

FINANCIAL SCORECARD SHOWS POSITIVE RESULT

A summary of the Whakatane District Council's 2011/12 Annual Report will be published in the Bay Weekend later in November, with additional run-on copies being printed for distribution to Post Office boxholders and residents in Murupara and rural areas not covered by newspaper deliveries.

The Annual Report is the Council's 'scorecard' and lets you know what we achieved and how we performed during the year to 30 June 2012. We're pleased to report that both our financial and non-financial performance improved markedly. We finished the year in a positive financial position, achieving a total operating surplus of \$1.99 million, which was a particularly satisfying outcome because we had to accommodate a number of unanticipated costs within our available budget.

In terms of our non-financial performance, 86 percent of our targets were either achieved, or within 5 percent of the outcomes sought. That compares to 80

percent for the previous year and indicates that we are moving in the right direction. We are committed to building on that improved performance in the coming years.

Our programme of capital work - projects undertaken to maintain and improve the services we deliver - is also tracking well compared to the previous year. As part of this programme of work, we have taken a fresh look at some 'big ticket' capital projects, including wastewater and stormwater projects in Matatā and stormwater improvements in Edgecumbe.

Our focus is to ensure that every project we are planning will provide the most appropriate and affordable solution. Those reviews resulted in decisions not to proceed with several projects and to instead look for more affordable solutions.

The full Annual Report will also be available from mid-November, either from Council offices or via our website (www.whakatane.govt.nz/Public-Documents/Policies-and-Plans/Annual-Reports/).

INNOVATION RESOLVES WASTEWATER PROBLEM

A longstanding wastewater overflow problem in Whakatane's CBD area has been resolved by an innovative engineering solution designed by Opus International Consultants.

Whakatane District Council Infrastructure General Manager Tomasz Krawczyk says overflows caused by stormwater infiltration into the wastewater system during periods of heavy rain have been addressed by the installation of a new pressure main. "The main utilises the 40-metre fall from the Seaview Road lookout to push wastewater through the new system along George Street and Kakahoroa Drive to the McAlister Street pumping station," he explains.

The pressure main has a number of valves and controls which operate automatically during intense rainfall events to prevent overflows in the CBD. "A number of

conventional options were considered, including gravity systems and wastewater pumping stations, which would have involved a cost of well in excess of \$1 million," Mr Krawczyk says. "The Opus solution was not only completed within our budget of \$650,000, but with minimal disruption to businesses and motorists because the majority of the system was installed by directional drilling."

Opus Whakatane Business Manager Grant Cox says the need to meet strict cost guidelines and avoid disruption to CBD businesses led the company to explore a range of fresh approaches. "As a result, we came up with an elegant and effective solution which is another good example of the value Opus International Consultants has been able to provide for the Whakatane District and its ratepayers."

GET FIT FOR SUMMER

Thinking about joining the gym but not sure if it's for you? Come along to the Whakatane Aquatic and Fitness Centre for a free, one-week trial, which includes a personal warrant of fitness with a trained instructor. This offer is only available for a limited time, so get in quick to register for your free trial.

Alternatively, if you take up a membership plan, you will get your first week free. Gym membership includes a fitness assessment; full programme setup with updates; access at any time of your choosing (during opening hours) to our air-conditioned fitness centre; and full use of all aquatic centre facilities.

EXHIBITIONS ON OFFER AT TE KŌPUTU



Photo: Te Kaha Coastline, 2012 - Jonathan White

Three popular exhibitions at Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi – the Whakatane Library and Exhibition Centre – are drawing to a close.

Nigel Brown – Short Lives of Birds in the Sheaff Family Gallery finishes at 2.00pm this Sunday (4 November); Mandy Hague – Ex Ovo (Whakatane Community Board Gallery) and the Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Sculpture Award (Opus Gallery) both end on Sunday, 18 November.

Three new exhibitions have their official opening on the evening of 23 November. Renowned landscape artist Jonathan White will present selected and new

works in the Opus Gallery, while examples of raranga (woven art forms) from Te Whare Wananga o Aotearoa will show in the Whakatane Community Board Gallery. The Sheaff Family Gallery will host a vibrant collection of illustrations by Gavin Bishop, Robyn Kahukiwa and Murray Grimsdale – entitled Wairua, Tikanga in Children's Books. All three exhibitions will run until 20 January, when they close in preparation for the 2013 Molly Morpeth Canaday Art Award for painting and drawing, which will be displayed across three of the four Te Kōputu galleries.

www.whakatanemuseum.org.nz

eBooks NOW AVAILABLE AT DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Library users in the Whakatane District now have access to a growing collection of eBooks and one lucky person will receive a fantastic Christmas present to mark that milestone.

An eBook is a book published in digital form, which can be read on electronic devices such as iPads and tablets, and even your PC. Library members can download eBooks at no cost through the library's website and wherever they can access the Internet. Access to each eBook expires after three weeks.

Local retailer Noel Leeming is supporting the launching of the collection by offering a Kobo eReader prize draw for Library members. To enter, just complete the entry form available at your local library and answer a multiple-choice question.

Entries for the competition close on 20 December 2012 and the prize draw will take place the following day.



NOTE: prize may differ from image

CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The White Ribbon Campaign will launch throughout New Zealand this week, with Eastern Bay of Plenty Mayors joining others throughout the country in endorsing this community initiative to end men's violence against women.

On average in New Zealand, 14 women die and more than 3,500 men are convicted for assaults on women every year. Whakatane Mayor Tony Bonne says the figures are both sad and frightening.

"These women are our mothers, daughters, sisters, and colleagues. As a community, we must take responsibility to end this violence, and that's why I and many other mayors throughout New Zealand are putting our names on the White Ribbon pledge," he says.

"While a signature might not seem to make a difference, we're making the statement that we absolutely do not tolerate violence towards women in our communities."

The White Ribbon Pledge is one of a number of initiatives organised by the Families Commission-led White Ribbon Campaign. The pledge brings together New Zealanders throughout the country in a united show of support to end violence against women. As



Mayor Tony Bonne joins other community leaders throughout New Zealand in signing the White Ribbon pledge.

support grows for a violence-free future, the White Ribbon Campaign hopes to encourage men to take a stand and show they're man enough to end violence. To sign the pledge, simply visit www.whiteribbon.org.nz.

FREE DOG TRAINING SEMINAR

If your dog is barking, howling, jumping up, pulling on the lead or won't come when it's called, then head along to our free dog training session at 10.00 am on Saturday 17 November at the Whakatane District Council Chambers.

The Council's Animal Control team is hosting this free workshop with experienced dog trainer and author of New Zealand's first dog training book, Wendy Graydon.

Manager Community Regulation, Graeme Lewer says Animal Control staff will begin with a bite prevention workshop followed by an hour-long training session with Wendy Graydon.

"We want to provide an opportunity for dog owners to come along free of charge

and find out the tricks to solving behavioural problems they may be experiencing with their much-loved pets," says Mr Lewer.



"Masterpet has also supplied some free samples for attendees to take away, along with a large bag of Eukanuba dog biscuits for a lucky draw."

If you'd like to register your interest or find out more information, contact the Animal Control Team on 07 306 0500 or email info@whakatane.govt.nz

COUNCILLOR PROFILE - JUDY TURNER



Judy married a Whakatane lad she met at Hamilton Teachers College and shifted here for what was to be a one-year teaching appointment. Thirty-four years later, she and husband Graham are still here.

"For us, the Whakatane District has been the very best place to live, work and raise our three children. I want it to stay that way for the next generation of local, young parents," Judy says.

Her working life started in local primary schools, but has also included business ventures, community work and two terms as

POOL PARTY PLANNED FOR MURUPARA

Murupara's outdoor community swimming pool is welcoming summer with a pool party celebration on Saturday, 10 November.

It's going to be a fun, family-oriented day for everyone to enjoy. We've got a few activities in the pipeline, including a large inflatable playground for the kids and a sausage sizzle to keep everyone fuelled up.

The pool will officially open at 8.00am on Saturday 10 November; with the pool party running from 11.00am to 4.00pm. A gold coin donation is all that's needed to join in the fun.

Pool party-goers are encouraged to pre-purchase their entry to the pool party at the Murupara Library, which is just down the road. We'll also have individual and 10-swim concession cards available for purchase at the Library, which will be a great investment for the summer.

The pool will follow normal operating hours from 10 November, opening from 8.00am to 6.00pm on weekends, and 6.00am to 6.00pm on weekdays. Entry charges will be 60 cents for under-fives; \$1.50 for children, students and senior citizens; and \$3.00 for adults.



Labour Weekend travellers made the most of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Road Safety Committee's annual fatigue stop at the Manganuku DOC campsite in the Waioeka Gorge. Volunteers from around Whakatane and Opotiki helped to revitalise more than 150 weary drivers with free refreshments, and a barbeque.

TOUGH COMPETITION FOR GARDENERS

Greenfingered gardeners have had their masterpieces on display this week for the judges of the annual Whakatane Garden Competition.

Pride Whakatane District Committee Secretary, Sandy Pryde, says more than 40 gardens were entered in the competition this year.

"The judges have had their work cut out for them, with some amazing gardens on

display around the District," Mrs Pryde says. "Some wonderfully generous businesses have sponsored the awards, so we're looking forward to acknowledging the hard work that all our entrants have put in, and rewarding our outstanding gardeners."

Entrants and sponsors have been invited to the awards evening which will also host the Keep New Zealand Beautiful awards on Friday, 9 November at the Whakatane War Memorial Hall.

a Member of Parliament. "When I stood for Council, I campaigned on the idea that the Council should: **LEARN from the past** (so that we don't repeat decisions we now see as mistakes); **PLAN for the future** (so that we have one); and **FOCUS on the present** (when prioritising spending). I believe Council as a whole is committed to those three ideals, even though we don't always agree on the detail. I enjoy the healthy balance of views around the Council table and think we are well-served by a line-up of very competent Council staff."

Judy has thrown herself into every opportunity on offer. She is the Deputy Mayor, serves on the Ōhope Community Board and sits on five Council committees.