total. The conference facilities at Claudlands are integrated with the overall development of

the venue and play an important and positive impact on the business plan and attracting new business into the city. There is currently no venue in Hamilton capable of holding a conference of over 500 delegates and it is expected that this particular component will see significant shifts in accommodation requirements and economic impacts from associated tourism and increased spend while in town.

### **Historic Claudelands Grandstand Officially Opened**

The newly refurbished Claudelands Grandstand was officially opened on 4 February 2009, marking the next chapter in the rich history of this historic building.

The landmark grandstand, which was registered Category II by the Historic Places Trust, was shifted 500 metres across the Claudelands site in April 2008 and subsequently went through extensive restoration work. Its \$1.5 million restoration saw original character design features retained and restored, lower grandstand seating removed in order to recapture its original design, and internal walls removed to create a large open-planned function space suitable for banquets, corporate functions, weddings and special events.

The grandstand's new location on the top of the Oval, adjacent to the playground, was carefully selected to enable the grandstand to take maximum advantage of key components in the Claudelands redevelopment project. Its relocation also formed an 'invisible timeline' across the site - linking from 'pre-European' Jubilee Bush at the northern end to the 'early-European' grandstand in the centre, then finally linking across to the 'modern' conference and event facilities in the southern corner.

The Claudelands Grandstand is available for event bookings. For more information visit [www.claudelands.co.nz](http://www.claudelands.co.nz).

**International Cricket Comes to Hamilton**  
Seddon Park hosted a number of international cricket matches during the

2008/09 season, including the Black Caps v West Indies 20/20 (28 December 2008); Black Caps v India ODI (11 March 2009); and Black Caps v India Test match (26-30 March 2009).

Council's investment into the upgrade of the playing venue and training facilities is one of the key reasons that Seddon Park is now so sought after for International cricket. The venue is now rated one of the best in New Zealand.

### **Free high-speed Internet access and wireless broadband at Hamilton Libraries**

In July 2008 Hamilton City Libraries were gifted new, high-specification desktop computers, through the Aotearoa People's Network partnership - a national initiative to enable communities to participate in the digital world. The number of PCs now available to customers has increased to 43, and internet access is now free to all library visitors.

Since September 2008, the partnership has also enabled free wireless internet broadband at all six library locations. Library users can also now surf the web and access emails using their own laptop or other wireless capable devices in the comfortable surroundings of their local library for free.

### **Hamilton City Libraries get Boost from international Students**

Hamilton City Libraries' world language collection received a boost in September 2008, thanks to the generosity of the city's international students. More than 40 international language books were donated to the world language collection during a ceremony at the Central Library.

The donations were the result of a campaign run by Hamilton City Libraries and Waikato Education International (WEI) aimed at encouraging international students to donate books written in the language of their home country, in order to provide an improved library service for Hamilton's ethnic communities. Amongst the donations were books written in Mandarin, Japanese, Korean and Swedish.

### **Hamilton City Libraries invite Residents to Share Stories Online**

Hamilton residents are encouraged to share their stories on a new website designed to act as a community 'knowledge basket'. The website, 'Kete' (basket) is a digital library of arts, cultural and heritage resources, maintained by Hamilton City Libraries with content from community groups and individuals; including digital images, videos, sounds, and documents. The site provides an opportunity to showcase Hamilton's heritage and community content to the world.

Since its launch in December 2008, a number of groups have added their stories to the site, including Riverlea Environment Society, Tuhikaramea Kohanga Reo and Jubilee Catholic Early Childhood Centre. For more information on Kete or to add a story online, visit <http://ketehamilton.peoplesnetworknz.info>.

**“the knowledge and gift of learning that libraries provide to their communities”**

### **Significant Maaori Artwork for Dinsdale Library**

In April 2009 a significant piece of Maaori artwork was installed on the ceiling alcove of Dinsdale Library. The artwork was designed by artist James Webster and includes perspex designed window inserts and koowhaiwhai patterning. A suspended 'Waka Huia' (treasure chest) is the focal point of the installation and represents the knowledge and the gift of learning that libraries provide to their communities.

The Dinsdale Community Library is the first of Hamilton City Libraries' six sites to receive a significant piece of Maaori artwork, in keeping with its strong Maaori community. An official blessing of the artwork took place in April 2009.

### **New Female Chimpanzees Arrive at Hamilton Zoo**

Two female chimps, mother Fimi and daughter Sanda, arrived at Hamilton Zoo in December 2008, with the hope they will breed with the facility's male chimpanzees. As well as Fimi and Sanda being invaluable for educating visitors about this endangered species, they could prove vital for the long-term sustainability of chimps in the region.

After arriving at Hamilton Zoo from Adelaide Zoo, Fimi and Sanda were housed in quarantine for a month. Upon leaving quarantine they were introduced to the Zoo's existing chimpanzees through mesh as part of a carefully managed integration process.

Due to the aggressive nature of chimpanzees, there are always risks associated with their integration. As well as the existing chimps being threatened by Fimi and Sanda, their arrival resulted in a change in hierarchy amongst the males with Mike re-taking the role from the youngest son, Luka.

### **Baby Rhino Born at Hamilton Zoo**

Moesha, a white female rhinoceros, who Hamilton Zoo staff were once concerned would never reproduce, gave birth to a male calf, Kifaru, on 30 April 2009 after a 16-month gestation. Kifaru is the fourth baby rhino to be born at the facility and the sixth to ever be born in New Zealand.

On the verge of extinction in the early 1900s, the species are a prime example of the power of conservation - going from less than 100 animals to over 17,000 in the wild thanks to the protection of habitat and animals.

The fact that white rhinos are no longer on the endangered species list show just how much of an impact conservation measures can have in ensuring the future of an endangered species. Breeding programmes in zoos are a crucial part of these measures.

## Protecting Our Future

### Landmark Water Consent Granted

Council is committed to ensuring the long-term security of an adequate supply of water for Hamilton and was successfully granted a landmark resource consent in February 2009 which renewed the city's water take for the next 35 years.

The new consent means that Council can now extract up to 105 million litres of water from the river on a daily basis for municipal use. This will increase to 146 million litres per day in 2014 and has further steps beyond this to meet future growth. Council is committed to the ongoing and proactive management of water as a precious resource and committed to working with Tainui, Environment Waikato and other major water users on the efficient and sustainable use of water.

### Smart Water Use Initiative

A 'Smart Water Use' initiative between Council, Environment Waikato and other territorial authorities throughout the greater Waikato was introduced in December 2008 and is part of a regional collaborative effort aimed at promoting proactive water conservation. A key component of this programme is the introduction of a new water alert level system.

The new water alert levels are a more comprehensive water conservation approach than the alternate day sprinkler restrictions used previously. Council will initiate a rise in water alert levels when a high volume of water has been consumed over a sustained period. Alternatively, when consumption volumes are reduced

over a sustained period, alert levels can be lowered.

The water alert levels and their corresponding restrictions are designed to encourage residents to treat water as a 'limited and precious resource' and to ensure a consistent supply to the city's water users throughout the year. The alert levels are supported by educational and communication strategies that ensure that Hamilton's residents are aware of the need to conserve water and at what level of demand the city is currently experiencing.

### Hamilton Organic Centre

The Hamilton Organic Centre has provided the community with an integral opportunity to recover organic material and divert waste from landfill since 1991. Council owns the Wickham Street organics recovery site and leases it to an operator. The lease and resource consents for the site were due to expire in June 2009 and the incumbent operator expressed the desire to discontinue the service.

To ensure the continuation of the service and integration with the City's Environmental Sustainability Strategy, Council sought a new lessee for the site. To improve the emphasis on customer experience and set the framework for working together on future organic waste opportunities Council developed a service agreement for the lease.

The new site operator commenced on 1 July 2009.

### Willoughby Street Landfill

In 1998 Council applied to Environment Waikato for a consent authorising the continuing discharge of landfill gas and leachate from the Willoughby Street closed landfill.

This closed landfill is generating landfill gas in low to moderate quantities. Elevated concentrations of methane and carbon dioxide are recorded on and around the perimeter of the site. Of particular interest to occupiers of buildings bordering the area is the subsurface migration of landfill

gas toward and beneath buildings and structures located around the site.

The consent for the landfill was finally granted in August 2008 after an Environment Court hearing provided subtle changes to the decision reached by Environment Waikato. The most tangible consequence of the consent is the requirement for Hamilton City Council to construct a subterranean 'gas curtain' along the eastern and southern boundaries of the landfill; this will occur during the summer of 2009 and 2010.

## “Hamilton led the way in New Zealand by harnessing the biggest energy saving”

### **Hamilton Residents do their bit for Earth Hour**

Hamilton residents were encouraged to do their bit to support Earth Hour on Saturday 28 March 2009 from 8.30-9.30pm, with over 4,000 cities and towns taking part in the global initiative.

Hamilton marked Earth Hour by 'switching off' in various areas of the city on the night of 28 March, including a section of street and decorative lighting on Hood Street and during the 'Balloons Over Waikato' Earth Hour Nightglow held at the University of Waikato.

Other local initiatives included the planting of 150 trees by a group of Hamilton Zoo staff at Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park on 25 March 2009, and the distribution of 1,000 Ecobulb® energy efficient light bulbs to members of the public in the days leading up to Earth Hour.

Hamilton led the way in New Zealand by harnessing the biggest energy saving throughout the country of 10.3%, suggesting that residents embraced the event and showed their support with their light switches.

### **Energy Management Programme**

As part of its Energy Management Programme, Council is aiming to gain greater energy efficiencies in the key energy types that are used in its operations and service delivery.

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09 Council reduced its energy consumption by 86,927 kilowatt hours. This saving stemmed from a 9.4% decrease in electricity usage and a 15.2% increase in gas usage. Variations in Council's energy mix, efficiency initiatives and contractual negotiations all contributed towards saving in the past year.

The 1% increase in Council's total 2008/09 energy bill (\$5.4 million) from 2007/08 was a significant improvement over the 15.8% increase recorded between 2006/07 and 2007/08. As a result of Council having an energy management programme in place savings of \$1.5 million have been made since 2005/06.

### **Great Day for e-waste**

On 5 September 2008 Hamilton held its second e-day. This was a huge success, with just over 90 tonnes of computer equipment (including monitors, CPUs and printers) being dropped off and diverted from landfill. This is over double the amount collected in 2007.

Council staff were supported by other volunteers who together helped ensure that the 900 drivers who passed through the site were able to drop off their e-waste easily. The essential funding and support from Council and other local sponsors, coupled with a great location at the Mainfreight Depot added to the success of e-day. Additional funding from the Ministry for the Environment and other national sponsors meant that the city

received excellent value for its relatively small investment in time and money.

All equipment collected through eDay will be recycled by accredited recyclers who recover and reuse over 95% of the materials in the computer waste. Plastic, glass and steel, as well as heavy metals and precious materials such as copper, lead, zinc, gold and silver can all be recovered from e-waste and turned into new products instead of being dumped in landfills.

### **Trialling of LED Street Lights**

In November 2008 Council was one of the first local authorities in New Zealand to trial Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights in some of Hamilton's streets. LED street lighting will be able to provide long life (up to 20 years), cost effective, energy efficient lighting solutions for the city's streets. This is also one of the first LED installations in New Zealand which complies with the 2005 Joint Australian/New Zealand standard for lighting of roads and public spaces.

Specific benefits likely to arise from introducing LED street lighting in Hamilton include reducing Council's \$1.2 million annual street lighting energy costs by up to 40%. Additional benefits would result from reduced maintenance and replacement costs, improved driver visibility, personal security and better CCTV images, due to 86% more direct white light being emitted.

As the performance of LED products continues to improve even further energy use and cost savings for Council could be realised.

### **Victoria Street Revitalisation**

The CityHeart project is Council's response to the development of the city centre. Its intent is to create a vibrant and distinctive heart for Hamilton by delivering shared spaces which reflect the city's unique identity. The CityHeart project is also driven by the need to ensure connectivity and cohesiveness for the central city's future development.

The first stage of the CityHeart revitalisation commenced in January 2009, with Victoria Street improvements between Hood and Collingwood Streets. The second section of the project began in March, with construction between Collingwood and Alma Streets. The final stage of works - Claudelands Road to Bryce Street - was completed in August 2009.

Improvements to Victoria Street have included the widening of the central median incorporating loading zones, permanently one-laning traffic in each direction, significantly enhanced lighting, landscaping, partial pavement replacement, and better incorporation of the Riff Raff reserve. The result is a much enhanced pedestrian friendly, traffic calmed environment that provides a canvas for vibrant dining and retail experiences.

### **Transport Issues Top of Mind**

Roads and traffic (including congestion) were the two issues identified in Council's Quarterly Residents Survey that were of most concern to residents in 2007/08.

Council's \$71 million investment into transportation related projects in the past year seems to be making a difference. While roads and traffic were still identified as the two main issues in 2008/09, results indicate a decrease in the level of concern. While 45% of respondents identified roads and traffic as main issues in 2007/08, this reduced to 36% in 2008/09. In addition, the survey's largest satisfaction increase between 2007/08 and 2008/09 was 'the ease of getting around the city in peak traffic times', moving from a satisfaction score of 48.3 to 55.9.

### **Introduction of Sunday Bus Service**

The introduction of Sunday buses to Hamilton's streets from 28 September 2008 also brought the introduction of Sunday parking enforcement. With the new 7-day bus service, Council's parking team are out and about to help keep bus stops clear. Previously, with no buses

running on Sundays, parking staff were not on duty.

Parking staff now actively monitor city bus stops, so anyone parking there risks a high chance of receiving a parking ticket.

The Sunday and public holiday services now run on twelve key routes including the Orbiter, Pukete, Silverdale, Dinsdale, Glenview, Nawton, Fairfield, University, Rototuna, Hamilton East, University and Te Rapa services.

#### **Hamilton's First 40km/h Speed Precinct**

A new lower speed precinct came into effect on 1 March 2009. The initiative rides on the back of the successful launch in February 2008 of the 40km/h variable speed zones around 18 Hamilton primary and intermediate schools.

The city's first 40km/h speed precinct is in the area around the hospital and Hamilton West Primary School (Hammond Street, Horne Street, Park Terrace, Valley Terrace, Tidd Street and Selwyn Street). It is an expansion to the already successful 40km/h school speed zones project. In addition, speeds in Victoria Street from Claudelands Road to Hood Street are being reduced to 30km/h.

The impetus behind the new traffic calming initiatives is to provide a safer road environment around Hamilton schools and residential areas, reinforce driver expectations as to the likely presence of children in the area and encourage safe, active travel to school. In particular Council is seeking to discourage inappropriate speeds within the vicinity of primary and intermediate schools, parks, and places where there is a high presence of people walking or cycling on the street in a given area.

#### **Design Funding Approved for Wairere Drive Projects**

Wairere Drive is a key component of Hamilton's arterial ring road and is a strategic corridor of regional significance. Council has made a commitment through the Access Hamilton Strategy to address the city's transportation issues (which

include ongoing increases in traffic congestion and population growth).

In 2008/09 the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) approved \$1,072,500 funding (55% of the \$1,950,000 project) for the investigation and design phases of the Wairere Drive 4-Laning project between Pukete Road and Resolution Drive. Design funding (approximately \$2.7 million) has also been approved by the NZTA for the section of Wairere Drive between Crosby Road and Cambridge Road.

The four laning of the section of Wairere Drive from Te Rapa Road to Pukete Road was completed in 2007/08 as part of the upgrade to the state highway network. The greater Wairere Drive corridor is planned to stretch from Te Rapa Road (SH1) in the west to Cobham Drive (SH1) in the south.

A key objective of the project is to achieve a positive aesthetic outcome within the constraints that affect design, construction and operation. This will take into account the underlying cultural, ecological and landscape features to provide a pleasing visual link between Wairere Drive and the Waikato River.

## **“better access to the Waikato River from the Southern end of Victoria Street”**

#### **Valuable City Asset Secured**

Hamilton City Council and the Brian Perry Charitable Trust are partnering in a strategic land agreement which will ultimately see better access to the Waikato River from the southern end of Victoria Street.

The riverside parcel of land fronting Victoria Street across from Collingwood Street was purchased by Council from the Brian Perry Charitable Trust for \$2 million. As part of the agreement the Trust has gifted the city a portion of the 4,772m<sup>2</sup> site. It is likely that the land gift will see a public plaza developed overlooking the river. In the short-term the current building on site is being demolished and the land will continue to operate as a car park.

This review process aims to better align the District Plan with the principles of the eight City Strategies. A parallel review of the Hamilton City Development Manual (which sets out standards for physical works undertaken by private developers providing or connecting to Council infrastructure) will also be undertaken to achieve development standards that include a range of environmentally sustainable design and development mechanisms.

Exactly how the site will be developed around the public plaza is still to be finalised. Options include premium office space with river views, riverfront shops and cafes, several green spaces and a significant extension of the city's upper level riverfront promenade adjacent to the site.

## “A full review of Hamilton's District Plan”

### **District Plan Review and Variations**

Council has resolved to take significant steps towards resolving the majority of the existing variations to the city's Proposed District Plan. Of those variations, decisions have been made for Subdivision Connectivity, Heritage, Special Provisions in new growth areas and Miscellaneous Provisions (known as Variation 15), Hayes Paddock (Variation 11) and the Rotokauri Structure Plan (Variation 18).

Council is presently deliberating on Residential Centres (Variation 13) and Peacockes Structure Plan (Variation 14). A draft variation is also being finalised to introduce a Hamilton East Residential Character Zone (Variation 20) which aims to maintain and enhance the character of the area, while still providing for growth into the future.

A full review of Hamilton's District Plan commenced in the 2009/10 financial year.