



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - December 2016

## Council staff go electric

Whakatāne District Council's parking wardens now have a clean, green alternative to help them get around town.

The acquisition of two SmartMotion electrically-assisted bicycles will allow the wardens to cover Kopeopeo and other outlying areas. Graeme Lewer, Council Community Regulation Manager, says that in addition to being easier to manoeuvre and park than a traditional vehicle, the new bicycles also help reduce carbon emissions.

"Anything that reduces our use of petrol and diesel vehicles is a good thing," Mr Lewer says, "so this is a great way to reduce our carbon footprint and also support a great local initiative. SmartMotion bikes are designed right here in the District, and local company East Bay Auto Electrical is our supplier. Though the bikes are primarily there to help our wardens get around, they will also be used by other Council staff for short journeys around town."

Shaun Davey of East Bay Auto Electrical says SmartMotion is the brainchild of local man Anthony Clyde, who also developed the eDrive system for New Zealand Post's delivery bikes. "The SmartMotion postie bikes are still going strong on their original motors and batteries after three years," says Mr Davey, "and it is estimated that a year of postie stops and starts equates to about ten years of normal use. So SmartMotion has really done its homework on these bikes, making sure that they have a decent work life-span and are very cost effective."



Whakatāne Parking Wardens with their new SmartMotion electric bikes.

*"Anything that reduces our use of petrol and diesel vehicles is a good thing"*

At the same time, it's important to bear in mind the need to keep safe over summer. In particular, be mindful of safety on and in the water. Drive carefully, because our roads will be busy with people who may not be as familiar with conditions here as we are, and remember to be responsible with alcohol.

Take care of yourselves and those around you, so that everyone can enjoy a safe and joyful summer season. And on behalf of all elected members of the Whakatāne District Council, may I wish you all the very best for Christmas and a great new year. God Bless.

Naku noa na.  
Tony Bonne

## Season's greetings

FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Summer is upon us! While most people are no doubt busy shopping and planning for Christmas, it's also a great time to think about how lucky we are to live here in the Whakatāne District. Summer in the Bay is a magical time, and I urge everyone to get out and enjoy our fantastic environment – our beaches, waterways, forests, and hiking and cycling trails. There are also a host of great events coming up in the District over summer, so get your friends and family together and enjoy our little piece of paradise to the full.



Help spread the word and win concert tickets & other freebies!  
#ENJOYTHERIDEEBOP [www.facebook.com/Road.Safety.EBOP](http://www.facebook.com/Road.Safety.EBOP)



## NEW PLAYGROUND AT ANIWHENUA OFFICIALLY OPENED

The new Holly Davis Memorial Playground at Lake Aniwhenua was officially opened on Saturday, 26 November. This facility is the brainchild of Margaret Brown and a committee of dedicated supporters, who have worked to create a playground befitting the memory of a young Galatea woman tragically killed in a car accident in 2013. Holly was training to be an early childhood teacher and had a passion for horses, and the horse-shoe gateway entrance features shoes from Holly's horse. The Committee has raised \$40,000 to build the playground, which has an estimated total value in excess of \$120,000. In 2014, Whakatāne District Council provided an initial start-up grant of \$20,000 and a further \$10,000 in the 2016 financial year. Mayor Tony Bonne congratulated the Committee and volunteers on this excellent example of community action.

*Pictured from left to right: Margaret Brown, Chairperson; Shona Pedersen, Playground Project Manager; Mike Naude, Council Manager of Places and Open Spaces; Councillor Alison Silcock; and Mayor Tony Bonne.*



## LOCAL WILD FOOD CHALLENGE RETURNS!

After a great inaugural event, the Whakatāne Local Wild Food Challenge is back, bigger and better than ever! The Challenge returns to Mataatua Te Mānuka Tūtahi on 10 December, with celebrity judges including Anne Thorp, Toa the Hunter Gatherer, Virginia Jeeves, and Jono Marr. Attractions include cooking demonstrations, information on traditional Māori herbal remedies, fish filleting and butchery demonstrations, a haggis ceremony, live music, and lots of activities for the kids. Once that's whetted your appetite, there will be plenty of delicious food available from food stalls and trucks.

Even better – get involved by entering the challenge! You can prepare your dish at home or at Mataatua's onsite facilities, and there are heaps of great prizes up for grabs. Visit [www.localwildfoodchallenge.com](http://www.localwildfoodchallenge.com) for details.

The day begins with a formal welcome at 10.30, and the Wild Food Challenge starts at 11.00am. Entry is free.



## End-of-year holiday hours

### DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES

**Whakatāne District Council office:**  
Closed midday Fri, 23 December through Tue, 3 January

**Murupara Library and Service Centre:**  
Closed midday Fri, 23 December through Tue, 3 January

### AQUATIC CENTRES

Date	Whakatāne Aquatic Centre / Gym	Murupara Aquatic Centre
Fri, 23 December	Normal hours	Normal hours
Sat, 24 December	7 am – 1 pm	7 am – 1 pm
Sun, 25 and Mon, 26 December	Closed	Closed
Tue, 27 December	7 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm
Wed, 28 to Fri, 30 December	Normal hours	Normal hours
Sat, 31 December	7 am – 3 pm	7 am – 3 pm
Sun, 1 January	Closed	Closed
Mon, 2 to Tue, 3 January	7 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm
Wed, 4 January onward	Normal hours	Normal hours

### LIBRARIES

Date	Whakatāne (includes Exhibition Centre and galleries)	Ōhope	Edgecumbe	Murupara
Fri, 23 December	Normal hours	Normal hours	Normal hours	8 am – 12 pm
Sat, 24 to Tue, 27 December	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed, 28 to Fri, 30 December	Normal hours	Normal hours	Normal hours	Closed
Sat, 31 December	10 am – 2 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun, 1 to Tue, 3 January	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed, 4 January onward	Normal hours	Normal hours	Normal hours	Normal hours



### VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Fri, 23 December:  
Normal hours  
Sat, 24 December:  
9 am – 12 pm  
Sun, 25 December: Closed  
Mon, 26 and Tue, 27 Dec:  
9 am – 4 pm  
Wed, 28 to Fri,  
30 December: Normal hours  
Sat, 31 December to Tue,  
3 January: 9 am – 4 pm  
Wed, 4 January onward:  
Normal hours