

## IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES RECOGNISED

### BY REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The Whakatāne District Council's long-term focus on sustainability has been recognised in the Sustainable Business Network's 2012 Bay of Plenty Regional Awards.

The Council received the 'Trailblazer Government, Social Enterprise or Not-for-Profit Award' at a special function on 28 September, where the award judges noted an "obvious commitment to sustainable practice" across the organisation.

In accepting the award, Mayor Tony Bonne and Senior Strategic Policy Analyst Catherine Ball credited the need to fulfil its responsibilities to the community for driving the development of a sustainability strategy and vision. Reflecting on the award this week, Ms Ball said the commitment to delivering the 'four wellbeings' – social, economic, environmental and cultural – meant that much of what the Council does is about sustainability.

"It's not just about being green, but sustainability must be considered as part of

the decision-making process," she explained. "At the end of the day, that may not affect the final decision, but it does mean that sustainability is weighed against other key principles, such as affordability and responsibility, in determining how to achieve the best outcomes for our community."

The Council has developed a number of initiatives to implement its sustainability strategy, including a successful 'switch-off campaign', which has reduced electricity usage in its office facilities by more than 20 percent. An audit on the use of its vehicle fleet has also resulted in a closer focus on fuel efficiency and the effective use of the fleet resource, with a tree planting programme undertaken to offset carbon emissions. Recycling, 'worm farm' composting of food waste and a sustainability approach to employee health and safety programmes are also embraced by all staff.

"To be honoured in this forum is a real privilege because in many respects, we're



still at the beginning of the journey," Ms Ball said. "But the planning is largely in place and we will continue to build upon our improvement initiatives where there are clear benefits for both the Council and the community."

*Pictured (from left) receiving the Trailblazer Award at last week's Bay of Plenty Regional Sustainability Awards are Council representatives Marty Grenfell, Sarah Stewart, Penny Doorman, Tony Bonne, Catherine Ball and Mark Cleghorn.*

## WHAKATĀNE AIRPORT TEN YEAR BUSINESS PLAN COMMUNITY FEEDBACK WANTED

The Whakatāne Airport Advisory Board is seeking community comments on its draft Ten Year Business Plan for 2012-22.

The Airport is a vital economic and community resource, but at present, does not generate enough revenue from scheduled flight services and other activities to cover its operating costs.

The draft Business Plan sets out proposed strategies and actions to close the revenue/cost gap. These include:

- Maximising the commercial opportunities provided by current activities;
- Diversifying income streams by encouraging the development of new aviation-related enterprises;
- Maintaining and upgrading Airport assets and facilities to ensure that the efficiency and reputation of the enterprise is enhanced; and
- Building closer relationships with the organisations and individuals which have an interest in Airport operations.

Chairman Tony de Farias says feedback from Airport users, iwi, the owners of nearby properties and the wider community will assist the Board to put in place a business plan which reflects the District's needs and aspirations.

"The community's views on the future development and operation of this important asset will be an important component in determining the way forward for the next ten years and we would welcome any constructive comments."

Feedback forms are available on the Council's website ([www.whakatane.govt.nz/Have-Your-Say](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz/Have-Your-Say)), or from Council offices and Libraries, and should be completed and returned by Friday, 12 October 2012.



## MOLLY MORPETH CANADAY 3D AWARD DRAWS VISITORS TO TE KŌPUTU

The Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Sculpture award exhibition is drawing appreciative comments from visitors to Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi – the Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre.

The exhibition opened in the Opus Gallery with a special prizegiving function on September 21, where a large crowd acknowledged the 27 works by 21 selected artists, and in particular, award-winner Megan Hansen-Knarhoi. A floor talk by Judge Martin Poppelwell the following day was also well-attended.

The exhibition will continue till November 18.



*Megan Hansen-Knarhoi from Auckland (via Hawke's Bay) won the \$4,000 first prize in this year's Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Award.*

## LOUD SHIRT DAY IN THE HORIZON ENERGY LIBRARY

Horizon Energy Library staff got into the swing of things for Loud Shirt Day on September 21.

"Some of us are pretty raucous dressers at the best of times, so it was great to have an excuse to go completely over the top," says Library Services Team Leader Tangimeriana Rua.

Funds raised went to The Hearing House and the Southern Cochlear Implant Paediatric Programme and will help deaf children learn to listen and talk like their hearing friends.



*Pictured (from left) are Horizon Energy Library staff Annette Steel, Glennis Brown, Tab Whata, John McMenamin, Christine Whalley, Kirsty O'Neill and Christine O'Neill.*

## 15 MILLION STEPS FOR HOSPICE

This year's Global Corporate Challenge set up a very clear win-win situation for a group of Whakatāne District Council staff and Hospice Eastern Bay of Plenty.

The challenge to be more active involved walking, swimming or cycling, with each participant's steps, or their equivalent, contributing to the team's virtual trip around the world.

"Our starting point on 12 May was London and of the possible 140 locations to 'walk' to, we achieved 128," says team leader Kirsty Lang. "We finished in Mount Huangshan in China on September 12, with a total of 14,895,354 steps recorded, which ranked our team in the top 1,000 of the 26,309 teams participating worldwide."

To make the challenge more fun and give it a real purpose, the "Whakatāne Striders" decided to raise funds for a local charity – Hospice Eastern Bay of Plenty.

"We raised a grand total of \$1,740.30 and it was great that most of us could get together last week to present that to Hospice," Kirsty says.

Hospice spokesperson Jacqui Davis says the Whakatāne Striders' fundraising effort was fantastic. "The money raised will go towards continuing to provide free, high quality palliative care services to our patients and their families in the Eastern Bay. With an annual shortfall in funding of \$350,000, every donation counts. Thank you to the team and those that supported them during the challenge."

*Photo right: Whakatāne Striders (clockwise from bottom left) Anne Reid, Kirsty Lang, Patrick Drummond, Gary Waller, Andrea Morgan and Karla Meharry present their cheque to Hospice EBoP's Jacqui Davis (centre right). Absent were Fiona Hennessey and Erika Schuler-Spichtig.*



## RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS WANTED

The incidence of dog attacks on people or other dogs in recent months has prompted the Whakatāne District Council's animal control team to remind owners about their responsibilities.

Manager Community Regulation Graeme Lewer says that although such incidents are not common, they are worrying because of their traumatising impact on victims. "Many of the recent incidents have occurred while dogs are being exercised. Anyone exercising a dog must be physically capable of holding it on a leash, or if the dog is off its leash in one of the designated exercise areas, it must be under responsive verbal control at all times. Obviously, that hasn't been the case in at least three incidents along the Warren Cole Walkway recently."

Mr Lewer says the consequences of dog attacks are severe. "For the attacking dogs, it's almost always a death sentence. For the owners, it's a hefty fine and the loss of their pet. And for the victims, it's the trauma of having to deal with an out-of-control dog and the injuries that may result."

At the end of June 2012, 14 dogs in the Whakatāne District were classified as 'dangerous' (as a result of an attack on a person or another animal) and 204 were listed as 'menacing'. The latter are usually classified because of their breed, but aggressive behaviour will also result in that classification.

"Every dog which is classified as menacing or dangerous must be muzzled in a public place. Dogs don't know right from wrong – it's their owners' responsibility to train them, look after them and ensure that their behaviour doesn't cross the line and result in people, or other animals, being threatened or injured."

Some basic rules to follow are:

- When exercising your dog off its leash, always call it back and leash it when approaching people or other dogs being exercised;
- If you know your dog reacts aggressively to other animals or people, get some

advice on how to train it to behave more appropriately;

- When exercising your dog, if you are confronted by an aggressive dog, let go of your leash so your pet is better able to look after itself;
- Don't pick your dog up in that situation – the aggressive dog is likely to leap at you and the chances of personal injury will be increased;
- Check out the areas where dogs can be exercised without a leash on the Council website ([www.whakatane.govt.nz/dogs](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz/dogs)).

Anyone concerned about a dog's behaviour should ring the Council's animal control staff and pass on any information which will identify the owner, such as a vehicle registration number or address details.

Mr Lewer says dog fouling complaints along the Warren Cole Walkway have also increased in recent months – another indicator that some dog owners are not living up to their community responsibilities.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ALISON SILCOCK JOINS MURUPARA COMMUNITY BOARD

Alison Silcock has been confirmed as the Galatea-Waiohau Subdivision representative on the Murupara Community Board.

Earlier this year, nominations were called for a by-election to fill the subdivision vacancy, but when none were received, the Community Board decided to appoint a representative. Ms Silcock was nominated at an extraordinary meeting on 27 August and her appointment was confirmed at the Board's monthly meeting on September 20. A long-time resident of Galatea, she will bring a fresh perspective to the Board. Ms Silcock is also an advocate for the Murupara Swimming Pool and has been active in ensuring that it continues to provide a valuable amenity for local residents.

### WARREN COLE WALKWAY DOG EXERCISE STATUS

Council's Animal Control team is considering whether it should recommend a change in the Warren Cole Walkway's dog exercise status.

The western section of the walkway – between the Whakatāne River bridge and the end of McGarvey Road – is a designated exercise area, where dog owners can walk their dogs without a leash, providing they are able to maintain full "responsive verbal control" at all times. Owners must also be physically capable of restraining their dog when it is on a lead.

Manager Community Regulation Graeme Lewer says there have been several incidents recently where unleashed dogs have clearly not been appropriately controlled. Complaints about dog fouling in the area have also increased, indicating that some owners are not living up to their responsibility to clean up faecal matter.

"If dog owners are not going to meet their community responsibilities, the walkway's status as a designated exercise area may have to be reconsidered," Mr Lewer says.

## COUNCILLOR PROFILE - DAVID SHEAFF



After a successful career in the motorcycle retail and car importing and retail industries, semi-retirement proved "a bit boring" for Councillor David Sheaff.

"At that time, a lot of people were unhappy about the direction the Council was heading in. My family and I have done very well here, so I decided it was time to give something back to the community and put my name forward for the 2010 elections," he recalls. "My main aim was to change the Council's focus and under the new leadership, there has been significant progress in all of the areas I was concerned about."

He says Council elected members come from a wide range of backgrounds, but represent the whole community. "We respect each other's views and I believe we are making good decisions. I certainly have no regrets about getting involved."

David and his wife Leonie have been married for 35 years and have four children – three sons (one living in Australia) and a daughter – and nine grandchildren. They love the lifestyle Ōhōpe offers (David is a very keen fisherman) and enjoy sharing it with their extended family.