



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - June 2016

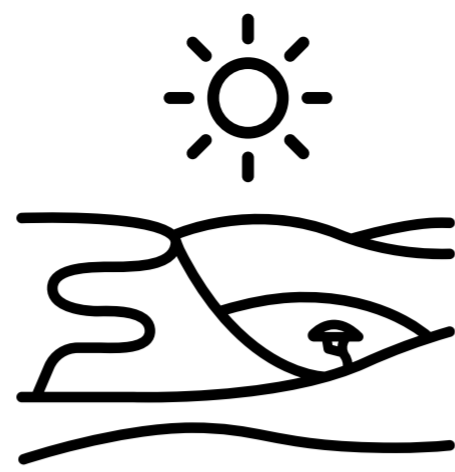
Dune planting to mark ARBOUR DAY

Why not take some time out to do your bit for our coastal environment this Arbour Day?

Pride Whakatāne District Committee has organised a community planting day on Sunday, 19 June to acknowledge Arbour Day in the Whakatāne District.

Enthusiastic volunteers are invited to meet at 9:30 am at the Ōhope Spit Reserve carpark, at the very end of Harbour Road in Ōhope. Please bring a sharp spade, gloves and suitable footwear. All participants will be rewarded for their efforts with a hot cuppa and a muffin.

Pride Whakatāne has received 89 locally-sourced native dune restoration plants from Keep NZ Beautiful and invites enthusiastic volunteers to help plant these in aid of dune protection. Eastern Bay of Plenty Coast Care Officer Wayne O'Keefe will be coordinating the planting and providing guidance along the way.



Sunday, 19 June
- Volunteers invited -

EXHIBITIONS

What's on at Te Kōputu?

ARTS REVEALED THE EXHIBITION

ARTS REVEALED - THE EXHIBITION RUNS UNTIL 31 JULY

Arts Revealed - The Exhibition presents artwork from 23 Eastern Bay artists, offering a broad spectrum of disciplines and local perspectives.

TRACES - EXPLORING FAMILY HISTORIES RUNS UNTIL 31 JULY

This exhibition showcases a selection of objects and their stories from The Whakatāne Museum's collection, encapsulating the memories of local families and the identity of communities. If you've wondered about your own genealogy, the exhibition also offers guides and handy hints to assist the search of personal family trees and histories.



URBAN REALMS 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.

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 or your nearest Post Shop to enrol.

Council website best in NZ... again!



Whakatāne District Council's website has been judged the supreme winner among the 78 local government websites evaluated in the 2016 Association of Local Government Information Management (ALGIM) rankings. This is the second year in a row the Council's website has taken the top spot, which is unprecedented in the history of the ALGIM survey.

ALGIM evaluates all city, district, and regional council websites based on their adherence to Web standards, testing done by the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, assessments of accessibility on mobile devices, and response times to queries sent via both email and Facebook.

Council Public Affairs Manager Ross Boreham says the website's continuing top performance in the survey is particularly gratifying. "For a small Council with limited resources to top the efforts of every metropolitan council in the country is a great achievement."

Warren Cole Walkway diversion

Walkers and cyclists who use Whakatāne's Warren Cole Walkway will need to make a brief detour from their usual route while a major stormwater upgrading project is completed at the McAlister pump station during the next six months.

The work requires the closure of the walkway section between the riverbank playground (adjacent to the miniature train facility) and the Whakatāne Yacht Club. A diversion is now in place, via a temporary path formed across the grass area by the McAlister toilet block, linking with the path and footbridge just to the east of the skate park. That will lead walkway users to the Kakahoroa Drive footpath and back to the walkway just to the west of the yacht club.

Annual Plan sees rates increase trimmed

The average 2016/17 rates increase across the Whakatāne District has been trimmed from 3.2 to 2.8 percent following the completion of deliberations on submissions to the Council's Annual Plan for the next financial year, which starts on 1 July.

Council elected members welcomed a report indicating that savings resulting from a move to bring mowing and vegetation control activities in-house, reduced refuse removal costs, and a review of the capital works programme would flow through into lower than expected rates charges for most property owners.

Through Council's deliberations process, a number of revisions were made to the Annual Plan 2016/17, which included:

- An amended approach to water supply upgrades, which will link the Edgecumbe and Te Teko community reticulation systems and ensure their supplies meet national drinking water standards
- Resuming funding for the Eastern Bay of Plenty's economic development agency, Toi-EDA, with \$121,000 for 2016/17
- The advancement of \$60,000 from the 2017/18 into the 2016/17 year to prioritise the investigation for Whakatāne emergency water supply
- The advancement of \$200,000 from the 2021/22 year into the 2016/17 year for the replacement of Whakatāne oxidation pond aerators
- An additional \$21,500 included to support a staff member for the Murupara Healthy Homes Project (externally funded by Bay Trust)
- The inclusion of \$10,000 for the stage two development of the Galatea Reserve and Aniwhenua Playground



- The inclusion of \$10,000 to support the Kani Rangi Park Development at the western entrance of Murupara
- That \$10,000 be included to support the development of a Minginui Playground, and that Council considers repurposing equipment removed through the Wairaka Centennial Park development.

Council will meet on 23 June to finalise and adopt the Annual Plan 2016/17.

Ōhope-Ōtarawairere walking track closure

The Ōhope to Ōtarawairere Bay section of the Ngā Tapuwae o Toi Walkway will be closed for a month - from 7 June to 8 July - while contractors rebuild staircases and install barrier rails on the track leading down to the bay.

The closure will mean that walkers starting at the Whakatāne end of the coastal section of the walkway will need to take the track from Ōtarawairere Bay up to the Ōtarawairere housing area and then follow Ōtarawairere Road and Ōhope Road to gain through-access to Ōhope. Walkers starting from Ōhope will need to follow Ōhope and Ōtarawairere Roads to gain access to the walkway via the track down to the bay.

Whakatāne District Council Places and Open Spaces Manager Mike Naude says the closure is required for safety reasons. "The walkway will be totally impassable while the work crew is constructing staircases on sections where the track is benched into the hillside. With no alternative safe access available above or below the track, closure is the only safe option," he says.

The track leading from West End up to the viewing points on the headland will be open, but walkers will have to return by the same route.



Peach trees free to community groups and organisations

Freshly-picked peaches could be on offer at a kohanga, school, or community centre near you. Pride Whakatāne has purchased 55 'Snow Grace' peach trees (*Prunus persica*) from Waimea Nurseries to gift to worthy community groups and organisations.

One tree will be given away per group, on a first-in, first-served basis. To apply for a peach tree, community groups and organisations are invited to email the Pride Whakatāne District Committee Secretary, Mrs Sandy Pryde, at prydeworms@xtra.co.nz with details about the



group or organisation, and how it would benefit from planting a fruiting tree. The Committee would like recipients to keep in contact after planting the tree and send through photos every season to show the tree's progress.



Whakatāne District Council is proud to be one of 59 Councils collaborating to deliver the Love Food Hate Waste campaign around New Zealand.

For practical tips on how to reduce your own food waste and save money, visit lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz