

## RESIDENTS' SURVEY SHOWS SOLID GAINS

The results of the Whakatane District Council's latest annual residents' survey have shown a solid improvement in the community's perceptions of most Council services and activities. Its outcomes are used in the Council's Annual Report and indicate which services and activities are meeting or exceeding the community's expectations and those where improvement is required.

Council Chief Executive Marty Grenfell says that of the 46 questions where the responses could be compared with previous surveys, 41 showed an improvement, with two results unchanged and just three showing a decline in perceived performance. Performance is measured on a 100-point scale, where 0 = very dissatisfied and 100 = very satisfied.

"Encouragingly, approval ratings for many of the services and activities assessed showed increases of more than three points,

including the level of satisfaction with Council staff overall (up 3.4 to 77.7), water related services (+16.5 points), dog control services (+5.9), call centre services (+4.8) and swimming pools (+4.5)," Mr Grenfell says.

The highest performance rating (87) went to Te Kōputu – The Whakatane Library and Exhibition Centre. Other activities showing satisfaction ratings of more than 80 included the water supply in Whakatane (up 5.4 to 80.1); water supply reliability (86.1); overall satisfaction with wastewater services (up 10.6 to 81); kerbside greenwaste collections (up 3.2 to 86.9); residential refuse collections (up 4 to 86.8); cemeteries and crematorium (up 3.3 to 86.4) and harbour facilities in Whakatane (up 2.1 to 82.3). Satisfaction with the Whakatane District as a place to live also increased (up 2.6 to 86.5). The only area showing a significant decrease in satisfaction was streetlighting adequacy (down 3.0 to 66.8).

## LANDSLIDE HAZARD MEETINGS TO START THIS MONTH

Close to a quarter of the people in the Whakatane District whose properties have been assessed as subject to some degree of landslide hazard have responded with their preference for consultation on possible risk management methods.

Early in July, the Whakatane District Council sent out approximately 1,450 information packs to the owners of properties in Whakatane, Ōhope and Matatā, which quantitative risk assessment studies have indicated are within high, moderate or low landslide hazard areas associated with the escarpments in each community.

The Matatā study also included the potential risks from debris flow events.

"Of the 334 responses received by the Council to date, just under half have asked for individual on-site or neighbourhood meetings to explore what the studies mean for their properties and how the risks posed by landslides can be managed," says the Council's Manager Development and Compliance, Jeff Farrell.

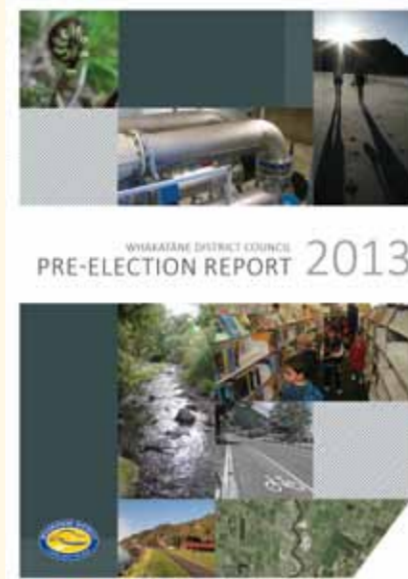
"About 55 percent of the properties identified by the studies have been assessed to have a low or very low hazard level. Based on our latest advice, we believe it is unlikely that those properties would face any additional restrictions on future use or development and although there would still be a requirement to record a hazard reference on Land Information Memoranda,

## PRE-ELECTION REPORT 2013 NOW AVAILABLE

The Whakatane District Council Pre-Election Report 2013 provides information to voters and election candidates prior to the 2013 local body elections. It includes a high-level overview of the Council's priorities and direction, major projects and financial situation and directs readers to further useful information sources.

The aim of the Pre-Election Report is to promote public discussion about the challenges and issues facing the Council, and the opportunities the coming three years will present.

You can pick up a copy of the Pre-Election Report 2013 from one of our Council buildings or visit [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz) for an electronic copy.



## AIR FORCE EXERCISE COMES TO WHAKATANE

The Royal New Zealand Air Force's 40 Squadron flew into Whakatane this week to carry out tactical training exercises at Whakatane Airport.

The RNZAF exercise involved several night-time landings and take-offs at the airfield, over two nights, with the Squadron's C-130 Hercules aircraft.



it would clearly state that the level of risk was considered to be minimal."

Council staff will be contacting property owners who have asked for on-site or neighbourhood meetings over the next two weeks with a view to completing that process by the end of August. "Based on the feedback from those meetings, and other responses from property owners, we will bring together a range of possible options for Council consideration in October," Mr Farrell says. "The proposed variation would then be available for formal submissions until mid-December, with a summary of the actions requested then going out for further submissions in March and April 2014."

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO ENROL FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

To have your say in the local elections, you must be enrolled to vote by 16 August or you won't receive your voting papers in the mail.

Voting in local elections occurs by postal vote from 20 September to 12 October 2013. You must be enrolled to receive a voting paper.

Anyone who enrolls after 16 August will need to cast a special vote and contact the Council's electoral officer to obtain voting papers.

It's easy to enrol or update your details. Enrolment packs are available:

- Online at [elections.org.nz](http://elections.org.nz)
- Freetext your name and address to 3676
- Call 0800 36 76 56
- At any PostShop

To find out more about enrolling to vote, visit [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)

Local Elections 2013  
**YOUR VOTE  
YOUR COMMUNITY**

## HARBOUR PROJECTS TO BE INVESTIGATED



The need for additional berthage space in the Whakatane Harbour will see a number of investigation initiatives undertaken in the 2013/14 year, with a view to carrying out wharf expansion projects over the succeeding three years.

A report that went to Council's Projects and Services Committee last month noted the demand for wharf berths in Whakatane has consistently exceeded supply in recent years and with additional capacity required when Ōpōtiki's major aquaculture economic development project gets underway, the need for new berths was becoming pressing. Recommendations adopted by the Committee included:

- That feasibility, design and cost estimates be obtained during the current year for an extension of the Quay Street Wharf in 2014/15;

*Council's vision is 'to create vibrant and sustainable ports and waterfronts, which support the recreational and business needs of our thriving community'.*

- That an investigation be undertaken, in conjunction with the Whakatane Yacht Club, to look at the feasibility of extending the club's existing marina facility; and
- That structural renewal works and timing requirements be investigated for the Whakatane Main Wharf and Port Ōhope Wharf, with the intention of beginning work on those projects in 2015/16.

All of those projects would be funded by Harbour Fund reserves, with no impact on rates costs.

## BRUSH OFF WINTER AND START TRAINING FOR MONTY'S

Monty's Revenge is coming up on 7 September so it's time to brush off those winter blues and start training. Monty's is a multisport race where competitors tackle 55km of glorious trail running, mountain biking and kayaking. While the event is hard work, it's designed as an entry-level multisport race which can be carried out individually, in pairs or as a team.

This year the race starts with the mountain bike leg from Maraetōtara Reserve in Ōhope, up to the Telecom tower and down to the Tāneatua highway. This is followed by a kayak down the Whakatane River, getting out at the Yacht Club. The final leg back to Ōhope is the 12km run around the Nga Tapuwae o Toi Track's Kohi Point Walkway section, which serves up spectacular panoramic views. The race finishes back at Maraetōtara Reserve where hot showers and pats on the back await.

To find out more about Monty's Revenge and other events coming up on our calendar visit [www.whakatane.com](http://www.whakatane.com)



## FAMILY FUN DAYS AT THE WHAKATANE AQUATIC CENTRE

Whakatane Aquatic Centre offers plenty of fun for families; especially on our Family Fun Days, held every Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Families with toddlers can enjoy our beach and play area, as well as the learners' pool. We've also got the action-packed option of the inflatable playground, the fitness option of the lap pool, or the relaxed option of our lovely heated spas. There's something for everyone.



The Aquatic Centre offers a special pool and hydroslide rate for Family Fun Days, with children paying \$5.00 (normally \$6.70) and adults \$7.00 (normally \$8.50).

## CALLING ALL DESIGNERS

People with an interest in design are being offered an opportunity to express what Te Kōputu – the Whakatane Library and Exhibition Centre - and the Whakatane District mean to them.

As a prelude to the upcoming *Objects of Desire* exhibition, locals are being asked to come up with a T-shirt design inspired either by Te Kōputu, or the District.

"Ultimately we are looking for creativity and innovation, embodied in good design. The only rule is that the design must be completely original and doesn't breach any trademark or copyright," says Team Leader Museum and Arts, Hamish Pettengell.

The winning design will feature on a print-run of 100 T-shirts and the winner will be announced at the launch of the *Objects of Desire* exhibition on 6 September.

The exhibition focuses on aspects of contemporary New Zealand design and



will include selected local and national designers, or companies that incorporate strong design elements within their products.

Entry forms for the T-shirt design competition are available at Te Kōputu or from the Whakatane Museum website ([www.whakatanemuseum.org.nz](http://www.whakatanemuseum.org.nz)). Entries close on 23 August 2013.

## NGA TAPUWAE O TOI TRACK WORKS COMPLETED

Safety upgrades on two staircases on Nga Tapuwae o Toi Track's Kohi Point Walkway section have now been completed and full access has been restored.

Pictured here is the new stairway section which connects track users to Ōtarawairere Bay at the northern end.



## WHAT'S ON AT TE KŌPUTU THIS MONTH

### OPUS GALLERY

**Lifting the Lid** – weird and wonderful objects from the Whakatane District Museum Collection  
*Closes 1 September*

### WHAKATANE COMMUNITY BOARD GALLERY

**Metaphorical Ruins** – new work by Lea-Anne Sheather

*Photo Right: Clearing the Mouth #3, 2013  
Evan Woodruffe*

### SHEAFF FAMILY GALLERY

**Drawn Back** – Evan Woodruffe Paintings in response to selected images from the Whakatane District Museum Collection. *Closes 25 August*

