



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - October 2015

Gorge Road work nearing completion

Work on the new walking path and cycleway on Gorge Road in Whakatāne is nearing completion. Whakatāne District Council Manager Transportation, Martin Taylor, says the project has been a major undertaking and the contractor has done an excellent job, overcoming some very challenging aspects of the project.

“Waiotahi Contractors has had to construct some very sizable retaining walls to accommodate the wider pathway, which has been the major factor in the time taken to complete the work,” Mr Taylor says. “But we are now nearing completion and I think the public will be very pleased with the outcome. A lot of people use this route, which will now be considerably safer and easier for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.”



Wainui Road works underway

The long-awaited Cheddar Valley Route Security works on Wainui Road are now underway and, weather conditions permitting, are expected to be completed by Labour weekend.

High river levels at the gravel extraction site have affected the contractor’s ability to supply river gravel for the project, and wet weather could also cause delays. However, it’s hoped that the work to

raise the road surface above the flood level in the ‘S-bends’ area will be completed and the road resealed before the long weekend.

The work is being carried out by Waiotahi Contractors, from the company’s Ōpōtiki depot, at a total cost of \$450,000.

Sister Cities scholarship awarded

Each year the Whakatāne District Sister Cities Committee offers a scholarship to Year 12 or 13 students of Japanese to provide opportunities for the youth of the District to experience Japanese culture in a supportive environment.

This year’s recipient is Raeana Araroa from Trident High School. She will travel to Japan in January 2016 and spend a week home-staying in Kamagaya, Whakatāne’s Sister City, before travelling around Japan for a further week. While in Kamagaya, Raeana will represent Whakatāne, promoting our region and District. She will receive \$1,500 towards her air travel as part of the generous scholarship from the Committee. Last year’s recipient, Mark Oxtoby, was unable to take up his scholarship and will be accompanying Raeana this year.

Whakatāne District Councillor Andrew Iles, Chair of the Sister Cities Committee, says this is a fantastic opportunity for the students. “Raeana and Mark are confident and well-presented teenagers who I am sure will greatly benefit from experiencing a rich cultural and language exchange with their host families. At the same time, they will be excellent ambassadors for our District and help to build ties between our two cities.”



Pensioner Housing units sale now completed

Ownership of the Whakatāne District Council’s 79 pensioner housing units has now been transferred to Tawanui Community Housing (TCHT). All existing tenancy arrangements have continued under the same terms and conditions.

The intention to sell the units was confirmed through the Council’s 2015-25 Long Term Plan, following an earlier community consultation process and direct communication with tenants and other stakeholders. Mayor Tony Bonne says the need to protect the interests of existing and future tenants was a key factor in the decision to sell.

“Council’s first priority was to ensure that this important community resource is safeguarded so that it can continue to provide affordable, good quality social housing into the future,” he says. “Government policy means that local authorities do not have access to social housing grants and subsidies and, importantly, that our tenants do not

ALERTING SYSTEMS TEST

NO ACTION REQUIRED

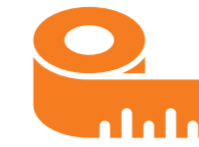
Emergency Management Bay of Plenty is advising the public that it will be testing all available alerting systems, including sirens, at 10am on Friday, 9 October. All fixed sirens will sound continuously for up to one minute in Matatā, Coastlands, Whakatāne, Ohiwa, Waiotahi, Ōpōtiki and Waihou Bay. Text alerts and emails will also be sent.

The test is being undertaken to ensure that all of the alerting systems are operating effectively, and no action is required on residents’ behalves. In a real event, the sirens will sound for 10 minutes with a constant rise. For more information on getting prepared for emergencies, go to www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz or www.getthru.govt.nz.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Bay of Plenty



BUCKLE UP. STAY FOCUSED. STAY ALIVE.



REMEMBER, IT'S ABOUT HEIGHT NOT AGE: children are safer in a child restraint until they are at a height of **148cm**

HALF OF ALL NEW ZEALAND CHILDREN STILL NEED TO USE A BOOSTER SEAT AT 10 YEARS OF AGE



All 5 year olds require a booster seat



90% of 6 to 8 year olds require a booster seat

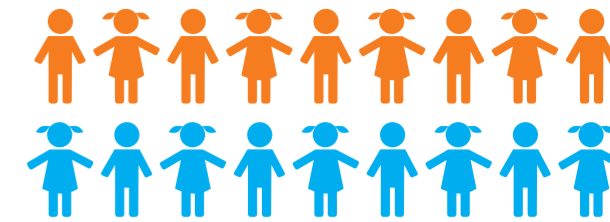


50% of 9 and 10 year olds require a booster seat



10% of 11 and 12 year olds require a booster seat

18 CHILDREN DIE in vehicle crashes every year; half of them are tamariki Māori



Your bubba is safer in a seat



In the event of a car crash, booster seats reduce the risk of injury by **59%**



www.facebook.com/Road.Safety.EBOP

www.safekids.nz



Colour Rush coming

Whakatāne’s first ever ‘colour run’ will take place on Sunday, 11 October. The event is being organised by the Whakatāne District Youth Council and involves an easy-going run along the Warren Cole Walkway, punctuated by bursts of coloured powder administered by Youth Council members and volunteers, together with lots of laughs.

The coloured powders are environmentally-friendly and easily-removed, so expect a great family fun day, the likes

of which our town has never seen. Participants can register in advance at the Whakatāne District Council, or online at www.whakatane.com/colour-rush

Only a limited number of registrations will be available on the day, so residents wanting to take part are urged to register early. The Colour Rush starts at 11am at the Whakatāne Rose Gardens on McGarvey Road and costs \$18 per entrant, or \$50 for a family, with a t-shirt provided for each entrant.

District Branding to be rolled out

New Whakatāne District branding will be rolled out in the coming months to promote the region as a great place to live, work, play and invest.

The ‘Everything under the Sun’ brand campaign aims to lift the District’s profile and attract potential residents and businesses to the area, as well as developing greater community pride. Whakatāne District Council Manager Business Services, Roslyn Mortimer, says the campaign will be released across various platforms and people can expect to start seeing the new branding appear throughout the town in the coming months.

“We have a unique competitive edge in our District’s spectacular climate and cultural heritage, and the new branding aims to make the most of this. We want to leverage assets like Ōhope Beach, White Island and our heritage features and put them on show in our key target markets,” she says.

“We also want the community to get involved and we’ll be launching the new branding with a photo competition on 1 October, so people can show us what they love about the Whakatāne District.”

Details of the competition can be found on whakatane.com. GoPro and T-Shirt design competitions are scheduled to follow.