

COUNCIL OPTS FOR FULL MATATĀ SEWERAGE SCHEME

Council has decided to proceed with the installation of a full sewerage reticulation scheme to serve all of the properties in Matatā.

That decision was based both upon the submissions received as a result of the special consultation process which was run in conjunction with the draft Annual Plan 2013/14 submissions, and on updated information from our investigation of reticulation, treatment and disposal options. We will now notify the Ministry of Health that we plan to proceed, in order that we secure the \$6.7 million subsidy approved for the scheme.

As part of the draft Annual Plan and Matatā special consultation process, 101 submissions were received on the Matatā Sewerage Scheme. Of those, 88 were from



Matatā property owners, with 84 percent supporting a full reticulation scheme, 5 percent supporting a partial scheme and 11 percent wanting no sewerage scheme development. More than two-thirds of the submissions from the wider community also supported the installation of a full reticulation scheme.

While the submission process has been underway, significant progress has been made on developing concept plans for a full sewerage reticulation, treatment and disposal scheme serving the whole community.

RESTRICTION LIFTED ON FIRE SEASON

The Restricted Fire Season which was imposed on 1 October 2012 has now been lifted. An Open Fire Season will remain in force until 1 October 2013 when fire permits will again be required.

Residents living within 1 km of land administered by the Department of Conservation are reminded that the Department of Conservation imposes a Restricted Fire Season all year round, and a fire permit should be obtained from your nearest Department of Conservation office before lighting any fire in the open air.

We thank you for your co-operation during the Restricted Fire Season.

TIMELINE FOR 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS

The next local elections will run by postal vote from Friday 20 September to Saturday 12 October 2013.

1 July 2013	Enrolment drive to get as many people as possible enrolled to vote before the local elections begin
4 July 2013	If you don't get an enrolment pack in the mail by this day, you are not correctly enrolled to vote, and you need to enrol
16 August 2013	Last day to enrol to vote in the local elections
20 September to midday Saturday 12 October 2013	Postal voting for local elections
Midday Saturday 12 October 2013	Voting papers must be hand delivered or posted to arrive by this date and time to be valid



DIGITISATION PROJECT WILL SAFEGUARD DISTRICT'S WORLD WAR I COLLECTIONS

The centenary of World War I will be marked in the Whakatāne District by a NZ Lottery Grants Board-funded project to digitise public and private photographic and archival collections on "The Great War".

The \$75,000 grant will allow the Whakatāne Museum Research Centre to make digital copies of all of the items in its collection relating to the First World War. The project will then see the digitisation facility made available to record material held in private collections throughout the District and all of the digital records will then be made available via an online database.

Whakatāne District Council Museum and Arts Team Leader Hamish Pettengell says the project will ensure that the District's World War I collections are safeguarded for the benefit of future generations.

"The First World War was one of the most significant events of the 20th Century. Between 1914 and 1918, some 100,000 troops or about a tenth of our population, served overseas. More than 18,000 died and over 40,000 were wounded. Most were young men and their loss had a massive impact on New Zealand society," he says. "That conflict affected New Zealand deeply



and was instrumental in forging not just our Anzac ties with Australia, but also our sense of nationhood. How appropriate then that we can preserve our memories of The Great War and make them available for centuries to come to anyone with an interest in that pivotal event."

The project is set to commence on 1 July this year and the digitised database will go live on Anzac Day 2014. Mr Pettengell says the material will also inform a commemorative WWI exhibition scheduled for 2014.

As the project proceeds, selected images from the Museum collection will be published in local print media, and on the Council and Museum websites, in the hope that the soldiers portrayed can be identified.

LOWEST RATES RISE IN A DECADE APPROVED

The Whakatāne District Council has approved its lowest rates increase for more than a decade, with average rate costs across the District set to increase by just 2.49 percent.

Mayor Tony Bonne says many of the 221 submissions made to its draft Annual Plan for 2013/14 were very supportive of the Council's efforts to keep rates costs down. "Rates affordability has always been a key consideration for this Council and Councillors and staff were determined to keep the average rates increase as close as possible to the 2.47 percent projected in the draft Annual Plan," Mr Bonne says. "New information since the draft plan was finalised has resulted in some changes, but we have been able to keep the overall rating impact to an absolute minimum."

He notes that the actual average increase is also well below the 4.52 percent forecast for the year in last year's 2012-22 Long Term Plan.

Significant changes which have a rating impact include:

- Additional solid waste costs (after increased fees and charges have been deducted) – an increase of \$284,000;

- A correction to increase the revenue budgeted for the Plains, Whakatāne and Ōhope Water Scheme – a rate reduction of \$190,000; and
- Savings in interest and loan repayment costs (arising from the use of asset sale proceeds to make early repayments on loan facilities) – a rate reduction of \$206,000.

Changes to be funded from sources other than rates include:

- Additional, loan-funded District Plan implementation costs (relating to landslide risk investigations) – \$170,000;
- Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre landscaping costs (after recoveries from other Esplanade Mall tenants) - \$100,000, funded from the Harbour Fund; Whakatāne Harbour entrance modelling report - \$50,000, funded from the Harbour Fund; and
- CBD Geotechnical Report (costs to be partly recovered from fees and charges) - \$150,000, funded from the Harbour Fund.

The final Annual Plan for 2013/14 will go to a full Council meeting for approval and implementation on 26 June.

ANNUAL RESIDENTS SURVEY UNDERWAY

The Annual Residents Survey is a telephone survey of 300 respondents from across the District. It covers the community's level of satisfaction with a broad spectrum of Council services and facilities. It also provides an opportunity to gauge the community's view on some specific proposals. The telephone interviews component of the survey is currently

underway with the final findings expected to be available by the end of June.

The postal survey for consents and compliance services will also be conducted again this year. This is distributed to users of consents and compliance services from the past year. The final findings of this survey will be available by end July.

PRIDE WHAKATĀNE RECOGNISES COMMUNITY HEROES

Each month, Pride Whakatāne recognises a group or individual for their contributions to the Whakatāne District and its environs. Ron and Ann Jones have been awarded for the amazing and ongoing work they do to maintain the many pathways and tracks that many Whakatāne runners and walkers use. They think nothing of taking their own time to improve various tracks; smoothing out bumps and filling in holes.

Keep New Zealand Beautiful has also awarded George Johnston as Volunteer of the Month. He was nominated by Pride Whakatāne District Committee for



Ron and Ann Jones receive their award from Pride Whakatāne Committee Secretary, Sandy Pryde

the time, energy, and knowledge that he has given to the committee and the community over many years of service.

FLUORIDATION REFERENDUM PROCESS

Whakatāne District residents will have an opportunity to express their views on the fluoridation of water supplies in a non-binding referendum to be held in conjunction with this year's local government elections in October.

Council's Monitoring and Policy Committee finalised the details at its May meeting, confirming the question to be asked in the referendum, and agreeing on what supporting information should be made available to inform referendum participants.

Monitoring and Policy Committee Chair, Mayor Tony Bonne says water fluoridation is a contentious issue and the Council is aware of the need to remain objective throughout the referendum process. "Care has been taken to ensure the question is easy to understand and does not imply a preferred outcome," he says. "We have also decided to support the process with resources, which will include a summary of information for and against fluoridation."



Mayor Bonne says information will be presented through various channels, including the Council's website, social media and community newsletter, Ko Konei, in the lead-up to elections. "We have also resolved to include a summary of the arguments for and against fluoridation alongside the voting papers, to ensure our community has access to information that will enable them to make an informed decision."

"The Committee also addressed the interest shown by advocacy groups on both sides of the debate to put their case forward in a public forum," Mr Bonne says. "As the referendum is non-binding, there is an opportunity outside of this process to hear advocacy groups' views before making a final decision."

TE KŌPUTU SCOOPS NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE AWARD

A focus on 'doing a few things very well' has seen Irving Smith Jack Architects Ltd announced as the winner of a prestigious New Zealand Institute of Architects Award for Te Kōputu a Te Whanga a Toi – the Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre.

At the awards ceremony on 24 May, Te Kōputu was announced as the winner of the Public Architecture category, and was also one of five projects in contention for the supreme award. Nineteen architectural projects, which ranged in scale from a large indoor sports centre in Wellington to a micro-bach on the Coromandel Peninsula, received awards on the night.

The accolade for Te Kōputu follows success at the Institute's Waikato/Bay of Plenty region annual awards, where it won both the Sustainable and Public Architecture categories of the competition. Whakatāne

Mayor Tony Bonne says he's delighted with the recognition the awards provide for this important community facility.

"Our vision from the beginning was to develop an exceptional facility that would become the home of arts and culture for the Whakatāne District," Mr Bonne says. "Our architects have made that vision a reality and helped us turn a vacant and run-down building into a fantastic community hub."

Speaking on behalf of the national award jurors, Auckland architect Andrew Barclay says imagination was necessarily a premium in many of the Award-winning buildings, because budgets were often modest. "Some of the projects the Awards jury enjoyed most used very little, very well. On buildings like the Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre, the designers used limited resources to great effect."

MUSEUM HOLDS McCAHON WORK

The Whakatāne Museum Research Centre has confirmed that it is storing the artwork 'Urewera Mural', by noted New Zealand artist Colin McCahon.

The triptych (panel painting which is divided into three sections) was commissioned by the then-Urewera National Park Board in 1975 and was displayed at the park headquarters and Visitor Centre at Waikaremoana. Responsibility for the care and management of the painting transferred to the Department of Conservation in 1987. In 1997, The Urewera Mural was removed by activists. After its recovery and conservation, it went back on display at Waikaremoana before being placed on long-term loan with the Auckland Art Gallery.

Whakatāne District Council Museum and Arts Team Leader, Hamish Pettengell, says

that at the request of Ngai Tūhoe and DoC, who wanted the artwork "moved closer to home", the Urewera Mural has been relocated to the Whakatāne Museum Research Centre.

"As is standard practice, we contracted the services of a specialist conservator to condition report the artwork on arrival at the museum. It is now re-housed in its crate and in a part of the building that is constantly monitored for any changes in temperature or humidity," Mr Pettengell says.

The Museum will care for the Urewera Mural until such time as its future location is decided.

'MUSEUM DAY' WINNER

Paytience Tiopira, (pictured here with Library Services Supervisor Kim Johnston) holds the Kobo E-reader she won after taking part in the recent International Museum Day promotion organised by the Museum and Arts Team. Paytience was one of almost 50 children who visited the Museum display at Te Kōputu on Saturday 18 May and completed a "History Hunt" with Museum and Arts team members Rōhi Kaimarama and Kay Boreham. Adult visitors also entered the draw and children had the option of completing a colouring competition. draw and children also had the option of completing a colouring competition.

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