

'UP AND OVER' FUN FOR ALL

A fun family day out will be held on Sunday, 15 December to celebrate the official opening of the Whakatāne-Ōhope Walkway and Cycleway.

The 'Up and Over' event will start at the entrance to the Ōhope Scenic Reserve (opposite Mahy Reserve) at 9.45am and will have something for all the family.

The Bay Hopper Shuttle Bus will be running a special schedule during the event, so participants can take the bus from Whakatāne to Ōhope and then walk back, or bus back to Ōhope after the event. There will be spot prizes and free swim passes and participants can run, walk or cycle the course. Mayor Tony Bonne will officiate at an opening ceremony, starting at 9:30am.



The 5km-long track features concrete on the steeper sections and compacted crusher dust elsewhere, providing a safe and comfortable surface for walking, running and cycling. It is hoped the track will promote a more active, fitter and healthier community, allowing people to choose to commute between two of the district's key residential areas by foot or pedal power.

The Whakatāne District Council project was carried out with funding support from Grassroots Trust, the Whakatāne and Ōhope Community Boards, Nova Energy and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

More information can be found at www.whakatane.com or www.whakatane.govt.nz.

'TE UREWERA CONVERSATIONS' AT TE KŌPUTU



The series of public programmes to support Te Kōputu's new exhibition, Te Urewera Conversations, kicks off at 11.00am tomorrow with Te Urewera Triptych – The Untold Story.

Tame Iti shares his insights into the intriguing chapter of New Zealand political and art history which saw the Colin McCahon painting Te Urewera Triptych stolen from the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre at Aniwanuiwa and returned over a year later.

The Conversation Series continues on Sunday, 15 December with The Curator's View, a floor talk by Museum and Arts Team Leader Hamish Pettengell. The public programmes resume in mid-January

Photo Left: Megan Hansen-Knarhoi's installation Poropiti is drawing fascinated viewers at the Te Urewera Conversations exhibition. Photo Right: Glitter and diamond dust sparkle in Reuben Paterson's painting Nigh, while in the foreground, the diamond theme - inspired by the story of Te Kooti's diamond on Maungapohatu - is also reflected in the floor works by Dion Hitchens.

and include three artist floor talks (by Murray Hewitt, Dion Hitchens and Megan Hansen-Knarhoi) and a key-note talk about McCahon's Te Urewera Triptych by Professor Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, Professor of Fine Arts at Elam School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland. Visit www.whakatanemuseum.org.nz for dates and times.

ŌHOPE BEACH AND MURUPARA TO CHOOSE NEW COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS

As a result of insufficient candidates at the recent 2013 triennial election, a by-election is now required to fill one vacancy for the Murupara Subdivision of the Murupara Community Board and three vacancies on the Ōhope Beach Community Board.

Nominations for the vacancies opened on Monday 18 November 2013 and close at noon on Monday 16 December 2013.

The nominations will be listed on the Council website as they come to hand.

Should the number of candidates exceed the number of vacancies, voting packs will be posted to all eligible electors from Monday 20 January 2014 and must be returned to the electoral officer, or an electoral official, by noon on Tuesday 11 February 2014.

CALL FOR FURTHER DISTRICT PLAN SUBMISSIONS

The Proposed Whakatāne District Plan has reached another milestone, with notification of a summary of decisions requested in submissions, and a call for further submissions now underway.

The Council has received 390 submissions on the Proposed Plan, both supporting and opposing various provisions.

A summary of decisions requested in those submissions on the Proposed Plan may be inspected at the Whakatāne District Council Civic Centre, the Murupara Service Centre and Library, Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi - Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre, Ōhope Library, and the Edgcombe

Library. A copy can also be downloaded from Council's website at www.whakatane.govt.nz, or alternatively, a CD version can be obtained from Whakatāne District Council Customer Services, free of charge.

The next stage of submissions is limited to those submitters who represent a relevant aspect of community interest or who have an interest in the proposed plan greater than that of the general public. Further submissions close at 5pm, Thursday 19 December 2013. Further information can be obtained from the Civic Centre on Commerce Street, Whakatāne.

RIVER DREDGING BEGINS AT WHAKATĀNE HEADS

Preparations for dredging the Whakatāne harbour entrance with a long-reach excavator got underway this week. The dredging is essential to maintain the safety of our harbour and is likely to cause some disruption for reserve users at the Whakatāne Heads over the next few weeks.

Following discussions with commercial operators and recreational boating groups, the Whakatāne District Council has adopted a two-pronged approach to deepening the river entrance channel and maintaining it in a workable state over the summer peak use period. The excavator will remove sediment on the eastern side of the channel, while boat-based discing, bucket dredging and sand jetting operations will focus on the area beyond the excavator's reach.

Low winter and spring rainfall and reduced river flows have meant the typical 'flushing' of sand from the channel has not occurred



Excavators prepare the training wall for dredging.

this year and discing and bucket dredging operations have been undertaken since September to keep the situation from getting any worse.

Regular monitoring of the channel will continue to assess the effectiveness of the dredging operation and direct resources to any areas of continuing concern. While the operation is underway, areas of the reserve at the Heads will be cordoned-off and unavailable to the public, but the reserve should be reopened before Christmas.

MURUPARA POOL PROGRAMME

A collaborative effort between Whakatāne District Council, Swimming New Zealand, Water Safety New Zealand and Sport BOP aims to make Murupara and Galatea students more conscious of water safety and improve their swimming skills. More than 300 students from years one-to-eight classes at Murupara Area School and Galatea School are taking advantage of the programme, which provides 30-minute lessons for just one dollar.

All instructors are qualified swimming teachers and the attending school teachers have taken part in the State Kiwi Swim Safe workshop and they also have assistance poolside from Swimming New Zealand Swim Safe Advisor Erin Fowler.

Mrs Fowler says the programme is all about increasing children's ability to swim and survive in the water and to increase safety awareness around aquatic environments, especially local rivers.

The area also had six senior students attend Swimming New Zealand's Assistant Swim Teacher Award course. "They will be trained in how to teach swimming and water safety in the water and they are learning alongside qualified swim teachers. It is a great thing for the community to have three qualified swim teachers here, and soon there will be six more," Mrs Fowler says.



Alison Silcock leads a class at the Murupara pool.

Whakatāne District Council Aquatics and Recreation Manager Sarah Clarke says the initiative is a great result for the schools and will give young children in Murupara and Galatea more opportunities to learn to swim and to be safe around water.

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Shoppers on The Strand in Whakatāne will have a totally new retail experience to enjoy over the summer months.

Summer Daze at 136 The Strand is a unique initiative aligned with the Whakatāne Student Business Challenge and brings together three youth-operated businesses under one roof. Sweet Little Things will be serving up fresh, home-made cupcakes, INC will be selling original skateboards and clothing designs and Low Cool is a sports club retail store supported by the Paroa Rugby and Sport Club.

This project has been organised by the Whakatāne District Council Business Services team, who provided the retail space to the students free of charge. Co-ordinator Mary Bates says: "The Council is excited to be a part of this project, which has had such a positive effect on this group



of young entrepreneurs, empowering them to dream, believe and now achieve. What an opportunity."

The Eastern Bay of Plenty Chamber of Commerce has also been deeply involved in the project and will assist with mentoring our new businesspeople, as required.

The store will remain open until at least the end of February 2014.

'TIS THE SEASON

With Christmas just around the corner Eastern Bay Energy Trust has been instrumental in bringing some festive cheer to the District's streets. The Trust has been funding Christmas lighting and decorations since 1998, and over the past few years, the focus has been on getting Christmas decorations out into Matatā, Edgcombe, Te Teko, Murupara, Taneatua and Ōhope. The focus for next year is to get at least one Christmas tree lit up.

EBET Chairman Don Lewell says: "The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has supported the Christmas lighting programmes of the Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki District Councils for many years now, and this funding means that Christmas decorations can be installed in more of the outlying townships, to be enjoyed by more of the Trust's beneficiaries."



EBET Chairman Don Lewell and Nicola Spice of Whakatāne District Council watch the lights go up in Kōropepe.

SUMMER ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME 2013/14

The Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme's 2013/14 summer campaign is underway to raise awareness of key driving issues, namely speeding (driving to the conditions) and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. "With the holiday season fast approaching, there's an increased need for everyone to drive responsibly," Whakatāne District Council senior community development advisor Erena Brew says.

Kawerau and Ōpōtiki will be key focus areas for the campaign. According to the Communities at Risk register, the Ōpōtiki district is New Zealand's second most at-risk

region for alcohol-and drug-related crashes, while Kawerau is fourth.

The campaign will run in print, radio and social media, and there will be posters in bars and sports clubs reminding people to drive sober. Flyers highlighting the risks of drink-driving will also be distributed.

"Discouraging people from drinking and driving is one of our key aims this summer, because anyone driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs puts all road users at risk of serious or fatal injuries," Ms. Brew says.

HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS FOR COUNCIL SITES

The public are advised that the Whakatāne District Council Civic Centre will be open from 8am-12pm and the Murupara Service Centre from 9am-12pm on 24 December 2013 and thereafter closed until 6 January 2014. Similarly, the Museum Research Centre in Whakatāne will be closed from 24 December 2013 to 6 January 2014. In addition, the Murupara Refuse Transfer Station will be closed on Christmas

Day and New Year's Day; all other days the following applies: Monday to Friday 8:30-9:30am and 3pm-6pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am-6pm.

Please see below for the opening hours for other Council premises, or visit www.whakatane.govt.nz. Normal opening hours apply from 4 January onwards.

	DECEMBER										JANUARY		
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3		
Whakatāne Aquatic Centre/Gym	6am - 12pm	CLOSED	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	6am - 3pm	CLOSED	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS		
Murupara Aquatic Centre	9am - 12pm	CLOSED	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	9am - 3pm	CLOSED	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS		
Whakatāne Library & Exhibition Centre	9am - 12pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	NORMAL HOURS	9am - 3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	NORMAL HOURS		
Visitor Information Centre	8am - 12pm	CLOSED	10am - 4pm	8am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	10am - 4pm	8am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	10am - 4pm	8am - 5pm		
Whakatāne Refuse Transfer Station	8am - 5pm	CLOSED	9am - 4pm	8am - 5pm	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	8am - 5pm	8am - 5pm	CLOSED	9am - 4pm	8am - 5pm		

Orange = Closed Green = Normal hours Blue = Opening hours