



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - July 2019

## AQUATIC CENTRE TO CLOSE FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

The Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre will be closed to the public from 6 pm on Saturday, 6 July until 6 am on Monday, 15 July while its annual maintenance programme is undertaken.

Whakatāne District Council Aquatics and Recreation Manager Lee Colquhoun says the facility shutdown will allow staff to complete the necessary maintenance to meet the centre's Poolsafe accreditation.

"The Aquatic Centre team is aware this closure will inconvenience some of our customers, particularly given the closure coincides with the school holidays, but it is a requirement of our Poolsafe compliance," he says. "We've tried to minimise this inconvenience as much as possible for our regular users, including the Learn to Swim programme, and will make every effort to have our maintenance programme completed so the Aquatic Centre can reopen on 15 July."

## Council adopts Annual Plan 2019/20

Whakatāne District Council has adopted its Annual Plan for 2019/20, and resolved its rates charges for the coming year.

A 4.11 percent increase in the District's average rates requirement has been confirmed for the year. This figure had decreased slightly from the 4.16 percent proposed in the Annual Plan Consultation Document.

Whakatāne District Mayor Tony Bonne says Councillors and staff have worked hard to incorporate a number of changes to the work programmes projected in the Long Term Plan 2018-28.

"There's always a balance to be attained between affordability and the need to improve community services and infrastructure," he says. "Council has endeavoured to maximise Central Government co-investment opportunities that are currently available, while also being responsive to future changes from Central Government, particularly in the water and wastewater space."

The first rates instalment for the year will be due on Friday, 23 August. A 2.5 percent discount is available if the full year's rates are paid by the first instalment due date. Payments can be made online, by credit card, by setting up a direct debit, by mail, or by calling into the Council Civic Centre in Whakatāne or the Murupara Library and Service Centre.



## Register your dog early and be in to win

Eastern Bay dog owners are being offered incentives to register their animals on time this year.

Everyone who registers their dog by 31 July 2019, will receive an early-bird discount and be in the draw to win some fantastic prizes including a kennel and run worth \$850 and various Tux and Purina products.

Registering your dog makes it much easier for councils to find and identify dogs. It also means owners of wandering, lost or stolen dogs can be easily found and identified. The Dog Control Act requires all dogs to be registered by 1 July each year or before the dog is three months old. Owners of all dogs registered after 1 August will be charged the full fee.



These kids gave our arborist team a helping hand to plant fruit trees along the new Wainui Te Whara walkway near their school last month. The goal was to bring a sense of community to the area, and of course provide delicious fresh fruit in the future.

Central Kids Garaway Teacher, Rae Lorimer said the tamariki thoroughly enjoyed this experience. "They have not stopped talking about it," she said. "It has caused quite a buzz in our little community."

## Partnership progresses project funding application



A partnership approach is enabling steady progress on the development of a business case to secure Central Government support for the transformational Whakatāne Waterfront and Town Centre Regeneration project - an exciting project which aims to reinvigorate Whakatāne's Central Business District, re-establish connections to the riverfront and provide fit-for-purpose infrastructure to support development of the marine and tourism economies.

Project partners, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and the Whakatāne District Council, are taking full advantage of an opportunity to co-invest with Central Government, and accelerate economic development opportunities in the Whakatāne District.

The key infrastructure needed to develop for both the marine and tourism industries is a fit-for-purpose boat harbour that caters for commercial and tourism-focused boat operations and provides protection from the river environment. In recognition of the waterfront's historical and cultural significance, the involvement of Ngāti Awa as a key partner is crucial to the success of the programme.

The funding application will include several well-researched key projects that will underpin this transformation. In turn, these projects will drive the creation of jobs, promote vibrant, connected and resilient communities, and ensure the connection between people and the environment is enhanced.

The team developing the funding application is currently seeking input from a number of key interest groups and stakeholders. Input from the wider community will be sought to inform the next phase of the project, which will involve a town reference plan as a starting point for consultation.

## Enrolled to vote?



The local body election to select the District's Mayor, Councillors and Community Board Members is to be held this year. These are the people who will make the final decisions about how we develop our community, how we set and spend our rates, and where we should be focusing our efforts for the future.

You may be interested in standing for Council and becoming one of those decision-makers for our District. If so, nominations for candidates open on 19 July and close at noon on 16 August. The electoral roll also closes on 16 August. After that, anyone who is entitled to vote and who is not enrolled as an elector, or whose details are incorrectly recorded on the roll, will have to cast a 'special vote'. Visit our website to find out more about our local elections.

[whakatane.govt.nz/elections-2019](http://whakatane.govt.nz/elections-2019)

## Dads and Lads mountain bike camp well-received

A 'Dads and Lads' mountain biking camp held last month saw local 'dads and lads' teams take on two mountain bike rides - 120km and 13km - on tracks around Taupō.

The initiative was organised by Whakatāne Bluelight and funded by the Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme. It aimed to give participants an opportunity to experience new rides and help kids build on skills learned at the Bike Ready programme offered in schools.

The children helped upskill and encourage their dads in cycling and getting out in the outdoors.

Bluelight co-ordinator Richard Hamer says it was great to see men and their boys bonding over the weekend. "They had a lot of fun and learned some new skills," he says. "Any event that results in strengthened connections between dads and lads is a success."



Henare and Taurua on bikes

## Free fruit trees still available

Pride Whakatāne Committee Chair and Whakatāne District Councillor Andrew Iles says there are still trees available for those who wish to apply. "The fruit tree project is a good way for people to see the benefits of sustainable gardening," he says. "It's great to see community groups and organisations sharing the benefits of nurturing fruit trees, and helping children learn about growing nutritious food."

"We enjoy seeing people get something in return for their efforts."

The initiative has run in previous years, with various types of trees available and plenty of groups taking up the offer. This year peach, apple, plum, apricot and feijoa trees are available and will be given away on a first-in, first-served basis.

All community groups and organisations in the Whakatāne District are invited to apply to receive a tree. Those interested simply need to send organisation details and an explanation about how they'd benefit from planting a fruit tree to Andrew Iles - [waimanailes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:waimanailes@xtra.co.nz)

