

February 2014

[www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz)

## TOP MARKS FOR WHAKATĀNE VIC

Whakatāne's Visitor Information Centre has received top marks in a recent survey by Qualmark, New Zealand Tourism's official quality assurance organisation. The VIC received an assessment score of 93% and was also accredited with a Silver Enviro Award, in recognition of its environmentally-friendly operations.

The facility has also had some renovations carried out, with the removal of a partition wall allowing information on upcoming events and local attractions to be displayed.

The first display highlights the integrated retirement lifestyle village, residential subdivision and marine precinct development proposed for Bunyan Road.



Visitor Information Centre staff Honey Elliott (left) and Emma Hill celebrate the retention of the Sunshine Cup – symbol of supremacy in the national sunshine hours stakes.

## NZ'S SUNSHINE CAPITAL - AGAIN

Whakatāne has once again been acknowledged as the sunshine capital of New Zealand. The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research's figures for 2013 showed that the town averaged

more than 7.5 hours of sunshine a day for the year. That put Whakatāne more than a month of average sunshine days ahead of nearest rivals Tauranga, Gisborne and Nelson.

## MATATĀ WASTEWATER SCHEME UPDATE

Resource consents and land designation applications have been lodged and publicly notified for the Matatā wastewater scheme. To meet Ministry of Health subsidy timeframes, work is continuing on all aspects of the project.

The design of the reticulation (piping) network is nearing completion and the Council will be looking to finalise the details of individual property connections over the next few months. This will involve a site meeting with the owners of each property to agree the preferred

location for the grinder pump tank unit and control box and confirm that the existing power supply will be adequate to run the new system. If any electrical upgrading is required, the work involved will be undertaken at no cost to the property owner. Details relating to the decommissioning of existing septic tanks will also be confirmed.

Site visits are expected to begin in the next few days and property owners will be contacted to schedule a suitable time.

## MOLLY MORPETH CANADAY ART AWARD AT TE KŌPUTU

If you missed the opening weekend of the Molly Morpeth Canaday Art Award, don't worry, the exhibition – which is the cornerstone of Arts Whakatane's Summer Arts Festival – continues at Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi until 23 March.

A capacity crowd of 200 attended the award announcements last Friday, at which seven of the eight winning artists were present.

The Local Artist Merit Award went to Zena Elliott; with other \$500 Merit Awards going to Kathryn Tulloch (Auckland), Craig Freeborn (Dunedin), Brendon McGorry (Auckland), Jack Trollove (Auckland) and

Janette Cervin (Auckland). The Craigs Investment Partners Award of \$2,500 went to Leslie Falls of Hastings and the Major Award of \$10,000, sponsored by the Molly Morpeth Canaday Trust, went to Auckland artist Peter Miller.

219 entries were received for this year's award, from which judge Dr Victoria Edwards of Christchurch selected 65 works to form the exhibition.

A series of weekly 11.00am Sunday Floor Talks and Arts Appreciation Talks support the exhibition. For details and images go to [www.mollymorpethcanaday.co.nz](http://www.mollymorpethcanaday.co.nz).

Entry to the exhibition and talks is by donation.



Auckland artist Peter Miller, pictured with his award-winning work, 'Fun Ho'.

## POOLS SAFE ACCREDITATION FOR AQUATIC CENTRE

The Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre has achieved NZ Recreation Association PoolSafe accreditation. A report received from the Association last month noted the "great progress" made by staff in all aspects of the centre's management. The PoolSafe system involves regular inspections of key operational components such as staff training standards, emergency planning, effective pool supervision (including guidelines for supervising children), health and safety policies and effective water quality management and monitoring.

Community Services Manager Paula Chapman says a programme was initiated to achieve PoolSafe accreditation as quickly as possible. "We're delighted that the latest inspection in November has confirmed



Aquatics and Recreation Manager Sarah Clarke and Lifeguards Rob Manuel (left) and Vincent Smith show-off the Aquatic Centre's PoolSafe certificate.

that all of the accreditation requirements have been achieved."

Mrs Chapman says staff will now focus on maintaining high operating standards and ensuring that the facility provides a safe, welcoming and fun environment which will attract a wide cross-section of users.

## LOCAL SPORTS STAR PROMOTES RESTRAINT USE

Olympian Karen Hanlen is supporting the Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme in promoting child safety in vehicles. She is fronting a video about child restraint use as part of a campaign to highlight the need for children to be in car seats or seat belts when travelling.

The campaign is focusing on Kawerau, after restraint checks there last November showed an alarming number of children weren't being correctly strapped in.

"Karen is a well-known and highly respected community identity, and it's fantastic to have her support with raising awareness of road safety issues," Whakatane District Council senior community development advisor Erena Brew says.



A new law that came into force on 1 November 2013 means children under seven must now be in approved child restraints or booster seats, and children aged 7-8 should be in an approved child restraint. The video featuring Karen can be viewed at [www.facebook.com/Road.safety.Eastern.Bay?ref=hl](http://www.facebook.com/Road.safety.Eastern.Bay?ref=hl)

## LOCAL BY-ELECTIONS

Voting papers have now been distributed for by-elections for the Ōhope Beach Community Board and the Murupara Subdivision of the Murupara Community Board. Voting in these by-elections closes at noon on 11 February 2014, so voting papers should be posted by Friday, 7 February. Voting papers can also be delivered to Whakatāne District Council Civic Centre (Commerce Street, Whakatāne), or to the Murupara Service Centre.

Any electors who believe they are eligible to vote, but haven't received their voting papers, are advised to contact the electoral office (tel. 0800 922 822) for a special vote.