

# MURUPARA COMMUNITY BOARD NEWSLETTER

## Bay of Plenty Dairy Industry Awards

Galatea sharemilkers Adam and Maria Barkla were awarded Share Farmers of the Year at the Bay of Plenty Dairy Industry Awards held in March.

Judged on a range of criteria, including business strategy, environmental plans and health and safety, the award reflected the dedication Adam and Maria had applied to the 490ha, 1720-cow property they work on.

Other local award recipients included Nick Overdeest and Kelly Hughes, who placed third in the Bay of Plenty Share Farmer category, and Hayden Purvis who accomplished three merit awards in the Dairy Manager section.



Huge congratulations to all these winners – a testament to the high-quality farming in our area.

## Murupara Area School road improvements

Safety improvement work in front of Murupara Area School began last week, which was designed in conjunction with community consultation.

The zebra crossing will be relocated to better align with the new front entrance, which will also include 'kiss and go' drop-off zone. Two additional courtesy crossings will be installed to promote safe crossing for school children, and manage vehicle speeds past the front of the school.

Physical works are expected to take approximately ten weeks. Please take extra care in the school vicinity during this time.



Concept design for safety improvements outside Murupara Area School

## TE MARUATA BOARD APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Murupara Community Board Chair Jackie Te Amo, who has been appointed to the Local Government Te Maruata Board for Māori elected members.

The role of Te Maruata is:

- promoting increased representation of Māori as elected members of local government;
- enhancing Māori participation in local government processes;
- providing support for councils in building strong relationships with iwi, hapu and Māori groups; and
- providing Māori input on development of future policies or legislation relating to local government; and
- fostering and supporting a network of Māori elected members and staff of local government for the purpose of sharing information, challenges and aspirations relevant to kaupapa Māori.

E mihi ana ki a Jackie.

# Murupara Library and Service Centre welcomes new team member

Earlier this year, the Murupara Library and Service Centre team welcomed a new co-ordinator, Awhina Chapman (left). Awhina brings a wealth of knowledge to the role, with experience in the health, education and community service fields.

The Murupara team includes Mere McLean (centre), Community Learning Specialist, and Karen Carson (right), Customer Engagement Assistant. The Murupara Library and Service Centre joins the Council's Lifelong Learning team, with additional customer service functions. "We're part of their whānau," says Awhina.

The COVID-19 lockdown meant the team's resourcefulness came to the fore. They were busy continuing essential office and library tasks, reviewing internal systems and exploring opportunities for some exciting future projects. "We worked remotely from home and communicated through Zoom, Messenger, emails and phone," says Awhina. "It's been challenging, but rewarding to know we had the opportunity to continue our mahi during this time."



## Keeping our communities healthy

As a nation, we now stand proudly at Alert Level 2, seven weeks after Alert Level 4 was enacted on Wednesday, 25 March. We have united together against COVID-19, but we also need to focus on an economic rebuild. The economic implications of the last seven weeks are significant, and will take a huge effort, both financially but also in terms of work and goodwill, to see us through the year and the decade ahead.

We've made great progress, but we aren't out of the woods yet. To ensure that we continue to make gains, it's important we stick to the rules – Level 2 is probably the most risky level so far, as mingling carries the real risk of creating new clusters and infections.

### Here are the golden rules for Level 2:

Do everything you can to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

1. COVID-19 is still out there. Play it safe.
2. Keep your distance from other people in public.
3. If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work or school. Don't socialise. Wait until you are better.
4. If you have symptoms of cold or flu, call your doctor or Healthline and get tested.
5. Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.
6. Sneeze and cough into your elbow, regularly disinfect surfaces.
7. If you have been told to self-isolate, you must do so immediately.
8. Keep a track of where you've been and who you've seen.

People at higher-risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (e.g. those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled, and seniors) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. They may work, if they agree with their employer that they can do so safely.

For more detailed information, visit [covid-19.govt.nz](https://www.covid-19.govt.nz)

Let's continue to look after, and be kind to, each other. Murupara, Galatea, Minginui, Ruatahuna and Kaingaroa communities have done an awesome job so far. I have been so impressed by all the initiatives that have sprung up to care for our elderly, vulnerable and isolated.

Kia kaha!  
Dr Britta



Be kind. Check-in on the elderly or vulnerable



Washing and drying your hands kills the virus



Cough or sneeze into your elbow



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces



Keep your distance from others



Stay home if you feel unwell

Unite against COVID-19

# Murupara better connected

Murupara will be better connected through a new digital hub funded by the Provincial Growth Fund, Regional Economic Development Minister Shane Jones says.

“The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Alert Level 4 lockdown has shown that good internet connectivity is crucial. While we were staying in our bubbles at home, a great many of us used the internet to work, shop, pay bills, keep in touch with loved ones, and learn.

“It is something many of us take for granted, yet some communities have limited ability to access the internet or

the tools to use it for financial reasons or because of their location,” Shane Jones said.

“Access to the internet is critical for regions’ economies and wellbeing and will be even more so as we seek to recover from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Five communities will each receive \$400,000, including the Murupara Regional Digital Hub, operated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa Trust.

## Rates

**A reminder that the fourth rates instalment for this financial year is due Friday, 22 May.**

Council knows that many in our community are experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. It’s important for us as a community that you continue with your rates payments so that we can continue to provide essential services to the community and to support our recovery.

While we are not able make changes to the rates in this current financial year, we can look at alternative arrangements for payment that might help you in the short-term. We can work through options with you if you think you might have difficulty meeting your next payments.

Some options are to:

- Set up a direct debit to spread your payment equally over the instalment period or beyond if necessary
- Consider reducing the frequency of an existing direct debit to make smaller, more regular payments
- Reduce the amount of your direct debit temporarily until your situation improves
- Defer the payment of the next instalment without penalty, then pay two instalments together next time, this requires some certainty that you will be able to pay a higher amount in August
- If you have not claimed a rates rebate since 1 July 2019 and you have a gross household income of around \$38,000 or less in the 18/19 tax year, let us know
- Investigate other forms of financial assistance that may be available such as, talking to your bank, or seeing if you are eligible for a government subsidy.

Late payment penalties will not apply if a payment arrangement has been agreed. Please email [info@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:info@whakatane.govt.nz) or call 07 306 0500 if you think you might need some help.



### ANZAC COMMEMORATION

*Wreaths, made by Ayla and Tara Brown, were laid at Galatea Memorial Hall as part of the ANZAC commemoration.*

It's time to have your say

**Your opportunity to give feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2020/21 begins Monday, 25 May.**

The Council is still in the process of finalising a draft budget for the Annual Plan 2020/21. This process has been impacted by the Whakaari eruption and more recently, COVID-19. The key principles of the draft budget include; supporting the immediate response to COVID-19; prioritising social and economic recovery; maintaining a long-term view; and considering rates affordability.

For more information and to have your say, visit [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz) or call 07 306 0500.



## Bus services at COVID-19 Alert Level 2



### Bus to Rotorua

The Murupara to Rotorua bus service has returned to a normal timetable under Alert Level 2 but passenger capacity will be significantly lower.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has indicated buses will be running at about 40% of normal seated capacity.

As per Ministry of Transport guidelines, standing on all buses will not be allowed while at Alert Level 2. Physical distancing must be observed with 1 metre distance required between other passengers, and cash is still not being accepted for fares.

There will be signage on board buses to guide customers to where they can and cannot sit based on physical distancing restrictions.

For more information go to [www.baybus.co.nz](http://www.baybus.co.nz)



## Murupara water supply update



Whakatāne District Council regularly tests Murupara's water supply, which is untreated and high-quality water. Recent testing has recorded higher than normal levels of a contaminant in the supply. While it is not currently a public health risk at the levels recorded, Council has been unable to reduce those levels over this period, and there is concern that it could become a health risk if not actively managed.

### WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION?

When the contamination was originally detected in mid-April, a one-off dosing with hypochloride solution followed by a flushing of the system reduced the levels. Latest samples show an increase in the readings again. While there are fluctuations in the level of contamination being recorded and they are slowly rising, it is likely that the system will need to be dosed again to remove any health risk arising. This decision has not been made yet and Council would prefer to have the support of the community recognising the need to do so to protect the health of residents.

### WHO HAVE COUNCIL TALKED TO ABOUT MANAGING THIS?

Whakatāne District Council senior staff are continuing to talk with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare, the Murupara Community Board and other community leaders. These discussions are taking place to come up with a plan for communicating on water issues such as these, so that you are well informed on what is happening and why. Council is respectful of the community's decision to keep the water supply untreated given the high quality of the water in the bores. However, there is a need to collectively find a way to manage any health risks that arise in a timely manner and with the support of the community.

### Story ideas to:

Alison Silcock  
T. 027 451 2087 or 366 4087  
E. [alison.silcock@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:alison.silcock@whakatane.govt.nz)



## WHAT'S ON?

### Murupara Community Board meeting

WHEN: 10 am Monday, 25 May

WHERE: Via Zoom – please contact Janie Storey for details: [Janie.Storey@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:Janie.Storey@whakatane.govt.nz) or 07 306 0500