



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council  
Community Update - May 2018

## May deals on offer at Whakatane Aquatic and Fitness Centre

Families looking for a way to get healthy and active together can take advantage of some special deals at the Whakatane Aquatic and Fitness Centre this month.

The Centre is offering a family membership deal for the month of May, which will allow a family of four to sign up for only \$30.99 per month, with no contractual obligations. The membership allows full use of the facilities, including the swimming pools, spa pools, hydroslide, aqua fitness classes, fitness centre and access to a training consultant.

Council Aquatics and Recreation Manager Lee Colquhoun says this is "great value for money" for the facilities and services provided.

"To put it into perspective, two adults using the gym and two children's swims once a week would cost \$29," he explains. "So for less than \$2 more, you can have unlimited use of all the centre's facilities. It's a great option for families who are looking to get active together, and young people aged 16 years old or over can also use the fitness centre."

Mums swim FREE on Mothers' day



### MUMS SWIM FREE!

The Aquatic Centre will also be offering free pool entry for all mothers on Mothers' Day, Sunday 13 May 2018.

Mr Colquhoun says the pools offer plenty of fun for families, particularly mothers. "Mums with toddlers can enjoy our beach and play area, as well as the learners' pool," he says. "We've also got the action-packed option of the hydroslide, the fitness option of the lap pool, or the relaxed option of our lovely heated spas."

To find out more about the family membership deal, or for general enquiries, contact the staff at the Whakatane Aquatic and Fitness centre on 07 308 4192, or email [AquaticCentre@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:AquaticCentre@whakatane.govt.nz).

## MĀORI WARDS POLL NOW OPEN

Voting papers and information packs for the binding poll on the introduction of Māori Wards in the Whakatane District should have been received by all registered electors.



Voting will be open through until midday on 19 May. Voting papers can be returned by post, using the prepaid envelope provided, or placed in the envelope and dropped into the voting boxes provided at the Whakatane District Council Civic Centre in Whakatane, or the Murupara Service Centre. Anyone returning their vote by post is advised to get it in the mail by Wednesday, 16 May at the latest to ensure that it is received by the Electoral Officer before the voting period ends. Votes delivered to the Murupara Service Centre will need to be placed in the voting box before 4:30 pm on Friday, 18 May. Votes can be lodged at the Civic Centre through until midday on Saturday, 19 May.

Preliminary results should be available later that day, and the Electoral Officer will provide an official declaration of the outcome on 21 May.

If a majority of the people voting in the poll vote against Māori Wards, the proposal will lapse. If a majority vote in favour of Māori Wards, the Council will undertake a representation review to define how the District wards system should work. The proposed representation arrangements would then go through a community consultation process before a final decision is made. Any objections to that decision would then be referred to the Local Government Commission for a ruling.

Electoral Officer Dale Ofsoske says approximately 24,500 registered voters are eligible to take part in the poll. "This is an important decision for the Whakatane District, because it will determine how the community is represented for at least the next two elections," he says. "All registered voters are therefore encouraged to have their say by completing and returning their voting papers during the voting period."

## Galatea Road northern section closed for slip repairs

Repairs to a major underslip on Galatea Road, 3.6 km north of the Matahina Dam, will require the closure of the road until at least 18 May, and involve delays for motorists travelling through the worksite for the duration of the project.

Works began on the site last month and are anticipated to be completed towards the end of June, with progress dependent on the weather and ground conditions encountered.

Whakatane District Council Transportation Manager Martin Taylor says the affected section of road was badly undercut during the major weather event that hit the District in April last year, which reduced access to one lane only.

"Reinstatement of the damaged section will require the construction of a steel post and timber panel infill wall on the western side of the road, together with significant earthworks, road-widening and drainage improvements," he says.

Due to the extent of the construction work and the need to ensure the safety of contractors and motorists, the section of road under repair will be closed to all traffic for the first stage of the project. That will require people travelling to and from Galatea and beyond to detour through Tahuna Road (the alternate route between Galatea Road and SH30 at Te Teko). Likewise, traffic travelling to and from Te Mahoe Village and the Matahina Dam will also need to use the detour route.

Mr Taylor says the additional traffic volume on Tahuna Road is not expected to create any serious issues, but advises all road users to exercise caution throughout the closure period.

"The Council recognises that these essential repairs will create some inconvenience, particularly for people living or working close to the southern side of the worksite. Our contractor, Fulton Hogan, will be working hard to complete the repairs quickly, so that the road can be reopened to the public at the earliest possible opportunity."



## Shaping our TOMORROW

Ngā rā anamata

## Long Term Plan feedback received

The community feedback phase of Council's Long Term Plan 2018-28 development has closed. Staff are now working through the almost 200 formal submissions received, as well as a large number of informal comments and ideas generated through social media, meetings and events. Thanks to everyone who took the opportunity to get involved in shaping our tomorrow.

The majority of submitters took the opportunity to respond to the three questions Council posed through the Consultation Document, with many also taking the opportunity to raise other topics of interest.

### The key questions asked were:

- ▶ What is a fair way of funding upgrades for Murupara's water and wastewater systems?
- ▶ Should we put more money towards tourism and events?
- ▶ Are we getting the priorities right?

Staff will now collate the feedback so that it can be presented to the elected members for their consideration. Those who requested to speak to their submissions will also have their opportunity to present to Council this month through the hearings process. Following hearings, the elected members will deliberate on the feedback received, before adopting the final Long Term Plan 2018-28 in June.

### Key dates

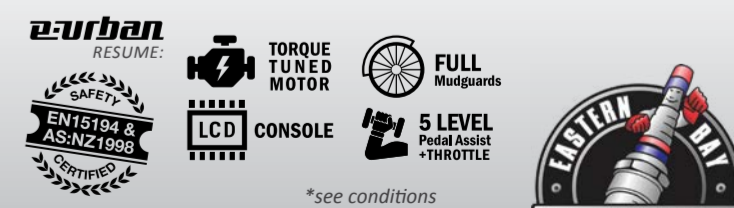
- 14 - 16 May Submitters present their feedback to Council
- 22 - 24 May Council considers feedback through deliberations
- 28 June Council makes final decisions and adopts the Long Term Plan



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