



## RAISED CROSSING POINTS TO IMPROVE SAFETY

Council has committed to the installation of raised crossing points on Arawa Street that will help to slow vehicles through the main shopping area and improve the safety for people crossing the road, particularly during the busier summer season. During installation of the concrete platforms it's likely that sections of Arawa St will be controlled by temporary traffic signals for up to 14-days to allow time for the concrete to cure. Construction is expected before winter.

Following on from a public drop in session in February we have revised the proposed location of speedhumps on Arawa Street. These will now be installed adjacent to:

- Hi Way Liquor (including a path as far as the beach access road)
- The Matata Hotel, at the existing crossing point

In addition we will also be adding advanced speed warning signs ("50kph, 200m ahead") to the Thornton Road approach to Matatā.

Council has responded to community concerns and will also review speeds through the town centre as part of a district wide speed review.

## TE NIAOTANGA Ō MATAATUA, Ō TE ARAWA

Community update on progress with the Matatā Wastewater Project.

### 2021 – HIGHLIGHTS

#### CO-GOVERNANCE GROUP AND CO-DESIGN APPROACH ESTABLISHED

A Co-Governance Group formed with members representing Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust; Ngāti Awa, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau and Whakatāne District Council. Five hui have been held.

Toi Te Ora Public Health and Bay of Plenty Regional Council are key stakeholders supporting the Co-Governance group.

#### COMPLETION OF PHASE 1 & 2

The project management and technical teams were set up; and a desk-top review of technical engineering and environmental science data from the earlier Matatā wastewater project was carried out to learn from the past and understand what was still relevant for the current project.

### 2022 – WE ARE HERE

#### PHASE 3 OPTIONS ANALYSIS AND RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION

There are no decisions made at this point around options for what the wastewater system could be or where it could be located – the important work of Phase 3 builds toward those outcomes.

This is the most complex part of the project, where cultural overlay, environmental monitoring, wastewater system options and land analysis all have to be carefully worked through and developed alongside Te Niaotanga ō Mataatua, ō Te Arawa to build the basis of a resource consent application. See over for kōrero about the name of the Co-Governance group.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME

Sampling of groundwater from 10 sites in Matatā started in November last year and will continue until we have 12 months of consistent data to understand the current environment and environmental effects in Matatā. Following a pre-start karakia on 28 March, a further three groundwater bores were drilled to further add to our monthly data collection. The new bore sites are on road reserve in St John Street, Mair Street and nearby the tennis courts.

After drilling, the bores are capped and accessed for the monthly monitoring.

Monitoring of the ecology and invertebrate life in the Lagoon is due to start in coming weeks, so you may see some activity.

Email for questions or comments:  
matatawastewater@whakatane.govt.nz



## TE NIAOTANGA Ō MATAATUA, Ō TE ARAWA

*These ancient names are sacred to Ngāti Awa, Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Rangitahi. It is said by our local iwi, this is the landing place of many ancestral canoes that migrated from Hawaiki (Polynesia). The ancestral canoes that migrated from Hawaiki to here were many, being; Te Paepae-ki-Rarotonga, Pungarangi, Te-Rū, Te Whakatāne, Nukutaimemeha (sacred canoe of Maui), Horouta, Te Ranga-a-Whatanuku, Takitimu, Matawhaorua, Tainui and of course Mataatua and Te Arawa.*

*Each of these canoes travelled via Mihimarino and then came through to the Matatā lagoon known as Te Awa o Te Atua. Both Mataatua and Te Arawa landed here in the same area at the same time.*

*From here Mataatua and Te Arawa sailed across to Te Kōpū-ākuku, from here they anchored at Ōnīao, not far from Te Kōpū-ākuku. This is where Ōnīao is located today. In memory of the landing place of Mataatua and Te Arawa the area was named Te Niaotanga o ngā waka o Mataatua, o Te Arawa.*

*Not long after, the Tainui canoe left here and landed at Maketu in Kawhia. The Takitimu departed from Matatā and ended up in the Takitimu ranges near Christchurch. The Mataatua canoe landed at Whakatāne but eventually ended up in the north in the Takou river amongst the Ngāti Rehia tribe of Taitokerau. The Te Arawa waka disembarked from here and went to Maketu and established the Te Arawa tribes from Maketu to Tongariro.*

*Several important talismans were buried here at Ōnīao to protect the area as well as acknowledge the connection of Mataatua and Te Arawa. Ngatoroirangi buried Tikiapo, a healing stone here at Ōnīao. Toroa buried Tiki, a mauri stone at Whakatāne to look after and protect the lands and waterways of this area. Tūwharetoa placed a sacred stone to represent his power and his identity at Ōnīao.*

*Te Kooti Arikirangi, the prophet of the Ringatū church placed a special rock at Ōnīao to represent his spiritual energy and note his presence at Matatā. Hoturoa landed at Ōnīao and placed Te Matataketake as a sacred talisman to protect the people of this place.*

*Ngāti Awa, Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Rangitahi are the protectors of the sacred energies at Ōnīao marae today. Hence the name of the co-governance group Te Niaotanga o Mataatua, o Te Arawa.*

## BLUELIGHT

Riria Wiki (15yo), of Blue Light Matatā, walked away with the Overall Merit award at the recent Life Skills camp held for young people across Aotearoa from 1-4 February at Whenuapai Airforce Base, Auckland.

“She will take her experiences and knowledge from the camp and share it with our up-and-coming rangatahi in Matatā which will lead to positive outcomes for our community” states Senior Constable Kevin Raynes of Riria’s award.

Blue Light’s Life Skills Coordinator Abbe-Mae Henry notes “Riria was awarded the Overall Merit Award through her consistent progress throughout the camp, her self-discipline, and support of others”.

As well as learning various life skills such as self-development, self-control, and teamwork, the rangatahi at the camp were able to learn about different services- the Royal New Zealand Navy, the New Zealand Army, the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and the New Zealand Police Force.

Blue Light’s highly successful Life Skills programme has been run in partnership with the New Zealand Defence Force for the past 12 years and has adventure-based experiential learning as a key part of the programme. Up to 12 courses are held each year in various locations in New Zealand.

For more information about the Blue Light Life Skills camps visit [www.bluelight.co.nz](http://www.bluelight.co.nz).



Chief Executive Officer Rod Bell (New Zealand Blue Light) and Overall Merit award winner Riria Wiki

# Keep in touch

Find information, ask us questions or give the District and Regional Councils your feedback by contacting us as below:



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Please send newsletter feedback and contributions to [info@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:info@whakatane.govt.nz), with Matatā newsletter in the subject line.



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