



Top School 2023 winners!

Matata Public School is extremely proud of their team of tamariki who represented the school at the annual Top School event which was hosted at Awakeri.

With little (to no) preparation the team successfully took out Top School 2023 for the first time!

Such an amazing achievement and awesome experience for everyone involved. Especially for a group of kids from small rural community.

Top School Team Member, Kendall Playle said ever since the 1980's my school has been competing in Top School and we haven't won once.

"That all changed this year on Thursday 23 March when my team went to Top School with barely any practice, and we did something we didn't expect to happen.

"We came out on top of all the other schools and our 2023 Top School team won!"

"When we heard our names get called on stage to get our medals, I was so happy then we all went home with our medals, Ms Playle said."



Welcome to Matatā!

You can't miss the swish new sign which welcomes you into Matatā, a project the Matata Residents Association is pretty chuffed about.

The purpose of the project was to tidy up the existing sign which was looking very tired and covered in moss. The beautiful image was taken by a local photographer Eli Paul Brownless Marr and sourced by Glennis Paterson. The design of the sign was done by Rodney Meharry and the by-line "Gateway to the Eastern Bay" reflects the importance of Matatā in context to the wider Eastern Bay and it being the first township you enter as you come into the area. The sign has an anti-graffiti guard laminate on it which protects it and will future proof it.

A small team of Rod Meharry, Ian McDonal, Paddy O'Brien and Alan McClumpha completed the installation, and the project was funded by the Matata Residents Association.



Ian McDonald and Paddy O'Brien members of the Matatā Resident and Ratepayer Association.

Your board, your voice

The role of a community board is to represent and advocate for the interests of their community.

Your community board members consider and report on anything referred to them by the Council, and any issues of interest or concern specific to your area. As a board, they provide an annual submission to the Council on expenditure in the community, and they also keep track of services provided to your community by the Council. Your Community Board acts as a communication channel between you and the Council, and undertakes any other responsibilities delegated by the Council.

In this edition of Matatā Matters we are introducing you to Heemi Brown. One of your Rangitāiki Community Board members.

HEEMI BROWN

What are you hoping to achieve on the board?

I am hoping to achieve small steps and learn more.



Why did you run for the board?

I felt that Te Teko needed a voice which we haven't had for a long time.

Whereabouts in the Rangitāiki Community Board area do you call home? Mapou (Te Teko).

What's your favourite thing about the region?

There are a lot of activities here in the EBOP. Fishing, hunting, and walking tracks.

What do you do to relax?

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and feeding my chickens!

Stay in the loop

Make sure you follow us on Facebook so you can get all the latest updates, whether it's day-to-day information or urgent messages during an emergency. Our team is here to keep you in the loop.



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Inspection of the Old Rangitāiki Channel outlet

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is undertaking works at the Old Rangitāiki Channel outlet (near the Tarawera River mouth), which may impact beach access for the next few weeks.

Seepage has been discovered around the structure, which means there is water seeping out under the current floodgate structure and bypassing the gate where the water is supposed to flow through in a controlled manner.

If there was a flood event, or significant increase in the river water level, this seepage could result in failure of the floodgate and potentially cause flooding downstream.

Using big metal sheets (sheet piles), Regional Council will create a temporary metal box around the structure. This will keep water out of the structure and let our team inspect its condition. This inspection will help inform the repair work required to extend the life of the structure.

Inserting the piles will require excavation in and around the structure. During this time, access to the Tarawera River mouth (eastern side) off Thornton Road may be limited or closed.

The river mouth can be accessed from the western side of the Tarawera River, or via the beach access track in Matatā.

We appreciate the community's patience during this time.

Any questions, please contact the Bay of Plenty Regional Council engineering team on engineering@boprc.govt.nz



Te Niaotanga ō Mataatua ō 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 progressing steadily with a current focus on environmental monitoring and identifying preferred discharge to land sites. We are now starting to develop a greater understanding of what is occurring, meaning we can make positive steps towards a solution.

What’s been happening...

- The Co-Design Group continue to meet monthly, which includes having several technical workshops and iwi/hapū specific wananga. Just before Christmas there was a site visit out to Iramoko Marae. The wānanga focused on developing the cultural narrative and identification of wāhi tapu sites.
- The technical team have been busy out and about monitoring several surface water and ground water sites across Matatā. Surface water monitoring has been undertaken monthly for the last 15 months and groundwater for the last nine months.

In total 11 surface water sites are being consistently monitored. Including, five sites within or upstream of the Matatā township, three sites along the Tarawera River, two in the Matatā Lagoon and one at a Bay of Plenty Regional Council testing site.

Testing regularly means we are capturing consistent and up-to-date data about the current environment in Matatā.

- Ecological and invertebrate monitoring has been undertaken. Ecological testing looks at things like the natural landscape and environment. Invertebrate monitoring looks for animals like snails, insect larvae and worms (cold blooded animals with no backbone) to see if they’re present in the area. The team have been testing for these species in the Awakaponga Stream and the Tarawera River.

Fun fact... in the Awakaponga Stream the team found a diverse fish community including inanga, longfin eel and giant bully.

- We have worked hard to identify possible sites for land disposal. Field investigations have started with early testing currently underway. This includes taking soil samples and testing the depth of the water table under the ground. At this stage we are unable to identify the actual locations until all test results are in. This allows us to decide whether or not we move to the next steps, as well as continue our ongoing conversations with the site landowner.



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.

Have we got the mix right?

Whakatāne District Council, along with Ōpōtiki District Council and Kawerau District Council, are reviewing the Eastern Bay of Plenty Local Alcohol Policy, and we want to know what you think of the proposed changes.

Have we done enough? Could we do more? Have your say about how we can keep our communities safe at:

- koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz/local-alcohol-policy-2023
- kaweraudc.govt.nz

Kōrero mai.
Let's talk.

Tell us what you think by 5pm Friday, 28 April 2023

Eastern
BAY



Any stories or events you want to share with the Matatā Community?

Please send them to newsletters@whakatane.govt.nz to be included in the next edition.



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
whakatane.govt.nz

Please send newsletter feedback and contributions to newsletters@whakatane.govt.nz, with Matatā newsletter in the subject line.



PHONE 0800 884 880
EMAIL info@boprc.govt.nz
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