



# Ko Konei

OUR PLACE  
Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - November 2020

## Kōrero WITH Council

Share your thoughts with  
Mayor Judy Turner and Councillors

THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER  
5:30pm - 6:30pm  
Rangitāiki Cosmopolitan Club, Edgecumbe

Support local – join the Club for free on the night

*Nau mai, haere mai*



## Wainui Road safety improvements

A series of safety improvement road works on Wainui Road is due to begin early this month. The project is part of a joint Whakatāne District Council and Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) Safe Network Programme, which is a collaborative initiative designed to reduce the risk of death and serious injuries across New Zealand's highest-risk state highways and local roads.

Dave Wathall, Team Leader – Capital Projects, says people need to be prepared for delays until June 2021 but that when completed, the road from Ōhope to Ōpōtiki will be considerably safer.

"In the meantime, we implore people to be patient and tolerant while local contractors carry out the necessary work to improve safety in this high-risk area."

## WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT OVER 80'S Morning tea

10AM TUESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2020  
Whakatāne War Memorial Hall, Whakatāne

Mayor Judy Turner, Whakatāne District Councillors and Community Board Members invite all Whakatāne District Residents aged 80 years and over to morning tea.

Entertainment is provided, and spouses and caregivers are welcome. RSVPs are not required.



## Get rid of your fish waste responsibly

As the weather warms up, many of us will be on the water doing one of our favourite summer activities – fishing.

Nobody likes the unpleasant smell of rotting fish, so please remember to get rid of fish waste responsibly. You can bury fish waste in the garden, freeze it for burley or get rid of it in the plastic-lined drum bins at the Ōhope and Whakatāne boat ramps provided by Whakatāne District Council. We don't encourage discarding fish waste within the tide line as it can attract sharks.

## Outdoor pool enclosure underway at Aquatic Centre



Works to construct a year-round all-weather enclosure for the outdoor pool are underway at the Whakatāne District Aquatic Centre.

Whakatāne District Council Manager Aquatics and Recreation Andrew Smith says the enclosure will enable the pool to remain open all-year-round, increasing pool space availability. The removable sides will allow for greater flexibility of use, providing overhead protection from the summer sun, while retaining an 'outdoor feel'.

"We'll be able to attract more competitions and events to the pool which will have a great economic benefit for the local region," he says. "There will also be a greater range of spaces available to different user groups, and the added benefit of more swimming space available to the public."

The outdoor pool will be closed to the public during the construction phase, which is expected to be completed in early 2021.

## Fatbergs causing havoc

Last month, contractors had to pump out five tankers' worth of debris, mostly wet wipes, from the Edgecumbe oxidation ponds.

Then a large fatberg blocked a sewer pipe at Hillcrest, causing a sewage overflow on Seaview Road. Fat, grease and other unsuitable stuff like wet wipes (even those branded 'flushable') being flushed down drains is increasing the number of sewer pipe blockages Council staff have had to tend to lately.

Please remember the three 'P's – pee, poo and [toilet] paper – are the only things that should be going down your drains.

### Only flush the 3 P's

- Pee
- Poo
- [Loo] Paper



## APPLY FOR YOUR PIECE OF THE PIE



Do you have an idea for a project aimed at increasing participation in the arts at a local level and increasing the range and diversity of arts available within Whakatāne District communities?

If so, you have until Friday, 20 November to make application to the current round of Whakatāne District Creative Communities Scheme Funding.

Examples of initiatives that have been supported in the past, an application guide and the application form are all available at [whakatane.govt.nz/creative-communities](http://whakatane.govt.nz/creative-communities). We encourage applicants to contact Janie Storey on 07 306 0530 before submitting an application.

## Meet the team Kanohi kitea

Kim Fort

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR  
KAIWHAKARITE  
PĀPONO



### What I love most about my job

Chatting and building relationships with various organisers and groups, who are doing incredible work for our communities. I love supporting event organisers with promotions and sponsorship, and being the link between Council regulations to make the process as streamlined as possible. Attending community events is also a bonus – the recent car rally was so much fun, and a first for my family and me.

### What I find most challenging about my job

The Local Wild Food Challenge held this week was a mammoth project and as with anything you do for the first time, there were many learnings. That said, I was very well-supported and it was a successful event. We've received lots of positive feedback – I just need to choose a sunny day next time!

### Why I love living in the Whakatāne District

Fresh air, oceans, rivers, native forests, living in a town rather than a city and being closer to all my family.

### Hobbies/interests outside work

Re-discovering Aotearoa, as we lived abroad for almost twenty years. It has been incredible to visit towns and places in New Zealand that I've not visited since I was a child. I also love to chill with my family, sit in my garden and read.

### Anything else to add?

If you are interested in running an event, but not sure of what's required, just give me a call here at Council. I'm here, and happy, to help any way I can.

Each month, we'll introduce a Whakatāne District Council staff member so you can 'meet' the team working for our communities