

SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TURNAROUND ACHIEVED

The Whakatāne District Council has achieved a significant turnaround in financial performance for the 2011/12 year, recording a rate funding surplus for the first time in more than five years.

Mayor Tony Bonne says the indicative surplus of close to \$800,000 is a “fantastic result”, which could potentially allow the Council to shave two percent off the average rates increase forecast for 2014 in the Council’s Long Term Plan.

“In essence, the rating surplus means we received more from rates, fees and user charges and subsidy income than we spent during the year,” he explains. “In the recent past, we have seen year-on-year funding deficits which have had to be covered by increasing the rates levied in the following year’s Annual Plan,” Mr Bonne says.

“Both the rating surplus and the overall financial performance are outstanding,

because they were achieved despite a number of unplanned expenses which had to be accommodated within existing budgets. Council elected members and the management team have paid close attention to all areas of cost and revenue and the outcomes achieved are something we can all be proud of. The community can be assured that we will be doing our very best to maintain that improved financial performance in the current year.”



CELEBRATING OUR GOLDEN GIRL

More than a thousand people lined the streets on Monday to celebrate the achievements of Olympic gold medalist, Lisa Carrington. Fans ranging from schoolchildren to the elderly gathered in Margaret Mahy Court for her homecoming and civic reception.

COMMUNITY HEROES RECOGNISED IN TRUSTPOWER COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Council recently joined with TrustPower to acknowledge Whakatāne’s volunteers and community heroes through the TrustPower Community Awards.

Mayor Tony Bonne says the District is fortunate to have so many committed groups volunteers. “These organisations and individuals make a huge contribution to our community, with no expectation of reward. The Community Awards give us an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge their achievements.”

The awards were presented in a ceremony at Whakatāne’s Little Theatre on

28 August, with the Manawahe Eco Trust taking out the Supreme Award and Oliver Missen receiving the Youth Community Spirit Award.

The judges considering the 54 nominations for the Awards were impressed by the quality of the entries and amazed by the number of projects and initiatives that the people of Whakatāne are undertaking on a voluntary basis.

Photo right – from left: Frances Vanalphen, TrustPower Chief Executive Vince Hawksworth, Natasja Boon, Janet Milbank, Mayor Tony Bonne.

CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS WERE:

- Heritage and Environment** - EDIT (Edgecumbe Development and Improvement Team)
- Health and Wellbeing** - Hospice EBOP
- Arts and Culture** - Theatre Whakatāne
- Sport and Leisure** - Onepū Community Recreational Park
- Education and Youth Development** - Whakatāne St John Youth Division
- Youth Community Spirit Award** - Oliver Missen
- Supreme Winner** - Manawahe Eco Trust



HEAD ALONG TO THE BUSINESS AND LEISURE SHOW

Two of Whakatāne’s key community facilities will have a high profile at this weekend’s Beacon Eastern Bay of Plenty Business and Leisure Show.

The Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre and Te Kōputu – the Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre – will both be highlighting the expanded roles they are playing in boosting the area’s recreational opportunities.

Visitors to the show can see how far they can cycle in one minute on one of the Health & Fitness Centre’s exercycles, and

find out all about the flexible new gym membership plans available. Anyone who takes on the exercycle-ride will go in the draw for a free gym membership and there will also be a range of other special offers available over the weekend.

Access to the Library and Exhibition Centre is free, so everyone who enjoys the facility is already a winner, but show visitors who take away a registration form and then put it in an entry box at Te Kōputu within one week will go into the draw for a great hamper prize.

The Council stand will feature screens with rolling information on facilities and services. There will also be special screenings of the Grow Whakatāne video produced for the Council business forum held earlier this month, and a video production on the Whakatāne Community Board’s activities. Mayor Tony Bonne, Deputy Mayor Judy Turner and Councillor David Dowd will also be available at various times over the weekend to discuss economic development initiatives.

COUNCILLOR PROFILE - RUSSELL ORR



The motivation that led Councillor Russell Orr to stand for election in the Rangitaiki Ward in 2004 is exactly why he joined the Police some years earlier – to try and make a difference for the better.

Now in his third term on Council, the chairman of the Council’s Hearings Committee (and the recently

formed Matata Projects Governance Group) prefers to get on with the job of making good decisions on behalf of the community. “It’s a demanding job. There’s a huge amount of reading to do and information to absorb, but you have to be fully aware of the issues and the background to be able to make good decisions.”

Outside of his Council commitments, Russell is a kiwifruit orchardist and is

involved in IT consulting, including a largely voluntary role with Coastguard. He and his wife Carol – a highly sought-after genealogist – enjoy hiking daytrips and motor-caravanning. They have two children – daughter Kim is a horse trainer in Australia and son Jason manages the family kiwifruit interests – and two grandchildren. “As they get older, there’s an increasing demand on ‘Gramps’ and that’s just great,” Russell says.

TE KŌPUTU GAINS NEW LIBRARY MEMBERS

Library membership has grown significantly since the opening of Te Kōputu – the Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre – at the end of June.

Co-ordinator Library Services, Tangimeriana Rua, says the new space has attracted a heap of new visitors to the Library.

“Our move to Te Kōputu has seen a sharp increase in the number of visitors to the library, and an increase in library membership as a result. We’ve had so many residents sign up for a library card, that we’ve nearly run out of cards to issue,” Ms Rua says. “We registered 364 new members in July alone, which is more than double last year’s average of 159 new members a month.”

Whakatāne residents can join the library for free. All that’s required is photo identification and proof of address.

WHAKATANE DISTRICT AQUATIC CENTRE

Indoor Pools (all year)

Monday to Friday	6am - 8pm
Saturday and Sunday	7am - 6pm
Public Holidays	7am - 6pm

Outdoor Pool season

1 September - 30 April
Closed Christmas Day

TE KŌPUTU – THE WHAKATĀNE LIBRARY AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday	9am - 5pm
Saturday - Sunday	10am - 2pm
Public holidays	10am - 2pm
Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday	