



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - November 2016

NEW COUNCIL TRIENNIUM BEGINS



The Whakatāne District Council for the next triennium was sworn in on 26 October 2016, following a pohiri at Margaret Mahy Court. Two new Councillors, Mike van der Boom and Nándor Tanczos, were welcomed by returning Mayor Tony Bonne, and Judy Turner was reappointed as Deputy Mayor.

In his first address of the new triennium, Mayor Bonne thanked retiring Councillors and Community Board Members and said the Council's focus on growth would remain in place. Key goals for the triennium included developing a community vision which truly reflects the aspirations of residents across the District; securing the construction of a lifestyle retirement village for Whakatāne; continuing to support residential development; completing the redevelopment of the Whakatāne Museum and Research Centre; and finalising a way forward for redeveloping the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall. He also hoped Council could work closely with partners to see a hotel built in the District.

Mr Bonne also announced that a Commercial Advisory Board would be introduced to replace Grow Whakatāne and that an Eastern Bay of Plenty tourism board would be established through Toi-EDA to boost tourism activities and their contribution to the regional economy. In closing, Mr Bonne also acknowledged the work of Council staff under the leadership of Chief Executive Marty Grenfell.

Over 80s morning tea



Whakatāne District residents aged 80 and over are invited to morning tea with Mayor Tony Bonne, Whakatāne District Councillors, and Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board members. This annual event is a chance to meet the elected members in a social setting and will be held at 10am on Tuesday, 29 November 2016 at the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall Reception Lounge in Short Street.

Partners and caregivers are welcome to attend, and no RSVP is required. For any further information, contact Janie Storey on 07 306 0530.

Funding boost for Museum Research Centre redevelopment

The redevelopment of the Whakatāne Museum Research Centre has received a \$1.5 million funding boost from Central Government. The grant was announced on 27 October by the Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage, the Hon. Maggie Barry. It adds to previous commitments to this important heritage project, including \$1.5 million in the Council's Long Term Plan, a \$400,000 Lottery grant, a \$103,000 contribution from the Eastern Bay Energy Trust, and \$15,000 from the former Whakatāne Community Board.

The redevelopment will see the existing Boon Street facility expanded and renovated to better house the collection of more than 700,000 items – comprising taonga Māori, photographs, rare books, fine art and an extensive collection of objects – and allow greater public engagement with the collection.

Mayor Tony Bonne says the latest funding has been a much needed boost to the project and will help to make it a reality. "We'd like to thank supporters like the Eastern Bay Energy Trust and all those who have assisted, because

L-R: Museum and Arts Team Leader Hamish Pettengell, Hon. Anne Tolley, and Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage Hon. Maggie Barry touring the Museum and Research facility last week.



without them, important community projects like this would never get off the ground. We have a number of fundraising initiatives in place to help secure the remaining funds required for the \$4.5 million Museum redevelopment, but any potential sponsors who would like to contribute to the preservation of the Museum collection for future generations to enjoy, learn from and be inspired by, are invited to get involved."



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Sister Cities agreement to be signed

Whakatāne will formalise a Sister Cities agreement with Japanese city Shibukawa in a civic ceremony on Monday, 7 November, at the Whakatāne District Council. Shibukawa City is located in the Gumna Prefecture in Japan and has a population of around 87,000. A student group from Shibukawa has been visiting Whakatāne High School for a number of years, and as a result a formal friendship agreement was mooted between Whakatāne and Shibukawa, with a focus on strengthening educational exchanges and possible economic activities. A delegation from Shibukawa will be in Whakatāne for the ceremony and will also visit Whakatāne High School, White Island, Julian's Berry Farm, New Zealand Mānuka Honey, and Te Wānanga o Awanuiarangi.



Creative Communities

Applications for the Creative Communities Whakatāne Scheme funding are now open. The scheme is funded by Creative New Zealand and aims to increase participation in the arts at a local level, as well as lifting the range and diversity of arts available within communities. Applications can be made under three categories: Participation, Diversity, and Young People. If you or your group would like further information, see the Council website (www.whakatane.govt.nz), or contact Janie Storey, Administration Officer Community, on 07 306 0530.

Applications for this funding
round close at 5pm on Friday,
25 November.

