



Ngā mihi o te wā!

The holiday season is rapidly approaching, and with the weather getting better and people flocking to our beaches and rivers, there's a timely reminder to take care in the water this summer. I'd encourage you all to please drive safely too.

If there's anything in particular you'd like included in future editions, please get in touch and provide us with your feedback.

I wish you a wonderful summer season and a very happy New Year in our beautiful region.

Noho ora mai, Judy Turner – Mayor of Whakatāne District

NGĀTI RANGITIHI SIGNS CROWN SETTLEMENT

On Saturday 5 December, Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitahi Trust signed a deed of settlement with the Crown at Rangitahi Marae in Matatā. We acknowledge this significant milestone, which observes historical Tiriti o Waitangi claims. Trust Chairman Leith Comer said the iwi is looking forward to developing its future-focussed strategic plan. If you are interested in understanding more about the Deed of Settlement, you can view it online at govt.nz/history-culture-and-heritage/treaty-settlements

MATATĀ CHRISTMAS PARADE AND CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

The Matatā Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park events provided fantastic entertainment for a wide range of people on Sunday, 6 December. The magic carpet ride was a



definite highlight, and the fire truck rides were enjoyed by lots of tamariki! Props to Cameron Rota for organising an entertaining line-up that created many Christmas memories.

MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

A Kiwi Christmas often means celebratory BBQs with whānau. However, Fire and Emergency New Zealand is warning that with the festive season, there are additional fire risks.



The last thing we want is for people's summer holidays to be ruined by a fire causing harm to loved ones, or damage to property. We want everyone to have a great summer break, and take some simple steps to prepare their homes to be fire-safe for the holiday season.

Protect your loved ones and prepare your home with the following advice:

- Regularly water real Christmas trees! This will prevent the tree from drying out and make it safer for tree lights. Turn the lights off before you go to sleep or leave the house.
- Give air conditioners a vacuum before using – the build-up of lint can be a fire risk.
- Make sure all sleeping areas have a working, long-life photoelectric smoke alarm. This includes caravans and sleepouts too.
- If your door has a deadlock, leave the key in so people can escape quickly.
- Keep exits clear and have an escape plan that everyone is aware of that includes a safe meeting place.
- Make sure you have a 'safe zone' around your property. Go to escapeplanner.co.nz to make an escape plan to get out of your home safely and agree to a safe meeting place.

To check the fire season in your area and to apply for a fire permit visit checkitsalright.nz Have a wonderful summer break and remember in an emergency, call 111!



From the team at Whakatāne Neighbourhood Support, we wish you all a wonderful festive season with your family and friends.

BLUELIGHT FATIGUE STOP

Bluelight Matatā will hold a fatigue stop on 1 January 2021 for drivers passing through Matatā. One thousand drinks and sausages will be available for people on their New Year's Day travels to help fight driver fatigue and keep our roads safe!

KĀHUI AWATARARIKI INFORMATION HUI

He mihi maioha ki a koutou i tae mai ki te hui tuatahi mō Kāhui Awatarariki / Thanks to everyone who attended, at the end of November, the first community information meeting about Kāhui Awatarariki. We listened to the feedback and opinions shared on this project and as a result, rescheduled the next community meeting to February 2021. More information will be shared closer to the time.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, please feel free to touch base with Vicky Richards vicky.richards@whakatane.govt.nz or 027 309 3657.

KIA KAHA WHAKATĀNE UPDATE

Funding received from the Provincial Growth Fund has helped the Kia Kaha Whakatāne team undertake a range of roading, infrastructure and environmental projects across the rohe.

Projects undertaken in the Matatā area include:

- Weed control and plant releasing in Matatā Dunes
- Wilding pine tree removal in Edgecumbe and Matatā urban areas, and Braemar Road, Hogbin Road and Herepuru Road
- Karaponga Reserve general track maintenance, including construction of an 800m track extension
- 75km of bait station track maintenance with Manawahe Kōkako Trust



MATATĀ ON-SITE WASTEWATER CONTAMINATION MONITORING

In July and September this year, nine Matatā drains and streams were monitored for contamination. The monitoring included taking water samples that were tested for things like chemicals and E.coli.

Two drains, one in Arawa Street and the other in Division Road, showed higher levels of E.coli after some rain in July. Another Arawa Street drain had higher amounts of ammonia and nitrate, which showed possible contamination from septic tanks. However, the results were within acceptable national guideline limits.

These levels are consistent with past results, when contamination has been found to be more widespread. More monitoring will be done over the coming months to help protect our environment and the community.

MATATĀ WASTEWATER UPDATE

Whakatāne District Council will form a collaborative project team with iwi to resolve the Matatā wastewater situation. We hope to have this project team up and running early next year, and expect to be busy in 2021 developing and reviewing options for the best solution. When we have sufficiently developed this work, we'll consult with the community to get your feedback.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR ON-SITE EFFLUENT TREATMENT SYSTEM

All properties in Matatā have an on-site wastewater system. It is important for you, your whānau and the community's health that you maintain your system. Over summer, please do the following;

- Maintain the grass or plantings over the land application area (for example, trenches, soak holes or drip lines).
- Make sure your vegetable garden is not over the land application area, as there is a risk of contamination.
- As you mow the lawns, inspect the land application area. If there are wet spots or effluent break-outs, call a drainlayer for help.
- Make sure downpipes from the roof are not directed into the wastewater system.
- Make sure gully traps are raised above surrounding ground, so the stormwater doesn't enter the septic tank.

We'll share more tips for looking after your wastewater system in future newsletters. If you have any questions, please contact Jess Newlands at Bay of Plenty Regional Council on 027 248 7122.

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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EMAIL info@whakatane.govt.nz

whakatane.govt.nz

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



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