



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - August 2017



Senior appointments confirmed

Mike Naude, currently Manager of Places and Open Spaces, will take up a new executive position as General Manager Community Services on 4 September. The new role has been created to focus on delivering great, affordable services and facilities across the arts and culture, aquatics, and places and open spaces activities.

Council has also confirmed the appointment of Eric Holowacz to the role of Director of the Whakatāne Museum. Mr Holowacz is currently the Executive Director of the Sedona Arts Centre and campus in Northern Arizona, USA, and will take up his role in Whakatāne on 6 November 2017.

Prior to his current role, Eric was the President and Chief Executive of Louisiana's capital city Arts Council, and he has also worked in Australia as the Arts and Culture Manager for Mildura Rural City Council and was producer and director of the Cairns Cultural Festival for three years. He also worked for the Wellington City Council for four years as Arts Programmes and Services Manager and is known as specialist in projects and collaborations that engage communities in new and unique ways.

FREE dog de-sexing programme

The Whakatāne District Council is offering free de-sexing of some breeds of menacing dogs, thanks to funding from central Government. The programme covers the Brazilian fila, dogo Argentino, Japanese toso, perro de presa canario, and American pit bull terrier breeds, and registered owners of these breeds are being contacted by the Council.

Council Community Regulation Manager Graeme Lewer says free microchipping of the menacing breeds can also be carried out at the same time. "It's likely that regulations will be introduced in the near future that will require all dogs classified as menacing to be de-sexed and microchipped. This would normally cost around \$300, so owners of these breeds are advised to get in quick so they don't miss out on this opportunity."

The government funding is part of a campaign to support a national action plan that aims to reduce the risk and harm of dog attacks by focusing on menacing breeds. The American pit bull terrier, for example, makes up just 2% of the national dog population, but accounts for 18% of registered dog attacks.



Mr Lewer says owners will be allowed to take their dogs to a vet of their choice in Galatea, Edgumbe, Whakatāne, or Kawerau, but the Council may also be able to assist with transport in some cases. Mr Lewer also urges anyone who owns an unregistered dog classified as menacing to get in touch with the Council as soon as possible, so that they can be eligible to take part in the programme.



Tapara Reid-Hiakita, left, Collections Registrar, and Richard Overy, Archivist, in the now empty southern wing of the Boon Street Museum Research Centre. The collection previously stored there has now been relocated to a secure off-site storage area.

Lion Foundation boost for Museum redevelopment

The redevelopment of the Whakatāne Museum and Research Centre received a \$120,000 funding boost from the Lion Foundation last month. The redevelopment project will see a southern extension built into Burgess Park and the existing building upgraded. Chairman of the project's Governance Group, John Pullar, says it's fantastic that one of New Zealand's oldest and best-known charitable trusts has lent their support to the much-needed redevelopment.

"This is a sizable donation, and we are now well on track to achieving our funding goals," Mr Pullar says. "It also takes us a step closer to the completion of a facility that is appropriate for the remarkable collection we have here in Whakatāne. In addition to the public research centre and better access to the collection, the redeveloped building will also provide an educational space and climate-controlled storage, so this really is about preserving our heritage for future generations."

..... Consultation Opportunities

The Whakatāne District Council is seeking community feedback on a number of current issues. To have your say on any of the issues below, go to facebook.com/whakatanedistrictcouncil, email info@whakatane.govt.nz – marked for the attention of the Chief Executive – or write to The Chief Executive, Whakatāne District Council, Private Bag 1002, Whakatāne 3158.

LANDING ROAD BRIDGE ROUNDABOUT

The Council will be making a decision on whether or not to retain the current 'teardrop' roundabout configuration until a long-term solution to the traffic congestion issue at the bridge is put in place. The teardrop shape provides right-of-way access through the roundabout for vehicles approaching across the bridge and prevents traffic from Hinemoa Street (and the Landing Road western extension) from turning right onto Landing Road. Council is seeking feedback on benefits and disadvantages, including any congestion and safety issues people may be experiencing elsewhere, as a result of the roundabout configuration.



PROPOSED FREEHOLDING POLICY FOR CBD HARBOUR LEASE LAND

131 leasehold properties in the Whakatāne town centre are currently leased to commercial enterprises, which pay 'ground rent' based on the assessed market value of the land. Lease payments go into the Harbour Fund, which currently holds investment funds of more than \$16 million.

A moratorium on the sale of leasehold land has been in place since 2002, and the Council is now considering introducing a policy which could allow leasehold land to become freehold, providing there is a compelling case that a land sale would deliver economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits. Any sale proceeds would be added to the Harbour investment fund.

In addition to the feedback channels mentioned above, you can also take part in an online poll at www.whakatane.govt.nz/harbour-freehold

MĀORI WARDS

Council elected members are looking for community feedback on the possibility of introducing Māori Wards at the next local government elections in 2019. The Council currently has four wards:

- Whakatāne-Ōhope (represented by five Councillors)
- Rangitāiki (three Councillors)
- Tāneatua-Waimana (one Councillor)
- Galatea-Murupara (one Councillor).

Māori Wards could help promote greater Māori involvement in Council decision-making, but would require a reorganisation of the current ward structure. If the overall number of Councillors was retained, this could reduce the representation from the general wards from 10 to seven and see three Māori wards created, each represented by one Councillor. There are other alternatives the Council could consider to improve Māori involvement in local decision-making, both formally and informally, and depending on the decision made on this issue, those possibilities could be explored further.

Whakatāne Intermediate's reusable bags project gathering momentum

Room 8 students at Whakatāne Intermediate have been given \$200 in funding from Pride Whakatāne to help develop their reusable bag project. After studying the effects of single-use plastic bags on the environment, the students came up with the idea of producing reusable bags made from recycled cloth, and have been working with the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board on the project. Rm 8 teacher Tai Miskell says he is pleased the project is gaining support, and hopes production of the reusable bags will begin soon.



Students of Whakatāne Intermediate's Rm 8 with their teacher Tai Miskell and their "Is Plastic Really That Fantastic?" project board.

IS YOUR WAKA WINTER READY?

Wainui Rd
Thornton Rd

Rain
Black Ice
Skidding

Tyres Windscreen Indicators Rust Lights

Do a quick T.W.I.R.L. safety check today.