



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - February 2015

Call for water conservation

Water conservation signs have been erected at key locations in Whakatane and Ohope to remind residents of the need to conserve water as the long, hot summer continues. While recent rain has helped to reduce demand and brought a welcome but minor increase in the Whakatane River flow, the benefit is likely to be short-lived if we don't get more significant rain over the next week or two.

Whakatane District Council Infrastructure General Manager Tomasz Krawczyk says voluntary reductions may help to avoid the need for formal restrictions on hose and sprinkler use by ensuring that reservoir storage for the Whakatane and Ohope water supply schemes stays at an acceptable level.

"We hope that restrictions can be avoided, but that's entirely dependent on the river flow and tidal situation and the ability of households and businesses to make voluntary reductions in their water usage," Mr Krawczyk says.

Demand in the Plains water supply area is also affecting water pressure during the morning and afternoon peak periods – 7am - 10am and 3.30pm - 7pm – and Plains consumers are asked to conserve water wherever possible, particularly in those peak demand times. One simple way of adjusting the demand timing is for users to turn off the supply to their header tanks during the day and turn the tap back on in the evening, so that tanks refill overnight.

OTHER SIMPLE CONSERVATION TIPS INCLUDE:

- Bucket-wash cars or boats, if possible
- Don't refill or top-up swimming pools
- If you know you have leaking taps, fix them now
- Flush toilets sparingly
- Don't use your bath and cut your shower time down as much as possible
- While waiting for hot water to flow through to showers or taps, catch the unused water in a bucket for use in washing machines or for other purposes.

REDUCE YOUR WATER USE!



Voluntary Reductions



New shared-use path for Gorge Road

The construction of a shared-use walk and cycleway from the bottom of Gorge Road to White Horse Drive in Whakatane has been added to the Whakatane District Council's 2014/15 capital works programme.

The NZ Transport Agency will contribute just over \$776,000 towards the \$1.36 million work programme, which also includes drainage and road shoulder improvements. Most of the remaining Council share will be met from existing budgets, but external contributions will be sought to cover a project funding shortfall of \$164,000.

Mayor Tony Bonne said the wider pathway would address safety concerns for cyclists and pedestrians using Gorge Road. "The existing footpath is not ideal, given the number of pedestrians and cyclists who regularly use it, and this additional funding will allow us to more than double the pathway width over most of the 1.25km route," he said.

For most of its length, the pathway will be three metres wide, but will narrow to 2.5 metres in areas where retaining wall structures are required to extend the off-road space available. New kerbing and channelling and improved stormwater outlets will also be installed, together with uniform sealed road shoulders on both sides of the road.



Pedestrian and cycle access will be greatly improved, particularly in areas where the space is currently restricted.

Rinse Return Recycle!

Agrecovery is holding a **FREE** collection event for the **recycling of empty plastic containers**

GALATEA
NZ Farm Source (RD1)
Horomanga Rd

Wednesday 25 February
10am – 2pm

BBQ ON THE DAY!

www.agrecovery.co.nz | 0800
AGRECOVERY (0800 247 326)

AGRECOVERY Rural Recycling Programme **containers**

SUMMER ARTS PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi – the Whakatane Library and Exhibition Centre – is hosting a series of floor talks in conjunction with the 2015 Molly Morpeth Canaday Art Award. Don't miss the opportunity for a guided insight into selected artworks, or to listen to the outstanding line-up of Te Kōputu Summer Series presenters.

MOLLY MORPETH CANADAY ART AWARD *EXHIBITION FLOOR TALKS*

Opus Gallery starting at 11am on the following dates:

Sunday 8 February

HAMISH PETTENGELL
Team Leader, Museum and Arts,
Whakatane District Council

Sunday 22 February

MANDY HAGUE
Artist and photographer

Sunday 8 March

HEATHER HOURIGAN
Artist and a former coordinator
of the Art Award

TE KŌPUTU *SUMMER SERIES*

Little Orchard Activity Room starting at 11am on the following dates:

Sunday 15 February BEN PEARCE

Ben Pearce, winner of the 2014 Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Sculpture Award, talks about his arts practice and his 'day-job' working with furniture designer David Trubridge



Sunday 1 March JOHN GOW

With 30 years of experience in the art industry, John Gow - Director of Gow Langsford Gallery and John Leech Gallery - is well-placed to share insights on 'a day in the life of an art dealer'. This talk will encapsulate the relationships with artists, clients, museums and support people within the art industry and how these relationships become the business of art.



Sunday 15 March MATTHEW COUPER

New Zealand artist Matthew Couper (whose work was a popular component of Te Kōputu's recent exhibition 'SCAPE') joins us via Skype from his current Las Vegas base. Couper's work delves into art-history to explore the space between myth, religion and art politics.

Murupara reading campaign proves popular

The Murupara Library's Summer Reading Programme has proved popular with locals. More than 20 children aged between 5 and 11 signed up for the annual programme, which has been running since 2009. The theme this year was Summer! Camping! Reading! - Te Raumati ! Te Puni! Te Panui!

The programme ran for four weeks, from 5 January to 29 January, and gave children the chance to either choose a book prize each time they visited their local library and shared their reading experience with a member of staff, or to complete five quizzes, challenges and activities to claim a prize.



Customer Service Officers (Left) Fran Payne and (Right) Nina Paul with some of the children from the Summer Reading Programme.

Local support makes sandbags available

Whakatane District residents who are concerned about floodwater damaging their properties during heavy rain events can now purchase sandbagging materials from local business Tracks Concrete.

Sandbags are an effective way of diverting floodwater and reducing property damage, and MetService severe weather warnings providing useful information for people to act on can be subscribed to on the MetService website www.metservice.com.

Whakatane Emergency Response Team Manager Tony Gillard has welcomed the initiative and says it will let volunteers focus on "assisting the Fire Service to pump water away from flooded properties, protect key lifeline infrastructure, and carry out evacuations".

Sandbags can be purchased from Tracks Concrete from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9am – 12pm on Saturdays. Tracks will open their yard outside these hours to provide an emergency service, but in such situations delays are critical, so people are advised to plan ahead and take action in advance.

Tracks Concrete is located at 19 Arawa Road, Whakatane. Residents can call 07 307 0581, and visit to purchase sandbags and sand.

Sandbagging advice is available on the Council website www.whakatane.govt.nz or in a leaflet available from Tracks and the Council offices.

COUNCILLOR PROFILE - RUSSELL ORR

A fourth term Rangitai Ward Councillor, Russell Orr is also serving his second term as Chair of the Council's Hearings Committee, as well as being Chairperson of the District Plan Hearings Committee. He is the Deputy Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee, and a member of the Policy Committee and the Projects and Services Committee. He is also a member of the Plains Water Supply Advisory Board and is the independently appointed Chair of the three Eastern Bay District Liquor Licensing Committees.

Councillor Orr says his main priority has been to halt the decline of our rural communities and increase our overall population base. "To do this we will need to build on our strengths and eliminate our weaknesses," he says, "with a particular emphasis on breaking down barriers to enterprise and growth, both internally and externally." Russell enjoys exploring the more remote parts of our country as well as hunting, fishing and spending time with his grandchildren. He loves a good debate and makes an effort to ensure that no one is left wondering about his opinion.



Councillor Russell Orr