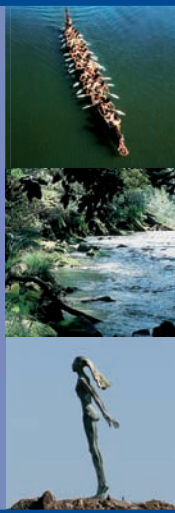




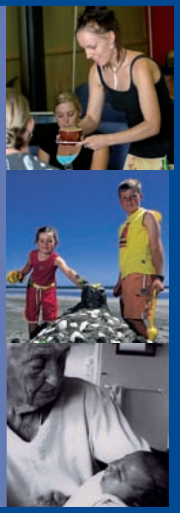
www.whakatane.govt.nz



Whakatane District Council

# BYWAYS

DECEMBER 2008



## Council prepares LTCCP 2009-2019

Its Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) time again and the Whakatane District Council's plan for the next 10 years is being developed at the moment.

Policy Manager Chandra Quarmby said the 2009-19 Plan builds on the Council's first full LTCCP which was adopted in 2006. Some areas such as asset management are particularly targeted for improvement, as they are high priority activities for the Council or areas where there has been significant change in the last three years. "We want the plan to clearly tell the community about how the Council intends to provide services over the next ten years. It should give a clear indication of the important issues facing the district and what the Council is planning to do about them," Mr Quarmby said.

"So it is really important that the plan communicates the Council's direction by looking at:

- Where the Whakatane District is at

- Asking and answering the question of where we want to head over the next 10 years
- Identifying what our priorities are (and why)
- Identifying how we propose to get there and the implications of those decisions, along with how we will measure our progress."

The Council, in making these decisions, has to look at several things:

- Sustainability - will the choices we make now unduly restrict the choices available to future generations? This includes considering economic, social, cultural or environmental impacts of choices the Council may make today.
- Achievability - are these priorities realistic?
- Value and affordability - can we as a district afford these projects, do they add value to our communities?
- The four wellbeings (decisions must consider the impact on the district's current and future economic, social, cultural or environmental wellbeing).

- Consultation - do people of the district agree with the direction the Council is headed?

The Council is in the process of considering the key issues for this plan and is holding workshops with elected representatives on various sections of the plan over the past and coming few months.

The draft plan will be ready for public consultation in March next year. In the meantime there are a number of ways people can contribute:

- Post ideas and comments on the

LTCCP web forum (<http://forum.whakatane.govt.nz/> or follow the link from [www.whakatane.govt.nz/](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz/))

- Talk to a member of your Community Board
- Attend Community Board meetings (particularly the next few, as they will be talking about projects and funding)
- Talk to your Ward Councillor
- Make a submission on the draft LTCCP next year.

A summary of the LTCCP will be published in the next issue of Byways (in March next year).

### Timetable for Whakatane District Council LTCCP 2009-19

LTCCP sections discussed at Council	October-December 2008
Projects, Policies and Funding discussions with Community Boards	October-December 2008
Consultation	March/April 2009
Hearing of submissions and deliberations	May 2009
LTCCP adopted	June 2009

## Asset renewal a major challenge!

Funding expenditure to replace the District's aging water pipes, sewerage systems, stormwater drains and other related items is a major challenge for the Whakatane District over the next ten years. This expenditure is needed not only for continuity of services but also for the Council to continue meeting its legal obligations to the community.

The Council has over the last 18 months been reviewing the condition of its assets and this work confirms that renewal of the District's core assets has lagged behind and now is required and necessary to maintain and guarantee service delivery.

The Council will leverage as much as possible from the renewals programme to increase capacity and resilience of the core systems. To manage costs it is essential to point out that this spending is not about building new things, but keeping existing services going and ensuring compliance with standards.



The Rates Direct promotion was a huge success and four winners of the \$500 New World vouchers were announced in the local media in early December 2008.

Enjoy fishing - Fishing from the wharf on Whakatane River is becoming popular with people in Whakatane.



# Ohope beach community



**OHOPE BEACH**  
Community Board

It's been a busy year for the Ohope Beach Community Board. We have now presented our submission for variation 6. This is a very important document for

Ohope Beach community. The Community Board believes the outcome will enable Ohope Beach to continue to be a prosperous and desirable place to live and invest in. The Board also made a submission to the draft Alcohol Policy and the submission focused on issues like broken glass on beaches which is a real issue for Ohope.

In the New Year, the Board will continue working with the Council and the community in preparing the LTCCP. This is important for the Board to ensure that there is a clear vision for Ohope for the next 10 years.

Other issues the Board will be focussing on in the New Year are dune care. In early December the Board will be participating in an event at Ohope Surf Club Lifesaving on to recognise the great work that coast care groups and their supporters are doing.

If you have any comments or question on these or other matters important to Ohope Beach please feel free to contact the Board Chairperson; Chris Dohrman on 07 312 5664. The Board wishes everyone a very enjoyable festive session.

# Waimea stream works

The \$600,000 Waimea Stream project to free-up some bottlenecks along the stream as it runs through Matata township is progressing well and is on track for completion by Christmas. Waiotahi Contractors were awarded the contract to build a number of culverts along the Waimea Stream, which were identified as being inadequate following the 2005 Matata floods. The works do not include widening the entire Waimea Stream, or every culvert, rather they pinpoint the troublesome areas.

While the entire stream will not be widened, the works will open up the channel in enough places so that in flood events it

will have the ability to flow faster and cope with the increased water flow.

It is important to note that these works recognised that streams are dynamic environments and will change in the event of a flood, the water flow would find alternative routes. Therefore, there are a number of timber walls that would constrain the Waimea Stream to the channel itself, rather than allowing it to find other natural flood paths.

Meanwhile the Environment Court hearing for the Awatarariki Stream (downstream of Moore's Bridge), Te Awa o Te Atua Lagoon restoration works and the debris disposal at the Railway Lagoon was postponed to February 2009.

# What does Council do?

Every day all of us are affected in some way by decisions the Whakatane District Council makes and the work that it does. Many of our everyday activities are dependent on services provided by the Council. These include water flowing from our taps, applying for a building permit, finding a car park so we can borrow books from the library, taking our families to the park, putting out the rubbish for collection, and walking a dog at night along well-lit streets.

The ability to provide for local needs is a major strength of local government. This means that some services can differ from place to place. For instance, some councils may provide more public sports grounds and community halls, while others provide art galleries and other public places. What must be remembered is that there are certain activities and levels of service that must be provided, by law. Beyond those activities that are required by law, the community can have a major say in what else the Council does. The Council is accountable to the local community. The Council has 10 elected councillors and a Mayor. Councillors act as community leaders and representatives, and are the members of the Council's governing body. Their roles include policy setting, regulatory and service delivery decisions and reviewing council performance.

The Council is managed by a chief executive, appointed by the council. Staff carry out the day-to-day work of a Council under direction of the Chief Executive. Council can contract services to specialist companies, eg. rubbish disposal, and may form other companies to manage key

aspects or infrastructure, on its behalf. The Local Government Act 2002 gives the Council considerable scope to meet its responsibilities in the way it considers best for the community.

However the Council must:

- carry out its business in a clear, transparent and accountable way
- operate in an efficient and effective manner using sound business practices
- take a sustainable development approach
- consider community views and their range of interests

- provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to decision-making
- collaborate and cooperate with other local Councils to achieve desired outcomes.

Opportunities for the community to hold the council to account include:

- voting in the local government elections for the individuals they want to represent them in the Council for the next three years
- attending Council meetings, ward meetings and Council committees
- monitoring the year's activities, which are reported in annual reports, and making submissions on the next Annual Plan or LTCCP.

If you own property in the District then you are effectively a shareholder of the Whakatane District Council. Whether you like or don't like some aspect of the way the Whakatane Council operates, the only way to make a difference and have an influence is to get involved. Talk to your local Councillor or your Community Board members make submissions to the Council's planning processes, and work with the Council to make this District a place to be proud of.

# Council considers Alcohol Policy

The availability and use of alcohol has some negative impact on the four community wellbeing's (social, economic, cultural and environmental) that the Council and other agency's contribute towards. For this reason, the Council developed an Alcohol Strategy.

The development of the Alcohol Strategy involved extensive public consultation. One of the agreed objectives of the strategy was write an Alcohol Policy which would be in line with the Alcohol Strategy.

In August this year work was completed on the Draft Alcohol Policy. Public consultation took place in September and October. There were 15 submissions from local organisation. The Council heard the oral submissions on 31 October. These submissions will now be considered and the proposed Alcohol Policy will be presented to Council for approval in the near future.

The Alcohol Strategy and Policy will provide a framework for controlling the availability and use of alcohol in the District.



(L-R) Mayor Colin Holmes, Paul Smith, Barbara Dempsey and Haydn Read at the launch of the Waimea stream works in Matata.

# Are you insured?

Homeowners in the Whakatane and Waimana river catchment areas are being encouraged to obtain home and content insurance in order to qualify for assistance for the Earthquake Commission (EQC) in the event of a flooding event.

Whakatane District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty say homeowners in the Whakatane township, Taneatua and rural areas in the Waimana and Whakatane Rivers catchment should ensure that they

have adequate insurance cover. In the event of a natural disaster, like the recent ones in 2004 and 2005, adequate insurance made a significant difference for a lot of homeowners.

Homeowners get EQC's cover automatically when they buy insurance of up to \$100,000 for homes and up to \$20,000 for contents. It covers damage caused by natural hazards such as earthquakes, landslips, tsunami and volcanic eruptions.

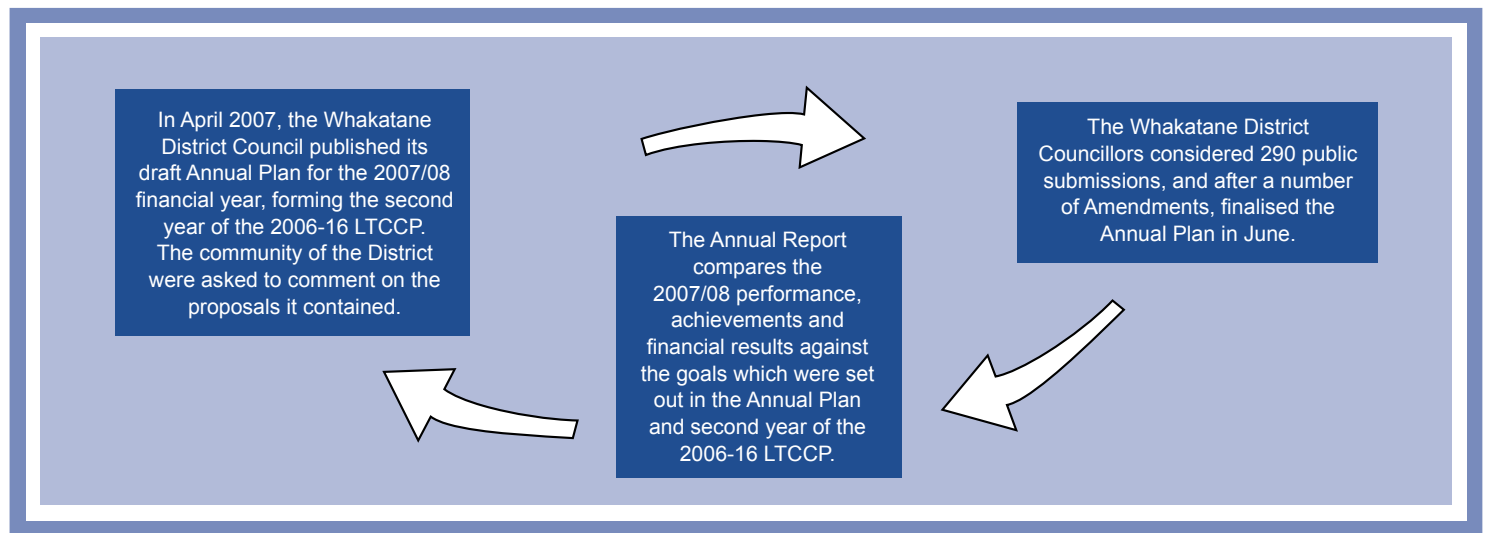


Aftermath of the Matata floods & debris flow in 2005. Image Courtesy of Beacon.



## What is the Annual Report?

The Annual Report is our way of being accountable to you. It sets out what we have achieved over the past year and looks at the progress we have made in providing the sort of District that you have told us is important to you. The Annual Report compares our achievements and progress in the year to what we planned to achieve, as set out in the 2007/08 Annual Plan. Copies of the Annual Report are available from Council libraries and website: [www.wdc.govt.nz](http://www.wdc.govt.nz)



## From the Mayor and Chief Executive

We are pleased to present this overview of our Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2008. This information has been extracted from our full Annual Report which contains detailed information about our activities and financial performance.

In terms of financial management, we have continued to manage the District's finances and assets prudently. The Council has focussed on implementing changes to our financial management systems and processes that will ensure we are adopting best practice. This year we moved to external borrowing. Up until now, the Council has relied largely on internal reserves to fund capital expenditure. Many of our capital projects benefit not only current ratepayers, but also future generations. Therefore the Council's policy is to fund the cost of these projects from loans repayable over future years. The Council has successfully secured finance at favourable margins, and as a result, has avoided some of the worst impacts of the changed funding environment.

Our financial result saw a net operating deficit of \$25,000 for the year. This compared to a budgeted surplus in the Annual Plan of \$6.53 million. The Council had budgeted a surplus for the year as it expected to receive subsidies (which are treated as revenue) for capital works related to transport networks and disaster mitigation. Not all of the transport network projects went ahead in the financial year and, as a result, not all budgeted subsidies were received, creating an unfavourable income variance of \$600,000. The Council had also budgeted to receive \$2.7 million of subsidies for the Disaster Mitigation works at Matata. Most of this revenue was received earlier than anticipated and was recognised in the 2007 financial statements with only \$600,000 being recognised in the 2008 financial statements. The valuation of a number of the Council's assets increased in 2007, and this resulted in additional depreciation of \$2.9 million which had not been budgeted for. An additional decrease of \$4.12 million in the value of harbour assets and assets held for sale further added to the variation from the anticipated 2008 results.

The Council also made decisions to provide unbudgeted funding for expenditure during the year to enable some projects as well as

service improvements to proceed. But overall the Council has adopted a much tighter control on expenditure and this is reflected in the results this year.

Disaster mitigation works were progressed during the year. The Otawairere/West End stormwater and wastewater project was completed on time and within budget. A number of the physical works at Matata received resource consents, but regrettably could not be progressed due to appeals being lodged. The joint Whakatane District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty business case for mitigation works in and around the Edgecumbe area was submitted to the Government last November. The Council was disappointed not to receive a response to the request for funding support before the end of the financial year. However planning work for the project continued. The Council expects a response on our application early in the term of the new government. The funding policy for disaster mitigation works was also reviewed during the year.

Many other major planned capital works were completed during the year. Some key ones were:

- Seal extensions including Ruatahuna Road, Paekoa Road and Burt Road.
- Completion of the Commerce Street upgrade project.
- Completion of stages 1 and 2 of the Hinemoa Drain piping project.
- Decommissioning of landfills at Murupara and Taneatua.
- Upgrade to the Thornton Boat Ramp.
- Extension of the Whakatane Gardens pathway network.

There were also some unplanned works during the year. One of the most notable ones was the replacement of a waste water main connected to the Hinemoa pump station. This work was necessary because of a pipe collapse. This failure emphasises the importance of having good quality information about the age and condition of our infrastructural assets.

To this end work has continued during the year on the development of robust Asset Management Plans for all assets, as well as investigations to determine the quality and functionality of the assets. Problems such as a lack of water in Ohope over the Christmas period, water quality issues as

a result of saltwater intrusion into the Whakatane water supply and inadequate water pressures in some of the supply areas serve to highlight priority areas for future works. Without planning and programming the Council has to undertake emergency works, with inevitable cost consequences and service disruptions. A number of important policies and strategies were completed during the year. A key one, the Town Vision, included a significant consultation period where more than 500 people took the time to give us their feedback. Changes were made to the plan and it was approved by the Council in May.

A comprehensive review of the Council's Bylaws was largely completed by the end of the 2007/08 year, as required by the Local Government Act 2002. Managing growth, and the infrastructure needed to provide for growth, was again at the forefront of our minds as we worked through finalising our Transport Asset Management Study and the Investigation and Modelling Study. These two documents will provide the basis for managing our transportation networks well into the future.

In other areas we have implemented a number of customer service improvements through new policies and procedures which we expect to improve the quality of service to our ratepayers. The Council approved a significant increase in resourcing the building and planning consent functions in

December 2007, with the specific objective of improving the quality of service and timeliness of issuing consents. We were the 25th local authority to become registered as a Building Consent Authority. This was a significant achievement and we thank all those involved for their input, their time and patience as we worked through all the issues around the accreditation process.

We now turn our attention to 2009 and the development of our 10 year plan. The LTCCP sets out the Council's strategic direction and priorities for the next ten years and forms the primary basis for priority setting and decision making.

It is important that the community, its groups, sectors and individuals get involved in this process as it provides the direction for the next 10 years. That does not mean we cannot change the plan in the next 10 years but we do try to ensure it is as complete and comprehensive as possible. Therefore your energy and input is valued and, indeed, essential for the future of this district.

The many achievements of the 2007/08 year reflect the hard work and commitment of Councillors, Community Board Members, staff and the community as we all work together to progress projects and deliver quality services for the people of our district.



Mayor: Colin Holmes



Chief Executive: Diane Turner



## Water related services

### WHAKATANE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The level of the Whakatane River over the summer was at the lowest since 1981 due to prolonged dry weather. Coupled with high spring tides, saline water reached the intake to the Whakatane water treatment plant resulting in water become unpalatable to many consumers. The Council provided tank water to the Whakatane and Ohope public as a temporary solution, until the river level rose and water quality returned to normal. The Council has taken action to install a floating intake as a short term solution and has undertaken a study to shift the intake further upstream of the river to provide a long term solution to the problem.

### EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF WASTE WATER MAIN

A waste water main connecting the Hinemoa pump station collapsed due to gas corrosion of the pipe line. Immediate action was taken to temporarily pump wastewater from the adjoining manhole to the pump station to avoid a major failure which could have affected more than 1,000 people.

Emergency replacement of the failed pipe was carried out at a cost of \$262,000, using funds from the McAlister pipe replacement project and from the Whakatane waste water treatment plant improvement project.



Hinemoa Drain Works

## Solid waste management

### LANDFILL AFTER CARE PROGRAMMES

The capping works, tidy up and fencing of the closed Murupara landfill site have been completed. This has greatly improved the appearance of the site and returned the capped area to pasture. During the year it was agreed that no further capping works were necessary at the Taneatua landfill site resulting in a potential saving of up to \$430,000. This decision followed discussions with Environment Bay of Plenty following assessment of the landfill site and reviews of the associated resource consents.

### REDUCTION OF WASTE TO LANDFILL

In 2007/08 there was a further reduction in the quantity of material landfilled at Burma Rd, which reflects good recovery of recyclable materials from the waste stream and helps to reduce the Council's ongoing liability for maintenance at the landfill site.

## Parks, reserves & cemeteries

### WHAKATANE GARDENS PATHWAYS

This project continued the network of paths through the Rose Gardens and the Japanese Garden leading through to River Edge Park. The path network provides more walking options for residents and visitors to enjoy our special reserves.



Heads playground is a popular spot for visitors & residents alike.

## Transport networks and systems

### ADDITIONAL SEAL EXTENSIONS

Council has also been able to increase the length of seal extensions undertaken this past year due to the successful application for funding assistance from Land Transport New Zealand. In total 7.5 kilometres of seal extensions were completed in the 2007/08 year.



Road Grading

## Community leadership and governance

### BYLAWS REVIEW

The review of the Whakatane District Bylaws was largely completed by the end of the 2007/08 year. The review ensures that the Bylaws are up to date, compliant with best practice, and consistent with the Local Government Act 2002 as well as other legislation and policy. The review process also ensured the Bylaws are the most effective, appropriate and reasonable means of responding to certain needs and concerns of our district.

automatically pumps water out of the Awatapu lagoon when it reaches a certain level to ensure space for large volumes of storm water.

The physical works for the Otawairere/ West End storm and waste water disposal project were completed by the end of June. The project was implemented to reticulate stormwater and wastewater away from the developed area at the top of the West End escarpment. The discharge of water onto the escarpment was an important contributing factor to the landslips on 15 July 2004.

### DISASTER MITIGATION WORKS

The Awatapu pump station project was completed in 2008. The station

### BIKEWISE WEEK

Bikewise Week 2008 which ended in early March, saw a greater level of participation by younger people and included over 500 people participating in the Mayoral challenges throughout the Eastern Bay. The week's events saw the promotion of cycling for health benefits and for the ability to reduce our carbon footprint. Bike Wise Week events throughout the District were well received in smaller communities as well as in Whakatane.



(L-R) Cllrs Bill Clark, Russell Orr and Deputy Mayor Graeme Hanlen and in foreground Cllr Jacob Te Kurapa at a Council meeting.

## Community safety

### YOUTH COUNCIL

A new Whakatane District Youth Council was formed in 2008. The Youth Council has 16 people, chosen to be a representative group and a voice for young people in the Whakatane District. Outcomes of the Youth Council have included making submissions to the Annual Plan, organising the successful Eastern Bay Dances Wars in June, communicating with youth through local media and debating youth issues.



A couple walking along the heads prominent.



## Corporate activities

### CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Customer Services made significant inroads in improving the service provided to Council's customers during the 2007/08 financial year. This was primarily achieved by ensuring new staff gained the correct knowledge by completing the newly established 12 week induction program. This training, along with the comprehensive online procedures database, has significantly improved the Department's ability to answer more enquiries on the first contact with Customers. Service levels were also established with internal departments to ensure roles and responsibilities were clearly defined to maximise efficiencies.

## Environmental planning

### DISTRICT PLAN VARIATION 6 COASTAL HAZARDS

Analysis of coastal hazards in the Whakatane District has identified areas of land where coastal erosion and inundation is currently occurring and where it is predicted to occur by 2060 and 2100, taking into account the effect of sea level rise. The main areas potentially affected are: Ohope (particularly West End, Pohutukawa Avenue and Plantation Reserve, Ohope stream mouths and Harbour Road area); properties adjacent to Ohiwa Harbour; Coastlands/Piripai and some properties along Clem Elliot Drive, Matata. The information obtained from the analysis will be used to assist the Council in the management of coastal hazards, both in terms of Council's own projects and services and also in terms of managing development through the district plan.

## Environmental controls

### BUILDING CONSENT AUTHORITY ACCREDITATION

In May 2008 the Whakatane District Council became the 25th local authority within New Zealand to be registered by the Department of Building and Housing as a Building Consent Authority. This result was the culmination of many months of intensive work by staff in the documentation and review of all the practices, policies and operational procedures relating to the processing of building consent applications and the issuing of code of compliance certificates.



## Promotion and economic development

### EVENTS

The NZ Surf Lifesaving Nationals were held in March 2008 at Ohope Beach for the first time in 36 years. The event attracted 1500 athletes and resulted in an economic impact of over \$1.5 million. In several of our other top multi sport events, there has been an increase in the number of entries from outside the District as the result of campaigns promoting the events. This included the Ohope Ordeal with 70% growth in external entries, Monty's Revenge 15% and Toi's Challenge 10%.



Water skiing is a popular activity in Ohiwa harbour.

## Environmental protection

### RURAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Both the Rural Fire Team and Emergency Response Team were called on to respond to emergency events over the course of the 2007/08 year. Notable events included members of the Rural Fire Team being deployed by helicopter to a remote site north of Ruatahuna to successfully contain and suppress a 2 ha fire in scrubland. The Emergency Response Team was deployed to assist the Police dive squad in a water rescue and recovery event in the Waioeka Gorge.



Training exercises are held every fortnight for members of the rural fire teams.

## Libraries and museum

### LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library Summer Reading programme was a huge success culminating in a wonderful outdoor interactive performance for children by storyteller Mary Kippenberger. Also a success was the Murupara Library's "Mid Winter Christmas" school holiday programme for children. The introduction of the "Ancestry.com" database has been extremely popular with people tracing their family histories.



Children's story time at the library.

### MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions offered during the year received a 95% plus satisfaction rating. The programme included 60% local content and 40% national/international content. Notable highlights include "Tautoko: the artist as museum collaborator" which looked at the potential for museums and their collections to collaborate with contemporary artists. The Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Awards aimed to encourage and promote excellence in glass design and "Misty Frequencies" which featured artworks from nine contemporary artists whose works react to the pervasive influence of the internet and the globalisation of information.

## Recreation and community facilities

### TOWN VISION

In August 2007 the Council adopted the draft Whakatane Town Vision plan for public consultation. The Council was pleased with the level of response which was reflective of the extensive community consultation that was undertaken. In total 538 submission points were received from the community on the plan.

The Council heard submissions during March 2008 and in April the Council made decisions on the plan with consideration also given to the Parking Strategy, the Built Heritage Study and the plans for the Arts and Culture activity. The Council adopted the plan in principle in May 2008 pending a review of traffic options. Work in 2008/09

will be programmed towards finalising the traffic and reserve detail of the plan and implementing the Council's resolutions.

### WHAKATANE RIVER

#### BOAT RAMP CENTRAL LANDING PONTOON

This work involved the replacement of the existing fixed 25m central timber jetty with a safer, modern, user friendly structure. The floating pontoon structure was completed in November 2007 and has proved very successful. The jetty has provided for a safer facility during all tides and has resulted in faster, more efficient use of the boat ramp area during busy periods. The work was able to be completed within existing resource consents and with the support of local iwi.



Panoramic view of Whakatane CBD from the Puketapu lookout.



# OVERVIEW OF SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

## OUR FINANCIAL RESULTS AT A GLANCE

THIS SECTION OF THE SUMMARY PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008.

For further detailed information please refer to the following sections in the full Annual Report: Groups of Activities, Financial Statements, and Notes to the Financial Statements.

The primary objective of the Council is to provide goods or services for the community or social benefit rather than making a financial return. Accordingly, the Council has designated itself as a public benefit entity for the purposes of New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS).

### OVERVIEW

Council's final operating result is a net deficit of \$25,000 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$6,593,000. Council budgeted a surplus as it expected to receive subsidies from Land Transport New Zealand to undertake capital works. Not all of these capital works went ahead in the financial year; therefore not all budgeted subsidies were received, creating an unfavourable income variance of \$600,000. Council had also budgeted to receive \$2.7 million of subsidies for the disaster mitigation works at Matata. Most of this revenue was received early and recognised in the 2007 financial statements, therefore only \$600,000 of subsidy revenue was recognised in the 2008 financial statements creating a further unfavourable income variance of \$2.1 million. Subsidy income is reflected in the Statement of Financial Performance whereas associated capital expenditure is shown in the Statement of Financial Position. Details regarding variances for each of our groups of activities can be found in the "Our activities at a glance" section of this Summary Annual Report and in the "Groups of Activities" chapter of the full Annual Report.

Depreciation of \$3.4 million over budget was expensed in the 2008 financial year arising primarily as a result of Council's assets being re-valued in 2007, creating an increased depreciation charge. Because capital works such as the crematorium and disaster mitigation projects were behind schedule for the financial year, an overall interest saving of \$600,000 was achieved from reduced loan funding requirements. Council's harbour assets and assets held for sale were re-valued in the 2008 year resulting in a decrease in value of \$4.12 million, reflecting in the overall Council financial deficit. Partially offsetting this reduction in asset values was the recognition of an increase in the value of investment property of \$1.75 million.

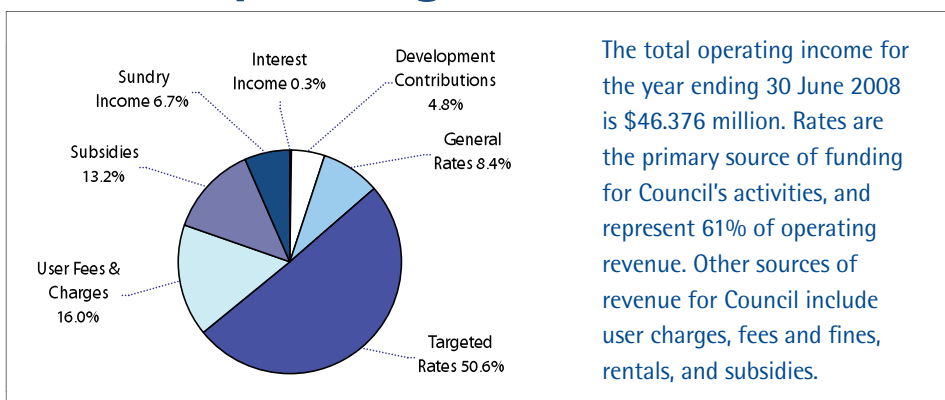
### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND CHANGES IN EQUITY

The Summary Statement of Financial Performance and Summary of Changes in Equity present the financial performance and equity movements of the Council. These statements summarise operating income and expenditure as well as other financial transactions that have impacted on the Council's net equity.

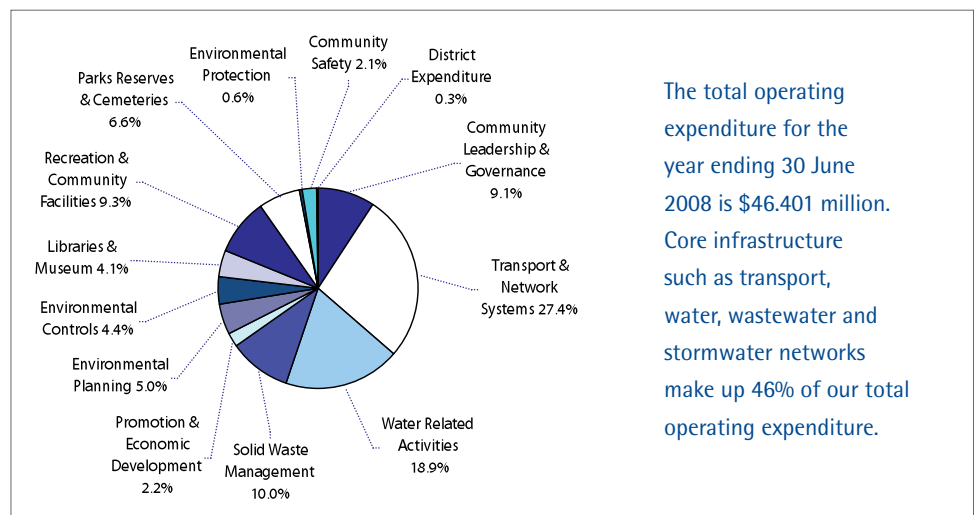
Summary Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2008	Actual 2008 \$000	Budget 2008 \$000	Actual 2007 \$000
Total Operating Income	47,376	41,546	47,113
Total Operating Expenditure	46,401	34,953	39,221
Deficit for the year	(25)	6,593	7,892

Summary Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2008	Actual 2008 \$000	Budget 2008 \$000	Actual 2007 \$000
Balance as at 1 July	544,891	450,611	448,468
Surplus for the year	(25)	6,593	7,892
Increase in Asset Revaluation Reserves	0	11,977	88,531
<b>Total recognised income</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>18,570</b>	<b>96,423</b>
<b>Balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>544,865</b>	<b>469,181</b>	<b>544,891</b>

## Where Operating Income Came From



## HOW OPERATING EXPENDITURE WAS SPENT



## WHAT YOUR RATES PAY FOR

The following table shows where the rates per rateable property fund Council-provided activities. It shows that over 85% of rates income (\$4.04 per day) is used to pay for essential infrastructure, community services and facilities. In the 2007/08 financial year Council utilised \$1.223 million of reserves from prior years to reduce the amount of rates collected throughout the District.

GROUPS OF ACTIVITIES	Rate Income \$000	Rate Income Per Property	Rate Income Per Property Per Day
Community Leadership & Governance	\$2,331	\$155.18	\$0.43
Transport & Network Systems	\$7,760	\$510.75	\$1.40
Water Related Activities	\$6,496	\$432.38	\$1.18
Solid Waste Management	\$3,173	\$211.22	\$0.58
Promotion & Economic Development	\$434	\$28.89	\$0.08
Environmental Planning	\$486	\$32.32	\$0.09
Environmental Controls	\$246	\$16.36	\$0.04
Libraries & Museum	\$1,160	\$77.23	\$0.21
Recreation & Community Facilities	\$1,622	\$107.95	\$0.30
Parks Reserves & Cemeteries	\$2,040	\$135.77	\$0.37
Environmental Protection	\$152	\$10.14	\$0.03
Community Safety	\$280	\$18.67	\$0.05
<b>TOTAL RATE INCOME**</b>	<b>\$26,181</b>	<b>\$1,736.86</b>	<b>\$4.76</b>

\*The total number of Rateable Properties in the Whakatane District on the 1st July 2007 was 15,024

\*\*Rate income has been shown gross of penalties, write off's and remissions

## Financial Position

The Summary Statement of Financial Position presents what we own and what liabilities we owe to other parties.

The Council's financial position remains very strong with liabilities representing only 3.6% of total assets.

Not all budgeted capital works were completed during the 2007/08 financial year. This resulted in a larger than budgeted Work in Progress balance and overall borrowings being significantly less than expected. Council has utilised its cash reserves to fund internal borrowing, further reducing external borrowing requirements. Council's infrastructural assets were revalued in the 2006/07 financial year, and increased significantly in value. This valuation was not reflected in the budgeted value of assets in the 2007/08 Annual Plan. Investment property had a gain of \$1.75m on revaluation as at 30 June 2008 while assets held for sale decreased in value by \$2.5m on revaluation.

The variance in Council's total equity as compared to budget has arisen primarily as a result of the movement in the asset revaluation reserve in the 2007/07 financial year. This movement was not budgeted for in the 2007/08 Annual Plan.

Summary Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 30 June 2008	Actual 2008 \$000	Budget 2008 \$000	Actual 2007 \$000
Current Assets	6,699	10,141	25,703
Non-Current Assets	558,303	483,124	535,026
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>565,002</b>	<b>493,265</b>	<b>560,729</b>
Current Liabilities	14,009	6,122	13,120
Non-Current Liabilities	6,127	17,962	2,718
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>20,136</b>	<b>24,084</b>	<b>15,838</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>544,866</b>	<b>469,181</b>	<b>544,891</b>

# So I want to subdivide?

Land is a key resource for all of us, providing a place to live, work and play. It can also be used to generate capital and wealth. It is therefore not surprising that a lot of questions are asked about subdividing land.

For people looking to subdivide such questions as; how big does the new section need to be? How far away should the house on the back section be from any existing dwellings? Will the new house need its own drive way?

A quick look at the District Plan will generally provide answers to these and many other questions. All subdivisions require consent from the Council. The ability to subdivide property depends on how well the proposal complies with the rules in the District Plan. There are many factors to consider if one is thinking of subdividing.

## What is the minimum size?

New sections should have a minimum area of 400m<sup>2</sup> (exclusive of any access strip/right-of-way). There are cases where smaller sections may be approved, but only if they satisfy other main requirements in the District Plan.

## If I want to subdivide, what steps should I take?

If you think your property may be suitable for subdivision, talk to a Council Planner. They will discuss the proposal with you to ensure there are no special issues you need to address. The next step is to contact a registered surveyor. Contact details for local surveyors are available in the phone book.

Why do I need a Surveyor?

A surveyor will help you prepare the subdivision application including the assessment of effects and the 'scheme plan'. The 'scheme plan' shows the layout of the proposed subdivision including the size of the lots, positions of access, services, existing buildings and other relevant features.

If the Council approves your subdivision, your surveyor will prepare the final title plan for the Council's approval and complete the survey of the property which includes putting the boundary pegs on site to mark the new boundaries. Your surveyor acts as your agent and is there to give you professional advice and help guide you through the subdivision process.

## How long does it take to process an application?

The Council has 20 working days to process a non-notified subdivision application. This time does not include the time the application may be on hold awaiting any additional information required. Sometimes the Council will extend this timeframe to ensure the application is processed correctly. Subdivisions that have an impact on the environment or require written approval of affected parties have to be advertised (notified). Affected parties are able to lodge submissions for or against the proposal. If submissions are received and the submitters wish to be heard, a Council hearing will be required. Advertised (notified) subdivisions can take 3-4 months to be processed.

## Do I need to get my neighbours approval?

Discussing with your neighbours is an advisable step and can be very beneficial for both parties. The Council will ultimately decide if written permission from your neighbours or any other potentially affected party is required. You can get written consent forms for the neighbours to sign from the Council. If you can't obtain the written consent of affected parties, your application will be advertised (notified).

## Do I need to consider trees on my section?

Yes! Some trees are protected in the District Plan. Native trees over three metres tall and exotic trees over ten metres, with a trunk of more than 0.5 metres measured at chest height 1.4 metres) are protected. You should contact the Council if you think any of your trees may be included in this category and may affect your plans to subdivide. Existing trees provide important amenity value and care should be taken to protect them if possible.

## What about access ways?

Accessways or a right-of-way will be required. The minimum width allowed for an accessway from the eaves of the house to the boundary is generally 3m. It is important to consider the possible effects of such things as vehicles

passing close to your windows, access for emergency vehicles, loss of privacy and saleability.

## Can conditions be placed on my subdivision?

Yes. If the Council approves your subdivision it will be subject to certain conditions being met. These may include putting in new services, new vehicle crossings, easements and the removal of any buildings that are over a new boundary. You must complete all of the conditions to the satisfaction of the Council before you can apply for the final certificate from the Council.

## Can I object to the decision or conditions?

If your application was granted without having a Council hearing, you may lodge an objection asking the Council to reconsider its decision and/or the conditions of consent. This process will normally involve a Council hearing which will allow you to present your objection. The Council will then make a further decision on the objection. You have a right to appeal the Council's decision to the Environment Court after the hearing if you are still not happy.

## What does it cost to get subdivision consent?

The deposit for subdivision consent is \$750. Additional fees may be charged depending on how long it takes to

process your application. All fees are charged on a time recovery basis. Below are some of the likely costs:

- Surveyors fees
- Council's processing, inspection, certification & monitoring fees
- Cost of specialist reports i.e. engineering
- Council's development contribution
- Financial contribution for roading, water and sewer where applicable

## How long do I have to complete my subdivision and obtain titles?

Once a subdivision application has been approved, you have five years to gain approval of the final survey plan (s223 plan) which your surveyor must prepare. You then have a further three years to complete all of the conditions of consent (s224 certificate) before you apply for new titles.

## Are there any other rules that I should consider?

Yes. This is summary and a simplification of the rules in the District Plan. If your property is in a coastal zone, near a river or against the Ohope or Whakatane escarpments, there may be additional rules you must consider. Specialist geotechnical, arborist and/or coastal hazard reports may be required. Please contact the Planning department on 07 306 0500 for advice and further information.

## Whakatane District Youth Council 2009

The Whakatane District Youth Council which is made up of 16 young people, has completed their first year of activities. Several still wish to continue and will put their names forward. There are six places to be filled. We want the WDYC to be representative of the whole District.

Would you like to join the Whakatane District Youth Council? If you want an application form contact Pete Lander by email or phone him and ask him to send you an application form. Application forms will be available at the Whakatane Library and from the Service Centre or for the WDC's web site from the 19

November and will need to be returned to Council by the 19 December 2008. The application Form will answer most of your questions.

Whakatane District Youth Council Youth Projects  
Whakatane District Council  
Private Bag 1002 Whakatane  
Phone Pete Lander 3060500 ex 7559  
Mob 0272913198  
Return form by post, email: [peterl@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:peterl@whakatane.govt.nz) or in person.  
Contact us if you require more information. Application forms are on the web: [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz)



Organising activities for young people to enjoy and express themselves in safe environment has been a priority for the Youth Council. Image Courtesy of Beacon.



# Sustainability for the Whakatane District

What does "sustainability" mean to you? What do you think the Council should do in the pursuit of sustainability? What goals do you think the Council should set?

You are about to be offered the opportunity to have your say and influence the direction that The Whakatane District Council takes on the topic of sustainability. The Council's draft 2009-19 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) will set out the Council's proposed policy position on sustainability. The LTCCP will also show actions the Council plans to take in support of sustainability.

Sustainability is all about considering the impact of any decision (or lack of decision). This means understanding that everything we do will have consequences. Each consequence will have either a positive or negative impact on one or more of the four well-beings (Social, Economic, Environmental, and Cultural). Ultimately we aim to achieve outcomes that have the most benefits, without having a negative impact. This creates a win/win scenario and ensures that the action could be continued indefinitely without a negative side effect.

Here is a very simplistic example of how sustainability can work. By improving and sustaining the environment in which we live (place), there will be an improvement in the quality of life for the community (people). This will make Whakatane a more desirable place to live. By attracting people and therefore businesses to the area, this will help improve the economy of the District (prosperity).

Working towards sustainability can mean opportunities for the Council to improve the way it makes decisions and goes about its business. At this stage it is thought that this could cover three main areas:

1. How the Council can further develop sustainable practices within the Council as an organisation – reducing operating costs; reducing the Council's environmental footprint and contributing to the social and cultural wellbeings of the District.
2. How the Council can work with other groups and organisations within the local area to help promote and enhance sustainability initiatives in the District.
3. How the Council can utilise its many regulatory functions to encourage and provide incentives for sustainable development.

Sustainability is often perceived to be just an environmental consideration, something for the 'greenies' to worry about. While environmental concerns are very important, sustainability is much wider than that. The Council must also consider how we can maintain and improve our economy; whether the community can afford the on-going costs of any project and what the impacts are on the social and cultural aspects of our community. Basically it is about making good, long-term decisions.

Sustainability is already a major part of the way the Council operates. It makes good business sense and is required by the legislation that the Council operates under. The question is: how far should we go? Does the Community want the Council to do the basics, or does it want the Council and the District to be leaders in sustainable practices? The reality is likely to be somewhere in between, and we need to hear from you to understand where to set our goals.

For further information on how the Council is planning to develop a Sustainability Programme be sure to look at the draft LTCCP in March 2009 and have your say on how the Council should develop this topic.

# Guide to signs

The Proposed Whakatane District Plan and Council Bylaws govern what is allowable as signage within the District. The rules target size, location, height, number and design of signs because it is recognised that these are major factors impacting on traffic safety and visual amenity. Signs are a permitted activity provided they meet the performance standards as described in the District Plan. There are different criteria depending on the zoning of the property the sign is placed on. Further information is available in a pamphlet which can be obtained from [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz), from the Council's Customer Services Centre or by contacting the Council's Planning Department.

## How Can I Advertise My Upcoming Event?

Whakatane District Council has a number of poster display boards available around Whakatane and banner space available at

the Landing Road round-about that can be used to announce forthcoming events.

Temporary signage of up to 3.0m superscript (such as for school gala or sports events) may be displayed up to one month prior to the advertised event and must be removed within 3 days following the event. The Bylaws do not allow the town to be plastered with advertising posters. There are other specific rules related to signage outlined in the signage pamphlet, e.g. location, size of lettering etc.

## Sandwich Boards on Footpaths

Only one sandwich board sign is allowed, advertising a permitted activity on the footpath immediately adjacent to the premise, provided it does not obstruct pedestrian access. Sandwich boards are not permitted in residential areas.



# Emergency management experts to meet in Rotorua

International experts in emergency management will be among keynote speakers at the North Island Civil Defence and Emergency Management Conference on the 4 and 5 December 2008.

Among the experts, is Dudley Wait, Deputy Director for the Regional Medical Operations Centre in South Texas, which supported the evacuation and care of people affected by Hurricane Ike. Mr Wait will talk about the planning, response and recovery work that was undertaken. At least 82 people were killed by Hurricane Ike.

Alan Edwards from the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will be talking about supplying people with food in an emergency, particularly if roads, railways and ports are blocked. Steve Newton, of Australian food distribution company Metcash, will be suggesting ways Australia's

food industry contingency plans could be applied in New Zealand.

Principal Geospatial Analyst for Environment Bay of Plenty, Gareth Evans, will highlight the benefits of using GIS mapping software to plan responses before a disaster, to coordinate responses during an event, and to record the event and manage the clean-up after an event.

The conference, titled Emergency Management of the Future: Something for everyone, will also discuss pandemic planning and earthquakes among other topics. Delegates will also have the opportunity to take part in a pre-conference hazards tour of Edgecumbe, Matata, Rangitikei Plains and Kawerau Geothermal Power Station.

The conference will be hosted by the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.



Modes of transportation and their impact on the environment feature in debates about sustainability.