



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - September 2017

## New agreement for sale of Council land

The Whakatāne District Council has entered into a new conditional agreement to sell its land at 77 Bunyan Road, after an earlier proposal did not proceed. The new agreement is with a partnership of three very experienced Bay of Plenty developers, who have come together especially to develop the 27-hectare coastal property.

Mayor Tony Bonne says the track record, financial capacity, experience and innovative approach of the development partners provides a significant level of confidence that the coastal development envisioned will lead to the establishment of a lifestyle village for retired residents, as well creating an attractive living environment for younger property owners.

“The planned development will help address the shortage of housing land available in the Whakatāne area,” Mayor Bonne says. “The conditional agreement meets all of the Council’s aspirations for the land, and our professional advice clearly confirms that this proposal offers the best overall outcome for the community.”

The Whakatāne District Council is working closely with the developers to complete the due diligence phase for the proposal as quickly as possible. Further details will be made public once the agreement becomes unconditional.

## Young Achiever Awards

The Young Achiever Awards recognise high-achieving students and sportspeople in the Whakatāne District and are jointly-organised by the Whakatāne District Council, Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board, and the Rotary Club of Whakatāne West.

Nominations are called for each year for students who, in the period between 1 October and 30 September, have attained national or international recognition in their sporting or academic achievements, or have won an event while representing the Bay of Plenty.

The Awards were introduced by former Mayor Rex Morpeth during his term of office, and applications for the 2017 Awards close at 5pm on Monday, 25 September. Applications must be signed-off by a teacher or coach, and forms are available on the Whakatāne District Council website, or from the Civic Centre and District Libraries.

## Animal control partnership hailed a success

The partnership agreement which saw Ngāti Manawa assume responsibility for animal control in Murupara has been hailed a huge success.

Since Whakatāne District Council reached an agreement with Ngāti Manawa in January 2017, local animal control officers Ned Howden and Rua Te Pairs have been patrolling the area and the results have been overwhelmingly positive. “This has proven to be a really positive partnership, and the impact of having these two locals involved is emphasised by the acceptance of the community when people are approached about dogs, abandoned vehicles or even overgrown sections,” says Graeme Lewer, Manager Community Regulation at Whakatāne District Council. “The team also came through a recent SPCA audit of the pound with flying colours.”

Mr Lewer says that since the new arrangement has been in place, there has been a significant increase in the number of dogs impounded. “That means there are less dogs roaming the streets and more dog owners realising that they need to be responsible or they will be fined.”

Ned Howden said that the two control officers had received very positive feedback from the community and had a good working relationship with locals. “People are happy to give us a wave and let us know if there are any dogs on the loose, and we are happy to see the numbers of dogs roaming the streets dropping. As much as possible, we are just trying to get the message out there that dog owners need to do their bit if we are going to have a safer community.”



Rua Te Pairs, left, and Ned Howden of the Murupara Animal Control team.

## Collection finds a temporary home

As major structural work on the old Whakatāne Museum and Research Centre in Boon Street continues, part of the extensive collection that was housed in the facility has found a temporary home in an undisclosed Whakatāne location, thanks to a prominent business identity.

Local man Mike Shepherd has made one of his commercial properties available at a heavily reduced rate, and Paula Chapman, Project Manager Community Services at Whakatāne District Council, says this represents a substantial contribution to the redevelopment. “Mike recognises the significance of the collection, as well as the difficulties and constraints of the project, and he has kindly agreed to work within our budget to ensure these treasures are safe and sound

while their permanent home is created. This is another tangible example of the community spirit of our local business sector and of how the District has rallied behind this project.”

The redevelopment of the Museum and Research Centre is expected to be completed in August 2018 and will see a southern extension built into Burgess Park and the existing building upgraded. This will create a new community facility which will house a public research centre and improved access to the Museum’s collections, a multifunctional education space, and a climate-controlled environment to safeguard the Museum collection.



Fleur MacRae, Museum and Arts Assistant at Te Kōputu, left, and Mike Shepherd.

## BUSY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE PLANNED BY YOUTH COUNCIL

The Whakatāne District Youth Council (WDYC) has a host of events planned for the September/October holiday period, with something for all the family to enjoy. The schedule kicks off with an outdoor movie night in Edgumbe on Friday, 29 September, followed by the Blue Light skating competition on Saturday, 7 October, the Blue Light fishing competition on Wednesday, 11 October, and the WDYC Youth Festival and Blue Light outdoor movie night on Saturday, 14 October. Check out the Youth Council’s Facebook page for all the details: [www.facebook.com/whkdyc](http://www.facebook.com/whkdyc)



## Awakeri War Memorial Hall sale approved

The Whakatāne District Council has agreed to enter into a sale and purchase agreement for the Awakeri War Memorial Hall with the owner of the adjacent land, to facilitate the development of a significant tourism venture.

The terms and conditions of the agreement will remain confidential until the sale becomes unconditional.

This decision follows the Council’s consideration of an earlier report setting out the options for the future ownership of the hall, as requested when the matter was last discussed in late-2015. After hearing extensive submissions opposed to and in favour of the sale of the hall from community members

and hall users, Council elected members voted by a 7:4 majority to:

- Address all legal requirements of a land divestment process, including arranging the relocation of the Awakeri Scouts Den on a like-for-like basis, or better;
- Erect an appropriate War Memorial to honour those from the area who fell in World Wars 1 and 2; and
- Divest ownership of the hall and land.

In deciding to enter into a sale and purchase agreement, Council elected members took into account the likely costs and limitations associated

with retaining the hall in community ownership and the economic and recreational benefits for the local and District communities that will flow from the proposed tourism development of the site and the adjoining property.

The facility will include a multi-million dollar, three-stage development, with the planned first-stage including the construction of a 10-pin bowling alley with games arcade and 1950s-style American diner. The second stage would see the redevelopment of an existing truck museum, construction of a chairlift and zipline attraction, walking and cycling tracks, and development of a park for self-contained vehicles.