



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - July 2017

New Manager for Aquatic and Fitness Centre

The Whakatane Aquatic and Fitness Centre has welcomed its new manager, Lee Colquhoun. Mr Colquhoun has extensive experience in the industry, both in New Zealand and abroad, and says he wants to see the Centre become an even greater asset for the community and a destination for all the family.



"We're looking to make the Centre more family-friendly, with something for all fitness levels and age groups. We'll be looking to build strong relationships within the community through businesses, schools and sports teams to further aid in this development," he says. "Regular customers can expect to see a few positive changes, and if you haven't been a member of the Centre before, then now is the time to come along and see what we can offer."



2017/18 budget adopted

The Whakatane District Council has adopted the updated 2017/18 Annual Budget and approved a Rates Resolution which will fund all planned activities and services for the financial year that started on 1 July.

The budget includes close to \$1 million in unrecoverable costs related to flood and storm damage caused by the April cyclone events, as well as the unbudgeted cost of supporting the Whakatane District Recovery Project – Kia manawanui, and as a result, the total rates requirement will increase by 3.89 percent on the 2016/17 year.

The key features of the Annual Budget include:

- An increase in the proportion of total rates costs recovered through the Uniform Annual General Charge from 28 to 30 percent (to help offset the impact of the significant increases in capital value which affected some properties in last year's District revaluation)
- Utilising part of the projected operating surplus in the Ports and Harbour activity to bring the average rate rise across the District within the 3.9 percent limit set out in the Council's financial strategy
- Using a \$50,000 Edgumbe stormwater operating reserve surplus to reduce rates for all urban properties in the township
- Additional funding of \$40,000 for Whakatane/Ohope escarpment tree management planning and monitoring
- \$36,000 for the Muriwai Drive-Mataatua Reserve walkway extension and beautification, and
- \$100,000 to continue seismic assessments for Council-owned buildings.

The budget provides for an operating surplus of approximately \$0.8 million, which will be used to fund depreciation on Council-owned assets and help ensure that the cost of renewals is spread over a longer period. The Council also adopted a revised Fees and Charges Schedule for 2017/18, which will see changes around fees charged to implement the requirements of the Food Act, standardised hire fees for rural halls, and reserve hire fee adjustments.

New Murupara Community Board member

Te Waiti Rangiwai has been elected unopposed to the Murupara Community Board — Galatea-Waiohau Subdivision. The May by-election came about as a result of the resignation of Patrick McCarthy, who has taken up an appointment as a full-time member of the New Zealand Army Band in Christchurch.

Annual Grants applications now open

Applications for the 2017/18 round of Annual Grants are now open. Annual Grants provide financial assistance to community-based, non-profit organisations providing a service to the general public of the Whakatane District.

\$17,000 is available for distribution in the 2017/18 year, as part of the Annual Grants scheme, and any community group or voluntary organisation based in the Whakatane District can apply. Applications close on 31 July 2017. Further information and application forms can be found on the Whakatane District Council website.

Whakatane gets behind Plastic Free July

Whakatane has joined more than a dozen other Districts throughout the country in an initiative to reduce the number of single-use plastic bags in circulation.

Mayor Tony Bonne has pledged support for the challenge issued by Wellington Mayor Justin Lester, asking central Government to put a national levy on single-use bags, and says it is a great way to raise awareness of an issue that has serious implications locally and globally. "I think we are all aware of the huge impact that plastic has, not just in the form of single-use bags, but also bottles and packaging," Mr Bonne says, "and this is one way we can start to make some changes."

The Whakatane-Ohope Community Board is already getting behind the project by embracing the Plastic Free July programme and is seeking interest from the public on ways to raise awareness, and offer alternatives to single-use plastic bags. "The Whakatane-Ohope Community Board strongly supports the Mayoral initiative and encourages everyone to say 'no' to one-use plastic and plastic bags in general," Board Chair Christine Chambers says. "Anything we can do to stop the large raft of plastic circulating in the Pacific Ocean from getting any bigger has to be worthwhile, and so throughout July, we are asking for public input on ways that we can make a difference. We will be looking at groups like Boomerang Bags, a community initiative to produce reusable bags which is already active in Opotiki, but we will also be taking the message to schools throughout the District."

Mrs Chambers says anyone wishing to become involved with Plastic Free July can contact the Whakatane-Ohope Community Board via their Facebook page facebook.com/whakataneohopecommunityboard/



Mayor Tony Bonne discussing the Plastic Free July initiative with members of the Whakatane-Ohope Community Board. Pictured are (seated left to right): Carolyn Hamill, Tony Bonne, Christine Chambers and Maira Hanna; standing (left to right) are Scott Jarrett, Neville Delahunty and Councillor Mike van der Boom.



First sod turned for Museum redevelopment

The symbolic 'first sod' was turned at a special ground-breaking ceremony in Burgess Park on Wednesday 28 June to mark the start of the construction phase of the Whakatane Museum and Research Centre's redevelopment.

The redevelopment involves the retention and refurbishment of the existing Museum building in Boon Street and extension south into Burgess Park. New features include enlarged collection storage areas with environmental control systems; a dedicated, multi-functional room for delivering outreach and education programmes; secure collection viewing areas for families and researchers; and a community research centre providing enhanced access to Museum resources.

The ceremony included a blessing by Ngati Awa kaumatua and was attended by supporters of the Museum, amongst them descendants of the Burgess family, after whom the park is named, and two descendants of H D London, whose bequest allowed the Museum to establish an important collection of rare books. The ceremony also coincided with the fifth anniversary of the opening of Te Koputu a te whanga a Toi – the Whakatane Library and Exhibition Centre – which was the first stage of the District's major Arts and Cultural development programme.



Project Governance Group Chairman John Pullar, left, looks on as Ron Burgess, right, and his grandson Oscar Burgess-Mahy, both descendants of former Borough Councillor and Harbour Board member J P (Jack) Burgess, ceremonially turn the first sod for the redevelopment.



6 GOLDEN RULES FOR KEEPING KIDS SAFE AT THE SCHOOL GATE:

1. WALK SAFE

School patrols operate in both the mornings and afternoons - always use the pedestrian crossing

2. SPACE SAFE

Park safely - away from yellow lines, intersections, bus stops and driveways - never over a footpath!

3. SPEED SAFE

Drive slowly outside schools and be prepared for surprises

4. PARK SAFE

Never double-park outside a school

5. SIDE SAFE

Ensure children get in and out on the footpath side of the car

6. WEATHER SAFE

Take extra care on wet days

