



An eventful time of the year

Papakura is heading into a busy time as the weather improves and a range of fun family, cultural and community events are planned.

Our annual fireworks spectacular, free family movies, events for the business community, cultural events at the Hawkins Centre and more will liven up the coming months as Christmas looms closer.

Papakura means business

For the businesses of the district, Papakura's popular programme of Business Breakfasts offer a valuable chance to network and to hear inspirational speakers including Fonterra CEO Andrew Ferrier in September and Peter Douglas, chairman of *Te Ohu Kaimoana*, the Waitangi Fisheries Commission in October.

In early August, a launch event at Karaka Point Vineyard marked the announcement of a new two-year programme focussing on building capability and excellence among Papakura's businesses and helping our economy to grow and thrive.

The first year of the new Stevenson Business Excellence Programme is about developing business capability through a series of workshops and an optional free business health check, with the second year focussing on entries into the Stevenson Business Excellence Awards. The Awards process ends with a gala dinner in late 2009 – a chance to get out the black tie and evening wear and celebrate everything that's great about business in Papakura and Franklin. More information is at the web site www.bestbiz.co.nz

Fun events for young people

Papakura Youth Spot is a venue and an event all in one, held on the third Saturday of each month at the Papakura Recreation Centre in Great South Road.

Each Youth Spot has a theme – September's is Home Grown

Music, offering local young people the chance to showcase their song-writing skills. The song judged best during the evening will earn its writer a chance to have it recorded in a studio.

Healthy choices and sporting fun are to the fore in September with the Fresh Futures Kids' Duathlon and Gala to be held at Massey Park stadium and the Massey Park Aquatic Centre. Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, the Fresh Futures Duathlon on Saturday September 13 is a bike-swim event offering ten bikes as prizes for the category winners.

Other stalls at the event explore some favourite activities: bouncy castles, rock climbing, a coconut shy and even a "volcano maze". The event is suitable for children aged between 8 and 13. It's a fundraiser for the Fresh Futures

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▶ appeal, which benefits children's wards at hospitals around Auckland and nationwide. Last year, the appeal raised more than \$1 million for five hospitals; this year the aim is to double the total and provide support for ten hospitals.

The district gets its "race face" on in October when the annual Papakura Blue Light Trolley Derby rolls out onto Elliott Street with classes for children of all ages.

An exciting family fun event, the Trolley Derby is already inspiring families to design and build their own trolleys. For those who need some technical assistance, there are trolley-building workshops at Mitre 10 Mega in Takanini on September 20 and 21 from 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm.

Entry in any category costs just \$10, and among the categories there's even a Schools Cup for trolleys made and entered by schools in the district and driven by a student of the school. These trolleys will be auctioned at the prizegiving. The Trolley Derby will be held on Sunday 19 October with registration and sign-in between 7.30 and 8.30 am and racing at 9.00 am.

Town centre fun

On Saturday September 27, the Papakura Spring Carnival fills the town square with colour and sound – and some delicious cakes as well! The Carnival will feature children's rides, entertainment, a petting zoo with farm animals and spot prizes and runs from 9.00 am till 2.00 pm.



To be judged during the Spring Carnival, the Papakura New World Bake Off is open to all amateur bakers, with a separate category for children under 14 years of age. The best cake or cupcake wins \$250.00. Entry forms are available at New World Papakura, from dbrooke@papakura.govt.nz or telephone 295 2339. The cakes will be displayed in the window of Farmers during the Spring Carnival.

Let's clean up

The Papakura Great Spring Clean from 22-28 September aims to develop projects to help keep the district looking great as summer approaches.

There are opportunities for school and community groups to take part, getting their own projects up and running - graffiti paint-outs, reserve clean-ups, garden projects and more are all part of the week.

Entertainment at Hawkins Centre

German-born singer, actress and entertainer Marlene Dietrich pays a one-night visit to Papakura in September – or at least her songs and style do, as acclaimed New Zealand singer and actress Jennifer Ward-Lealand brings the show *Falling in Love Again* to the Hawkins Centre. In costume of the period, she brings Dietrich's essence to

life on stage in gesture, mood and movement, recreating the glamour of the heyday of cabaret. The show on Saturday September 27 includes songs by Cole Porter, Edith Piaf, Frederic Hollander and Pete Seeger. Bookings at www.iTicket.co.nz and also at Papakura Paper Power, more information on the web site www.papakuraarts.co.nz

Pippi Longstocking arrives at the Hawkins Centre with a season running from 6-17 October. This timeless children's tale originated in a series of books published



in the 1940s and 1950s, which became a television series in the 1960s, was the subject of several movie versions and now a stage show.

Pippi is strong, independent

and free-spirited, and wears her fiery red hair in braids woven so tightly they stick out from the sides of her head. The story offers empowering messages for children as Pippi and her friends outwit boorish adults intent on misbehaviour and bad works.

Bookings at www.iTicket.co.nz and Papakura Paper Power, more information at www.papakuraarts.co.nz

At the end of October, Papakura hosts the annual Fireworks Spectacular, once more sponsored by Counties Manukau District Health Board. It's more than a fireworks display, with the Jump Jam competition, activities for the family and children of all ages and positive messages to help keep people healthy into 2009.



Community Champions

Papakura's Community Champions will be recognised at the Celebrate Papakura dinner on Friday

14 November at Belsaas Estate near Ardmore. The Community Champions are people who go that extra distance to help make Papakura a better place, and they are nominated by the people of the district.

Nominations open mid-September. For more information, email nmaher@papakura.govt.nz or telephone 295 1348.

Free family fun

Soon after, Papakura hosts its annual Christmas weekend of free family fun, with Carols on the Friday, a Christmas family movie and of course the Christmas parade through the streets of the town centre.

With so many community events coming up, Papakura's looking like the only place to be!

Reduce waste, grow great gardens!

Create your own Eden: a new website offers comprehensive information about making compost, improving the soil and producing fantastic fertilisers.

Home composting is a great way to make use of kitchen scraps and it creates the very best fertiliser for your garden. As people start to look for ways to reduce the cost of living, vegetable gardens are making a comeback.

At www.createyourowneden.org.nz there's



comprehensive information about making compost either in a bin or a compost heap; along with the more advanced worm farms and the Bokashi technique - which even copes with meat and fish waste.

You can also find out how to use your compost to produce your own "Smart Garden" and receive top tips from the experts.

Free home composting demonstrations are carried out at various venues and details of these are also on the web site.

CODE COMPLIANCE EARNS A BEAR

Bob the Bear is Council's way of saying thanks to builders in the district when their properties are certified to comply with the building code. For a limited time, every person who received a Code Compliance Certificate from the Council for a property in this district also received a bear called Bob who arrived with hat and hi-vis vest and a builder's pencil, ready to start work.

Below, Resource Management Committee Chairman Cllr Peter Jones, centre, hands over bears to Dylan (left) and Harrison Ost, held by their parents, Steve Ost and Andrea Blake.



Woolly Nightshade is for the chop

It's a pest plant also known as Tobacco

Weed, Flannel Leaf or Kerosene Plant. It's broad leaved with soft felt-like leaves drab green/grey on top and white to creamy grey underneath, clusters of purple flowers and berries that can turn yellow when ripe. Flowers, leaves, berries and seeds are highly toxic to humans, particularly children. The leaf and tree sap will irritate and sting skin.

Papakura is declaring war on Woolly Nightshade, removing it from public reserves and asking land owners to do their part.

Official classification as a pest plant means there is a legal requirement for land-owners to remove all woolly nightshade within 20m of their boundary once a complaint is received.

Detailed information about how to permanently and safely remove this pest plant is available at www.papakura.govt.nz

Papakura Normal School wades in



Up against Wai Care groups from Rodney District, North Shore, Waitakere City, Auckland

City and Manukau City, a group of dedicated teachers and children from Papakura Normal School have won the Wai Care "Encourage and Inspire" award.

The group devised an entire learning unit focussing on water quality issues called "Precious Water" that involved children from all years at the school.

Papakura Wai Care co-ordinator Laura Torre says Wai Care involvement has significantly increased this year and the whole school is active in the programme, which includes water testing at Old Wairoa Stream; biological sampling (learning about stream life); learning about the freshwater cycle; a litter clean up along the stream; and studies of native fish and stream creatures.

Work programme update

This column sets out Papakura District Council's major roading, stormwater and other work - recently completed, in progress and planned. A regular feature of District News, it helps keep the residents of Papakura up to date with what the Council is doing.

Parks and recreation work completed in June and July

- New toilets for Village Green
- Graffiti target - hardening planting
- New park signs
- Repaint of Drury Sports Complex amenity block
- CCTV camera trial in Central Park
- Coastal planting at Longford Park and Youngs Beach Reserve
- Street tree planting on Great South Road, Takanini
- Installation of gates at Ray Small Car park, Keri Downs Car park and South Park car park
- Upgrade of Pukeroa playground
- New picnic table at Village Green
- Drury Domain (Great South Road) car park renewal

Parks and recreation work currently underway

- Upgrades at Don Street Housing for the Elderly
- Removal of exotic self seeded trees on Pukekiwiriki Pa
- Massey Park Aquatic Centre repairs
- Energy audit for Massey Park Aquatic Centre and 35 Coles Crescent
- Drainage work at Village Green
- Temporary building on Smiths Reserve

Parks and recreation work planned for August and September

- Replacement of air ducting system at Massey Park Aquatic Centre
- Street tree planting on Walter Stevens Drive
- Amenity block renewals
- Massey Park Athletics Track repairs

Roading work completed in June and July

- Papakura Mainstreet Upgrade
- Improvement works to cul-de-sac "turning heads" throughout the district
- Fitzgerald Road rehabilitation works

Roading work in progress

- Annual road re-marking
- Pre-seal repairs
- Storm damage repairs

Roading work programmed for August and September

- Footpath renewals – 350 metres
- Pre-seal repairs
- Slip repairs on Hunua Road and Ponga Road
- Storm damage repairs
- Great South Road/Beach Road kerb realignment works

Stormwater work completed June and July

- Pipe upgrades at Callis Avenue
- Upgrade at Nelson Street and East Street
- Upgrade in Snell Avenue
- Street cesspit upgrades in Old Wairoa Road, Pricor Street and Ingram Street

Stormwater planned for August and September

- Wood Street and Railway Street West upgrades
- Continuing design and contract preparation for upgrades at Dominion Road/Settlement Road, Chichester Drive, Tironui and Flanagan Roads

PHOTO GALLERY



Youth Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta was guest speaker at a graduation ceremony for Papakura's latest group of youth leaders in early August.

Photograph: Papakura Courier



Safe2Go's Karin McDonald checks a child car seat at the ACC/Papakura District Council free child seat and restraint clinic.