



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - December 2020

## Te Ara Hou Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the recent consultation process. The feedback has now been processed and this has revealed the community's top six themes for these areas:



1. Create spaces for activities and events, and encourage family-friendly activities
2. Create and encourage pedestrian-friendly streets, alternative transport options and improve disability parking
3. Connect to the river, create a wide promenade with hospitality and public facilities
4. Retain car parking and/or change car parking facilities (including parking building/s)
5. Enhance natural environment connections, promote green spaces and parks
6. Greater recognition of local Māori culture and enhancing connections.

The top six themes and other information the community shared through this engagement is now available to view on Council's website. This valuable feedback will be used to inform concept designs for the town centre and riverfront that will be brought back to the community for consideration in a second round of engagement that will take place in the new year. The dates for the engagement will be publicised well in advance.

## Message from the Mayor

We are drawing closer to the first anniversary of the Whakaari eruption. This tragic event had an enormous impact on many people and as we approach this milestone, our thoughts are becoming sharply focused on remembrance.

Ngāti Awa will be hosting a remembrance event from 1pm on Wednesday, 9 December at Te Mānuka Tūtahi Marae. The ceremony will be a small-scale gathering for the families most affected by the tragedy and other invited guests. The event will be livestreamed by Māori TV and you will be able to view the proceedings on a big screen that will be set up on Mataatua Reserve. Low key entertainment will be provided at the reserve from 11.30am. Please observe COVID-19 protocols if attending this public event. Alternatively, community groups and organisations are encouraged to gather in whanaungatanga in your own hubs to view the broadcast. We hope that these shared events and reflections may help bring continued healing and some comfort as we move forward. Please note that some Council facilities will be closed or operating at reduced service levels on this day.

The remembrance events come towards the end of what has been an incredibly challenging year. I continue to be grateful for, and amazed by, the remarkable resilience and spirit demonstrated by our communities.

As this is the final Ko Konei for 2020, on behalf of all the Whakatāne District elected members, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Judy Turner – Mayor



### WHAKAARI HE RĀ WHAKAMAUMAHARATANGA

Whakatāne District Council facilities will either be closed or operating at reduced service levels on Wednesday, 9 December to commemorate the anniversary of the Whakaari/White Island eruption. Thank you for your understanding.

Te Kōputu – Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre and Te Whare Taonga o Taketake - Whakatāne Collections, Archive and Research Museum and Whakatāne i-SITE will be closed from noon until 3pm.



**Kōrero WITH Council**

Share your thoughts with Mayor Judy Turner and Councillors

**WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER**  
10am – 11am  
Murupara Library & Service Centre

*Nau mai, haere mai*



## Wainui Road safety improvements

This summer there will be road works on Wainui Road/Pacific Coast Highway. This is part of a joint Whakatāne District Council and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency programme.

Your trip might take a bit longer than you expect. We appreciate your understanding while we carry out this important work to make our roads safer.

## HOT SUMMER TIPS

*We all have a part to play in protecting our precious environment. Follow the Tiaki Promise: make a commitment to care for New Zealand, for now and for future generations.*



Keen for a beach bonfire and sing-a-long? It's restricted fire season, so you'll need a permit before lighting a fire in the open air. Visit [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz) or contact 0800 658 628 for more information.



Most of us like to enjoy a tippie on a warm summer's day, but please drink responsibly. If you're drinking, plan ahead for a ride home. Know your limits and look out for family and friends.



Being safe while out on the water makes boating fun, like it should be – instead of risky or unsafe. Always wear a lifejacket. Remember the five-knot rule.



As we head into the busy season, available car parks in the CBD can be more difficult to find. Keep your cool, remember there is a 60-minute limit and respect those with mobility permits who actually need the blue-painted car parks.



Remember to slip, slop, slap and wrap this summer – it's very easy to get burnt in our sunny region.



We need to be vigilant about natural disasters in our region. Stay across updates on the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence & Emergency Management website and Facebook page.



Summer is always a superb time to celebrate and we encourage you to have fun, but please consider your neighbours and keep your volume down.



Remember to take extra care of your furry friends during the warmer months. Make sure dogs have plenty of food and water and avoid leaving them in vehicles. Keep an eye on your dog – you don't want him or her to end up in the pound.



Water is precious – think about how you use it, even when we're not in a restricted period.



Take enough kaimoana to feed the whānau, but make sure you know the limits for species within our region.

## Free COVID-19 testing

Let's work together to keep COVID-19 from disrupting our community.

By keeping thorough testing records, we can reduce the chance of lockdown in the Eastern Bay if more COVID-19 cases occur.

Te Puna Ora o Mataatua offers free surveillance testing (testing

people without symptoms) for any community group, organisation or business – no stand downs required.

Email [covid-19@tpoom.co.nz](mailto:covid-19@tpoom.co.nz) or call 0800 MATAATUA to request free testing for your group today.

## Over 80s morning tea

Whakatāne District residents over the age of 80 joined Mayor Judy Turner on Tuesday, 1 December for the 20th anniversary of the annual festive morning tea. The occasion, hosted jointly by Whakatāne District Council and Community Boards, acknowledges the contribution our older generation has made to our communities.



## Skate park extension

The team from J-Stone Skate Parks has been doing fantastic mahi on the Whakatāne Skate Park extension. All going to plan (and the weather), the project will be completed just in time for Santa to drop in.



## Meet the team Kanohi kitea

Pearl Tane  
Senior Customer Services Officer



### What I love most about my job

My customers. I love hearing their stories and seeing the smiles on their faces when I've helped them. It's especially rewarding to see someone who was unaware they were eligible for a rates rebate of up to \$655; their faces just light up!

### What I find most challenging about my job

It's a bit of a double-edged sword. Frustrated and abusive customers can be challenging, but over the years I have learnt tips and tricks to manage these interactions.

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

### Why I love living in the Whakatāne District

Whānau and friends. Both my parents are born and raised here, so it's a rare day when I don't see anyone I'm related to. My two girls are very lucky to have cousins to play and grow up with.

### Hobbies/interests outside work

If I'm honest, I love a lemon, lime & bitters at the pub! I also really enjoy our awesome local bush walks, and relaxing with my whānau.

### Anything else to add?

Yay, it's Kirihimete soon! Enjoy the sun and spending time with your whānau and friends.