

Murupara Community Board By-election

Calling all Galatea-Waiōhau residents! It's time to vote for who you want to represent you on the Murupara Community Board.

Voting papers and all the information should have arrived in your mailbox by now – please let us know if they haven't.

Mansahn Kereopa and Jesse Morgan-Ranui have put their names forward to represent you, so have a read of the info in your voting pack and make your decision count. This is your opportunity to make sure your voice is heard!

Outgoing member Ken Bannan had to resign due to family circumstances, which means there is a vacancy to fill. We'd like to acknowledge Ken's contribution to the Board – we really appreciate the skills and experience he brought to the table. Ngā mihi nui Ken.

Remember, there's just three easy steps: vote, pack and deliver. Voting papers should be returned via post no later than Wednesday, 29 May, or dropped off at the Murupara Service Centre or the Council's Customer Service Centre at 14 Commerce Street. Whakatāne by 12noon Wednesday, 5 June.

Results will be announced by 5pm Wednesday, 5 June.

Check out all the information about the by-election on the Whakatāne District Council website.

Recycling

A reminder that, in February, there was a nationwide change that means most Kiwis can now recycle the same things as part of the Ministry for the Environment's standardising kerbside recycling strategy.

You can now include plastics graded 5 (big yoghurt pots, ice cream and margarine containers and some takeaway containers) and empty pizza boxes in your yellow-lid bin. The other major change is that we can no longer recycle aerosols.

You should've received a sticker in your letterbox to put on your yellow-lid bin. If you haven't, please grab one from the Murupara Service Centre so we can all recycle right!

You can also visit whakatane.govt.nz/recycling for everything you need to know.



Murupara Māori Women's Welfare League members agents of change



L-R Kiritahanga Cameron, Tina Barnett, Glenis Howden and Joan Toe Toe.

Congratulations to the members of the Murupara branch of the Māori Women's Welfare League, who graduated from 'Te Pou Hono ki Mahi Marae' programme at Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiārangi earlier this month.

According to the president of the Murupara branch, Kiritahanga Cameron, the tohu they received "represents the hard work and dedication in using higher education as an agent of change to support our whānau, hapū, iwi, and communities".

The day was also special for the whānau of one of the life members of the branch, Ngahaka Christie, who received her tohu posthumously.

Give the Murupara Community Board Facebook page a like and follow (f) muruparacommunity board

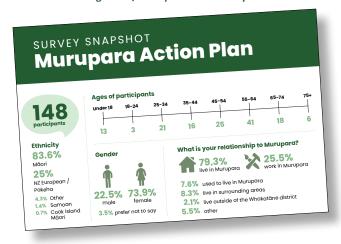


Murupara Community Action Plan Survey results

Thanks to everyone who completed the community survey to feedback to the Murupara Community Action Plan!

Here's a snapshot of those of you who participated. If you'd like to check out the full results with the top ranking priorities that you've identified for our hapori/community,

visit whakatane.govt.nz/murupara-community-board







Heads up Murupara!

Aotearoa Towers Group/ONE NZ will lease 16 Koromiko Street (next to the public toilets) from Whakatāne District Council. A new telecommunications post and cabinet will soon be installed to help increase the cell coverage for the rohe/area.



Meet your Community Board! Mere McLean

Why did you want to become a member of the Murupara Community Board? Encouraged by the chairperson of the Tūhoe Manawarū Tribal Authority to become a member of this board, the idea was to represent the views of Ruatāhuna. However, when I was successful my area on this board not only included advocating for Ruatāhuna but also for my whānau of Ngāti Whare, Minginui, and Te Whāiti nui a Toi.



What do you hope to achieve? Consistency by building up the profile of this board and advocating for our communities.

What have you learned since being on the board? That this board has two main functions, the first is to advocate for our communities and the second is to allocate discretionary funds to our community.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to become a member of this board? If you're a first-time member it will take the whole term to understand your role on this board, so do your homework. Have patience because you'll come across different personalities! Keep going because you don't always need a plan, sometimes you just need to breathe and trust the process.

Rates rebate



Do you qualify for a rebate on your rates?

You could be eligible for up to \$750 toward your rates from the Department of Internal Affairs.

There are a few things that are taken into consideration, including:

- Your income
- The rates you're charged
- The number of dependants you have

Time is running out to apply for this financial year – you've got until 30 June to get your paperwork in!

Visit **whakatane.govt.nz/rates-rebates** and use the calculator to find out if you can apply.

You can also pop into Customer Services or give our friendly team a call on 07 3060 500 – we're here to help.