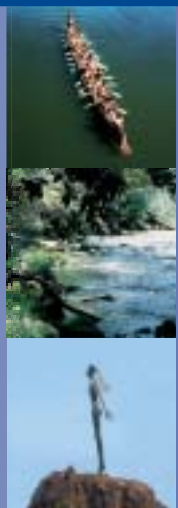




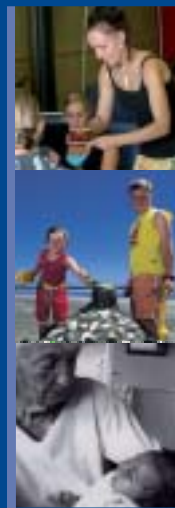
www.whakatane.govt.nz



Whakatane District Council

# BYWAYS

DECEMBER 2007



Water front promenade looking east to information centre.

## Whakatane Town Vision Draft Plan

### Have your say...

The Council recently released the Whakatane Town Vision Draft Plan to guide, support and complement the future development of the Town Centre (CBD). It aims to make Whakatane town, a safe, attractive, vibrant town drawing from its distinctive natural and cultural heritage.

"With more people living, working in and visiting the town centre, it is crucial that we continue to attract and retain them by providing a high quality, vibrant environment," says the Council's Town Vision Project Manager Paula Chapman.

The Town Vision Steering Group consulted with key stakeholders, community leaders and looked around for other successful town centres. They were found to have a diverse mix of business, retail, cultural and residential activity, well-utilised places and public spaces for recreation, and taking advantage of the natural environment. Mrs Chapman says the draft plan features a careful mix of some of these elements, which will make the Town Centre a vibrant and sustainable place that will outperform other provincial towns in years to come.

"An integrated mix of key civic activities and private development within the CBD along with the investment in distinctive high quality urban design are important in creating a energetic town centre", says Mrs Chapman

When complete, the new-look Town Centre will offer a high quality environment for residents, visitors, plenty of options for getting into and around the town centre, a broad range of services to businesses, and potential investors.

The plan looks at ways of encouraging pedestrian activities and improving pedestrian access. Measures to make it easier and more enjoyable to walk, include the new Arts and Culture Pedestrian Street, a spacious and well-landscaped river promenade, opening connections to the river front, reducing traffic flow through the town centre, and a review of street intersections to make for easier pedestrian crossing.

The basis of the plan is emphasising the unique and authentic identity of Whakatane – creating a sense of place anchored by the Town's cultural and natural heritage. This will allow new amenities and activities that support cultural activities to develop.

"We are hoping to create a town centre that Whakatane people will feel proud of and feel connected to - a place where people will meet, shop and spend their leisure time".

Over the next 15-20 years, the Council will invest and encourage private enterprise to invest in ensuring the CBD becomes a more attractive environment for shoppers and a more appealing location for residents and visitors. Some improvements will happen in the short term while others are more

dependant on market forces and demand. The Town Vision plan recognises that different areas/sites within the CBD represent different values, opportunities and should therefore provide distinctly different experiences. The riverfront area towards the Heads is more suitable for tourism, harbour and recreational activities, while west and south of the Visitor Information Centre and along the Strand, is more suited to small retail, cafes, restaurants, bars and entertainment.

Consultation to date has indicated that the Community wants to retain the unique character of the town, by celebrating its natural and cultural heritage. The development of the themes and principles which form the foundation of the plan was based on this initial consultation. It is important that the community provide feedback on the themes and principles upon which the planning is based along with the plan, the implementation and the governance options.

"We are inviting all stakeholders and the community to help make Whakatane an even better, vibrant and sophisticated town... for us: it's all about encouraging the community to contribute to the Town Vision plan and in making the CBD a people friendly, active, safe, and an attractive place to live, visit and do business" says Mrs Chapman.

Submissions on the Draft plan close on the 30 November 2007 and the Council would like to hear what you think about the plan.

## By-elections set for community boards

The Council will in February next year hold a by-election for Ohope Beach and Murupara Community Boards to fill vacant positions resulting from insufficient nominations received during the local body elections held in October this year.

The Council's electoral official Janie Storey says three candidates are required for Ohope Beach Community Board, while two are need for Murupara Community Board (Te Urewera Subdivision - 1 member; Galatea - Waiohau Subdivision - 1 member). Mrs Storey said the person being nominated can live anywhere, however, the people nominating and seconding the candidate must live within the community board or subdivision boundaries that the person is standing for. A deposit of \$200 must also be paid at the time the nomination is lodged. Nominations opened on Monday 26 November and close at noon on Monday, 24 December.

### 2008 BY-ELECTIONS TIMETABLE (resulting from insufficient candidates at the 2007 triennial elections)

**Monday 26 November 2007**  
NOMINATIONS OPEN ROLL OPEN for inspection. Public Notice of By-Election, Inspection of Electoral Roll

**Monday 24 December 2007**  
NOMINATIONS CLOSE (12 NOON)  
ROLL CLOSSES]

**Monday 21 January**  
DELIVERY OF VOTING DOCUMENTS  
Wednesday 23 January 2008

**Tuesday 22 January – Tuesday 12 February 2008**  
Progressive Roll  
Early Processing Period  
Special Voting Period

**Monday 11 February 2008**  
Last day to appoint scrutineers 12 Noon

**Tuesday 12 February 2008**  
**BY-ELECTION DAY**  
Voting Closes 12 Noon – counting commences. Preliminary Results Available as soon as practicable  
Official Declaration

**Friday 15 February 2008**  
Public Notice of Declaration of Results

**By 14 April 2008**  
Return of Electoral Expenses Forms

# Disaster projects make progress

Whakatane District Council is making progress putting in place various disaster mitigation projects following several natural disasters in the District in the recent past. The works are an important commitment by the Council to firstly recovery from disasters and secondly to reduce the risk on the community for further events, said the Council's Director of Works and Services Haydn Read.

He said the Council, along with Environment Bay of Plenty have prepared a business case for financial assistance towards the works at Awatapu, Edgumbe and Ohope. This business case was presented to Central Government on the 13 November 2007 and an outcome had not been received at the time of writing.

Financial assistance towards the projects in Matata was received in 2006.

The works include:

## Ohope Escarpment Stormwater/Wastewater Disposal Project

This project is in response to the landslips that occurred in July 2004.

It was identified, by the Council's consultants Tonkin & Taylor, that stormwater and wastewater infiltration into the ground was a significant trigger mechanism for the landslips.

The physical works, which commenced on 23 October 2007, include the reticulation

of stormwater and wastewater at Otaraire/Cliff and Brown Road. Conveying the stormwater and wastewater away from the escarpment will reduce the risk of further landslips on the escarpment. Heb Smithbridge has been awarded the contract, and will work closely with property owners to ensure that the works proceed with the minimum of disruption. The works are scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2008.

## Matata Regeneration Projects

This project is in response to the debris flood that occurred in May 2005.

The resource consent hearing for the Awatariki Stream and Te Awa o te Atua Lagoon rehabilitation and the Debris Disposal Area was concluded on 30 August 2007. At the time of writing the Council was waiting for a decision on the resource consent application.

The resource consent for the Waitepuru Debris and Stream Management Works and the Awarua Drain Stop Banks was publicly notified on 26 October 2007. Submissions on this application close on 23 November 2007.

The presentation to the community on the recommended options for the Awatariki Debris Detention Structure was well received by the community on 3 November

2007; there was considerable interest in a Flexible Net Barrier option (photo below). Further investigations on this option are underway. The results of these investigations, along with the investigation for Waimea and Ohinekoao will be reported back to the Council and the community and affected property owners early in 2008.

## Edgumbe/Rangitaiki Plains Flood Mitigation Project

Whakatane District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty are working together to undertake flood protection works in Edgumbe township and the surrounding Rangitaiki Plains.

The proposed works includes:

- Improvements to Reid Floodways
- Widening narrow sections of Floodways to remove bottlenecks
- Construct a flood gate to Reids Floodway to actively manage floodwater
- Repairs and remediation works to stopbanks
- Raising selected stopbanks and construction of low bunds

Whakatane District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty will be presenting the proposed works to the Edgumbe community for their feedback early in 2008.



Council contractor controlling privet on the escarpment. Property owners can apply to the council for assistance with controlling pest plants such as privet.

## 'Eradicate Privet' - Owners urged

Property owners are invited to participate in the Whakatane District Council's initiative to eradicate Privet through the Council's Preservation Incentive Fund - Privet Exchange Programme.

The Council Service Delivery Officer Rod Fraser says the programme, in its fourth year running, aims at controlling and eradicating Privet which is associated with allergic reactions in some people. "Chinese Privet comes into full bloom during November each year and the larger English Privet from February. Although not clinically proven, it is generally accepted that the smell and pollen can trigger and intensify allergic respiratory reactions and conditions in some people. Controlling this pest plant benefits the community health and environment".

The Disabilities Resource Centre Trust endorses the programme and encourages property owners with these plants on their properties to register with the programme. The General Manager Bronwen Foxx says many of their patients with respiratory allergies benefit through the control of Privet.

Property owners can register for the Privet Exchange Programme by completing a registration form available from the Council offices in Whakatane & Murupara or download a copy of the form on the website [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz)

Mr Fraser says subject to availability of funds, a contractor would go round the various identified properties to control the Privet. The control method involves injecting the tree with a herbicide. The owner's are required to remove and dispose of the dead Privet trees. Information on the disposal of weed-waste is also available on our website [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz).

## Coastal hazards consultation resumes

The Council will be resuming consultation in November on its proposed change to the District Plan to address issues associated with sea level rise, coastal erosion and coastal inundation (flooding). The proposed changes to the District Plan will provide a clearer policy framework for the management of development in areas that are subject to coastal hazards. This will include new objectives, policies and

rules within the District Plan.

An information pack has been sent out to all affected owners and occupiers of land, and other interested parties. The pack will include a map showing the location of the hazard on the property. If you have not received please contact Senior Policy Planner at the council on (07) 306 0500. Feedback will be sought until late January

2008. It is expected that the proposed changes will be publicly notified in March 2008.

Further information is available on the Council's website at:

<http://www.whakatane.govt.nz/PoliciesPlans/DistrictPlanning/default/Variation6CoastalHazards.htm> or <http://tinyurl.com/3blxnq>

## Council's accreditation on track

Whakatane District Council accreditation application to be registered a Building Control Authority (BCA) is on track following a recent visit by auditors to review the process.

Compliance and Development Manager Jeff Farrell says auditors from the Department of Building and Housing (DBH) noted a few areas that needed some minor adjustments. "We hope to be gaining accreditation within the set timeframes thereby allowing us to continue processing and issuing building consents services in the District", said Mr Farrell.

He said to be registered as a BCA, the Council must first be granted accreditation by the building consent accreditation body, International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ). This requires the Council to satisfy the criteria and standards designed to support good practice and consistency in building consent processing, inspection and approval functions.

"These criteria and standards are prescribed in the Building (Accreditation of Building

Consent Authorities) Regulations 2006.

Once accreditation has been obtained, registration as a BCA by the DBH is required."

The Council's Director of Environment and Policy David Bewley says Building Control staff have been working very hard to ensure that the accreditation process does not unduly delay the processing and issuing of building consents.

"The accreditation process is a mammoth exercise that has demanded staffs' time examining our processes, procedures and documenting these to meet the accreditation criteria. We are confident that the time spent on developing robust processes now will benefit those applying for building consents in the future".

Mr Bewley said gaining accreditation will ensure the Council follows the best building practices and provides consistency in how building consents are processed, inspected and approved.

Under the Building Act 2004, the Council is required to apply and gain accreditation as

a Building Control Authority to be able to continue to process and approve building consents and inspect building work after the 30 November 2007.

The Government reviewed the Building Act in 2004 to improve practices and performance in building design, construction and building control. The accreditation process is part of implementing these improvements.

The Building (Accreditation of Building Consent Authorities) Regulations 2006 sets down the criteria for accreditation and implementation timeframes.

Implementation is a three stage process over six years. Stage one relates to setting up a quality framework around building consent processes that must satisfy and be verified by independent audit before the end of November 2007. Stage two involves putting in place a quality assurance programme by December 2010. Stage three focuses on BCA staff involved in building control work gaining recognised formal qualifications by December 2013.

# Road Safety with Maurice Tooke - Eastern Bay Road Safety Coordinator



As we approach another summer there will be many of us who are looking forward to spending time with friends, family, whanau, a well deserved rest, doing those things we enjoy doing etc. To undertake many of these things we will travel by car. In NZ we have taken advantage of the increasing availability of private motor vehicles and have one of the highest per capita ownership of vehicles in the world. It has become normal that we can travel when we want to where we want without giving it much thought.

However, the increasing cost (scarcity) of petroleum products has led some people to consider the challenges of implementing their own more sustainable transport: cycling/walking to work, taking public transport, using a smaller motorised scooter, car pooling etc. In terms of the planet being able to sustain our travel behaviours there is now an imperative need to seriously review how we do things

and begin to take measures to lessen our dependence on fossil fuels.

For small rural/urban communities like ours, there are a number of challenges, but I believe we have an opportunity to become innovative given our climate and geographical features. While remaining both pragmatic (understanding that our psyche is 'geared' for individualised vehicular transport) and practical, we could take up the challenge in the Eastern Bay of Plenty to reduce our reliance on fossil fuel based energy to a greater extent than the rest of NZ.

Obviously the manufacture of vehicles brings with it carbon costs, and in the bigger picture I think consideration needs to be given to this. However, it will be sometime before we move from our 'psyche' of individual vehicle availability to considering public transport options (we do it to some extent by air travel), and the

use of our own energy for cycling/walking (This has health benefits as well).

I would like to think we in the Eastern Bay are able to generate possibilities that transcend our traditional mode of transport and move into an era of conscious planned advances in reducing our 'unsustainable' reliance on fossil fuels.

The role of a road safety coordinator is changing and is now expected to focus not only on safety issues but also considering the 'how's' of future safe travel in the community.

I'm of the opinion that some of the big challenges are around the issues of both 'individual vehicle use' and 'quicker is better' ethos. Both impact on the challenge to move to slower mode/shared transport options.

As an example cyclists/pedestrians are less vulnerable amongst traffic when it is travelling in the 15 - 30 kph speed

range. Do we consider such urban speeds acceptable?

It is also recognised that bigger, smoother roads usually mean an increase in traffic using it - not a decrease. Engineering options for improved transport networks to reduce fossil fuel use are available - the challenge is around those options being planned for slow mode/public transport and gaining support to do so, from the community.

Decreasing individualised transport can also take a number of 'social' options like staggered work/school hours, allowing for less congested time periods on roads. I urge us all to take an active interest in the District Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy, Transportation Study and Town Vision as these are bound to shape and influence the way we travel in the future. For more information contact Maurice Tooke on (07) 306 0500.

## Built heritage study almost ready

"The Whakatane District Built Heritage Study final report is almost ready for release," says the Council's Policy Manager Chandra Quarmby. Consultation with the community on potential options for managing our built heritage will follow soon after.

Mr Quarmby said the Built Heritage Study is a joint initiative undertaken by the Whakatane District Council, Environment Bay of Plenty and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust based on the work of the Historic Society. It looks at the historical significance of buildings in Whakatane's Central Business District. The study has identified individually and collectively significant buildings.

He said the next stage of the process is to consult with the community on whether to take any measures to protect and enhance Whakatane's Built Heritage. In support of this consultation a range of potential voluntary and regulatory options have been identified.

## Keep Whakatane kiwi safe from dogs

On dark still nights, kiwi calls are heard from small enclaves of native bush within the Whakatane District. Some of these birds are in the protected "Kiwi Zones" of Ohope Scenic Reserve, Mokorua Scenic Reserve and Kohi Point Scenic Reserve. Some are on private land with both indigenous and exotic tree cover. Both need protection from dogs.

The Whakatane Kiwi Project has returned over 40 young kiwi to the area in the last six years and every effort is being made to keep these birds safe as they mature and start breeding.

Dogs are excluded from all designated Kiwi Zones, regardless of whether they are on a lead or not as they are the main threat to adult birds. Trapping and poisoning of possums, rats, stoats, ferrets, weasels and cats is also carried out, as these predators all threaten young kiwi.

Over the last two years six dead kiwi have been handed in to the Department of Conservation, Whakatane Field Centre, all killed by dogs. One of those was from within Ohope Scenic Reserve. In 2004, in Urewera National Park, the study population of kiwi was reduced from 17 to 3, in less than 18 months. Dogs were responsible for killing at least 80% of these kiwi.

Records from Northland show that the average breeding life of a kiwi can be reduced from 50 to 13 years due to predation by dogs.

All evidence points to the fact that dogs can decimate a kiwi population in days, effectively nullifying years of kiwi recovery work. This is not the dogs fault, Kiwi smell strongly and are appealing to the ever vigilant canine nose. They can be easy to catch and while a dog will rarely eat a kiwi, they can inflict fatal wounds by shaking or crushing the bird. The excitement of the kill is a positive reinforcement for the dog, which can then become a repeat offender and responsible for the local extinction of kiwi.

To ensure this does not happen in Whakatane, a concerted effort by all parties is needed to avoid contact between dogs and kiwi.



### Help keep our Whakatane kiwi population safe:

Keep all dogs out of designated Kiwi Zones.

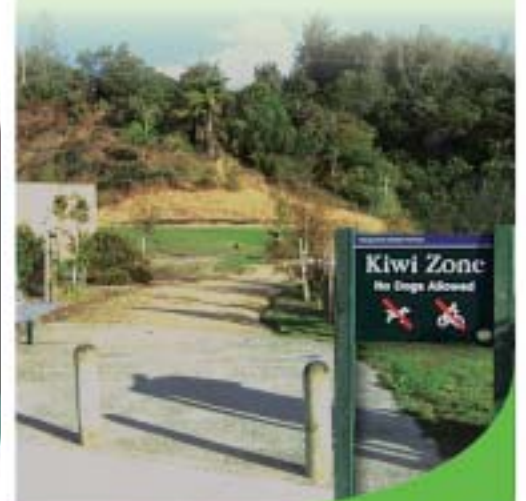
Report dogs seen in Kiwi Zones to the Whakatane District Council on 07 306 0500 or 307 0729 after hours.

Take heed of all "No Dog" signs.

Keep your dog under control at all times but especially at night.

Have your dog avian aversion trained. Ring Tiki Hutching on 027 473 5807 for more information.

Owners of dogs found in a designated Kiwi Zone will be fined \$300 per dog.



A joint project supported by: Environment Bay of Plenty, Department of Conservation, Ngati Awa, Bank of New Zealand Save the Kiwi Trust, Rainbow Springs-Kiwi Encounter, Whakatane Kiwi Trust and Whakatane District Council.



### MINISTRY OF HEALTH PUBLIC NOTICE



Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

**Karen O Poutasi (Dr)**  
Director-General of Health

# Your Councillors



Colin Holmes  
Mayor



Graeme Hanlen  
Deputy Mayor  
(Whakatane - Ohope)



Christine Chambers  
(Whakatane - Ohope)



George Johnston  
(Edgecumbe-Tarawera)



Russell Orr  
(Edgecumbe-Tarawera)



Jacob Te Kurapa  
(Galatea-Murupara)



Anthony (Tony) Bonne  
(Whakatane - Ohope)



Rachael Byrne  
(Whakatane - Ohope)



Ian Shearer  
(Taneatua-Waimana)



Scott Jarrett  
(Whakatane - Ohope)



William (Bill) Clark  
(Edgecumbe-Tarawera)



Japanese delegation paid a visit to the Japanese Garden. Standing L to R) Ian Molony, the Councils Operations Manager, fourth from left, Mayor of Kamagaya Kiyoshi Shimizu, 2nd from right, Mayoress Cherrie Niederer, extreme right Donal Reid, member of the Sister Cities.

## Sister Cities celebrates ten years

The Whakatane District Council recently hosted Kamagaya Mayor Kiyoshi Shimizu and eleven delegates as part of activities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Sister Cities agreement between Whakatane and Kamagaya. The Council's Administration Officer Community Janie Storey said while the Kamagaya delegation was in Whakatane for a short time, they were able to experience many of our attractions and hospitality.

Whakatane Mayor Colin Holmes hosted an anniversary dinner at the Memorial Hall on Monday, 5 November with 80 local sister city supporters joining in the celebrations. The evening was a mixture of cultures commencing with a challenge and performance by the Trident High School Kapa Haka group, a Powhiri, a Japanese mask dance and items by three brilliant singers from Theatre Whakatane.

The agreement signed in 1997 was renewed with Mayor Holmes and Mayor Shimizu re-signing the documents. The evening finished off with the cutting of a huge chocolate cake supplied by Whakatane New World.

Mrs Storey said the trip was a community effort with all the guests

being home hosted, a visit to the Coastguard and New World supermarket, and a variety of activities being experienced including golf, fishing, horse riding, a tour of White Island and an evening with the Whakatane Rotary Club.

Thanks to the Whakatane Floral Art group who are always keen to showcase their talents - the hall looked magnificent with floral arrangements making use of both cultures. The people to people contact and the exchange of cultures is what makes the Sister Cities activities such a success.

"Whakatane District Sister Cities Committee extends its gratitude and appreciation to the many people and organisations who helped to make the visit an unforgettable experience for our Japanese friends", said Mrs Storey.

A donation of \$1,500 was received from CLAIR - a Japanese Local Government organisation based in Sydney to support a photographic exhibition of the history of Whakatane currently on show in Kamagaya. The historical photographic exhibition consisting of 40 photographs was delivered to Kamagaya by the Trident High School students during their visit in September.

## Whakatane District Council Holiday Hours 2007 / 2008 (Christmas and New Year)

### Whakatane Office

will close at 3:00pm on Friday 21 December 2007 and reopen at 8:00am on Thursday 3 January 2008.

### Murupara Office

will close at 3:00pm on Friday 21 December 2007 and reopen at 9:00am on Monday 7 January 2007.

### Refuse Collection

Monday 24, Wednesday 26 to Friday 28 and Monday 31 December 2007 normal collections between 7:30am and 4:30pm. Tuesday 25 December 2007 and Tuesday 1 January 2007 - NO rubbish collections. Areas normally serviced on Tuesday's - rubbish will be collected on the following SATURDAYS - 22 and 29 December 2007 and 5 January 2008. WEDNESDAY, 3 January 2008 normal service resumes for all areas.

### Recycling Park - Te Tahī Street

Christmas Day Closed  
New Years Day Closed

### Murupara Transfer Station and Recycling Centre

Christmas Day Closed

### Whakatane Museum & Gallery

Christmas Day Closed  
Boxing Day Closed

27-31 December 07

New Years Day  
2 January 08  
3 January 08

### Whakatane District Library (Civic Centre)

21 December 07 Open 9.00am - 3.00pm  
22 December 07 Open 9:30am - 12noon  
24 December 07 Open 9.00am- 3.00pm  
Christmas Day (25 Dec 07) Closed  
Boxing Day (26 Dec 07) Closed  
27-28 December 07 Open 9.00am - 5.00pm  
29 December 07 Open 9:30am - 12noon  
31 December 07 Open 9.00am - 3.00pm  
New Years Day Closed  
2 January 08 Closed  
3 January 08 Normal hours resume

### Edgecumbe Public Library

24 December 07- 4 January 08 Closed  
7 January 08 Normal hours resume

### Ohope Public Library

24 December 07 - 4 January 07 Closed  
7 January 08 Normal hours resume

### Murupara Public Library

will close at 3:00pm on Friday 21 December 2007

Open 11.00am- 3.00pm

Closed

Open 11.00am - 3.00pm

Normal hours resume

and reopen at 9:00am on Monday 7 January 2007.

### Visitor Information Centre

Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Open 10am-4pm
27-31 December 07	Normal hours
New Years Day	Open 10am-4pm
2 January 2008	Normal hours resume

### BY ELECTIONS NOMINATIONS:

Civic Centre and Murupara Service Centre. Electoral officials will be available to accept Ohope Beach and Murupara Community Board nominations on Monday 24 December 2007 9am -12noon

### Parking Services

Parking wardens will be operating as normal - Thursday 27 to Saturday 29 and Monday 31 December 2007. Thursday 3 January 2008 normal services resumes

Normal after hours number - 306 0500 is the contact for any services during this time including; Animal control, Noise control, Water services, Wastewater, Environmental health, Other complaints.

Refuse collection issues please call waste Management on 0800 10 10 10

# Summary Annual Report

This Summary Annual Report was authorised for issue by the Chief Executive on 22 November 2007. The specific disclosures included in this report have been extracted from the full Annual Report adopted by Council on 31 October 2007. The Summary Annual Report cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided in the full Annual Report of the financial and service performance, financial position and cash flows of the Council. The Summary Annual Report has been audited for consistency with the full Annual Report and a copy of the unqualified Audit Report is included.

## FULL ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of the full Annual Report is available on the Council's website [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz). Copies are also available for viewing at the Council's libraries. The full Annual Report has been audited and an unqualified Audit Report dated 31 October 2007 has been issued.

## CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There has been a significant change in the accounting policies, which have been applied to comply with International Accounting Standards. Otherwise details noted in this summary document have been applied on bases consistent with previous years.



## Mayor and Chief Executive's Message

The 2006/07 year has been a year of major decisions and significant steps forward for the Council. We have maintained a focus on the future, while continuing to drive the recovery from natural disasters of recent years. We improved our service levels, set in motion some major initiatives which will support this District growing sustainably into the future and hosted some excellent events to showcase the District. It has been a year with its own challenges, and once again the community, councillors and staff have worked well together to ensure quality outcomes.

Our final financial result for the year saw a net surplus of \$7.89 million against a budget of \$1.49 million. The key reason for the increase in the surplus was a \$6.30 million non-cash adjustment to recognise the increase in value of our investment properties.

Overall, operations for the year fared better than budgeted. Within the figures there have been a number of key changes from the approved budget for 2006/07. There has been a \$1.45 million increase in depreciation due to the revaluation of assets. This was partly offset by \$0.30 million savings in net interest costs due to delays in some of the capital projects. Additional costs to manage the Council's roading network and on-going costs associated with the natural disasters in the previous year contributed to increased operational costs. However there were additional subsidies received during the year that reduced the impact of these increases. Development contributions were lower than expected by \$0.50 million. The Council's income from user charges for other services was \$0.52 million higher than budgeted.

Asset revaluations during the year were undertaken on the majority of our infrastructure assets. The changes in valuations recognise the increase in the market value over the last three years. This has resulted in an overall increase of our asset values by approximately 20%. The asset revaluations when combined with the revaluation of council owned land and buildings means that net assets increased in value by 28% (\$120.40 million) over the budgeted values.

The Council has continued to improve the levels of service and quality of amenities that it provides to the community. Very visible examples of this have been the Commerce Street upgrade, the rejuvenation of the Port Ohope wharf, the upgrade of the Ohope Road and the seal extension of Ruatahuna Road. These projects have been a long time in the planning and it is rewarding to watch them take shape. There have also been some less visible, but equally important projects. These have included the completion of stage one of the two stage upgrade to the Te Mahoe water supply, completed with funding from Housing New Zealand and the upgrade of the Edgumbe Wastewater Ponds. The Council has also trialed a green waste collection service and an inorganic waste collection service. It was really positive to see that of the 22 tonnes of inorganic waste collected, 18 tonnes was recyclable.

A number of important initiatives for the future of the District and the Council were begun. These included a comprehensive Asset Management Plan project, accreditation of Council's building consenting services, a study of Whakatane Town Centre's built heritage, and a review of the Council's Bylaws. These

and other capability and information gathering projects will see the Council moving forward and making decisions on the basis of robust information and systems. Especially exciting has been the work done on the Town Vision, a proposed framework for the future of Whakatane Town Centre. Alongside these we have been working on a number of important planning projects to provide clarity and opportunity for sustainable development of the District. These have included retail, industrial and residential growth strategies to enable us to better understand and cater for the future of the District.

The natural disasters of 2004 and 2005 were a key issue for the Council this year as we worked with the community to complete much of the investigation, planning and design work for Matata Regeneration Projects and submit resource consents applications to undertake the first stage of works. At the same time a great deal of effort has gone into designing and consulting on the Otarawairere/West End mitigation works so that work could get underway early in the 2007/08 financial year.

Both the Matata and the Otarawairere Projects have proved to be contentious in the community. The funding debate and the submissions received for the Annual Plan 2007/08 has seen the Council decide to review its Hazard Mitigation Policy. The Council is also continuing to work with Central Government in an attempt to secure funding to offset the cost to the community of these projects and the Edgumbe/Rangitaiki flood protection project. A Business Case to Government has recently been finalised and submitted.

Connections with our past have been celebrated with the Ko Tawa exhibition bringing taonga with strong whakapapa relationships with this rohe. There were many visitors to the exhibition and some new community relationships formed. Economic development activities saw the Business and Leisure Show built on the success of its inaugural year and participating businesses doing a roaring trade. The event took another step up with a partnership formed with a major sponsor and looks to continue to grow next year. Another important event for the District, and indeed the region, was the Odyssey Mountain Bike event. This saw mountain bikers completing a course from Whakatane to Taupo, along the way showcasing the District and reinforcing its reputation as a destination of choice for outdoor adventures.

There are challenges ahead of us in 2007/08, but the work done in 2006/07 will see us in a better position to face those challenges and to continue to lead the District into the future.



Colin Holmes  
MAYOR



Diane Turner  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# HIGHLIGHTS

This is a brief summary of the Council's achievements in the 2006/07 financial year.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The Council prepared a number of formal submissions to proposed Acts of Parliament, and commented on draft submissions from Local Government New Zealand, when appropriate.

The Council has been working to further community outcomes through membership on COBOP (Community Outcomes Bay of Plenty). This is a collaboration amongst central and local government agencies to work together on community outcomes identified by Bay of Plenty communities.

The Strategic Policy team completed the following projects: Gambling, Youth, CCTV, Bylaws Stage One and the Annual Plan.



## DISASTER MITIGATION WORKS

The Council has made a significant commitment to community consultation on disaster mitigation works. Numerous meetings, workshops, newsletters and meetings with stakeholders have been undertaken.

### Matata regeneration projects:

The Awatarariki Stream Works and Lagoon Regeneration, the Debris Disposal and the Waitepuru Stream Works and Bund resource consent applications have been lodged during this period. Environment Bay of Plenty and Whakatane District Council are working closely together on a number of these projects.

### Otarawairere/West End stormwater/wastewater disposal project:

The community consultation, investigation of options, planning and detail design documentation have been completed for this project and the resource consent application was lodged in June 2007.

### Edgecumbe/Rangitaiki flood mitigation:

The Council and Environment Bay of Plenty have completed a draft business case to seek Government financial assistance for solutions to reduce the risk from flooding of the Whakatane and Rangitaiki Rivers. The

business case will be considered by the Council early in the 2007/2008 financial year and submitted to central Government soon after.

The business case also seeks financial assistance for the Otawairere/West End Stormwater/ Wastewater Disposal project and the Awatapu flood mitigation works.

### Awatapu flood mitigation works:

The design and tendering process was completed and the tenders for civil and electrical works awarded. The initial civil works have commenced.

## TRANSPORT NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS

### Ohope Road upgrade:

This project undertakes the upgrading of Ohope Road from Pohutukawa Avenue to Burma Road turnoff. The scope of works included in this project were a widening of the carriageway width to accommodate a future walking and cycle lane, improved drainage facilities, major intersection improvements at Otawairere Road intersection and safety improvements at Cliff and Brown Road intersections. This project was a major achievement in community consultation and compliance with resource consents and environmental stewardship.

### Commerce Street upgrade:

The scope of works for this project included kerb and channel replacement, drainage improvements, replacing of footpaths, safety improvements to Merritt, Louvain and Simpkins Street intersections and landscaping.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

### Civil defence preparedness:

The two disasters experienced in the Whakatane District in 2004 and 2005 have raised awareness of Civil Defence preparedness. This has led to greater involvement by Emergency Management staff in training and educational events in the District. Community plans have been developed for some more isolated communities such as Ruatahuna, Ngaputahi and Maungapohatu, with the Council contributing radios for these communities.

The URS 17 (Urban Search and Rescue) team successfully registered as an urban search and rescue team for deployment throughout the country.

### Dog control policy:

The Council met legislative requirements to develop and adopt a policy on dogs. The development and design of the policy booklet provides high quality information about dog ownership, responsibilities and requirements.

### Microchipping of dogs:

From 1 July 2006, all dogs registered for the first time (except working dogs) have to be micro-chipped. A range of methods, from information letters to formal enforcement has resulted in a high percentage of compliance.

### Alcohol strategy:

The Council completed the development of an Alcohol Strategy for the District, providing a large amount of research on alcohol related harm in the District. The strategy will now be implemented over the next three years.

### Crossroads programme:

Funding was provided by the Crime Prevention Unit of the Ministry of Justice for a further three years for the Crossroads Programme until 2010. This provides funding for up to four youths (at any one time) to be supported while living at Bethel House in Whakatane.

## WATER-RELATED SERVICES

### Hydraulic models for water supplies:

The Council rebuilt and calibrated hydraulic models for Whakatane, Ohope and Plains water supplies. The models will be used in finalising upgrade strategies for these supplies. Consideration of future growth, security of supply and maintaining service levels in the Ten-year Council Community Plan will be supported by these models.

### Water supply in Te Mahoe:

A special project was carried out during the year by the Council in partnership with Housing New Zealand Corporation and the Ministry of Health to address the water quality issues in Te Mahoe. At present the Council is doing further background work with the Ministry of Health and the Drinking Water Assistance Programme to complete the next phase of the project, which is to upgrade the reticulation system.

### Completion of stormwater works in Douglas Street:

Detail design revealed upgrading of the existing pump station is not economically feasible. A new pump station, together with upgrading of reticulation pipes, was designed. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,040,000. An additional budget of \$500,000 has been provided in year 2007/08 budget.

## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

### Introduction of new refuse collection service:

On 26 June 2006 the Council introduced a new refuse collection service which included the introduction of the 80 litre Mobile Garbage Bin (MGB or "wheelie bin"), a 60 litre recycling crate and the utilisation of the old 240 litre MGB for a green waste collection service within the urban settlements in the District. An extensive publicity and education campaign was undertaken as part of the introduction of the new service. There were a number of public queries and concerns at the start of the service particularly in relation to the downsizing of the MGB from 240 litre to 80 litre. However the community has adapted well to the new system and queries have dramatically reduced.



### Contracting of the management of the Burma Road landfill:

In July 2006 the management of the Burma Road landfill was contracted to Doug Gerrand Limited, this initiative has seen a major increase in the level of service in the management of this facility.

### Trial inorganic collection:

As a result of a number of submissions to the Ten-year Council Community Plan, the Council undertook a trial inorganic waste collection in June 2007 in a number of rural settlements in the District. Through this initiative 22 Tonnes of inorganic waste was collected, of which 18 Tonnes was recyclable. This initiative will assist in reducing the number of incidents of fly tipping around the District.



## PROMOTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Odyssey Mountain Bike event:

This was a regional event initiated with Rotorua, Taupo and BikeNZ. The inaugural event was very successful and has the potential to grow and develop over subsequent years. This is the first time in New Zealand that a regional event has been developed. The event has been entered in 2007 event awards.

### Business and Leisure Show:

This was the second year the Business and Leisure Show has been held and it was more popular and successful than the first year. The event has now attracted a major sponsor, is self funding and a paid organiser has been appointed.

### Enterprise Training Programme:

The Government funded programme delivered in Eastern Bay of Plenty. The aim is to again secure the contract from 1 July 2008 and deliver a service that supports local businesses and the local economy.



## LIBRARIES AND MUSEUM

### Ko Tawa, Taonga from our Ancestral Landscapes, Collection of Captain Gilbert Mair, 2 March - 23 May 2007:

Ko Tawa is an exhibition curated and toured by the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Focusing on the collection of Captain Gilbert Mair, now in the collections of the Auckland Museum, much of the taonga on display has whakapapa relationships with this rohe. This was a unique opportunity to bring them home and the exhibition attracted a significant number of visitors and allowed greater community collaboration with a new group of volunteers.

### Arts and Culture Business Unit:

The Museum, Art Gallery and Library were integrated into an Arts and Culture Business Unit. The Manager was appointed in June 2007.

A major project has begun to update the inventory, digitise the collections and produce a collections catalogue.

Over the summer, the adult non-fiction collection in the Civic Centre library was reviewed and re-shelved. The impact of this has been to provide a more current and focused range of non-fiction materials for the community.

## RECREATION & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### Port Ohope Wharf upgrade:

The upgrade of the Port Ohope Wharf comprised the replacement of all decking timber, the installation of new hand rails, lighting and services. The result is not only a much safer facility but an attractive and user friendly environment for a range of recreational activities.

### War Memorial Hall air-conditioning:

In conjunction with the Eastern Bay Energy Trust, the Council completed the installation of new air-conditioning systems into the Little Theatre and the Foyer areas of the Whakatane War Memorial Hall. These areas of the hall are used by a multitude of community organisations and the general public, who will benefit through an improved public facility.

### Pensioner unit upgrade works:

The Council completed a significant amount of identified maintenance works at a cost of \$194,000 at its pensioner units, as the first step in improving property standards for pensioner housing. The works were completed following detailed inspection of all units and in close liaison with tenants to achieve an improved service to occupiers.

## PARKS, RESERVES AND CEMETERIES

### Ohope:

Works complete at Ohope this past year included the upgrade works at the Maraetotara Reserve. This project included changes to traffic flow to existing facilities, increased provision for parking, the installation of underground power, a drinking fountain, bollards, landscaping and curbing.

Carparking landscaping works were completed in the Goodwins landing area. This work comprised nib curbing and gobi block paving to provide informal parking for Ohakana Island residents and recreational users of Ohiwa harbour.



### Vertigraph:

The Whakatane Society of Arts and Crafts completed and donated to the community an outstanding Vertigraph designed specifically for the Hillcrest steps. The Vertigraph depicts the local area from sea to sky and was installed by the Council to be enjoyed and admired by all Whakatane residents and visitors.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

### Variation 6 (Coastal Hazards):

The Council is currently developing a Variation to the Proposed Whakatane District Plan to manage risks associated with Coastal Hazards. The Resource

Management Act, The NZ Coastal Policy Statement and the Regional Coastal Environment Plan each require that the Council plan for climate change, and accept that sea levels will rise over time. In undertaking the steps required, the Council must have regard to the views, desires and aspirations of its community. There has been extensive consultation with the community on this issue, and there will continue to be throughout the rest of the variation process.

### Historic heritage study:

The Whakatane Built Heritage study is a joint initiative between Whakatane District Council, Environment Bay of Plenty (EBOP) and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT). These agencies have agreed that comprehensive information on the built heritage of Whakatane's past and present Central Business District (CBD) is necessary for this resource to be managed appropriately in the future. The study will provide an assessment of built heritage in the Whakatane CBD. It will make recommendations for the most effective ways, both statutory and non-statutory, to provide for appropriate management in the future. The Built Heritage Study will also research the economic implications of buildings being identified as heritage buildings.

### Ministry for the Environment targeted assistance project:

The Council and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) undertook a joint project in October 2006 to map and review resource consent processes. The key recommendation revolved around enhancing the IT support systems. A programme to progressively implement all of the recommendations from the project has commenced, and is expected to be completed by the end of the 07/08 financial year.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

### Building Consent Authority (BCA)

#### Accreditation Project:

In preparation for accreditation the Whakatane District Council has increased the capacity of the Building Control section and invested in developing the section's organisational capability. The Council is also an active member of the Lakes Coast BCA Cluster Group (Opotiki District Council, Kawerau District Council, Rotorua District Council, Taupo District Council, South Waikato District Council, and Whakatane District Council).

The Whakatane District Council has also been asked to support the Kawerau and Opotiki Building Control Agencies by providing technical leadership, competency assessment and training, and processing and inspecting complex applications.

The Council has lodged its application for accreditation and will be audited in October 2007.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### Rural fire equipment:

A replacement portable fire pump was purchased for the Waimana Rural Fire Force. This pump replaces one that has been in service since 1988.

The installation of Fire Service radios in two vehicles will improve communications with the Northern Communications Centre. In addition, those vehicles are now available for second call to vegetation fires by the Northern Communications Centre if required.

# Summary of Financial Statements

## District Council Accounts

The financial statements and this summary are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000). The Whakatane District Council is a public benefit entity and the full financial statements have been prepared in accordance with NZ Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP).

### Changes in accounting policies

Whakatane District Council's full financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007 are the first financial statements to comply with NZ International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Whakatane District Council applied NZ IFRS1 in preparing its 2006/07 Annual Report. Changes resulting from the change to the new International Accounting Standards have resulted in an improvement in the value of net assets. The improvement is mainly due to investment properties being revalued up to fair value instead of cost price.

A full explanation can be found in note 2 of Whakatane District Council's Annual Report.

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended 30 June 2007

	Actual 2007 \$000	Annual Plan 2007 \$000	Actual 2006 \$000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATIONS</b>			
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	10,680	12,352	3,402
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(13,679)	(16,941)	(3,316)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	817	4,589	(1,972)
Net Increase / (Decrease) In Cash Held	(2,182)	0	(1,886)
Opening Cash on Hand	3,065	500	4,951
<b>CLOSING CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>3,065</b>

### Variance explanation - Statement of Cashflows

The key change on the cash flow statement was due to less loans raised during the year due to optimising the use of funds on hand.

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the year ended 30 June 2007

	Actual 2007 \$000	Annual Plan 2007 \$000	Actual 2006 \$000
Balance as at 1 July	448,468	422,942	441,241
Surplus for the year	7,892	1,499	6,430
Increase in Asset Revaluation Reserves	88,531	0	797
<b>Total recognised income</b>	<b>96,423</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>7,227</b>
Balance as at 30 June	544,891	424,441	448,468

### Variance explanation - Statement of Changes in Equity

The improvement in the surplus and the impact of revaluing assets has increased Council's equity.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE For the year ended 30 June 2007

	Actual 2007 \$000	Annual Plan 2007 \$000	Actual 2006 \$000
<b>Revenue</b>			
Rates Revenue	23,400	22,797	22,471
Other Revenue	17,410	13,246	20,807
Other Gains	6,303	0	5,784
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>47,113</b>	<b>36,043</b>	<b>49,062</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Employee Benefit Expenses	7,489	6,639	7,553
Depreciation and amortisation	9,547	8,096	8,309
Other Expenses	21,839	19,393	25,090
Other Losses	0	0	1,157
Finance Costs	346	416	523
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>39,221</b>	<b>34,544</b>	<b>42,632</b>
<b>Surplus before Tax</b>	<b>7,892</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>6,430</b>
<b>Surplus after Tax</b>	<b>7,892</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>6,430</b>

### Variance explanation - Statement of Financial Performance

The Surplus has increased by \$6.40 m on the Annual Plan budget, the main reason for this is a non-cash adjustment to recognise the increase in the fair value of Council's investment properties. There was also a \$1.45 million increase in depreciation due to the revaluation of assets. Further details of changes from the operational budget are included in the Mayor and Chief Executive's Message. Further information is included in the Annual Report document where the cost of service statements explain changes on an activity by activity basis.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 30 June 2007

	Actual 2007 \$000	Annual Plan 2007 \$000	Actual 2006 \$000
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Earnings	444,769	418,616	436,611
Restricted Equity	10,812	5,825	11,078
Asset Revaluation Reserves	89,310	0	779
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>544,891</b>	<b>424,441</b>	<b>448,468</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Total Current Assets	25,703	4,700	12,916
Total Non-Current Assets	535,026	436,195	451,934
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>560,729</b>	<b>440,895</b>	<b>464,850</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Total Current Liabilities	13,120	5,902	12,725
Total Non-Current Liabilities	2,718	10,552	3,657
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>15,838</b>	<b>16,454</b>	<b>16,382</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>544,891</b>	<b>424,441</b>	<b>448,468</b>

### Variance explanations - Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets are higher than budget as a property for sale valued at \$18 million has now been included as an asset for sale, rather than part of non-current assets.

Non-current assets have increased by \$98.80 million on budget, the main reason is due to revaluing the majority of the infrastructural assets to bring in current values. The last time these assets were revalued was three years ago. The increase as a result of the revaluation represents approximately a 28% increase in total assets.

Current liabilities are higher as a result of the current portion of loans being higher than budgeted, whereas the non-current liabilities are lower than budgeted. Overall loans are \$4.60 million less than budgeted as council has optimised the use of funds.