



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - December 2018

Season's Greetings

from the Mayor
and Councillors

Summer is upon us! While most people are no doubt busy shopping and planning for Christmas, it's also a great time to think about how lucky we are to live here in the Whakatāne District. Summer in the Bay is a magical time, and I urge everyone to get out and enjoy our fantastic environment – our beaches, waterways, forests, and hiking and cycling trails. There are also a host of great events coming up, so get your friends and family together and enjoy our little piece of paradise to the full. At the same time, it's important to keep safe over summer. In particular, be mindful of safety on and in the water. Drive carefully, because our roads will be busy, and remember to be responsible with alcohol. Take care of yourselves and those around you, so that everyone can enjoy a safe and joyful summer season. On behalf of all elected members of the Whakatāne District Council, may I wish you all the very best for Christmas and a great new year.

Nāku noa, nā

Tony Bonne



'Bigger and better' Local Wild Food Challenge returns

Wild food enthusiasts from across the Bay of Plenty are planning their menus and waiting expectantly for the return of the Local Wild Food Challenge, where entrants present dishes using 'wild' ingredients sourced from land and ocean.

The festival will be returning to Mahy Reserve in Ōhope on 2 February 2019. Whakatāne District Council Tourism and Events Team Leader Nicola Burgess has announced a suite of changes for the event, which is now in its fourth year.

"We are very excited to have Rachele and Chris Duffy and their team from Little Big Events on board to help deliver this unique foodie event. Rachele has a wealth of experience, having brought together iconic events such as the Little Big Markets, Dinner in the Domain and the Tauranga Coffee Festival.

"The Local Wild Food Challenge includes food demonstrations, live bands, kids' activities, a beer garden and tasting BBQ, all at a stunning venue which celebrates the best of our District. To allow for the new programme and growth of the event, there will be a small cover charge for adults, but kids will remain free," she said.

Ms Duffy said she was looking forward to extending Little Big Events' knowledge and expertise to the Whakatāne area.

"We are really excited about being on board at the Local Wild Food Festival in Ōhope. Our team is familiar with the region and has been asked many times to bring a bit of what we do under the Little Big Events umbrella to Whakatāne, so when we got asked to sit alongside this event, we said yes with no hesitation."

Whakatāne's Local Wild Food Challenge is part of a worldwide series of events, held in locations as far away as Finland and Italy.

Chef and event founder, Bill Manson said the Eastern Bay of Plenty is blessed with an abundance of wild food, and people who are passionate about it.

"Start thinking about your dish now – try to think about what is in season and don't be scared to push the boundaries," he said.

This year, entrants who register prior to the event will receive a produce bag filled with foodie treats from local producers. Registrations are open now at localwildfoodchallenge.com and information is also available on the event's Facebook page – facebook.com/localwildfoodchallenge. There are a number of event categories for all ages and a large number of prizes up for grabs.

Event organisers are calling for sponsors, volunteers and food stall operators to register their interest now and would like to hear from anyone else interested in being involved in the event. Please contact Julie Allerby at Julie.allerby@whakatane.govt.nz or rachele@littlebigevents.co.nz

Cans for Fines



Whakatāne District Libraries are inviting the public to support their community and clear up their Library fines at the same time.

The Cans for Fines scheme runs from Monday, 3 December to Sunday, 30 December 2018 and allows you to donate a 410g can of food and have \$2.00 taken off any overdue fines. Cans can be delivered to the Whakatāne, Edgecumbe, Ōhope or Murupara libraries, and all food collected will be donated to the local food bank, with any pet food being gifted to the Whakatāne SPCA. Please ensure cans are not damaged or rusty.

People who have overdue fines can donate as many cans as they like, until the applicable fines have been cleared. The amnesty only applies to fines, not to fees or charges, or lost/damaged books.

HOT FIVE picks for summer

The Whakatāne District is filled with amazing places to visit and things to do. Here's our top picks for the summer.

WHAKAARI

Visit White Island/whakaari an active marine volcano.

MOUTOHORĀ

Explore Whale Island/Moutohorā wildlife sanctuary with a guided walk or kayak.

ŌHOPE BEACH

Surf, swim or picnic at NZ's most loved beach.

NGĀ TAPUWĀE O TOI WALKWAY

Hike this stunning coastal walkway which loops between Whakatāne and Ōhope.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Visit Mataatua Whareniui or the Tūhoe Te Uru Taumatua living building.



To find out about all the events and activities on this summer, visit whakatane.com or visit the Whakatāne i-SITE for information.



Great Coast Clean-up

Our coastline is a lot cleaner thanks to the hard work of more than 100 groups and individuals who took part in the Great Coast Clean-Up last month. Waste-Zero-Whakatāne teamed up with KG Kayaks and the Department of Conservation with a goal to remove as much plastic, rubbish and waste as possible from our coastal environment.

Emi and Finn Jones collect piles of rubbish at Waitohi Beach

TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE THIS SUMMER



Have fun over the Christmas break, but please consider your neighbours and keep your stereo volume to a reasonable level.



Ensure dogs have plenty of food and water and avoid leaving them in vehicles. Remember – if your dog wanders, it could end up in the pound and be an unnecessary cost to you.



Ensure swimming pool fence gates are closed and that children under eight years old are supervised by an adult at all times.



Vehicles are restricted from most beaches unless launching or retrieving vessels, and must stick to authorised access ways.



It's restricted fire season so you'll need a permit before lighting a fire in the open air.



Drink responsibly. Know your limits. Look out for family and friends. Respect the liquor control bylaw. Don't drink and drive. Be safe.



Practice safe boating. Always wear a lifejacket. Remember the five knot rule.



Remember to slip, slop, slap and wrap this summer. We live in one of New Zealand's 'hot spots'.

Holiday hours for Council services

DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES

Whakatāne District Council office: Closed from Mon, 24 December through Wed, 2 January

Murupara Library and Service Centre: Closed midday Mon, 24 December through Wed, 2 January

LIBRARIES	Whakatāne (includes Exhibition Centre and galleries)	Ōhope	Edgecumbe	Murupara
Fri, 21 December	9 am - 5 pm	10 am - 12 pm	9 am - 12 pm	10 am - 5 pm
Sat, 22 to Sun, 23 December	10 am - 2 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon, 24 December	9 am - 12 pm	10 am - 12 pm	2 pm - 4 pm	10 am - 12 pm
Tue, 25 to Wed, 26 December	Closed	2 pm - 4 pm	2 pm - 4 pm	Closed
Thu, 27 to Fri, 28 December	9 am - 5 pm	10 am - 12 pm	10 am - 12 pm	Closed
Sat, 29 to Sun, 30 January	10 am - 2 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon, 31 December	9 am - 12 pm	Normal hours	Normal hours	Closed
Tue, 1 to Wed, 2 January	Closed			Closed
Thu, 3 January	Normal hours			Normal hours

MUSEUM

Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi (Exhibition Centre/ Galleries only): See hours for Whakatāne Library, above.

Museum Research Centre: Closed from 24 December, reopens on 7 January 2019

WHAKATĀNE HOLIDAY PARK

Friday, 21 December 2018 to Thursday, 3 January 2019: 8 am - 8 pm

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE (i-SITE)

Fri, 21 December	8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Sat, 22 to Sun, 23 December	9 am - 4 pm
Mon, 24 December	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Tue, 25 December	Closed
Wed, 26 December	9 am - 4 pm
Thu, 27 to Fri, 28 December	8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Sat, 29 to Sun, 30 December	9 am - 4 pm
Mon, 31 December	8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Tue, 1 to Wed, 2 January	9 am - 4 pm
Thu, 3 January onward	Normal hours

AQUATIC CENTRES

Date	Whakatāne Aquatic Centre / Gym	Murupara Aquatic Centre
Fri, 21 December	6 am - 8 pm	6 am - 6 pm
Sat, 22 December	7 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm
Sun, 23 December	7 am - 4 pm	10 am - 4 pm
Mon, 24 December	6 am - 5 pm	6 am - 4 pm
Tue, 25 December	Closed	Closed
Wed, 26 to Sat, 29 December	7 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm
Sun, 30 December	7 am - 4 pm	10 am - 6 pm
Mon, 31 December	7 am - 5 pm	10 am - 4 pm
Tue, 1 January	Closed	Closed
Wed, 2 January	7 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm
Thu, 3 January onward	Normal hours	Normal hours

REFUSE

Refuse collection – No kerbside refuse collection will take place on Tuesday, 25 December. Those areas which normally have kerbside collections on Tuesdays will instead have rubbish collected on Saturday, 22 December.

No kerbside refuse collection will take place on Tuesday, 1 January. Those areas which normally have kerbside collections on Tuesdays will instead have rubbish collected on Saturday, 29 December.

Date	Whakatāne Refuse Transfer Station	Murupara Transfer Station and Recycling Centre
Sat, 22 to Mon, 24 December	Normal hours	Normal hours
Tue, 25 December	Closed	Closed
Wed, 26 December	9 am - 4 pm	Normal hours
Thu, 27 to Mon, 31 December	Normal hours	Normal hours
Tue, 1 January	Closed	Closed
Wed, 2 January	9 am - 4 pm	Normal hours
Thu, 3 January onward	Normal hours	Normal hours