



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council  
Community Update - December 2021

Need help  
with your  
My Vaccine  
Pass?



## VACCINATION PASS

If you've had both your COVID-19 shots, you can now access proof of your vaccination status, known as My Vaccine Pass.

If you need help downloading or printing\* your My Vaccine Pass, the Whakatane Library team at Te Kōputu and Murupara Library can assist. There are a few things you'll need to bring with you, including an email address and one of the following:

- Passport
- Driver's license
- Birth certificate

or, your RealMe login.

If you don't have any of the above, call 0800 222 478 or see [mycovidrecord.health.nz](https://mycovidrecord.health.nz)

\*Printing = 20c per A4



## FUN AND FOOD AT WHARFSIDE

Port Ōhope has a great new attraction called 'Wharfside'; a place where you can rent e-bikes, e-scooters and paddleboards while munching on your favourite summer snacks.

We've spruced up the old waterfront building and invited fun activity businesses and food vendors to set up

shop here over summer. It's part of a Council trial to support local businesses, add to our district's tourist attractions, and provide a great place for locals to take their whānau.

Wharfside opens at 10am tomorrow, and will be open most days over summer.



## Message from the Mayor

At this time of year, as your Mayor, I generally wish everyone well for the summer holiday season, ask people to stay safe, and recap on some of the key challenges and successes of the past 12 months. This year, with cases of COVID-19 in the Eastern Bay and our move to the new traffic light system, the call to stay safe over summer couldn't be more urgent. We are now living with COVID-19 in our community and the vaccine is our best protection (along with masks, scanning and testing). If you're unvaccinated, the best thing you can do to keep yourself, your whānau and friends safe is to get vaccinated. Do it now. The vaccine has been proven, beyond question, to reduce severe symptoms for those who contract the virus and lower the number of potential hospital admissions.

The vaccine pass, which comes into effect today, adds a further level of protection for our communities while we boost our vaccination numbers. Remember, there will be a review of the settings in coming weeks (probably mid-December) and the surest way to move to orange is through increasing our vaccination rates. If you need information on the traffic light system, where to get vaccinated, where to get tested, or anything else COVID-related visit the 'Unite against COVID-19' website ([covid-19.govt.nz](https://covid-19.govt.nz)). Business owners should also visit [business.govt.nz](https://business.govt.nz) for information on the economic support packages that are available.

Wouldn't it be great if the district moved to an 'Orange Christmas'? We can do this. Thank you to everyone doing their bit to keep our district safe. I wish you all a healthy and happy summer.

Noho ora mai,  
Judy Turner – Mayor



## We're moving next door

Whakatane District Council's main office building on Commerce Street is about to undergo a significant redevelopment. Staff usually based in this building will be temporarily relocating to other offices while construction takes place. The redevelopment is expected to take more than a year to complete.

You'll be able to find our friendly Customer Services team at 4 Commerce Street, Whakatane (next to the main Council office) from Monday, 6 December 2021. You may be able to save yourself a trip as most of our services are available online including rates payments, dog registration and LIM applications – visit [whakatane.govt.nz](https://whakatane.govt.nz). You can also contact us on 07 306 0500 or email [info@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:info@whakatane.govt.nz) during the redevelopment phase.

## HOT SUMMER TIPS

*We all have a part to play in protecting our precious environment. Follow the Tiaki Promise: make a commitment to care for New Zealand, for now and for future generations.*



Keen for a beach bonfire and sing-a-long? It's restricted fire season, so you'll need a permit before lighting a fire in the open air. Visit [checkitsalright.nz](https://checkitsalright.nz) or contact 0800 658 628 for more information.



Most of us like to enjoy a tippie on a warm summer's day, but please drink responsibly. If you're drinking, plan ahead for a ride home. Know your limits and look out for family and friends.



Being safe while out on the water makes boating fun, like it should be – instead of risky or unsafe. Always wear a lifejacket. Remember the five-knot rule.



As we head into the busy season, available car parks in the CBD can be more difficult to find. Keep your cool, remember there is a 60-minute limit and respect those with mobility permits who really need the blue-painted carparks.



Remember to slip, slop, slap and wrap this summer – it's very easy to get burnt in our sunny region.



We need to be vigilant about natural disasters in our region. Stay across updates on the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence & Emergency Management website and Facebook page.



Summer is always a superb time to celebrate and we encourage you to have fun, but please consider your neighbours and keep your volume down.



Remember to take extra care of your furry friends during the warmer months. Make sure dogs have plenty of food and water and avoid leaving them in vehicles. Keep an eye on your dog – you don't want him or her to end up in the pound.



Water is precious – think about how you use it, even when we're not in a restricted period.



Take enough kaimoana to feed the whānau, but make sure you know the limits for species within our region.

## Whakaahuatua Whakatane Representation Review 2021

## Council decision made on final representation structure

The Mayor and Councillors adopted the final structure for the representation review at a Council meeting held on Thursday, 11 November.

Based on feedback, some changes were made to the initial proposal that went out for consultation, including:

- Changing the 'Whakatane-Ōhope Māori Ward' name to 'Kapu te rangi Māori Ward'
- Changing the 'Tāneatua Communities Board' name to 'Tāneatua Community Board'
- Transferring the four meshblocks of the Waiōhau area from the Rangitāiki Māori Ward to the Toi ki uta Māori Ward
- Transferring the one meshblock of the Te Mahoe area from the Te Urewera General Ward to the Rangitāiki General Ward

The final proposal is available to the public for a one-month appeal period. After that time, any appeals or objections will be forwarded to the Local Government Commission to consider.

You can find out more at [whakatane.govt.nz/rep-review](https://whakatane.govt.nz/rep-review)

## Meet the team Kanohi kitea

Mark Sykes

Manager Collections  
and Research



### What I love most about my job

Opening people's minds to the role Te Whare Taonga ō Taketake (Whakatane District Museum & Research Centre) has in the community. We have incredible collections available for our communities to experience, in addition to the Heritage Gallery at Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi (Whakatane Libraries and Galleries), which displays items from our collection. I especially enjoy connecting whānau, hapū and iwi with their taonga and I feel really fortunate to work with talented kaimahi (staff) at Taketake who enable this to happen.

### What I find most challenging about my job

Accepting that proposed projects required to move the museum forward will take time.

*Each month, we'll introduce a Whakatane District Council staff member so you can 'meet' the team working for our communities.*

### What I love about the Whakatane District

Being from Matatā, my love for our rohe runs deep. We have everything on our doorstep and are blessed with many opportunities to experience Te Ao Māori, the playground of Tangaroa (God of the sea) and the ngahere (bush).

### Hobbies/interests outside work

Mahi raranga (weaving), supporting my iwi Ngāti Rangitahi, cooking and sharing kai with people, tramping and exploring my rohe to maintain my health and wellbeing. I also volunteer for the Whakatane Kiwi Trust, which is really rewarding.

### Anything else to add?

My partner and whānau are my priority in life. I've been blessed to experience all sorts of interesting things in the past, including representing New Zealand in Equestrian, taking part in a cooking show and holding a tarantula in my hand to get over my fear of spiders!