



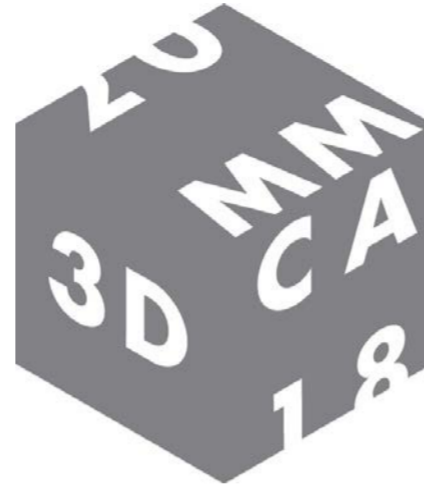
OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - February 2018

Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Award is warming up

During the past few months, Whakatane has become a focus of the New Zealand contemporary art world. More than 230 works of art have been submitted to the 2018 Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Award from across the country, and judging is officially underway. That exciting process will culminate in the opening reception and award ceremony on Saturday, 17 February at Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi – the Whakatane Library and Exhibition Centre.



To begin the 2018 programme, a free public preview is planned for Saturday, 17 February from 10am to 2pm. The exhibition will remain open to the public until Sunday, 8 April. Artworks featured during the seven-week exhibition will be available to purchase, providing an opportunity for people to select a favourite piece from a diverse range of contemporary New Zealand art practice.

Council services limited on Waitangi Day

Whakatane District Council's main office will be closed Tuesday, 6 February 2018 in observance of Waitangi Day. Most Council services will either have reduced opening hours or be closed entirely. Normal hours will resume Wednesday, 7 February 2018. A full list of services' opening hours during Waitangi Day is available on our website www.whakatane.govt.nz.

Ngā Tapuwae o Toi Walkway upgrade underway

Work has begun on the upgrading of the Kōhī Point-to-Ōtarawairere section of the Ngā Tapuwae o Toi Walkway.

The upgrade is part of ongoing improvements to the walkway, which are designed to make the track more resilient to weather damage and make stairway sections safer and easier to negotiate.

Whakatane District Council Community Services General Manager Mike Naude says the walkway is arguably the most scenic and varied urban walkway in the country, and the progressive upgrading works will ensure that it remains a premium attraction for locals and visitors alike.

"The walkway will remain open under caution while the work progresses, with short diversions put in place as required, but walkers are advised that there may be delays at times due to the need for short, localised closures for health and safety reasons," Mr Naude says. Subject to weather conditions, work is expected to be completed by early March.



Oxfam Trailwalker

Oxfam Trailwalker is back, so why not make it your New Year's resolution to get fit and take part in this life-changing challenge on 10-11 March? You'll not only be improving your own health and fitness; you'll also be helping to raise money for a great cause. Oxfam Trailwalker challenges teams of four to walk 50 or 100 kilometres and raise vital funds for Oxfam New Zealand to support people living in poverty in the Pacific. Thousands of people take part each year as participants, support crew and volunteers.

There's still time to get in shape if you're aiming to take on the 50km challenge, and if you already get regular exercise, then why not set your sights on the 100km event? Oxfam Trailwalker has so far raised over \$9 million for projects around the Pacific. This year, Oxfam hopes to top the \$10 million mark, so get some friends together and get behind this great event, which is held right here in Whakatane. See oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz for details.



Edgecumbe College Pool open to the public

A joint project between Edgecumbe College and the Whakatane District Council's Aquatics and Recreation team has enabled the swimming pool facility to open for the remainder of the summer.

"All going well, we'll be able to keep it open until Sunday, 1 April," says Council Aquatics and Recreation Manager Lee Colquhoun.

"The Council has set aside funding for a lifeguard service, which will allow the pool to be open to the public from 3pm till 6pm on weekdays and from midday till 4 pm on weekends. We're also planning to trial a weekday morning swim session (6am till 8am) in early February, and if there's sufficient demand, we'll continue that for the rest of the summer too."



Whakatane District Council Aquatic Centre staff will also be offering afternoon learn to swim lessons at the Edgecumbe pool, commencing 5 February. See the Whakatane Aquatic Centre Facebook page for more details, and email AquaticCentre@whakatane.govt.nz with any enquiries.

FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

As part of an ongoing bylaw review, the Whakatane District Council is proposing to introduce a new Traffic and Speeds Bylaw and revoke both Part 12 (Traffic and Speed Limits) and Part 4 (Mobile Trading) of its existing Consolidated Bylaw 2008.

The changes include: restrictions on overnight parking for heavy goods vehicles, changes to the restrictions for heavy goods vehicles routes, speed limit changes to 21 roads throughout the District, and restricting parking on grass verges.

Community consultation on both proposals began last month and will continue through until Friday, 2 March. Statement of proposal documents detailing the proposed changes and the reasons for them are available on our website, and formal submissions can be made online or in writing. Visit whakatane.govt.nz to find out more.

Long Term Plan key issues identified

Whakatane District Council elected members have provided direction on the key 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP) decisions which will be a focus for community consultation early this year.

In keeping with the Local Government Act 2002, the Council is required to produce a new LTP every three years. The 2018-28 LTP is due to be completed by June 30, 2018 and Council elected members and staff have been working to finalise the various policies and strategies required for its development.

Key decisions identified for consultation with the community include: incorporating Murupara's water and wastewater schemes in the District's equalised schemes (which mean all users pay the same cost for the same service); an increase in funding to attract tourists; affordability and impacts on

rates; and an Integrated Wastewater project to serve Matatā, Edgecumbe and Whakatane.

The list of key decisions will be further refined this year.

A number of policy reviews are also underway, including the Development Contributions Policy, the Significance and Engagement Policy, the Revenue and Financing Policy, Remission and Postponement Policies, the Liability Management Policy and an Investment Policy.

The Council's draft Infrastructure Strategy, outlining how Council intends to manage its infrastructure

assets over the next 30 years, highlights the need for stormwater and wastewater infrastructure upgrades, in particular. Changes proposed to transport infrastructure include improvements/sealing of SH38, Pokairoa Road and Ngamotu Road.

Community Board members have been involved in LTP workshops. An engagement plan for the formal consultation phase has been developed, which will see community consultation undertaken between 23 March and 23 April this year.



JOIN US ON
SAT, 3RD FEB 2-8PM
MAHY RESERVE, ŌHOPE

EVENT PROGRAMME

- 2pm: Event opens, Challenge Registrations, Koha Tastings open
- 2:15: Live Music begins
- 2:15: Wildfood Demos begins
- 4:30: Challenge Registrations close
- 5pm: Wildfood Challenge ends
- 5:30: Kids prize giving
- 7:30pm: Main prize giving

Live music
Food Festival
Wild food demonstrations
Wild Food Cooking Competitions
www.localwildfoodchallenge.com

LOCAL WILD FOOD CHALLENGE