

SWIMMING LESSONS FOR MURUPARA AND GALATEA STUDENTS

Every year 1 to year 8 student attending Murupara Area School and Galatea School will receive 10 low-cost (\$1 per lesson) professional swim and survive lessons leading up to summer, thanks to a collaborative effort by Water Safety NZ, Swimming NZ, the Whakatāne District Council and Sport Bay of Plenty. Lessons will begin after the Murupara Pool opens at Labour Weekend.

The lessons will be provided by qualified swimming instructors through Water Safety NZ's Sealord Swim for Life programme and teachers from each school will also receive personal development in teaching swim and survive lessons through Swimming New Zealand's State Kiwi Swim Safe initiative.

Nationally, just one in five 10-year-olds can swim 200 metres – the benchmark for being able to swim and survive – which means that up to 80 percent of senior primary school students can't swim well enough to save themselves.

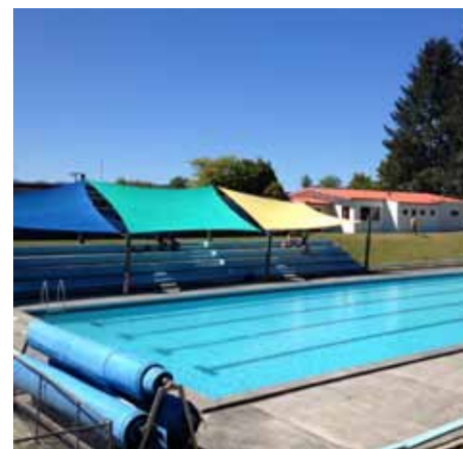
"By the end of the programme, we expect that the 400 students attending

these schools will be well on their way to achieving the swim safety benchmark and will be able to make safer decisions in, on and around aquatic environments," says Council Aquatics and Recreation Manager Sarah Clarke. "This initiative is a great result for the schools and will go a long way to addressing funding issues which affected school swimming programmes at the Murupara Pool last summer.

"We've built a very strong relationship with Swimming NZ, Sport Bay of Plenty and Water Safety NZ and this is a fantastic example of what can be achieved through collaboration. All of the students involved will benefit hugely, learning vital water safety skills as they work towards the 200-metre swim-safe benchmark."

Ms Clarke acknowledges the fantastic support provided for the programmes by principle sponsors Sealord and State Insurance.

The State Kiwi Swim Safe initiative aims to ensure that every primary school student has access to quality swim and survive



education at school; develop students' swimming, water safety, survival and beach safety skills; foster safer participation in a range of aquatic environments; and give teachers the tools, knowledge and confidence to teach swim and survive skills to their students.

If your school would like support for its swimming and water safety lessons, contact Sarah Clarke at the Whakatāne Aquatic Centre (07 308 4192) for assistance.

LAST DAYS TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON DISTRICT PLAN

The Proposed Whakatāne District Plan, which sets out the way land can be used, subdivided and developed in the District, will soon be closed for public submissions. The community has until this Friday, 13 September 2013 to lodge submissions supporting or opposing any aspect of the Proposed Whakatāne District Plan.

The Council began its review of the Plan by considering whether the objectives, policies and rules in the Operative District Plan were up-to-date and whether there were any new issues which needed to be addressed. Throughout the process, a range of expert and community input has been sought through a comprehensive pre-consultation process.

Council General Manager Strategy and Planning, David Bewley says the outcomes of the review mean that some parts of the District Plan will remain unchanged, while other parts have been updated. "The Plan has the potential to affect the way people can use and develop their properties in our District, so it's very important that we get it right."

Copies of the Proposed Whakatāne District Plan and summary are available at any of the Council offices and libraries, along with submission forms. Electronic copies are also available on Council's website. The community will have until 13 September 2013 to lodge submissions supporting or opposing any aspect of the Proposed Whakatāne District Plan.



TRUSTPOWER WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COMMUNITY AWARDS

What started out as a wetland project has now morphed into an award-winning venture with sporting, recreational, environmental and historical value.

Onepū Community Recreation Park has won the Supreme Award at the second annual TrustPower Whakatāne District Community Awards. The Awards were announced and presented on 27 August at a function Whakatāne's Little Theatre.

Onepū Community Recreation Park's band of volunteers has cleverly divided the park into three areas, each with a passionate team and leader. The lake team has started a five-year restoration plan for Lake Tamurenu, which includes pest control, native planting and historical interpretation boards. The mountain bike park has been spectacularly successful, with 6,000 rides in the last year. This team has plans to build a shelter kiosk and develop another seven kilometres of track this year. Then there's the wetlands arboretum team which has upgraded the wetlands tracks to wheel chair and push chair standards and added another 240 specimen trees to their collection this winter.



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE ONEPŪ COMMUNITY RECREATION PARK YET?

There's fun for the whole family to enjoy. To find more about the park and trails, visit www.whakatane.com or check out the OnepūMTB page on Facebook.

LANDSLIDE HAZARD MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

A major consultation process on the management of landslide hazards in the Whakatāne District is making good progress.

Studies undertaken for the Whakatāne District Council on the landslide hazards associated with the Ōhope, Whakatāne and Matatā escarpments have identified approximately 1,500 properties where landslides (and in the case of Matatā, debris flows) could represent a loss-of-life risk to occupants.

Letters and information summaries were sent to all of the property owners involved in July and August, together with a response form on consultation options. Just over a quarter of property owners contacted have indicated a desire for further consultation, with close to 60 percent of the respondents seeking either one-on-one or neighbourhood meetings. Council staff have met with all of the property owners who sought individual meetings and over the next few weeks, will undertake

a series of neighbourhood group and key stakeholder meetings to complete the initial consultation process.

Council Development and Compliance Manager Jeff Farrell says the consultation process is proving very useful and its outcomes will be used to guide the next stages of the hazard management project. "Some significant themes have come through and we will be endeavouring to address those in the management strategy we develop for Council approval," he says.

Mr Farrell says the Council has commissioned additional work to provide, site specific modelling of debris flow hazards to properties on the Awatarariki Stream debris fan in Matatā, with the intention of achieving a more detailed assessment of the properties where development could proceed, with appropriate conditions, and those where the level of risk makes any development impracticable.

ON OFFER AT THE BEACON BUSINESS AND LEISURE SHOW

Head along to the Beacon Business and Leisure Show this weekend and enjoy the goodies on offer at the three stalls the Whakatāne District Council is involved in. Snap up a special membership deal for the Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre and take their 'Ride the Bike Challenge', see how

coordinated you are with 'drunk goggles' on at the Eastern Bay Road Safety display, and check out the Eastern Bay Civil Defence emergency survival kit worth \$275 which you can go in the draw to win!



BNZ CLOSED FOR GOOD

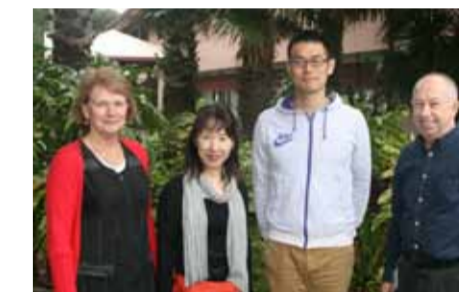
Once a year, BNZ branches across New Zealand close their doors and head out to do some good deeds in their local communities. This week, staff from the Whakatāne BNZ branch got their hands dirty and helped to clean up rubbish from the Whakatāne River's banks. While the men were helping shovel dirt at the new Baptist Church, the BNZ Whakatāne women were making their way along the river, clearing rubbish from the bridge to the Heads.



Pictured here, the BNZ Closed for Good volunteer crew takes a well-deserved morning tea break at Whakatāne's riverbank amphitheatre.

SISTER CITY VISIT FROM KAMAGAYA, JAPAN

A recent visit from Whakatāne's Sister city, Kamagaya saw 10 students aged 12-14 take part in an education exchange to Trident High School. The students were hosted by families from Trident High School and participated in a variety of activities including horse riding and a boat trip around Whale Island. Trident High School students will be visiting Kamagaya as part of their exchange in September 2014.



Pictured: Whakatāne District Sister Cities Association Secretary, Janie Storey and Deputy Chair, Jeff Farrell are pictured here with Etsuko Tsuchida (centre left) and Takahiro Soma (centre right) from Kamagaya City in Japan.

NEW EXHIBITIONS AT TE KŌPUTU IN SEPTEMBER

WHAKATĀNE COMMUNITY BOARD GALLERY
Heads Up – exhibition by Andrea Cooper. She says the title refers not only to the portrait subject matter, but is also her prompt to local people to take a heads up – and to celebrate 'the many and marvellous people who play a part in making our district such a great place to be'.

SHEAFF FAMILY GALLERY
The Whakatāne Arts and Crafts Society exhibition Visual Expressions features work by 26 members of its painting, woodcrafting and decoupage groups.

Members of the public are invited to the gallery at 11am Sunday, 15 September to learn more about the Society and its many affiliated art groups.

OPUS GALLERY
Objects of Desire – Glimpses of contemporary New Zealand design features multiple examples of design – from architecture to furniture; fashion to adornment, visual communication to boat-building.

A bronze bust of a former Mayor, a very realistic-looking chocolate bar made out of wood and an aluminium boat hull are some of the more unusual features of three new exhibitions at Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi – the Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre.



LOCAL ELECTIONS APPROACHING – KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Local elections are fast approaching so keep an eye out for your voting papers which will be sent to everyone on the electoral roll on 20 September 2013. These must be completed and returned by noon on Saturday, 12 October 2013.

Voting documents can be returned by post or hand delivered to the Administration Offices, Whakatāne District Council, Civic Centre, Commerce Street, Whakatāne between Friday, 20 September 2013 and Friday, 11 October 2013 during normal office hours, and Saturday, 12 October 2013 between 9am and 12 noon.

Special votes will be available during the voting period from 20 September for residents who are: not on the electoral roll; have damaged their voting papers; or have not received their voting papers. A person can apply to enrol as either a residential elector or ratepayer elector right up to and including 11 October 2013.

Within the Whakatāne District, elections will be held for the Mayoralty, all Councillor positions, the Rangitāiki and Tāneatua Community Boards and the Galatea Subdivision of the Murupara Community Board. No elections are required for the Te Urewera Subdivision of the Murupara

Community Board, and the Whakatāne Community Board, as the number of candidates standing meets the required number for representation.

Insufficient candidates were received for the Murupara Sub-division of the Murupara Community Board and the Ōhope Community Board and a by-election will be required for both community boards following this election.



FLUORIDATION REFERENDUM – HOW WILL IT WORK?

The Council will be conducting a fluoride referendum in conjunction with the 2013 Local Body Elections seeking the public's preference on the issue. The voting paper will include the following:

- I vote for fluoridation of the public water supply
- I vote against fluoridation of the public water supply

At the present time, the Whakatāne District Council adds fluoride (hydrofluorosilicic acid (H₂SiF₆)) to the public water supply for Whakatāne and Ōhope but not to public water supplies in other areas of the District. The purpose of this poll is to help the Council to determine whether or not fluoridation of the Whakatāne and Ōhope supply should continue AND whether or not fluoride should be applied to the other public water supplies in the District. The result of this poll is non-binding on the Whakatāne District Council.

Accompanying the voting paper will be a Fluoride Referendum Information Pamphlet which includes comments from the Bay of Plenty District Health Board for fluoridation and the Fluoride Action Network against fluoridation. Voting papers will be posted to all residents on the Whakatāne District roll on 20 September 2013. These will need to be returned, along with your local body election voting papers by noon on 12 October 2013.

WORLD WAR I DIGITISATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

The first two days of the Museum's Lottery Commission-funded project to digitise community WWI material saw an assortment of material brought in to Te Kōputu – the Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre.

Most of the items were photographs and postcards, along with pay-books and discharge documents. The items were carefully photographed and in most cases "dressed" by museum staff, so the items were returned to their owners in museum-standard material for future safekeeping. The digital images will be supplied over the coming weeks.

The next digitisation sessions will be at the Murupara Service Centre on Wednesday, 25 September and in the Lions Reading Room at the Edgcombe Library on Thursday, 26 September.

Anyone with WWI material they would like digitised should contact the Whakatāne District Museum on 07 306 0505.

