



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - March 2019

Budget changes likely for coming year

The Whakatane District Council's draft budget for the 2019/20 financial year proposes a number of changes from the work programme and budget previously set out for the year in the 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP).

Committee chairperson, Deputy Mayor Judy Turner, says the proposed changes have been driven by a number of significant challenges and opportunities which have evolved since the LTP was adopted last year.

"The key aspect from the community's perspective is that the average rates increase for the year across the district is likely to be around 4.16 percent," she says. "While that is within the limit the LTP provides for, it is higher than the 2.88 percent increase predicted for the year - and higher than Councillors would like.

"However, we have to recognise that there are drivers for change which we need to respond to, many of which offer opportunities to progress some exciting community priorities."

The draft budget will be tabled at the next Council meeting on 6 March where elected members will discuss the revised work programme, recognising that there would be implications for the rating and debt measures indicated in the LTP. The scale of changes to the LTP would guide Councillors in whether they would seek input from community members through a consultation process.

To find out more, visit whakatane.govt.nz.



Colour-coded recycling bins come to Whakatane streets

A recycling trial will begin this month in Whakatane, with the aim of reducing the amount of waste going to landfill from public places.

The new concept bins involved will incorporate features to make it easier for people to separate recyclable items from general waste, including nationally consistent bin colours, clear signage in English and te reo Maori, and WiFi technology to reduce overflow and make collections more efficient.

As part of the trial, existing rubbish bins in the vicinity of the new stations will be covered over, and have messaging to direct people to the nearest recycling station. The recycling stations will each have four bins - two red bins for general rubbish (including food scraps, coffee cups and plastic wrappers); one yellow bin (for paper, plastic bottles and aluminium cans); and one blue bin (for glass bottles).

Whakatane District Council Manager Solid Waste Nigel Clarke says the trial offers many benefits, but its success relies on people doing the right thing and 'putting litter in its place'.

"Residents have been asking for public bins to match our kerbside collection system, so we're pleased to be offering this system and hope to see some positive results through reduced landfill waste volumes," Mr Clarke says. "This is a great opportunity to change our behaviour around rubbish and recycling, and have a positive impact on our natural environment."

For more information, visit whakatane.govt.nz/recycling-project

ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE...



What do belly dancing, Tai Chi and trolley derbies have in common? They're all activities that you can take part in at one of the Whakatane District's many public parks during Park Week 2019.

The Whakatane District will be hosting a range of free events to celebrate our places and open spaces next month. Whakatane District Council Manager Places and Open Spaces, Mike Houghton, says we're fortunate to have a wealth of public places to be shared and enjoyed.

"Healthy parks are an essential for healthy people and our District has some of the most picturesque reserves in the country," he says. "As well as being good for your physical and mental wellbeing, parks are places where we can connect with others and build stronger families and communities."

PARKS WEEK ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- **Trolley Derby**, Waiewe Reserve, 9 March
- **Teddy Bears Picnic** - Whakatane, Taneatua, Waimana and Matata
- **Book-a-Boo in the Park**, Whakatane Rose Gardens, 12 March
- **Ika-Boo in the Park**, Murupara Domain, 13 March
- **Tai Chi in the Park**, Whakatane Rose Gardens, 14 March
- **Guided day walk** through Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tane Conservation Park, 14 or 15 March
- **Yoga in the Park**, Whakatane Rose Gardens, 15 March
- **Dance and Musical Concert**, Wharaurangi, 16 March
- **Outdoor Movie Night**, Warren Cole Walkway Amphitheatre, 16 March
- **Belly Dance Taster**, Whakatane Rose Gardens, 17 March

Visit whakatane.com/events to find out more



The mural in progress

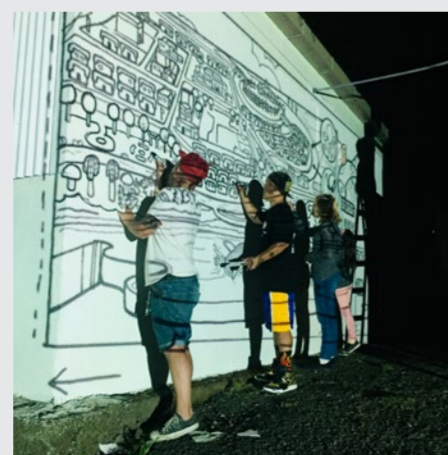


YOUTH OF KOPEOPEO FOCUS FOR NEW MURAL

A new mural is underway in Kopeopeo, thanks to a collaboration that sees international street artist Brian Gonnella helping to inject new vibrancy into the area.

Youth of Kopeopeo is a collaborative project aiming to enable the rangatahi of Whakatane to have their say on what goes on in Kopeopeo.

Find out more at facebook.com/kopeopeo



Youth help to stencil the mural at night



Brian Gonnella and Pouroto Ngaropo

Subsidised Home Composting Scheme

You may have heard about a new Council initiative to subsidise home composting solutions for households in our District. We've received a lot of interest since this was announced, so here's the lowdown...



The compost bins and worm farms will be available, on a first-come, first-served basis, from 26 March at the Whakatane Civic Centre on Tuesday mornings from 9am to 12pm and Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm. They'll also be available from the Murupara Service Centre from the same date.

The composting systems will cost \$10 each and anyone wanting to purchase one will be required to provide a name and address, as they are limited to one per property.

Visit whakatane.govt.nz to find out more.

Sustainable Backyards for the month of March

Sustainable Backyards is a month-long calendar of events in March hosted throughout the Bay of Plenty. This year there is more than 170 free or low-cost Enviro Events supporting sustainable living. Sustainable Backyards aims to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of people in the community via informative workshops and activities.

These range anywhere from growing your own food, beach/estuary cleanups, consumer choices, cooking, bush walks, farmers/ night markets, kids events, frock swaps, and movie screenings.

To find more about what's on, visit envirohub.org.nz/sustainablebackyards

