



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - November 2017

WAINUI TE WHARA WORKS SET TO START

The final stage of the major flood protection works on the Wainui Te Whara Stream in Whakatane is set to start early in November.

The work will see the stream channel through the urban area widened and deepened, increasing its flood flow capacity by at least 60 percent to an estimated 32 cubic metres per second.

Whakatane District Council Capital Projects Manager Jim Finlay says the first stage of the project involved work in the stream's upper catchment, installation of enlarged culverts at the King and Douglas Street stream-crossings, the replacement of five private bridges and the installation of 140-metres of channel retaining walls. "The scale of the excavations involved in stage two will be substantial, with an estimated 1600 truckloads – or 12,500 cubic metres – of material removed from the stream banks and bed," Mr Finlay adds.

Residents in each work zone will be advised well ahead of excavations beginning and will have an opportunity to seek further information or express any concerns.

Wairaka Centennial Park grand opening

Family fun activities are about to get a whole lot better with the grand opening of the Wairaka Centennial Park fast approaching.

Works are in the process of being completed for the Wairaka Centennial Park, which encompasses the riverside reserve immediately east of the Whakatane boat ramp. The project has seen the area developed into a major, family-friendly recreation destination which includes:

- A zero-depth water play area and tidal pool for younger children
- A significant upgrade for the existing playground
- A swimming/diving/jumping area for older children
- The installation of barbecues, picnic tables and shade structures
- A range of landscaping improvements.

The opening event is set to take place at 1:30pm on Saturday, 9 December, immediately after the 1XX Christmas Parade, which will conclude at the Mataatua Reserve on Muriwai Drive. The grand opening will be marked with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and followed by a free sausage sizzle for children, and a range of free activities, including a lolly-scramble, face-painting, and full access to the new facilities.

Mataatua Reserve will also host the inaugural Mistletoe Market, which will see local retailers offering market stalls until 7pm.

The planned events will mean parking will be in high demand, so people attending the Wairaka Centennial Park Grand Opening are encouraged to head there on foot, following the newly-upgraded footpath on Muriwai Drive or the riverside walkway.

Google gets to know us



Whakatane District Council and Google collaborated so people all over the world can use Google Street View to explore our local treasures, alongside the Pyramids of Giza, the Grand Canyon, Mt Everest, and many other great wonders of the world. The project was the first of its kind in New Zealand, with Google loaning a 'Trekker' to Council staff to capture Street View imagery.

Armed with a Google Street View Trekker – an 18 kilogram, 15-camera backpack that takes high-quality 360° photos every 2.5 seconds – a team of local trekkers set out last summer to capture 35 kilometres of the Whakatane District's most iconic walks and landmarks.

The result is an immersive experience that will give you a taste of what the Whakatane District has to offer, including Moutohora Island sanctuary and the Ngā Tapuwae o Toi walkway.

Other attractions now featuring on Google Street View include the ancient podocarp forest of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park on the Waterfall Loop Track, the spectacular Tarawera Falls, Tauwhare Pā, Warren Cole Walkway and Port Ōhope Wharf.

Oxfam Trailwalker info night

Oxfam Trailwalker has helped raise close to \$2 million for great causes since it was first held in Whakatane in 2016. Oxfam New Zealand is now preparing to do it all again in 2018, and to get the ball rolling they are hosting an information evening in cooperation with Whakatane District Council.

Amanda Wright, Event Manager at Oxfam New Zealand, says her team is excited to get the momentum going for next year's event. "We have a number of teams already registered, but there's still time to get a team together and get involved," she says. "The information session will provide more detail on what's involved, and also provides an opportunity for friends, family, colleagues and support crew to find out what it's all about."

The info evening promises to answer any questions new entrants might have and will also reveal any changes for those coming back. For those not wanting to do either the 50 km or 100 km courses, there will be info on how you can get involved in other ways.

The evening will be held at the Whakatane i-SITE on Thursday, 9 November from 6 - 7pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Anyone interested in attending is asked to sign up at Oxfam's website (www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz) or call one of the events team at Oxfam 0800 600 700.



Dog owners – "just be responsible"

With dog ownership on the rise in the Whakatane District, the Council is receiving an increasing number of complaints about irresponsible dog owners. That's the word from Whakatane District Council Manager Community Regulation, Graeme Lewer, who says it's time for dog owners to "just be responsible".

"We're fielding a lot of calls from upset locals about the amount of dog faeces left on the ground in our public spaces. The problem is widespread, but the biggest areas of concern are the high-dog-traffic areas such as the Warren Cole Walkway and access points to both Coastlands and Ōhope beaches," he says. "Along with the unsightliness and offensive odours of dog faeces, they're a breeding ground for flies and diseases that can be transmitted to humans as well."

"Taking on dog ownership is often a 10 year-plus commitment, and a big part of that responsibility is to ensure one's dog doesn't cause a nuisance for others in the community. That also means having control of your dog at all times, whether on a lead, or through verbal commands when off a lead."

Mr Lewer suggests that anyone who experiences issues involving uncontrolled dogs, owners not



picking up after their dogs, or dogs being exercised in prohibited areas, should contact the Council immediately. "If possible, take a vehicle registration number, or if the person is known, then please provide their details to us. The identity of the person reporting the issue will be kept strictly confidential."

Mr Lewer concludes: "As with most things, it is a minority that spoil it for the rest of us. We're grateful for the many wonderful dog owners out there who act responsibly, and we ask them to keep leading by example."

25TH ANNIVERSARY

TOI'S CHALLENGE

6KM OR 18KM RUN, RELAY AND FUN WALK
WHAKATANE • SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER • 9AM

ENTER ONLINE WWW.SPORTY.CO.NZ/WHAKATANEAHC
Organised by: Whakatane Athletics & Harrier Club

Whakatane District



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING AVAILABLE

Applications for the Creative Communities Whakatane 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, 24 November.



WHAKATANE AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE
Short Street, Whakatane P. 07 308 4192
whakatane.govt.nz/fitness-centre

OPEN SEVEN DAYS
Monday to Friday 6am - 8pm
Saturday/Sunday 7am - 6pm
Public Holidays 7am - 6pm



- OPEN DAY -

10AM – 2PM • SATURDAY, 4 NOVEMBER

Come and try some of the great services and facilities we have to offer.

FREE AQUA SESSIONS
10am: Aquacise AQUA TEAM
10:30am: Aqua deep water TARA
11:00am: Aqua Resistance KYLIE
11:30am: Aqua Zumba ERIKA
12noon: Aqua Combat/Circuit CALVIN

FREE HYDROSLIDE
11:30AM - 1:30PM
FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE
11AM - 2PM
FREE FITNESS CENTRE GYM PASS – 10AM - 1PM

Check-out our Fitness Centre with
1 X FREE GYM WORK OUT*
*Valid for one person, 16 years and over. Expires 31 Dec 2017

Supporting Play in the Bay –
a Sport BOP initiative