

You can get entry forms for the Norske Skog Tasman Prince and Princess of the Mountain Race at Kawerau District Council, Kawerau Information Centre or download online at [www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/newsandevents](http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/newsandevents) or [www.kawerauharrierclub.co.nz](http://www.kawerauharrierclub.co.nz). All entry forms must be received by 22nd October, there will be NO LATE ENTRIES and strictly NO 'ON THE DAY ENTRIES' for the Prince and Princess race.

This year's race will be limited to 200 children, maximum age 13, and under 9's need to attend the training sessions which is Tuesday's at 4.20pm from Firmin Field.

Other future events to put in your diary are the next Seriously Social Rafting Comp and Dog Agility Champs,

both during the weekend of 26th November and the annual Christmas in the Park on December 17.

Check out the [www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/newsandevents](http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/newsandevents) for more on events in Kawerau.



## Watch where you park

Council is proposing to stop people parking vehicles on grass berms or verges long term, regularly, or in a way that could cause damage. Under a new traffic and parking bylaw being consulted on until 15 October, it would become an offence to do so.

Most of us have been in situations where we've had to park on the grass verge because we couldn't find a space anywhere else. This can happen during big gatherings and events and isn't a problem. What is causing concern is the damage being done by people who choose to park on the grass outside their house or a place they visit, when they could have parked in the driveway, a carpark or on the road.

Kawerau is blessed with a lot of parks, reserves and other public green spaces. These help make our town look attractive. Parking on grass berms and verges can cause damage by leaving tyre tracks, compacting soil and killing grass. Roadsides rutted with muddy tyre tracks and puddles in winter, which become dusty patches of bare dirt in summer, look ugly. Council spends a lot of time and ratepayer money looking after the green spaces in town. That time and money is wasted if the town is made to look ugly because a few of us couldn't be bothered to find a proper place to park our vehicles.

Another bad driving practice the draft bylaw would clamp down on is heavy vehicles being parked in town. Trucks and buses would only be allowed to be

parked on the street for half an hour or if they had to be there for work reasons. Leaving a heavy vehicle out on the road all day or parking it on the street overnight creates a nuisance for neighbours and a traffic hazard for other drivers. This would also become an offence under the bylaw.

Using an operation mobility parking space without a permit would also be an offence under the bylaw. These spaces should be protected for use by the people who need them. Kawerau is not a big city where parking spaces are hard to find. Operation mobility parking spaces are larger than ordinary parking spaces and are positioned close to the busy shops and places that people need to go. Able bodied people who use operation mobility parking spaces might think it's alright because they're only going to be a little while. For a disabled person, finding a suitable car park can make the difference between getting to the place they need to be on that day and maybe giving up and going home. Would you want to be responsible for a disabled person not getting to the chemist, or the bank, or to WINZ on the day they need to? If you park in an operation mobility space, even just for a little while, that might be what happens.

The by-law provides exemptions for certain groups such as medical practitioners and emergency vehicles.

Copies of the draft bylaw are available from the District Library, the District Office and on Council's website: [www.kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz).

Submissions close on October 15 and will be heard at a Council meeting on October 25.