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Whakatane District Council

# BYWAYS

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## Waste – a big issue for the District

Whakatane is facing increasing waste disposal costs and the Council is asking people to boost their recycling by a further 10% over the next 12 months to reduce the cost of shipping waste which reduces the impact on rates.

"Rubbish disposal is a big issue for the District. The cost of waste disposal has almost doubled following the closure of the local (Burma Road) landfill in December 2009", says the Council's Chief Executive Diane Turner.

"Burma Rd landfill for a long time cushioned the District from high waste disposal costs. Its closure has exposed the community to significant cost increases which demands that we as a community must change our habits and take immediate actions to reduce and recycle as much waste as possible".

Ms Turner says a recent waste assessment found that recycling habits are not as embedded as initially thought and there is still some way to go before recycling becomes second nature.

"Our recycling rate is currently 16.7% way below top performers like Porirua City at 48%. We want over the next 12 months to improve by 10% which will see a further 1100 tonnes per year of recyclables removed from the waste stream and reduce the residual waste we ship out of the District".

The Council is exploring a number of

short-term and long-term solutions and opportunities to reduce waste that is shipped out. These measures include;

Introduction of a weekly food/kitchen waste collection. Collection of food/kitchen waste will remove about 43% or over 2000 tonnes per year from the 5,680 tonnes collected and disposed of to landfill.

Introduce a "user pays" service package designed to cater for businesses covering collection of paper/cardboard and kitchen waste. It is envisaged that this would divert about 600 tonnes of recyclables from the waste stream.

Recover more reusable and recyclable materials at the Te Tahī St Transfer Station. Initial assessments indicate that about 1400 tonnes could be diverted by targeting certain waste stream such as construction and demolition.

Ms Turner says waste is a challenge for the community and the Council cannot and will not be able to do it alone. She emphasised that all these initiatives will not achieve much without the support of the community. "We have to work together as individuals, households and business to go beyond just recycling and take actions that reduce our waste streams.



Road cleaning after the recent floods in Whakatane.

## Natural disasters –be prepared

May and June brought natural disasters to the Eastern Bay—serious enough to remind us that we need to be better prepared for such events.

A series of earthquakes rattled the region and heavy rain caused flooding, road closures and landslides, giving strong reminders that the "big one" could strike at any time and that flooding can happen very quickly with heavy rain.

Households need to be prepared for any level of natural disaster. You may have already thought of storing water, food, and torches, and securing heavy items. However, other precautions are easy to overlook.

### Your pets

Often considered family members themselves, pets need to be catered for in preparing for a natural disaster. Keep an emergency supply of pet food, and attach to their collars a disc that shows your name and a contact phone number. If you have to leave your house and are unable to take your pet with you, it is better to release them rather than leave them tied up or penned in.

### Sick or vulnerable people

People with disabilities may need extra help in an emergency. Those with hearing problems may not be aware that a warning has been activated and a person with impaired sight may need assistance when evacuating.

Medication for all family members, particularly prescription items, needs to be on hand as part of your disaster preparation.

Use the checklist in the Yellow Pages telephone directory to make sure you and your family are prepared if a natural disaster occurs.

### Help prevent flooding

Removing rubbish and leaves from roadside drains can help prevent flooding if heavy rain is forecast. When leaves fall during autumn, drains can become blocked, leading to surface flooding. If heavy rain is forecast, take the time to check the drains outside your home and also your guttering for debris. Clear anything that looks like it may block drains. For more information on disaster preparedness visit [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz) or [www.whakatane.govt.nz/Services/Emergency-Management/](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz/Services/Emergency-Management/)

## New citizens welcomed

The Rotary Club of Whakatane together with Mayor Colin Holmes conducted a Citizenship ceremony which hosted 16 residents to become New Zealand citizens. The group comprised of 12 British, 2 Irish, a German and a Zimbabwean.

Mayor Holmes spoke of the freedom and privileges of becoming a Kiwi and said how great it was, that they were to be able to relate to the culture of their birth country as well as that of their newly adopted land.

Speaking at the ceremony Whakatane Rotary Club President Phil Harris said that the club was pleased to be able to host the ceremony.

He assured the new citizens that they were welcome and the Whakatane community was honoured that they had chosen to settle here.



The Baxter family take their oath (L-F) Mayor Colin Holmes, Casey, Natalie; Kendra and Desrin.



## Council adopts Formal Complaints Policy

The Council recently adopted a policy to improve the process of managing formal complaints, ensuring all parties are kept up to date with the investigation and outcome.

Staff errors, the giving of outdated or incorrect information or slow response to a query are minor errors which will be managed by the Chief Executive. However, more serious complaints referring to Council processes or a decision made by the Council will be managed under the new policy.

A complaint might refer to an employee, contractor, warranted officer or volunteer of the Council involved in the process or decision. For example, if a resident is dissatisfied with the Council's response to a dog control complaint, the new policy will apply.

Formal complaints will be referred to the Chief Executive who may seek advice from an external body if a complaint cannot be dealt with under the terms of the Formal Complaints Policy.

A copy of the new policy can be downloaded from the Council's website [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz).

## Dog kennels wanted

The Council and the SPCA have launched an appeal asking people to donate unused dog kennels which will be given to improve the living conditions of animals without adequate and proper kennelling.

SPCA Whakatane Branch President Vicki Barnard says her organisation and the Council often come across situations where dogs are living in old and rundown kennels, because the owners cannot afford to replace them with new and decent dog kennels.

A dog kennel and run can cost up to \$600 which is a substantial investment for most dog owners and this over and above the daily needs of the animal and possible vet bills.

Mrs Barnard says Graeme Lewer, the Council's Community Regulation Manager approached the SPCA with this idea and we gladly took the idea onboard. We are working together on this appeal for people to donate their unused or extra dog kennels in good condition for such a worthy cause. These kennels will be passed on to needy but responsible dog owners to improve the welfare and living conditions of their dogs.

"We have very little discretionary budgets to purchase good quality kennels to give to owners and hence our appeal to the public and former dogs owners who have kennels which they are willing to donate to contact the Council on 07 306 0500 or the SPCA on 07 308 4608"

The Council will provide storage facilities and the SPCA will identify potential beneficiaries to receive the kennels and/or runs.



# Council projects update

## Ports Operational Plan

Preliminary consultation with port facilities users and the community is almost complete. Common concerns include;

- difficulty for boats to navigate the Whakatane River entrance;
- congestion at the Whakatane boat ramp;
- the need for a slipway facility to launch and remove large vessels.

These findings will be included in the development of the Draft Port Operational Plan which is expected to be completed this month for formal consultation in July. The final plan is expected to be adopted in August.

The Port Operational Plan will outline the future management and development of the Whakatane port and harbour facilities.

## District Plan Review

More than eighty people attended an open day in April to review issues and options for the new District Plan. During the consultation period, the Council also held workshops with key stakeholder groups and provided information to landowners.

Feedback received is now being used to guide the development of policies to address the issues identified in the first stage of the review. A draft District Plan will be available for public comment early in 2011.

The District Plan controls the way land is used and developed in the district. It covers areas such as where to house a growing population, where certain activities should take place, what land can be developed and subdivided and what features (such as landscapes) should be sustainably managed and/or protected.

## Urban Growth Strategy

The Council has received almost 50 submissions to the Draft Whakatane Integrated Urban Growth Strategy following public consultation in April and May. Twenty-four submitters presented their views on 17 June 2010 to the Council.

The Urban Growth Strategy is looking at ways to provide a framework to guide the development of the urban area of Whakatane, Coastlands and Ohope. It also provides a series of methods and actions to manage growth in a proactive manner.

The Strategy should see the Council take a leadership role in encouraging growth in Whakatane and Ohope urban areas as the economic hub for the Eastern Bay of Plenty sub-region. It will also guide the allocation of zones in the District Plan.

## Enrol now for local Government Elections

Electoral enrolments are now sought ahead of the Local Body Elections later this year. Whakatane District Council Chief Executive Diane Turner said it is important that everyone in the community has the opportunity to vote. "This is the chance for people to have their say on who is responsible for governing our district. The decisions elected members make affect everyone in the community at some point, so it's important the community feels confident in its leaders," she said.

Anyone interested in standing for Council must

be a New Zealand citizen and on the electoral roll in order to be eligible. Enrolment forms are available online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) or from any Post Shop.

There are 10 councillors councillor positions and 30 community board members are up for election as well as all Environment Bay of Plenty councillors which include three from the Eastern Bay of Plenty and seven Bay of Plenty District Health Board members. Nominations open on Friday 23 July and require a 150-word candidate profile, a recent passport-sized photo

and a \$200 deposit.

A prospective candidates evening will be held in the Whakatane Council Chambers on Wednesday, 28 July at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in standing in the local body elections to find out what is involved in being an elected representative.

A full list of positions and enrolment information is available on the Council website, [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz), and from the Customer Service Centres in Whakatane and Murupara, or the Council on 07 306 0500.

## Staff profile: Bryan Henton

Being outdoors everyday is what Bryan Henton loves about his job. Bryan has worked in the parks team for the Whakatane District Council for ten years, starting as an apprentice and now a team leader.

His day starts as early as 6:00 am. Bryan and his team ensure the town centre looks attractive by managing the gardens. You are likely to see Bryan in the middle of a roundabout, watering, weeding or planting flowers.

### What do you do for the Council?

I'm in the parks team that plants the garden beds in town—the ones you see in roundabouts and on kerbs. We also do a lot of leaf clearing (especially at this time of the year) and killing of weeds. In the winter we start at 7:30 am and work until 4:00 pm. In the summer we kick-off earlier, at 6:00 am.

### How do you decide what to plant?

Each season we take photos which helps jog our memory when it comes to planting the following year. We re-plant each season to make sure the gardens always look attractive. We get a lot of ideas from the Rotorua Council as they have a large parks team who have experience using a number of different plants.

### How long have you worked at the Council?

I started as an apprentice ten years ago and am now a team leader.

### How does your role help the community?

We make sure the recreational areas are attractive for people walking and driving through the town. We do a lot of leaf-clearing so gutters don't become blocked in the rain and also clear rubbish from the gardens and streets.

### What's the best thing about your job?

Being outdoors every day. It's also interesting to think of new planting designs and plants to use each season.

### And the worst thing?

The rubbish. It's disappointing to see so much rubbish littered through the town. There are plenty of bins—in fact I reckon there are more bins per capita than any other town in New Zealand!

### How can the community make your job easier?

Well obviously the rubbish – please put your rubbish in the bin! But also, we love getting feedback from the community, especially suggestions about plants to use or just telling us how nice the gardens look. It really motivates the team to get positive feedback from the community.



### How long have you lived in the Eastern Bay?

Born and bred here. Wouldn't want to be anywhere else!

### Why do you like living here?

The location—close to the beach, the bush and other main centres, Tauranga and Rotorua.

### How would you describe the people in the Eastern Bay community?

Easygoing, relaxed and friendly.

### What's the nicest thing someone's ever said to you?

That I'm too nice!

### What did you have for breakfast today?

A banana and cup of coffee. I know it doesn't sound like much but that's just until smoko!

## Community organisations receive grants

Local community arts organisations, schools and sports teams received \$27,000 in grants from the Whakatane District Council last month.

### Community Arts

Money allocated from the Creative New Zealand Local Funding Scheme will be used by music, theatre and arts groups, as well as schools to host a number of performances during the next year.

Chief Executive Diane Turner said the Council received a number of applications for grants which had to meet certain criteria.

"When approving funding we look for initiatives that provide community enjoyment and specific benefits such as youth development," she said.

Those who received funding include the Edgcombe Choir which will host two Mozart performances, while Theatre Whakatane used its \$4,000 grant to help fund its highly successful "All Shook Up" production and an upcoming musical variety show. The Community Arts Council received a \$9,000 boost towards the staging of its 2011 Summer Arts Festival.

Whakatane secondary schools also received grants towards school productions. Trident High School received \$1,000 to stage the musical, "Fame", and Whakatane High School was awarded the same amount for its "Sights and Soundz" production and the Regional Stage Challenge.

### Sports competitions

SPARC provides more than \$14,000 for the Council to award to sports groups and school sports teams for travel to competitions. Sports codes covering soccer, gymnastics, surf-lifesaving, hockey and swimming received funding. However, the bulk of the funding, almost \$10,000, went to secondary schools in the district for a variety of sports.

If you are interested in applying for a council grant, or would like more information please contact the Administration Officer—Community on 07 306 0500 or visit our website: [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz)