



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - December 2017

THE SECRET SANTA project...

Helping flood-impacted families of the Whakatane District this Christmas.

The District Recovery Office has launched 'The Secret Santa Project', with the aim of ensuring flood-impacted children throughout the District have a little something in their stocking this Christmas.

- How it works:**
- Buy a gift for a child (up to 13 years)
 - Wrap and attach a tag detailing the gender and age the gift is for
 - Deliver gifts to under the Christmas tree at:
 - Te Tari Awhina – Community Hub at the Edgumbe Library
 - Customer Services, Whakatane District Council.

We'd love local businesses to get on board by making a financial contribution so we can purchase gifts to suit children who may not have been catered for. To make a donation or to find out more, visit whakatane.govt.nz/secret-santa



Prudent approach to Long Term Plan

Whakatane District Council elected members and staff are in the process of reviewing the financial forecasts which will feed into the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-28 and are working hard to define a prudent and affordable future service delivery approach.

Elected members have been involved in a series of workshops, which has enabled them to drill down through the detailed financial strategy and forecasts, with guidance from specialist staff.

Mayor Tony Bonne says the elected members have also had the benefit of considering feedback directly from the community throughout this process. "Our Council partnered in Whakatane Ki Mua, which means Whakatane Moving Forward," he says. "This key community engagement project received more than 18,000 comments, and while that input wasn't specifically intended to inform the development of our LTP, we have gained a greater understanding of what the community wants for the future, and used this to help shape our strategic thinking."

Mayor Bonne says one of the overriding themes of Whakatane Ki Mua was the value that local people placed on our natural environment, and the importance of protecting it for future generations. "Our Council plays a considerable part in this through its management of the three waters services - drinking, stormwater and wastewater," he explains.

"We have some major infrastructural challenges coming up in this arena. Many of our large assets, such as wastewater treatment systems, are approaching the end of their resource consent lifespans under the Resource Management Act, and will require significant investment to meet environmental expectations. For example, four of our six wastewater schemes will require upgrades within the next LTP period, so we're working to balance the need to invest in improved technology with rates affordability and the availability of funding.

"We have a considerable task ahead to temper the expectations of the community with what can realistically be achieved within the current local government funding model," he says. "Councils across the country are grappling with the same issues at the moment. Local government generally is working with the new Government, seeking ways to fund infrastructure that meet the needs of the community, in a way which is affordable and equitable."

Council votes in favour of Māori wards

Whakatane District Council elected members have voted in favour of a resolution that would enable the establishment of Māori wards. Last month, Council elected members heard submissions from the public before deliberating and voting six to five in favour of supporting the introduction of one or more Māori wards.

Whakatane District Mayor Tony Bonne says this result is testament to the importance of fostering strong and meaningful relationships with Māori across the District and ensuring that Te Ao Māori is recognised and supported at the Council table.

"I have had the opportunity and privilege in my role as Mayor to engage with Māori on a number of partnerships, and I see this as a continuation of the work we have been doing to foster growth and positive relationships within our rohe so we can move forward together."

Feedback to be sought on boat ramp fees proposal

The Whakatane District Council's Projects and Services Committee has agreed to consult with the community on proposals to introduce boat ramp fees for all District ramps, and to upgrade the Whakatane trailer boat park. Public submissions on both proposals will be sought early next year as part of the consultation process for the 2018/19 fees and charges schedule and 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP).

Reporting to the Committee last week, Manager Capital Projects Jim Finlay said the Council's existing funding policy was that 70 percent of ports and harbour service costs should be met by the Harbour Fund, with 30 percent covered by private use fees and charges. The private benefit component of ports and harbour services and facilities' annual costs was estimated to be close to \$282,000, while current income from berth fees and other charges was \$151,000 a year.

"That is around \$131,000 short of the income target set out in the funding policy, and one obvious way of closing the gap would be to introduce a boat ramp fee," he said.

Mr Finlay estimated that a fee based on an annual permit (\$90), two-week permit (\$35) and casual one-day permit (\$5) system would generate income in the order of \$78,000 a year. If introduced, permits would be available online, from Council offices and potentially from other retail outlets. Monitoring and enforcement by way of infringement notices would be undertaken by Council parking staff, the Senior Maritime Officer and Volunteer Coastguard appointees. He noted that such a system would have to be supported by the Whakatane Coastguard and Whakatane Fishing Club if it was to be implemented.



Whakatane boat trailer park development – draft concept plan

ANNUAL OVER-80S MORNING TEA COMING UP



The annual morning tea for Whakatane District residents over the age of 80 will again be an end-of-year highlight for many.

This year's morning tea will be held at the Whakatane War Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 12 December, starting at 10am, and will be hosted jointly by the Whakatane District Council and Whakatane-Ohope Community Board.

Partners and caregivers of 80-years-plus residents are also welcome to attend.

Musical entertainment will be provided by talented local artists.

End-of-year holiday hours



DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES

Whakatane District Council office: Closed midday Friday, 22 December through Tuesday, 2 January

Murupara Library and Service Centre: Closed midday Friday, 22 December through Tuesday, 2 January

AQUATIC CENTRES

Date	Whakatane Aquatic Centre / Gym	Murupara Aquatic Centre
Fri, 22 December	6 am – 8 pm	6 am – 6 pm
Sat, 23 December	7 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm
Sun, 24 December	7 am – 4 pm	10 am – 4 pm
Mon, 25 December	Closed	Closed
Tue, 26 December to Sat, 30 December	7 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm
Sunday, 31 December	7 am – 4 pm	10 am – 4 pm
Mon, 1 January	Closed	Closed
Tue, 2 January	7 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm
Wed, 3 January onward	Normal hours	Normal hours

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE (I-SITE)

- Fri, 22 December: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
- Sat, 23 December: 9 am – 4 pm
- Sun, 24 December: 9 am – 12 pm
- Mon, 25 December: Closed
- Tue, 26 December: 9 am – 4 pm
- Wed, 27 to Fri, 29 December: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
- Sat, 30 December – Tue, 2 January 2018: 9 am – 4 pm
- Wed, 3 January onward: Normal hours

WHAKATANE HOLIDAY PARK

- Fri 22 – Sun, 24 December: 8 am – 7 pm
- Mon, 25 December: 11 am – 7 pm
- Tue, 26 December onward: 8 am – 7 pm

TE TARI AWHINA COMMUNITY HUB

- Fri, 22 December: 9 am – 12 pm
- Closed Sat, 23 December through Tue, 2 January
- Normal hours from 3 January 2018

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT



Did you know?

Six event banner spaces have been installed around Whakatane and Ohope with three banner poles available at each.

If you'd like to advertise your upcoming event in a highly-visible and cost-effective way, then visit whakatane.com to find out more!

MUSEUM

- Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi (Exhibition Centre/Galleries only):** See hours for Whakatane Library, below
- Museum Research Centre:** Closed to the public until mid-2018

LIBRARIES

Date	Whakatane (includes Exhibition Centre and galleries)	Ohope	Edgumbe	Murupara
Fri, 22 December	9 am – 12 pm	10 am – 12 pm	9 am – 12 pm	10 am – 12 pm
Sat, 23 to Tue, 26 December	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed, 27 December	9 am – 5 pm	10 am – 12 pm	9 am – 4 pm	Closed
Thu, 28 December	9 am – 5 pm	2 pm – 4 pm	9 am – 4 pm	Closed
Fri, 29 December	9 am – 5 pm	10 am – 12 pm	9 am – 4 pm	Closed
Sat, 30 December to Tue, 2 January	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed, 3 January onward	Normal hours	Normal hours	Normal hours	Normal hours