



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - November 2021

## We're moving soon

Whakatāne 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, Whakatāne (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](http://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.

## OVER 80S MORNING TEA

It's with sadness that we let you know the annual 'Over 80s' morning tea has been cancelled due to COVID-19 Alert Level restrictions.

We know this is a popular event enjoyed by many people, including our elected members, and we'll look forward to hosting it again next year.



## THREE WATERS REFORM PROPOSAL

## Mayor responds to Three Waters Reform announcement

Whakatāne District Mayor Judy Turner says she was not surprised by the announcement that the Government will continue its Three Waters Reform programme.

"The Government signal, that reform in this area was a priority, never wavered. I think we can be heartened that the deep concern that we expressed to Minister Mahuta, about aspects of the reform model, have largely been listened to," Mayor Turner explains.

"I'd like to thank again all those people who gave feedback to Council, that we also provided to the Minister. Council will now take the time to understand the finer points of the announcements and plan what the next steps will be so we can continue to advocate for the best outcome for our staff, communities and organisation."

## New building control booking system



In the past, Council's duty Building Control Officer has been available on an as-required basis. To ensure we deliver the best possible customer service, we're introducing a new appointment booking system that will mean you have a dedicated 15-minute timeslot to speak in-person with a Building Control Officer about your enquiry. Phone and email enquiries will continue to be answered during business hours.

You can book an appointment by calling one of our friendly Customer Services team on 07 306 0500 or visiting our Customer Service Centre.

## Can your library fines and support our communities in need

Book borrowers caught out with overdue fines can now use their misfortune for good at a Whakatāne District library near you.

Whakatāne Libraries and Galleries is running the 'Cans for Fines' promotion throughout November and December with the purpose of supporting local families in need.

The win-win concept is simple - bring in a can of food in good condition, unopened, and within its use-by date, and have \$2 taken off your overdue fines for every can donated.

Cans can be dropped off to the Whakatāne, Edgumbe, Ōhope or Murupara libraries, and all food collected will be donated to local community groups that support families in need.



## New Zealand ShakeOut Whakahaumaru Aotearoa

Whakatāne District Council staff took part in the NZ ShakeOut event last week, practising the right action to take if there's an earthquake: 'Drop. Cover. Hold'.

Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere. You can take steps to be prepared. Visit [getready.govt.nz](http://getready.govt.nz) to find out how.

## Apply for your piece of the pie



Do you have an idea for a project aimed at increasing participation in the arts at a local level and increasing the range and diversity of arts available within Whakatāne District communities?

If so, you have until Friday, 19 November to make application to the current round of the Whakatāne District Creative Communities Scheme Funding.

Examples of initiatives that have been supported in the past, an application guide and the application form are all available at [whakatane.govt.nz/creative-communities](http://whakatane.govt.nz/creative-communities). We encourage applicants to contact Janie Storey on 07 306 0530 before submitting an application.

## Planning an event?



If you're planning an event before February next year that includes selling or supplying alcohol, you'll need to submit a special liquor licence application before Monday, 6 December.

Between 20 December and 15 January, there are no 'working days', so please think ahead and get your applications in. The date of an approved special licence can be postponed for up to one year if COVID-19 Alert Level restrictions, or any other unforeseen circumstances, mean the event can't be held.

Visit [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz) or call 07 306 0500 for more information.



## COUNCIL'S ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME TE HŌTAKA TIAKI PŪNGAO O TE KAUNIHERA

## New interactive energy management platform launches

We launched a new interactive platform last week that publicly showcases the results from our ongoing energy management programme. This energy management programme was introduced after an audit in 2018 identified approximately 26 percent of Council emissions were attributed to electricity and natural gas use, with 11 specific Council sites and facilities contributing to the majority of the Council's energy use.

The new platform allows you to:

- See the cumulative energy, carbon and energy savings achieved through the programme
- Focus specifically on five facilities of interest – the Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre, the Civic Centre, Te Whare Taonga o Taketake, Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi and the Whakatāne Water Treatment Plant.

For more detailed information about the wider Climate Change project, and the link to the newly launched platform, visit [whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change](http://whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change).

Bit nervous or scared about what to do? Let us help



Find out more by watching:  
[Covid19.govt.nz/VaccineFacts](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/vaccinefacts)  
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

Unite against COVID-19

## Meet the team Kanohi kitea

Arti Latchamamma  
Team Leader Building



**What I love most about my job**  
I love challenges, and this role definitely includes a range of demands. Every day is different and I really enjoy the flexibility in my schedule. I appreciate that my manager listens to new ideas and the entire team works together to make things happen.

**What I find most challenging about my job**  
I can't think of anything specific, as each day brings new challenges. I prefer to think that every task or responsibility gives me the opportunity to improve the way I work.

**What I love about the Whakatāne District**  
Compared to Auckland, definitely less traffic and wait time! I love the friendly and helpful people. I'm also really excited to spend time at Ōhope Beach this summer.

**Hobbies/interests outside work**  
I enjoy listening to music, creating art and spending time at home with my nine year-old daughter. I've heard that Whakatāne is great for fishing, so my partner and I are looking forward to getting out on the water too.

**Anything else to add?**  
My family and I moved from Auckland to the Whakatāne District six months ago, although I'm originally from Fiji. My career has always focused on the building sector, and I bring wealth of knowledge and experience from my previous jobs.

My current role means I can support and guide my team to ensure Council's visions, values and policies are met. I'm passionate about continuous improvement and making sure we offer the best possible customer service.

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