

Landowners on coast face big planning shake-up

A proposed plan change will redefine Whangarei's Coastal Countryside Environment — but the council says it is not cause for alarm among affected property owners.

The council's environment committee resolved to publicly notify the review's new rules, included in Proposed Plan Change 95.

The change proposes the creation of new areas of Coastal Countryside zoned land at Whangarei Heads, alongside Bream Bay between Waipu and Ruakaka, around One Tree Pt, Patau North, Ngunguru, Whananaki and other locations.

Maps and information about the plan change will be available at the district council headquarters in Forum North, at the council service centres in Hikurangi and Ruakaka, at public libraries in Kamo, Onerahi and Tikipunga and on the council website www.wdc.govt.nz.

The plan change seeks to correct gaps and anomalies in the existing Coastal Countryside Environment, which has remained virtually unchanged since the 1970s.

It seeks to redefine the extent of the Coastal Countryside Environment, moving its boundary inland or seaward in

some places depending on assessments of topography, the visual influence of the sea, ecological, cultural or historical factors.

Cr Merv Williams said: "A lot of people in the coastal environment need to look at it and comment on the plan change."

Cr Sheryl Mai said the review would ignite interest in the community. "People in these zones will be checking maps to see how the proposed change affects their properties."

The plan change will place costs on some landowners rezoned from Countryside to Coastal Countryside.

The main difference between the zones is that house construction in Coastal Countryside is a restricted discretionary activity requiring resource consent.

While the controlled activity minimum lot size is the same in both zones, the discretionary activity minimum average lot size is 4ha in the Countryside and 10ha in Coastal Countryside.

The council is expecting increased costs to some landowners to be outweighed by fewer costs and more opportunities for landowners/developers in the rural area.

Honour at last for Civil War vet Calkin

He went AWOL while serving in the American Civil War and re-enlisted under an assumed name, but Samuel Richard Calkin is about to be honoured at his final resting place in Kioreroa Rd Cemetery.

The Navy steerage steward was born in England in 1841, emigrated as a teenager to America and enlisted at 19 where he served on two Union ships before going AWOL while in Chile.

He remained missing until 1864 when he deliberately re-enlisted under an assumed identity, Anthony Atkins, later stating the reason for changing names was to prevent his parents, especially his step-mother, from learning his whereabouts.

Samuel's great-grandson, Bruce Calkin, of Tuakau, has been corresponding with the Civil War Veterans Association of Queensland after they found records of Samuel on the Calkin website.

He says the US War Veterans Association "do this type of thing, researching people who have been involved in the Civil War" to update their records.

Mr Calkin told them: "He's got no headstone on his tomb. If the family go looking for his grave, they can't find him."

So the US association paid for, and sent to New Zealand, a bronze plaque with Samuel's details.

An unveiling is planned for July 4 to be attended by the vice-consul for the American embassy, Matthew Wall. Whangarei District Council cemetery services is helping the family find Samuel's plot — number 78, Row B — to install a concrete plinth before the unveiling.

Samuel was honourably discharged from the navy on May 31, 1865, but he continued his seafaring



HONOURED: Samuel Richard Calkin, May 6, 1841–July 3, 1909. He served in the American Civil War and is buried at Kioreroa Cemetery.

ways aboard whaling vessels, eventually ending up in Russell, New Zealand — possibly jumping overboard to come ashore.

He moved to Kawakawa and later married Louisa Ruiha Edmonds.

He became a school teacher, first in Onewhero Bay, then Mangakahia Native School and finally Kao's Te

Maori School. In 1889 Samuel and family moved to Whangarei where he took up the manager's position for around eight years at Walton Street's Colonial Boarding House and Hotel and then ran the Coffee Palace on Cameron St.

Samuel died July 3, 1909, and was buried in the Anglican section at Kioreroa Rd Cemetery.

Bands set to turn up the heat for rockquest

Northland's Tikipunga High School will host the final Smokefreerockquest heat this Sunday with more than 30 regional bands attempting to stamp their mark on the Kiwi music scene.

Heats and finals are held in 24 regions and from regional finals two bands go forward into the selection pool for the national final at Hamilton.

This year Smokefreerockquest has attracted record entries — more than 800 bands entered, trying to create that winning sound.

Founder and director Pete Rainey says judges look for factors which see a band through the entire Smokefreerockquest process.

"It's one thing to belt out a song in your garage but quite different to get up in front of a crowd and play your own original music. Bands need to have some raw talent, plus the commitment and the musical ability that will see them through when they perform in front of the crowd and the TV cameras at a regional final."

Bands competing in the final Northland heat are:

From Bream Bay College: The Sweet Taste of Symphony, Plank, Kinetic, Hang All Witnesses, Retaliante.

From Excellere College: X-Hale, Excellere College Band 2.

From Kaitaia College: Anti-Anti-Cool, Ellendiarci, Forgiven, Angels of Simplicity, Gutterfringe.

From Kamo High School: Holy Shark, In Average, Altered Ego, Ascention, The Drop.

From Kerikeri High School: Dirt, Downfall, Barefeet.

From Mahurangi college: Toothpick.

From Northland College: Aleesha & The Boyz.

From Otamatea High School: Hard to Handle, Mantra.

From Ruawai College: Smoke 'n' Mirrors, Detriment.

From Taipa Area School: Taipa Rock.

From Tikipunga High School: Suck It.

From Whangarei Boys' High School: Ivori Soul, Lucid Enigma, Anovilusic, Nameless, Solid Rock, Fear of Karma, Zenith, Static Scream, Kooge, The City Unborn.

Fourteen bands or soloists will be selected at the heats to play off at the Northland final on Friday, July 2 at Forum North.

Smokefreerockquest is New Zealand's only live, nationwide, youth, original music competition.

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