



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - April 2018

SWIMMING POOL INSPECTIONS TO CONFIRM CHILD-SAFETY COMPLIANCE

More than 800 swimming pools in the Whakatāne District will have to be inspected in the next three years to check that they comply with new Government regulations designed to prevent unsupervised access by children under five years old.

Whakatāne District Council Building and Monitoring Manager Barbara Dempsey says the Building (Pools) Amendment Act 2016 requires councils to check that all residential swimming pools in their territorial areas have fences or other means of restricting access by children. Inspections will then have to be repeated every three years.

"The rule aims to enhance the safety of young children and applies to any pool which is 400mm or more deep and filled, or partly-filled with water," Mrs Dempsey explains. "Owners have a legal obligation to make sure their pool is compliant and the Council is required to check compliance every three years and take action if the fencing or other barriers to access are inadequate."

GWENDA RUEGG WAY

Gwenda Ruegg Way

The accessway between Short Street and the Whakatāne Aquatic Centre is to be named after the late Gwenda Ruegg.

A request originating from the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board that Gwenda Ruegg's significant contributions to swimming and theatre activities be appropriately recognised was considered by the Whakatāne District Council's Projects and Services Committee last month. Community Service General Manager Mike Naude indicated that the section of roadway from the Short Street/Francis Street intersection to the Aquatic Centre was essentially unnamed, as it lies on Council recreation reserve. The Council's road renaming policy therefore did not apply and the accessway could be named in Gwenda Ruegg's honour.

Committee members adopted a recommendation, by a majority vote, that the accessway to the Aquatic Centre be named Gwenda Ruegg Way, in accordance with the community's wishes.

Ōhope Harbourside Trail opens



The new Ōhope Harbourside Trail is blessed to signal its official opening

The Whakatāne District's latest walking and cycling asset was officially opened last weekend, marking the completion of a long-held dream of making the changing moods and estuarine beauty of the Ōhiwa Harbour more accessible to the community.

The Ōhope Harbourside Trail is an outstanding initiative by the Rotary Club of Whakatāne, which raised more than \$200,000 to develop a 2.9-kilometre, shared-use pathway along the harbour edge, from Waterways Drive in the west to Port Ōhope Wharf.

Club spokesman Don Lewell says Ōhiwa Harbour is one of New Zealand's most unspoiled estuaries. "It holds immense cultural significance to tangata whenua and is home to multitudes of birds, shellfish and fish species," he says. "Our vision throughout this project has been to provide locals and visitors with an opportunity to appreciate the taonga we have on our doorstep."

Shaping our TOMORROW *Ngā rā anamata*

Have your say -
Kōrero mai

Long Term Plan open for feedback

The Whakatāne District Council has adopted the consultation document for its 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP), and other draft supporting documents, for public consultation.

The consultation document – "Shaping our Tomorrow – Ngā rā anamata" – has been distributed to households, businesses and organisations throughout the District, and the Council is seeking community feedback through formal or informal submissions between 23 March and 23 April.

A focus of the consultation document is the need to plan for major infrastructure investments, particularly in water supply, wastewater and stormwater systems, over the next 10 years. Mayor Tony Bonne says resource consent replacements will require major upgradings to bring systems up to current environmental and operating standards.

"To deal with those costs, our proposed budgets for 2018-28 focus on the 'must-dos', with spending on other projects tightly constrained," he says. "Another consideration is our vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards, and the need to plan for and respond to the impacts of these events on our District."

He says there has been no choice but to take a 'no frills' approach, with a number of projects and service improvements either reconsidered or deferred. "A key question the consultation document asks is: 'have we got our priorities right?' We're very keen to hear the community's views so that we can be sure we've found an appropriate balance between progress and affordability."

We want to hear from you
- Whakapā mai!

SPECIFIC FEEDBACK IS ALSO SOUGHT ON:

- ▶ A proposal to 'equalise' Murupara's water and wastewater system costs – equalisation would mean that connected properties in Murupara would pay the same for those services as ratepayers in other communities. While this would make future upgrades more affordable, it would contribute to a potential 25 percent rates increase for Murupara properties in 2018/19;
- ▶ A proposed \$150,000 increase in the budget for tourism and events (to be funded largely through the targeted district growth rate on businesses, with \$50,000 to come from the Harbour Fund);
- ▶ Are our spending priorities right?

Alongside the LTP, the Council is also consulting on several other proposals and policies, including:

- ▶ 2018-21 Fees and Charges;
- ▶ LTP supporting policies (Significance and Engagement Policy, Revenue and Financing Policy and Development Contributions Policy);
- ▶ The implementation of Financial Contributions for roading and reserves; and
- ▶ Proposed upgrades to the Whakatāne boat ramp area.

Tell us what you think by
5pm Monday, 23 April 2018

Information on those proposals, and the various supporting documents the LTP is based on, is available on our website, whakatane.govt.nz/ltp-2018

The planning and consultation process is set out in the Local Government Act, which requires the Council to develop and adopt a long term plan every three years. The LTP must be finalised and adopted before 1 July, following public consultation, submissions, hearings and deliberations.

Key timeframes

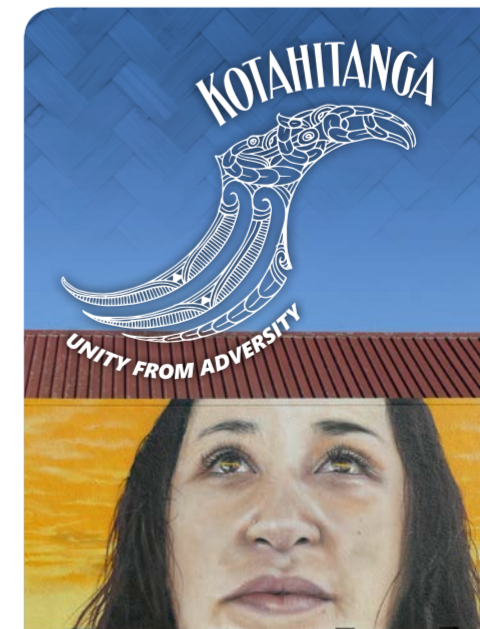
23 March – 23 April	You tell Council what you think
14 – 16 May	You present your submission to Council (if you want to)
22 – 24 May	Council considers your feedback
28 June	Council makes final decisions and adopts the Long Term Plan



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Creative Communities Whakatāne Scheme is aimed at increasing participation in the arts at a local level and increasing the range and diversity of arts available within communities. All artists or art-related organisations are eligible to apply, either as individuals or groups. The Scheme offers support for a variety of art-based projects, and all applications are assessed on the merit of the project and how it fits within the Creative NZ Communities Scheme criteria.

All applications are required to outline the benefits of the proposed project to the community, as this is the basis for receiving the fund from Creative NZ. The three categories are Participation, Diversity, and Young People. More information on these categories as well as how to apply can be found on the Whakatāne District Council website. There is \$17,000 available to allocate to projects, so get your application in by 5pm Friday, 11 May 2018.



One year on

Today marks the anniversary of the storm and flood event that severely impacted Edgecumbe and other parts of our District in 2017. Council's District Recovery Team has printed a four-page supplement in today's Whakatāne Beacon to acknowledge the progress achieved to date by the multiple agencies and organisations involved in the recovery process. Extra copies of the lift-out will be available at Whakatāne District Council Customer Services reception and at Te Tari Āwhina – Community Hub at Edgecumbe Library.

Acknowledging the anniversary of 6 April 2017