



WHAKATĀNE  
District Council  
*Kia Whakatāne au i ahau*

OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - September 2018

## Young Achiever Awards



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

Nominations are called for students who, in the previous 12 months 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. Applications are now open.

For more information, visit [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)



## Aquatic Centre reception to undergo makeover

The Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre's reception area will be undergoing an upgrade next week, during which time an alternative entrance will be in place. The main entrance will be closed for the duration of the work, with the alternative entrance being set up at the western end of the building, opposite the Whakatāne Athletic and Harrier Club building.

Whakatāne District Council Aquatics and Recreation Manager Lee Colquhoun says the work will commence on Monday, 10 September, with the main entrance is expected to reopen on Monday, 8 October.

"The upgrade is chiefly to address the congestion that is currently experienced in the reception area," he says. "There will also be some configuration to create a space for other uses."

"Aquatic Centre staff appreciate that this work will cause some inconvenience, but it will lead to an improved experience for aquatic centre users, so we are asking all our regular customers to bear with us during the work programme."

## Civic Centre seismic strengthening solution welcomed



A detailed seismic rating and engineering study carried out on the Whakatāne District Council Civic Centre has indicated that the strengthening work needed to raise the centre's earthquake resistance to a suitable standard for a public or commercial building may be able to be carried out well within the \$3 million budget set aside for the project.

A draft engineering report received by the Council earlier this month, which is currently being peer-reviewed, estimates that the necessary strengthening work required to lift the structure's earthquake resistance to 80 percent or more of a new building standard can be carried out for less than \$1 million. The work involved would include the installation of structural elements to support the first floor of the building; the installation of nine steel bracing posts on the northern side of the building; replacement of ceilings with a seismic-restrained suspended system; and replacement of the existing fluorescent lights with seismically-restrained LED units.

The strengthening work is also expected to allow the continued use of the building as a Civil Defence emergency operation centre, which requires a higher level of earthquake resistance.

Council elected members approved the project, subject to the peer review confirming the predicted seismic strengthening outcomes. Installation of air-conditioning was also approved, at an estimated cost of \$900,000, subject to an energy audit and confirmation of design details and costs.

## Perception survey findings received



The Whakatāne District Council's annual Communitrak community perception survey has recorded steady results, with perceptions of 15 services or facilities improving or staying much the same, and a similar number decreasing slightly.

The survey findings were presented to the Council's Policy Committee earlier this month, and are used to gauge how residents and ratepayers perceive key services, and the performance of elected representatives and staff. Along with other performance data, the information captured by the survey is used to inform the Council's planning and performance monitoring activities.

The survey involves a random telephone survey of 300 residents across the District and also provides an opportunity to ask specific questions about Council policy and direction, projects, and local issues.

Services and facilities or other measures that scored highly in 2018 were the Crematorium Facility with 95 percent of people very or fairly satisfied; District Libraries (94% satisfied); Kerbside Waste (93%); Cemeteries (92%); Parks and Reserves (92%); Sports fields (92%); Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi – Whakatāne Exhibition Centre (91%); Water Supply (90%); and Quality of Life (90%).

The most improved areas were public toilets, the crematorium, parking in Whakatāne, footpaths, noise control and consultation.

Participants were asked where the Council should spend more, less or about the same, with the top five spending priorities being business promotion, tourism promotion, efforts to enable and promote events, walking and cycling facilities in the district, and public toilets.

The performance of the Mayor and Councillors improved slightly, with 80% of the people surveyed rating them as either very good, fairly good, or just acceptable, while 10% rated their performance as not very good or poor. Perceptions of Council staff performance showed a similar overall outcome, with 80% of respondents rating them as very good, fairly good, or just acceptable; and 9% as not very good or poor.

## Street-side fruit tree planting pilot project for Tāneatua



A Whakatāne District Council and Tāneatua community pilot project saw 21 new fruit trees planted in Tāneatua last month, in the road reserves on Howell, Amokura and Morrison Roads.

Council staff have trialled the planting of fruiting trees in public parks in the town over the last two seasons, including in Jack Knowles Reserve, but this is the first time fruit trees have been planted as part of the public streetscape.

The 1.5-2 m tall trees were generously donated by Pride Whakatāne (a local group aligned with Keep New Zealand Beautiful) and consisted of a mix of pears, apples, plums and nashis.

The Council's Open Spaces team has worked to find suitable locations that won't interfere with services, or affect traffic and pedestrian safety, while providing maximum access to local residents.

It is hoped that the community will act as kaitiaki and will share the produce with whānau when the trees start producing fruit from late-summer.

The trees were planted with help from tamariki at Tāneatua School.

If this project is successful, consideration will be given to planting fruit trees in additional areas, as funding becomes available.



## What's on at Te Kōputu



### NEW EXHIBITION CAPTURES MEMORIES THROUGH CRAFT

The latest exhibition to grace the galleries of Te Kōputu sees a mixed-media display from artist Lauren Lysaght, which reflects on gender roles but is rooted in nostalgia. Kutarere Sunrise is a heartfelt tribute to Lauren's father, Nelson Lysaght, a butcher who was born and raised in Kutarere.

Kutarere Sunrise mixes seriousness with humour and blends female craft with reflections on male labour. The exhibition features craft-based works with depictions of pinkish-red strings of polonies and savoloy sausages hanging on bright gold hooks, and roasts readied for the Sunday oven beside gleaming silver trays of freshly-ground mince.

Kutarere Sunrise runs from 8 September to 25 November in the Sheaff Family Gallery at Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi – the Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre. Lauren Lysaght will be hosting a Gallery Talk at 11 am on Saturday, 8 September where she will discuss her new exhibition and explain the processes and stories behind her artworks. All are welcome to attend this free event and no bookings are required.

### INFINITE VARIETY DISPLAYED IN EXHIBITION OF KELLEHER TRUST WORKS

Whakatāne will be treated to a collection of prizewinning New Zealand landscape paintings from the Kelliher Trust collection, when a three-stop gallery tour lands in Te Kōputu in September.

Infinite Variety - Prizewinning New Zealand Landscape Paintings from the Kelliher Art Trust collection, which comprises just over 100 paintings, the majority of which are New Zealand landscapes (with some portraits and genre paintings) which won prizes or awards in the Kelliher Art Competition between 1956 and 1977.

The exhibition includes a portrait by Charles Goldie, who is possibly New Zealand's best-known painter. His reputation was largely established by his striking portraits of Māori from around 1900 to 1939. The portrait, assumed to be of a Māori chief, is dated 1939, the last year of Goldie's recorded paintings.

The exhibition will open with an informal gallery talk by Christopher Johnstone, Curator of the Kelliher Trust, at 11:30am on Saturday, 22 September. Christopher will address the relevance of the Kelliher Art Competition and landscape painting today, while sharing some his favourite works in the exhibition. Anyone is welcome to attend this event and bookings are not required.

Infinite Variety runs from 22 September to 28 November in the Main Gallery at Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi – the Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre.