



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - December 2014



Council wins business excellence award

The Whakatane District Council has won the Excellence in Service Delivery category in the biennial Horizon Business Excellence Awards. Mayor Tony Bonne says it is unique for a Council to receive such an award, in competition with private enterprise organisations, and that the win was a reflection of the hard work and dedication of Council staff.

"This clearly demonstrates that there is a commitment to meeting our community's needs, at all levels of the organisation," Mayor Bonne says. "I firmly believe that we have taken great strides in virtually every area of operations in recent years and I'm proud to lead what I believe is the best council in the country."

The award judge's comments particularly noted the Council's development of an award-winning website (achieved within its normal operating budget), use of social media, very attractive 'Ko Konei' newsletter and the efforts made to celebrate volunteers.



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Join Christmas light trail and win

Get into the festive spirit and you could be in to win in the 2014 Whakatane Christmas Light Trail Competition.

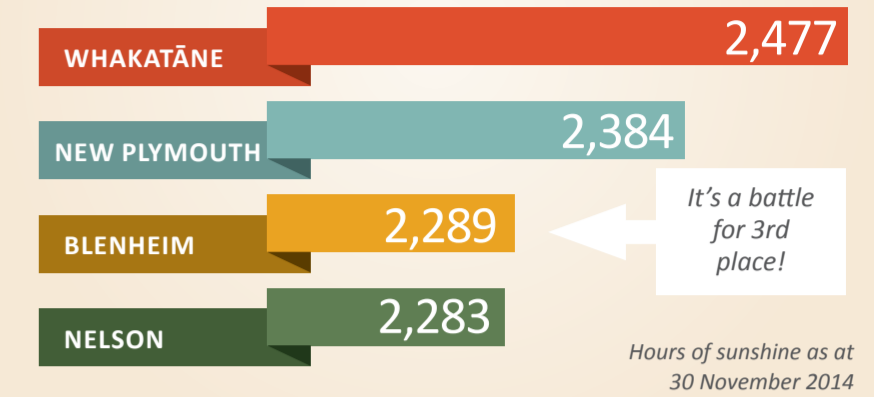
To enter, it's as simple as decorating your home with Christmas lights and completing the entry form which you will find in this issue of the Bay Weekend.

Local businesses have sponsored some great prizes for a range of categories, including the Residential Award, Commercial Award, Best Neighbourhood Award, People's Choice Award and the Smiths City's Supreme Award of a \$1000 voucher.

It's all about participation, so why not get those lights out and try your luck this Christmas.

The great New Zealand SUNSHINE RACE 2014

Whakatane has been the country's sunshine capital for three of the last four years and is well on the way to making it four-out-of-five...



Toi's track maintenance progressing well

The maintenance work being undertaken on Nga Tapuwae o Toi, the popular walking track linking Whakatane and Ohope, is progressing well. The project involves the installation of barrier rails between Ohope Beach and Otara-wairere Bay, and the bulk of the work should be completed by mid-December. The contractor is endeavouring to keep any track closures to an absolute minimum, but short delays may be experienced and caution signs are in place. No site works will be undertaken during weekends.

Contractors at work on Toi's Track.

Tree removal for Wainui Road

Tree removal is underway on Wainui Road, from Tauwhare Pa through to Te Kooti Road. The work is part of a wider project which aims to improve road safety, including road widening, the installation of guard rails, additional line marking and skid resistance monitoring. A temporary speed reduction will be in place on a section of Wainui Road over the summer, but no permanent reduction is envisioned at this stage.

The completion of the tree removal programme, from Te Kooti Road through to the District boundary (near Stanley Road), is expected by mid-February 2015.



CBD Spruce up

Mayor Tony Bonne, Councillors and Council staff took part in a recent working bee to 'spruce-up' Whakatane's CBD ahead of the busy summer season. More than 40 people turned out at 6am to help with weeding, replanting, removing bollards and tree pruning. Council Chief Executive Marty Grenfell says the project was so successful that it may become an annual event.

The Mayor, Councillors and Council staff at work on The Strand.



Energy Trust funds community projects

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust (EBET) has announced funding for four energy-related community projects in the Whakatane District in recent months.

Earlier this year EBET approved funding of \$65,000 for the electrical supply, wiring, exterior lighting and conduits for The Strand pedestrian plaza development, and the Trust has granted \$35,000 towards the cost of installing Christmas and feature lighting, including additional tree bud-lighting on The Strand. Then last month, a grant of \$70,000-plus was made towards the upgrading and expansion of Whakatane's CCTV network, and a further \$75,000 grant was approved for the construction of a new shared-use community hall at the Murupara Area School.

Councillor Andrew Iles, Projects and Services Committee Chairman, says the funding provided by EBET makes a massive contribution to the region. "The Council is hugely appreciative of the grants, which have allowed us to undertake projects which may otherwise have had to be scaled down, delayed or even set aside."

Galatea-Murupara Ward Councillor Alison Silcock says EBET funding for the planned Murupara hall will open up opportunities for our students and the entire community.

EXHIBITIONS

"a wonderful showcase"



The final exhibitions for 2014 have opened at Te Kōputu – the Whakatane Library and Exhibition Centre – and present a wonderful showcase of national, local and internationally-recognised artists.

The Sheaff Family Gallery celebrates the work of Don Peebles, a pioneer of abstract art in New Zealand, who remained a major figure in modernist art throughout a career that spanned over 60 years. Peebles was born in Taneatua in 1922 and the exhibition, 'Don Peebles – the space between form' combines examples of his distinctive artworks with family archives from the Whakatane



District Museum and Research Centre Collection.

Opus Gallery presents the exhibition 'SCAPE', which features a selection of contemporary artworks exploring changes in the artistic representation of the New Zealand landscape – from a symbol of national identity to landscapes of myths, dreams and memories. Artists include John Walsh; Michael Hight; Andrea du Chatenier; Andrea Gardner; Tony de Lautour; Liam Barr; Julian Hooper; and local artists

Helen Lees and Lea-Anne Sheather.

The Whakatane Community Board Gallery features new work by Ōpōtiki artist Fiona Gedson Kerr, who is well known for her intricately woven feather and fibre artworks.

The exhibitions run until 18 January, after which the galleries will prepare for the 2015 Molly Morpeth Canada Art Award, which opens with a ticketed award ceremony on the evening of Friday, 23 January.

COUNCILLOR PROFILE - Scott Jarrett

Councillor Scott Jarrett



Third-term Whakatane-Ohope Ward Councillor Scott Jarrett is Deputy Chair of the Policy Committee, a member of the Projects and Services Committee, and serves on the Eastern Bay Joint Committee and Grow Whakatane Advisory Board. He is also a Council appointee to the Whakatane Museum Board and to Arts Whakatane, which is a reflection of his long-term involvement in the local arts scene.

"I believe good infrastructure and services must come first, but I also value the importance of our surrounding and highly productive rural community, as well as our developing light industry sector," he says.

Councillor Jarrett has been vocal in his support for initiatives that help to increase the District's rating base and that provide job opportunities for local people. "I believe the road ahead is about attracting a few more folk into our area, without spoiling our special part of the world.

"During my time on council, I have seen a variety of council and management 'models', but the pathway in this triennium would have to be the most balanced I have experienced in my local politics journey. I would suggest steady as she goes as a sound way forward, given the affordability constraints we have."