



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - February 2016



## New campaign to increase voter turnout at 2016 Elections

Local Government New Zealand is launching a campaign to encourage more Kiwis to get involved in the local authority elections this October.

LGNZ's campaign, running until the 8 October polling date, aims to lift voter numbers above 50 percent nationally for the first time since 1998. The campaign also encourages citizens with strong leadership qualities and a passion for their community to consider standing as candidates themselves. Measures to build elector turnout will include a strong focus on younger voters.

LGNZ President Lawrence Yule says the first step to improve these statistics is to raise public awareness of the value of local government and the role it plays in the lives of New Zealanders.

"Our aim is to grow citizens' understanding of the breadth of services delivered each day by local governments across New Zealand, and the impact those services have on their everyday lives. By making that connection, we hope it inspires Kiwis to take a more proactive stance on the issues they care about in their communities," he says.

The final step is ensuring voters have access to the information they need about candidates standing in their community; and about the voting process, including when, where and how they can vote. Mr Yule urges New Zealanders to find out more about what their local council is doing in their own community; and how they can get involved and have their say in how to shape it.



## - THE - Whakatāne BAR

The entrance to the Whakatāne Harbour can be difficult and caution should be shown during all bar crossings. You can view the 'Whakatāne Bar Cam' at [www.coastguardwhakatane.co.nz](http://www.coastguardwhakatane.co.nz)

Bar condition reports are broadcast on radio 1XX just after the local news on the hour, along with marine forecast and sea conditions.



## Call for water conservation

Water conservation signs have been erected at key locations in Whakatāne and Ōhope to remind residents of the need to conserve water as the long, hot summer continues.

Whakatāne 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 Whakatāne and Ōhope 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.

## REDUCE YOUR WATER USE!

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.



## Voluntary Water Reductions



## CHIEFS MAKE AN IMPACT ON SUMMER ROADIE VISIT



Chiefs players enjoy the hospitality at the Te Teko Rugby Club

Our local Super Rugby heroes visited Whakatāne last week as part of the Chiefs' Summer Roadie 2016. Local supporters had the opportunity to view an open training session and a number of successful bidders had the unique experience of hosting a trio of Chiefs players for dinner. The Te Teko Rugby Club got behind the event and snapped up a number of players, who joined the club for a feast and a great evening with their fans. Thanks to everyone who bid in the Chiefs Rugby Dinner Auction – more than \$2,500 was raised for our Eastern Bay of Plenty junior rugby clubs! We've had some awesome feedback from the players and hosts and it sounds like everyone had a blast!

## No Fluoride

### FOR WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT WATER SUPPLIES

The Whakatāne District Council's Policy Committee has voted narrowly in favour of an amended motion that fluoride not be added to any of the District's public water supplies.

After hearing submissions for and against fluoridation, a report on future options for District water supplies sparked passionate debate, with six of the 11 members subsequently voting to cease fluoridating the Whakatāne and Ōhope supply and not extend fluoridation to other community water schemes. Fluoride (in the form of hydrofluorosilicic acid) has been added to the Whakatāne and Ōhope water supply since 1972, but no other community schemes have been fluoridated.

Speaking to the amended motion, Mayor Tony Bonne said that if fluoridation does have significant oral health benefits, without creating other health risks, its use should be a central Government decision. "I don't think local councils should be making decisions like this and taking on the responsibility for any negative outcomes that may arise in the future," he said.



A division was called on the motion, with Mayor Bonne and Councillors George Johnston, Scott Jarrett, Dave Sheaff, Alison Silcock and Gerard van Beek voting for the motion to not add fluoride to District water supplies; Councillors Judy Turner, Julie Jukes, John Pullar, Russell Orr and Andrew Iles voted against the motion.

The committee has also called for a further report on the possibility of using the savings resulting from ceasing fluoridation (estimated at \$3,500 a year for the Whakatāne and Ōhope supply) for dental health promotion activities in District schools and preschools.

Submissions in favour of fluoridation were made by Dr Neil de Wet of Toi Te Ora Public Health and local dental practitioner John Twaddle, while Mary Byrne and Jon Burness of Fluoride-Free New Zealand spoke against the practice.

Fluoride ceased to be added to the Whakatāne and Ōhope water supply from 2 February.



## Sunshine and a plate

20 – 28 FEBRUARY

Join Hospice for the delectable, week-long 'Sunshine and a Plate' food festival in Whakatāne.

Celebrate summer's bounty and local delicacies with friends and family at this inaugural event.

Taste, learn, laugh and indulge at dozens of events including Cocktails A'Shore; celeb dining; Gibbo's Bucket List Banquet; Sunshine Gourmet Markets; Hamertons Vintage High Tea; Electrolux Master Class with Ray McVinnie; and cooking demos galore!



[www.sunshineandaplate.nz](http://www.sunshineandaplate.nz)  
Supporting Hospice EBOP

## Crossing a bar

Crossing a bar is risky, no matter how experienced you are. Follow these tips to ensure your safety when crossing a bar:

- Everyone must wear a lifejacket
- Check the weather within 12 hours of heading out
- Check the tide – always avoid low tide
- Avoid ebb or falling tides (between high tide and low tide, when water flows away from the shore)
- Talk to a local about the bar conditions – sand bars are shifting all the time
- Tie down any loose objects such as anchors and ropes
- Contact Coastguard on VHF immediately before you cross and after you've successfully crossed.

## IF IN DOUBT, DON'T GO OUT

You can build your confidence of crossing bars by joining a bar crossing course. Visit the Coastguard Boating website and join a course today:  
[www.boatingeducation.org.nz](http://www.boatingeducation.org.nz)



## molly morpeth canaday art award winners announced

Hugo Lindsay has won this year's Molly Morpeth Canaday Award for painting and drawing.

Lindsay was among 11 award recipients announced at the exhibition opening at Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi – Whakatāne Exhibition Centre on 29 January.

His mixed media work 'Swipe or Tilt' was described by 2016 judge Richard Fahey as sitting within a long tradition of Minimalist painting.

"Instead of pursuing reductive spatial illusions, this painting lays them bare. This 'serious' painting is built on a substrate that resembles candy-cane. At the painting's edges are borders that repudiate the conceit of immaculate geometry. At its centre, the artist places a trompe l'oeil device, taking a



L-R: Brian Morpeth (Trustee Molly Morpeth Canaday Trust), Hugo Lindsay; Hamish Pettengell (Team Leader Whakatāne Museum & Arts); 2016 Award Judge Mr Richard Fahey

final swipe or a tilt at minimalist painting's claims to optical coherence."

This year sees the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Art Award, which is a cornerstone event in the Whakatāne Summer Arts Festival. The award attracted more than 300 entries from artists throughout the country. The exhibition of 88 selected works continues at Te Kōputu until 13 March.

## Everything under the sun GoPro Competition

ENTER  
ONLINE

Capture the Eastern Bay's energy, abundance and culture with your GoPro and win!

SPOT PRIZES!  
WIN 1<sup>st</sup> \$500  
2<sup>nd</sup> \$250  
worth of GoPro

Simply capture and create a one minute video that you think illustrates the Eastern Bay of Plenty and our slogan, 'Everything under the sun'.

Submit your video entry to the Facebook pages of Whakatāstic! and Lazer Photos & Cameras, and add a brief caption for your chance to win a share of \$750 worth of GoPro accessories and more!

Competition ends Monday, 29 February 2016.

More info at [whakatane.com/gopro](http://whakatane.com/gopro)

