



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - March 2015



New platform for Wharf

Swimmers at the Port Ōhope wharf now have a purpose-built platform to launch themselves from. The platform came about via a joint initiative between Whakatāne District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, following some grass-roots consultation with children and parents who frequented the wharf. Pete Cavanagh, Harbour Superintendent for the Whakatāne District Council, says the platform was approved by the Council's engineer and was kept as simple as possible, as per the requests of the young - but experienced - wharf jumpers.

Long Term Plan approved for community consultation

The Whakatāne District Council is in the process of developing the 2015-25 Long Term Plan (LTP), and we're keen to know what you think about our proposals.

A consultation document, 'The Big Decisions', will be distributed throughout the District during the week beginning 16 March. Mayor Tony Bonne says he encourages all community members to read the document and provide feedback to the Council.

"The final LTP will set out the direction, priorities, work programme and budgets the Council is proposing to implement during the next decade, so it's hugely important that we get a feel for whether the wider community believes we are heading in the right direction," he says. "For the most part, we are proposing a 'steady as you go' approach, with a focus on delivering reliable services and infrastructure at an affordable cost. However, we are looking to make progress in some carefully selected areas, such as investing in activities which will contribute to growth and community prosperity."

The LTP Consultation Document and a number of supporting documents will be available on the Council website (www.whakatane.govt.nz) from 12 March, with copies also available from Council offices and District libraries. The submission period runs from 12 March to 13 April 2015, with hearings and deliberations scheduled to be held between 7 and 22 May. The LTP and associated documents will then be finalised and adopted on 25 June.



Sport NZ Rural Travel funding

Does your sports group cater for 5-19 year olds who need to travel to compete in regular sporting competitions? If so, we may be able to help.

Sport NZ has recognised the need to assist rural communities and has a grant to help rural sportsclubs and rural school teams with young people aged between 5 and 19 years of age who require subsidies to help meet the transport costs required to participate in local sporting competitions. Funding is not available to representative teams travelling to competition games.

A total of \$14,710.95 is available for allocation in the Whakatāne District. Further information on the fund can be obtained from Janie Storey, Administration Officer Community, on 07 3060 530 or 0800 3060 500. Application forms can be collected from Whakatāne District Council offices and libraries, or at www.whakatane.govt.nz/sport-nz-fund.

Applications close at 5pm on Tuesday, 31 March 2015 and should be posted or delivered to: Whakatāne District Council, Private Bag 1002, Whakatāne, 3158.

PICNIC IN THE Paddock

SATURDAY, 28 MARCH 2015
5:30PM - 8PM
Waiewe Reserve

BYO picnic & drinks
Games for all the family
Music by the Beach Band
Come along and enjoy Neighbours Day Aotearoa

EVENT CO-ORDINATED BY THE WAIWEW RESERVE RESTORATION GROUP
If wet the event will be held on Sunday, 29 March 2015
Contact: Jacqui Hughes P. 308 7064 or Coral Hair P. 027 3077 000

THE (ROAD SAFETY) Message Is In The Music



Although first released almost five decades ago, Roadhouse Blues – the smash hit from legendary 1960s rockers The Doors – carries a timeless message that can still save lives.

Heralded by a contagiously memorable heavy blues riff, the lyrics (*Keep your eyes on the road and your*

hands upon the wheel) serve as a stark reminder of where your focus needs to be when you take the driver's seat.

And it's a message that is particularly pertinent here in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The NZ Transport Agency's 'Communities at Risk register' ranks the Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Whakatāne districts in the top 15 (of 72) at-risk regions for driver distraction.

According to the road safety website, www.reduceetherisk.co.nz, most distracted driver crashes occur during the peak (morning and evening) commuting periods. Mobile phones, GPS devices, rubber-necking and other passengers are common causes of distraction for drivers. Adjusting vehicle controls and driving while emotionally upset have also been highlighted as contributory factors.

What can you do to reduce the risk?

- ✓ Focus on the task in hand – driving
- ✓ Adjust all driver controls (seat, mirrors, radio) before you start driving
- ✓ Be aware of your surroundings and potential hazards
- ✓ Have a clean windscreen
- ✓ Take regular breaks

Study favours stream re-grading and deepening

An investigation of possible flood mitigation options for the Wainui Te Whara Stream in Whakatāne has indicated that channel re-grading and deepening is likely to be the fastest and most cost-effective way to reduce the risk of future stopbank overtopping.

Council Infrastructure General Manager, Tomasz Krawczyk, says detailed engineering investigations are now being undertaken to confirm the viability of deepening and re-grading the channel.

channel re-grading is the best way to contain flood flows such as that experienced during last Easter's extreme rainfall event."

The joint Bay of Plenty Regional Council/ Whakatāne District Council study was undertaken utilising the Bay of Plenty Flood Risk Framework and involved an extensive analysis of the stream's behaviour during extreme weather events and an 'all-of-catchment' approach to risk reduction.

"Our modelling indicates that a capacity flow of around 30 cubic metres per second can be achieved at an estimated cost of between \$1.5 million and \$1.8 million," he says. "With additional mitigation measures in the upper catchment to complement the increased downstream capacity, we believe that

The proposed work would see the channel grade improved between the Valley Road bridge and the western side of the King Street bridge – a distance of about 1.3 kilometres – and the channel deepened by about one metre in places. That would require the removal of some 4,000 cubic metres of soil and rock.

Water Conservation/Restrictions



1 The water restrictions status for Whakatāne and Ōhope consumers remains at 'Level one' – voluntary conservation, although that could change in a matter of days. If the Whakatāne River flow rate falls below 10 cubic metres per second, it's likely that hose and sprinkler restrictions would be introduced without delay.

2 Earlier this week the river flow had fallen from about 18m³/second to less than 13m³/second. The river flow is directly related to how far upriver salinity

reaches around high tides. At lower flows, salinity is an almost constant factor at the water treatment station intake, requiring the operating staff to source much of the raw water volume required from an emergency uptake one kilometre upstream.

3 When that occurs, water restrictions are required to ensure that reservoir storage can be maintained at a level which caters for both consumer demand, and any emergency firefighting needs.



REDUCE YOUR WATER USE!

PROFILE: Councillor Julie Jukes

Councillor Julie Jukes is a member of Grow Whakatāne Advisory Board, the Policy Committee, the Projects and Services Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee. She is also one of two Councillors appointed to the Whakatāne District Sister Cities Association.

In her first term in local government, Councillor Jukes says she wants to help the District realise its full potential. "I want to build on the beautiful natural advantages that we have so that the Whakatāne District remains a place that we all want to live," she says. "To do this, I want our Council to provide good infrastructure - roads, water, sewerage and stormwater - and also provide opportunities to achieve economic growth and sustainability so that our District is affordable to live in."



"I want to build on the beautiful natural advantages that we have so that the Whakatāne District remains a place that we all want to live..."

Mrs Jukes says she would like to see the Council take a leadership role and work with other parties to deliver results to our ratepayers.