

Reporting on Rodney

RDC making a positive difference

For more information on RDC go to www.rodney.govt.nz

Rodney Hosts National Launch of Seaweek

'Seaweek' is a national celebration during the first week of March to raise awareness about the marine environment and what we can do to protect it.

This year the national launch of Seaweek is being hosted by the Whangateau Harbour Care Group with support from the Rodney District Council, World Wildlife Fund and Auckland Regional Council.

The launch will be marked by the opening of a photographic exhibition showcasing sea creatures and the sea environment at the Whangateau Hall.

The exhibition will open to the public for free on Saturday 28 February. Visitors can also enjoy glass bottom boat tours, guided snorkelling, an intertidal walk and a live display of small marine animals.

On Sunday 1 March there will be a mini regatta of classic boats, kayaking demonstrations, waka paddling and the chance to take a ride on a stream boat. Activities will be hosted at the Whangateau Harbour or Domain.

Seaweek activities continue through the week with five Rodney schools visiting Tawharanui Regional Park to learn about coastal restoration with DOC, the ARC and the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society.

A Goat Island Adventure Day has been organised by DOC on Saturday 7 March giving visitors the chance to take a closer look at rocky shore wildlife with marine photographers Tony and Jenny Enderby.

For more information about how you can take part in Seaweek visit www.seaweek.org.nz.



Students learn about rocky shore ecology at Goat Island during Seaweek 2008.

Library Users Alert!

On Saturday 21 February Rodney Libraries will be providing reduced library services, to enable a computer system upgrade to occur.

Customers will still be able to check out books at the library counters, and access the internet. However, other library services will be unavailable.

"We do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause our customers. However, the upgrade will enable catalogue searches to be completed more quickly and speed up the check out process at the library counter," says Kris Wehipeihana, Rodney Libraries Service Development Co-ordinator.

Ms Wehipeihana says that given the disruption to library services on 21 February customers are being asked to visit the library at another time if possible.

Getting to School Safer



An example of the new School Zones

February marks the end of the summer holidays and students across the district are now back at school. For pupils at three Rodney schools, the journey to school is now a lot safer thanks to roading improvements made as a result of School Travel Plans.

The Council has been working with Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA), Orewa College, Mahurangi Christian School and the newly opened Snells Beach School to make it safer for children to walk and cycle to these schools.

School travel plans were developed which identified a number of safety issues that needed to be addressed.

Improvements to pedestrian crossings have been made around the schools and new 'School Zones' have been developed. The zones include solar powered flashing lights which warn motorists they are approaching a school and 'School' road markings. Anti skid chip treatments have also

been applied to the road surface which will make it easier for motorists to brake for children.

Walking school buses are now operating in Snells Beach, taking advantage of the new safer routes to school.

The Council is planning to create school zones in other parts of the District as School Travel Plans are developed and then implemented.

The Council and Police have also recently launched a campaign called "Speed Kills Kids" which aims to remind motorists to reduce their speed around schools.

A child struck by a vehicle travelling at 60 km per hour has only a 50% chance of survival. However, when the impact speed is reduced to 50 km per hour – the speed limit for urban school areas – the chance of survival increases to 55%.

Police will be monitoring traffic around schools and issuing tickets to motorists exceeding the speed limit. The message to motorists is slow it down in Rodney.

Clear Waters Popular at the Leisure Centre

If you're looking for a place to cool off this summer, relaxing at the swimming pool is a great option.

As well as keeping cool, users of The Leisure Centre at Whangaparaoa have also been enjoying the improved pool water quality since the installation of a new UV sterilisation system.

UV light is an effective way of killing any microorganisms found in swimming pool water. With the installation of the new system, The Leisure Centre has been able to significantly reduce the amount of chlorine needed to treat pool water.

Pool users have noticed a real difference already. "Since the installation of the new UV system the pool environment at The Leisure Centre has improved remarkably," says Mihai Mandache, the Coach of the Hibiscus Coast Swim Club. "The children using the pool have noticed a big change."

Mr Mandache says that before the installation of the new system the chlorine in the pool would irritate his eyes and throat but he no longer has any problems.

Less chlorine will also mean that corrosion of pool equipment



will reduce and the volume of water that has to be discarded from the pool system will halve.

While the long, hot days of February are still with us a visit to the new and improved Leisure Centre pools is a great way to celebrate summer.

Free Workshop for Business Owners

Rodney District Council is right behind bringing more businesses to Rodney, and bringing more business to those already here. That's why we're right behind the Rodney Economic Development Trust's initiative in sponsoring two high-powered business workshops.

"Win More Customers" is the name of the game and the name of the workshops. Featuring outstanding mentor and business guru Dave Wild, this is a must-attend for any Rodney business owner wanting to up the customer flow and increase the bottom-line.

One of the workshops has already happened as we go to press but there is still time to attend the second, in Kumeu on Thursday 26th February at 8.30 a.m.

It's free but registration is essential. For that registration, and for venue details, phone Stephen Ryder at the Rodney Economic Development Trust, 09 427 9475 or email Cathie at Cathie@bizrodney.com.

upcoming Rodney District Council Meetings

Full Council.....next meeting 26th February
 Infrastructure and Environment Committee next meeting 12th March
 District Plan and Regulatory Committee..... next meetings 25th February and 11th March
 (meetings start at 1pm)
 Strategy and Community Committee.....next meetings 18th and 19th February
 (off site, for the purpose of hearing submissions to Reserve Management Plans)

Meeting starting times

All meetings commence at 9.00 a.m. unless otherwise notified.

Meeting venues

Meetings are normally held in the Council Chambers, 50 Centreway Road, Orewa.