



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council  
Community Update - March 2021

## Mayor's message

As we approach the anniversary of the nationwide Level 4 lockdown, the latest community COVID-19 outbreak has again brought with it feelings of uncertainty for many people. My thoughts are with those directly impacted by the virus, including Aucklanders, and the large number of event managers around the country who have had to cancel or postpone events they've been working on for several months or more.

Locally, this weekend was shaping up to be a big one on the event calendar. It's very disappointing that these events, such as The West End Wiggle and The Classics Car & Caravan Show, have had to be rescheduled or cancelled. However, I feel fortunate to live in a country where plenty of events have been able to be enjoyed during our beautiful summer months. We're a resilience bunch, and I know we will prove this again throughout the current alert level change.

Please remember the three simple steps: use the COVID-19 tracer app (and switch on the Bluetooth function), wash your hands, and get tested and stay home if you're sick.

As a Council, we will continue to work on significant projects such as the Long Term Plan development, and continue to deliver the same level of service to our communities. We'll also monitor the COVID-19 situation and act accordingly should anything change.

Noho ora mai, Judy Turner – MAYOR



## FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR SPORTS TEAMS

**Are you part of a sports group with youth aged 5-19 years that needs to travel to compete in regular sporting competitions? If so, we might be able to help.**

Sport NZ has given Whakatane District Council a \$16,065 grant to help rural sports clubs and school teams with transport expenses to local sporting competitions. Please note, the fund is not available to representative teams travelling to competition games.

**Applications close 5pm Wednesday, 31 March 2021.**

For more information, visit [whakatane.govt.nz/sport-nz-fund](http://whakatane.govt.nz/sport-nz-fund) or call 07 306 0500.

## Climate Change reports show great progress

The first round of Whakatane District Council's climate change project reporting shows excellent progress has been made on some of the targets and actions adopted last year.

One major project success is the prioritisation of heat pump use at the Whakatane Aquatic and Fitness Centre, replacing natural gas boilers. The new approach has contributed towards the 40 percent reduction in Council's total natural gas use compared with the baseline from 2017-18.

Councillor Julie Jukes, Organisational Performance Committee Chair, says it is rewarding to see this type of reporting, as it highlights which actions are completed, those that are progressing well, and those that have yet to be started.

"It provides a clear snapshot of all current Council activities, and raises the question of what else needs to be done long-term to reach our goals and targets, such as becoming a carbon zero organisation by 2030," she says.



## NO MORE CHEQUE PAYMENTS



**Banks are phasing out cheques this year. This means we'll stop accepting cheques as a payment method after Friday, 21 May 2021.**

If you use cheques to make payments to Council, now is a good time to think about another option. You can choose direct debit, internet banking, EFTPOS, credit card or cash.

We know this is a big change for some of our customers, so we will work with you to ensure your alternative payment decision is the right one for you. Visit us in person at the Civic Centre on Commerce Street or the Service Centre in Murupara, call us on 07 306 0500 or email [info@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:info@whakatane.govt.nz) – we're here to help.



## Our journey forward...

The Long Term Plan (LTP) sets out the Council's vision, direction, work plan and budgets for the next 10 years. With input from our communities, we develop a new LTP every three years – and we're currently developing the Long Term Plan 2021-31.

We're going to need your help – big vision plans need to be a collaboration between the Council, community, partners and stakeholders to make sure we all get the best outcomes. The Long Term Plan affects you, your whānau, your neighbours, even your dog!

Circle Friday, 23 April 2021 in your calendars – this is the day the public consultation stage of the process opens. You'll have the opportunity to tell us what you think about the things that matter to you most.

Visit [whakatane.govt.nz/ltp](http://whakatane.govt.nz/ltp) for more information and how you can get involved.

# SUNSHINE STREET FIESTA

SATURDAY, 27 MARCH

The Sunshine Street Fiesta is a fabulous, family-friendly event with something for everyone – including FREE entry!



Head down to The Strand anytime from 2pm until 11pm on Saturday, 27 March and enjoy live music, food stalls, ice skating, rock wall climbing and amusement rides. There will also be free buses available – stay tuned for more information.

Visit [whakatane.com/events](http://whakatane.com/events) for all Sunshine Street Fiesta updates.

Back-up date, in case of COVID-19 restrictions or wet weather – Saturday, 17 April.

This fantastic event is brought to you by Whakatane District Council and EPIC, with funding support from Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency).



## TUIA programme rangatahi announced

The successful Tuia programme candidates announced late last month are both thrilled to have been selected, and are looking forward to the journey ahead.

Luke Gray and Ramarihi Rangiaho applied to be part of the national programme, which connects mayors with Māori youth. The one-to-one mentoring model is designed to develop leadership skills, enhance contributions to local communities and recognise, accept and celebrate diversity.

The selection process proved difficult for Mayor Judy Turner and the interview panel, with an incredibly high calibre of applicants this year.

"I would like to thank those who took the time to apply," Mayor Judy says. "It was very challenging to select just two, as the applications were all exceptional. Luke and Ramarihi are excellent rangatahi representatives, and I'm looking forward to the time I will spend with them."

## Meet the team Kanohi kitea

**Ronna Funtelar**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
KAIHOAHOA  
WHAKANIKONIKO



**What I love most about my job**  
I really enjoy problem solving - and to me, that's at the heart of being a great graphic designer. The projects are so varied - from Council documents to events promotion, as well as exhibitions in our Council galleries.

**What I find most challenging about my job**  
Great design is the balance of form and function – with each job I ask myself, "How do I make what we produce visually appealing, as well as fit for purpose?" As I live and work in the district, I'm also a consumer and it's important to me that my role contributes to our community in a positive way.

**Why I love living in the Whakatane District**  
It's the laid-back lifestyle and of course, the beautiful weather.

**Hobbies/interests outside work**  
Dance has been a big part of my adult life - I danced hip hop for almost 20 years, and last year I started learning belly dance. Most weekends I'm usually heading out on a hike or doing a bit of rock climbing. I'm also a real foodie, so I like to check out yummy places to eat with family and friends.

**Anything else to add?**  
Enjoying nature doesn't have to be far from home or somewhere remote – look at our open spaces like you are a tourist and you'll never be bored.

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