

MATATĀ MATTERS

ISSUE 12 – DECEMBER 2022

Matata Residents Association

The Matatā Resident Association had another full agenda last month. There was an update on the Matatā Wastewater Project, and a good discussion around the challenges of rubbish in and around the village. A meeting with Council has been planned to address the rubbish issue as we head into the holiday season.

Interested in becoming involved? All meetings are open to residents and the Association encourages people to come along and participate.

Can't make them? Connect with the group on Facebook @ Matata Residents Association and keep up to date that way.

Meet your elected members

The votes are in, and these are the people who will be your voice at Whakatāne District Council for the next three years.

Rangitāiki General Ward Councillors

- Gavin Dennis
- Wilson James

Rangitāiki Māori Ward

- Tu O'Brien

Rangitāiki Community Board

- Clive McIndoe
- Ross Gardiner
- Peter Flowerday
- Pete Falwasser
- Heemi Brown
- Leeann Waaka

Your board, your voice

For the next few editions going forward, we will be profiling a member of the Rangitāiki Community Board so you can learn more about the people who have been elected to represent you.



Peter Flowerday

Why did you run for the board?

As a homeowner for 14 years and resident for two years, I

wanted to offer my time and a fresh perspective on outstanding issues.

What are you hoping to achieve on the board?

I want to address the smaller issues all Rangitāiki Community Board communities face. It seems we are all stuck in the same situation with no resolve thus far. Issues around speed restrictions both in towns and State Highways and crime are just an example of my concerns.

Whereabouts in the Rangitāiki Community Board area do you call home?

I live in Matatā, one of the best moves I have ever made.

What's your favourite thing about the region?

I love being close to the ocean and the friendliness of our community.

What do you do to relax?

I sail model yachts and have a growing group of sailors using Matatā's lagoon on Fridays. I love my daily walk and throwing a line in now and again and also taking the dogs to the beach.

Whakatāne District Council Christmas services availability

The Whakatāne Refuse Transfer Station will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day with reduced hours of 9am to 4pm on Monday December 26 and 9am to 4pm on Monday 2 January. All other days, it will be open as usual.

All rubbish kerbside collections will continue as normal.



Update on Arawa Street safety works

You may have noticed work on the Arawa Street safety improvements has been delayed. Aroha mai, unfortunately preparation works for the two raised crossings have taken longer than expected. We don't want to be doing major road works over Christmas and the busy summer period, so we'll be starting this work early February.

In the meantime, to help slow vehicles and make it easier for people to cross the road, we'll be installing temporary rubber raised speed tables. We're pretty bummed about this delay and know the local Matatā community are keen to get this work ticked off – please bear with us while we get everything sorted.

Choose a healthy, safe swim spot this summer

Over the warmer months (October through to March), the Bay of Plenty Regional Council team are out testing more than 70 coastal, river and lake recreation sites around the rohe every week.

The samples are tested for faecal contamination (E.coli or Enterococci bacteria) and/or for toxin-forming algae (cyanobacteria), and all monitoring information is supplied to LAWA and Toi Te Ora Public Health.

The data collected is used to keep you informed about the safety and suitability of local swim spots.

Check your local swimming spot online: boprc.govt.nz/safe-swimming-areas

From your Councillors

Wilson James
Rangitāiki General Ward Councillor

Thanks to everyone who voted for me in the last election, I appreciate the support and confidence you all have in me.

At present, I am working hard to get a good outcome for everyone who uses State Highway 30 between Whakatāne and Awakeri. This road affects almost everyone in our District. While we all acknowledge safety on our roads is paramount, this is a thoroughfare with many differing uses and requirements. Hopefully we can get an outcome that is suitable for most.

The proposed Matatā Wastewater Scheme is also foremost in my mind, and I am looking forward to seeing some real progress with this project in the coming term.

I look forward to serving you and our District well. Have a safe and fun Festive Season.



Gavin Dennis
Rangitāiki General Ward Councillor

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the District Council elections. I will continue to do my best to represent the Rangitāiki Ward's needs to Council and to make sure your voice is heard on all issues that affect the various communities in our ward. As usual I am always available to hear any concerns you may have.

Once again thank you for your support.



Check, clean, dry, certify

If you're planning on heading out on the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes this summer, you need to ensure that your vessel (boat, jetski, kayak) and trailer are free from freshwater pest weeds and fish before you hit the water.

And remember, if you are using one of the official boat ramps, you must fill in one of the self-certification forms that can be found in boxes located at all the popular boat ramps.



Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa Matatā Wastewater Project – community update

Te Tauihu o te Waka - “Navigating the bow of the canoe, in the right direction, together”

The project is currently in ‘phase 3’ which focuses on the wastewater system options and subsequent resource consent application stages of the project.

Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa (the Co-Design Group) and supporting Technical Project Team have been in place for more than 18 months and meet regularly to ensure decisions are made together at all steps of the project.

More than 15 Co-Design hui have been held to date, with numerous additional wananga and site visits.

The Co-Design Group comprises of members representing Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitahi Trust; Ngāti Awa, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau and Whakatāne District Council.



The Co-Design Group visited the Rotoiti/Rotomā Wastewater Treatment Plant in September 2022.

What’s happened so far...

- The Co-Design Group visited the Rotoiti/Rotomā and Maketu Treatment Plants to see how other schemes in the region have been developed and are operating. It was great to be welcomed by Ngāti Pikiāo at Punawahakareia Marae and hear from them about their experiences and any learnings from the development of the Rotoiti/Rotomā scheme that could be informative for Matatā.
- There have also been several site visits in and around Matatā to better understand the cultural stories and histories. This informs further development of the cultural narrative workstream. This is an important part of the whole project as it recognises the historical relationships and acknowledges the associations of local iwi with Matatā and the surrounding cultural landscape. The workstream also includes cultural mapping which uses tools and techniques to map cultural assets and significant sites in the area.
- Regular environment monitoring at several key sites has been going for more than 12 months. This will ensure we have consistent and up to date data about the current environment in Matatā. This includes monitoring of both surface water and ground water as well as ecological and macroinvertebrates within Matatā’s waterways.
- A land analysis GIS tool has been developed which includes all the ‘parameters’ we need to think about when identifying possible locations for a wastewater system. This includes flood levels, slope, elevation above sea water, distance from Matatā town centre, distance from streams and waterways, productive soils, and cultural and significant sites just to name a few. This tool ensures we have the right information and data to make good decisions on the next steps of the project.
- The project is currently focused on identifying preferred locations (rurally) for the wastewater system. The team has narrowed down several potential land discharge sites and are now looking to start field investigations in December and early 2023. This testing includes undertaking soil and ground samples to further inform the project.

Moving forward, in the New Year we will have several different opportunities to meet and talk with the team. And once a preferred location(s) is identified, supporting technical information is gathered, and we’ve had our community conversations, a resource consent application will start.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email MatataWastewaterProject@whakatane.govt.nz or visit whakatane.govt.nz/matata-wastewater to keep up to date with project progress.

Wipeout woolly nightshade!

Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council is running a promotion this summer to encourage people to control woolly nightshade on their property. This year, particular areas of focus include Ōpōtiki, Whakatāne, Edgumbe, Matatā and Kawerau.

Woolly nightshade is an aggressive and fast-growing pest plant. The dust from its leaves can irritate people's skin, eyes, and nose, while its berries can be poisonous to mammals.

Not sure if you have woolly nightshade? Check out boprc.govt.nz/woolly-nightshade for more information.



TIPS FOR PLANNING THE PERFECT ROADTRIP

Ngā tīwhiri āwhina o te haerenga pai!

With our stunning beaches, lakes, rivers and native bush, the Eastern Bay of Plenty is the perfect place to take a roadtrip. Here are some tips to help you stay safe and

ENJOY THE RIDE



1 Check your vehicle before you leave
Give your car a quick safety check before you hit the road.



2 Turn your mobile phone off
Messages can wait, so turn off your phone while driving.



3 Make sure you pack the right stuff
Take lots of refreshments and entertainment with you on the road.



4 Watch your speed - slow down
Take it easy and enjoy the ride.



5 Drive sober - no drugs or alcohol
Alcohol and drugs impair your driving, so make sure you're straight.



6 Take care driving over the holidays
Plan for increased traffic, congestion, tiredness and unfamiliar roads.



7 Buckle up - even in the back
Seatbelts will save your life in an accident. Make sure everyone belts up.



8 Adapt and drive to the conditions
Check the road conditions before you leave at: nzta.govt.nz/traffic



9 Take lots of breaks to stay fresh
Pull over every couple of hours to take a rest from driving and fight fatigue.



WIN PRIZES!
WHIWHI PARAIHE!

3 x \$500 Hunting & Fishing vouchers
Stay at Te Kaha Beach Resort for 2 people
2 x full day fishing trips with Diveworks

Visit our Facebook page to check out our weekly prize draws and competitions.
[Facebook.com/Road.Safety.EBOP](https://www.facebook.com/Road.Safety.EBOP)

Keep in touch

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



PHONE 07 306 0500
EMAIL info@whakatane.govt.nz
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Please send newsletter feedback and contributions to newsletters@whakatane.govt.nz, with Matatā newsletter in the subject line.



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