



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - May 2016

## Navy unit adopts Whakatāne as home port

The Royal New Zealand Navy's Littoral Warfare Unit (LWU) was granted the Freedom of the Whakatāne District Charter in a special ceremony, which made Whakatāne the unit's home port.

The unit provides hydrographic, 'clearance diving' and mine counter measures activities to ensure that harbours and inshore waters in New Zealand, and anywhere NZ Defence Forces are deployed, can be safely accessed. Another high profile speciality is the dive team's underwater search and rescue activities.

Mayor Tony Bonne says Whakatāne will see regular visits from the Littoral Warfare Unit for a range of activities, including important civic ceremonies such as the annual ANZAC Day commemorations.

"This will be a very special relationship, and we look forward to having the unit's 60-strong team visit our District," he says. "The LWU plays an important role in our defence capabilities, and it's an honour that Whakatāne has been chosen as their home port."

## King Street bridge closed FOR CULVERT INSTALLATION

The King Street bridge over the Wainui Te Whara Stream is closed to all vehicles through to 6 June, to allow the installation of a larger culvert. Traffic diversions will be in place for the duration of the project, but the installation of a temporary footbridge on the western side of King Street means access will be maintained for pedestrians, cyclists and mobility scooter users.

Whakatāne District Council Infrastructure General Manager Tomasz Krawczyk says the culvert replacement is part of a major, \$2.4

## Dog park funding required

Dog enthusiasts have launched a fundraising campaign to cover the shortfall in funding for a proposed new dog park in Whakatāne. Council's Projects and Services Committee recently decided not to provide additional funding from dog operations reserves beyond the \$50,000 that has already been earmarked for the development in the Council's 2015/16 Annual Plan.

Refinement of the plan by a working party of dog enthusiasts and Council staff saw the 'footprint' of the proposed Warren Dog Park facility revised with a number of new features introduced, including corral gate entry structures, shade areas, seating, dog drinking bowls, enhanced landscaping and separate fenced areas for large and small dogs.

The project now has an estimated cost of \$106,000, leaving a funding shortfall of \$56,000. Dog Park enthusiasts are now looking to the community to help raise the additional funding. Law Creative Group has helped the working group to develop a sign board where locals can purchase 'bones' for \$50 and show they are proud to support the Dog Park initiative. Funding contributions have also been made by BayVets, Instant Engineering and the Eastern Bay of Plenty Dog Obedience Club.

Find out more information at  
[whakatane.govt.nz/whakatane-dog-park](http://whakatane.govt.nz/whakatane-dog-park)



Mr Bonne says the decision to enter a formal relationship arose after an initial conversation with Lieutenant Commander Greg Camburn, the guest speaker at the 2015 ANZAC Day ceremony.

The traditional Charter ceremony was held at Mitchell Park in April and was followed by a Charter Parade around the CBD area, which concluded with a public 'mix and mingle' session in the Margaret Mahy Courtyard at the Civic Centre. Unit members also carried out track clearance and maintenance activities on the Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Walkway, and Navy personnel hosted a kids' pool party at the Whakatāne Aquatic Centre alongside the local ATC brigade.

million flood protection project designed to increase the capacity of the stream channel by about 60 percent, significantly reducing the risk of the stream 'overtopping' and flooding the adjacent urban area during extreme weather events.

"The first phase of the project has already seen the installation of a larger culvert under Douglas Street, and work has also commenced on the installation of sheet-piling walls along a 140-metre section downstream from the Valley Road bridge," Mr Krawczyk says. "Once those projects have been completed, we will deepen and re-grade the channel so that it can carry a flood flow of at least 32 cubic metres a second. A resource consent application for that second phase of the project will be lodged shortly."

## EXHIBITIONS

### What's on at Te Kōputu?

#### AFLOAT ON A SHIFTING SEA OPUS GALLERY RUNS UNTIL 22 MAY

*Afloat on a Shifting Sea* in the Opus Gallery with selected works by Anne Noble, Elizabeth Thomson, Marie Shannon, Nathan Pohio Janine Randerson and Bill Riley. Together the works incite an intimate yet challenging exhibition, commenting on our shifting relationships and the growing environmental concerns for the seas that surround us all.



#### HOW WE SEE IT WHAKATĀNE COMMUNITY BOARD GALLERY RUNS UNTIL 22 MAY

Inspired by New Zealand's unique landscape and way of life, *How We See It* showcases new photographs captured by members of the Whakatāne Camera Club.

#### URBAN REALMS SHEAFF FAMILY GALLERY RUNS UNTIL 3 JULY

*Urban Realms* explores the complexity, creativity and innovation of urban spaces and our surrounding built environment, presenting a wide range of works from artists such as Deborah Crowe, Brit Bunkley, PJ Paterson and Ruth Cleland.

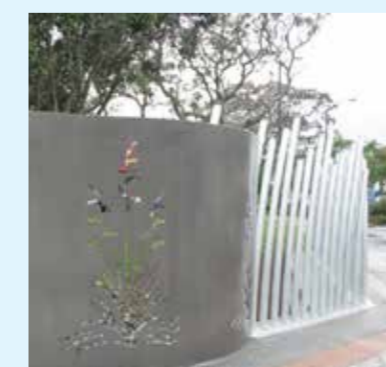


## Bridge safety rails to be installed

The recently-constructed, 6-metre by 2.8-metre box culvert at the Douglas Street Bridge over the Wainui Te Whara Stream will have its finishing touches added this month, with galvanised steel safety rails now being manufactured.

Whakatāne District Council Manager Places and Open Spaces, Mike Naude, says the rails will be similar to those installed at The Strand culvert - part of a goal to create greater visual connectivity within our public spaces. "Their form will replicate the native harakeke (flax) and other rushes and sedges which grow in and around the Wainui Te Whara Stream," Mr Naude says. "In addition, we have detailed curvature in the concrete pathway to create a viewing area over the stream."

"This is part of a wider project in which we are working towards some long-term ecological enhancements and an awareness of the native aquatic species in the stream, from Gorge Road to the ocean. These include short and long fin tuna (eel), whitebait/inunga, bully fish and others."



The safety rails are being custom-made locally and will be sent away for galvanising before installation. They will be made up of 150 individual poles on either side of the culvert. Temporary safety fencing will remain in place until the rails are installed, with the work expected to be completed by the end of May.

Local Elections 2016  
YOUR VOTE  
YOUR COMMUNITY

## Care about your community?

### Consider standing for election

The local body election to select the District's Mayor, Councillors and Community Board Members is to be held this year. These are the people who will make the final decisions about how we develop our community, how we set and spend our rates, and where we should be focusing our efforts for the future.

You may be interested in standing for Council and becoming one of those decision-makers for our District. If so, nominations for candidates will open on 15 July and close on 12 August, along with the electoral roll. After this date, anyone who is entitled to vote and who is not enrolled as an elector, or whose details are incorrectly recorded on the roll, will have to cast a 'special vote'.

Local elections for city and district councils, regional councils and district health boards will be held from 16 September to 8 October this year.

In order to receive a voting paper, you must be enrolled on the electoral roll at your current address. So if you are new to the area, have recently changed address, have just turned 18, or never been on the roll - go to [elections.org.nz](http://elections.org.nz) or your nearest Post Shop to enrol.

## Green Fingers Expo a success



Thank you to everyone who came along to our first Green Fingers Expo in April. Around 60 people gathered in the Rose Gardens with a cuppa and scone in hand to listen to representatives from the Apanui Saltmarsh Care Group, Pride Whakatāne, Halo, Whakatāne Harbour Care, Kopeopeo Community Gardens, Sullivan Lake Care Group, Bromeliad and Orchid Group,

Waiewe Reserve Care Group and Council staff talk about their work.

A huge thank you to the 30 new volunteers who have signed up for budding projects - ranging from edible garden spaces, camellia groves, revegetation and litter projects (Awatapu Lagoon), herbaceous flower gardens, track maintenance on Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi, rose garden revitalisation, caretaking of the Muriwai Cave and Wairere Falls areas, and other beautification activities in our District.

If you'd like to know more about volunteering to help with these projects, or if you have a project you'd like support with, please message us through our Council Facebook page, or get in touch with someone from Council's Places and Open Spaces Team on 07 306 0500.



Plenty of eager children took advantage of Te Kōputu's Free School Holiday programme last month. Box City gave children an opportunity to design and display their own cardboard creations.

## Trustpower Community Awards 2016 ENTRIES NOW OPEN

Celebrate your community champions!

Volunteers are the heart and backbone of any community, and now is the time to acknowledge them. Run in partnership with the Whakatāne District Council, these Awards are open to all voluntary groups and organisations working to make the beautiful Whakatāne District a better place to live. Anyone can enter a voluntary group or organisation for the Trustpower Whakatāne District Community Awards - voluntary groups and organisations can even enter themselves.

Entry Forms for the Trustpower Community Awards are available from Council offices or service centres, or they can be completed online or on the Trustpower Community Facebook page. Entry Forms can also be received by calling Kathlene Cook on 0800 871 111. Entries for the Trustpower Whakatāne District Community Awards close at 5 pm on Friday, 10 June 2016.