



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - March 2016

Water meters proposed for Edgecumbe

Edgecumbe residents and property owners will be asked for feedback on a proposal to install water meters on all water connections in the town.

The cost involved has been built into the Plains Water Scheme upgrading options proposed by the Whakatāne District Council, which will be subject to a public submissions process through its 2016/17 Annual Plan community consultation.

Council elected members highlighted a number of positive outcomes the metering of individual connections would provide. These included:

- Future resource consents are likely to require meters, to encourage the efficient use of water resources. Installation as part of the Plains Scheme upgrade would allow this to

be achieved at no cost to property owners

- Edgecumbe's water consumption per person is almost three times higher than in other District communities (600 litres per person per day, compared to 220 litres elsewhere), which indicates that there are significant leakages in the reticulation system, either on private property, or from Council-owned water mains

- Metering will help to identify the sources of water leaks and allow the problem areas to be addressed

- Individual metering will mean each property only pays for the water it uses. Properties which do not have leaking water lines could therefore expect a much lower usage cost than they currently pay

Information on the metering proposal will be made available to all Edgecumbe residents towards the end of March. Submissions on the proposal can be made between 21 March and 22 April and will be heard by the Council in early May.



Oxfam Trailwalker only one month away!

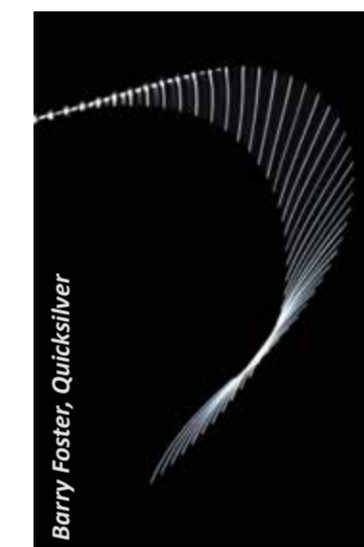


On 2-3 April, 2016, teams of four will walk either 50 km or 100 km across our stunning District. At the same time, they will be challenging poverty by fundraising to help save and improve lives as well as feeling absolutely awesome for doing it.

Oxfam Trailwalker is a huge logistical exercise, and the organising team is looking for some wonderful volunteers. Almost 300 volunteers are required in many different roles. If you want to be part of a fantastic fundraising event, Oxfam would love to hear from you. Visit www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz to find out more and register your interest.

EXHIBITIONS

What's on at Te Kōpūtū?



Barry Foster, Quicksilver

HOW WE SEE IT WHAKATĀNE CAMERA CLUB 18 MARCH - 1 MAY

Inspired by New Zealand's unique landscape and way of life, *How We See It* showcases new photographs captured by members of the Whakatāne Camera Club. The exhibition celebrates the character and diversity of club members and offers a uniquely local perspective, with each photographer responding to a myriad of themes, locations and compositions.

The Whakatāne Camera Club's origins date back to 1956 and have never been stronger, having experienced substantial growth and support in recent years.



Sunshine and a Plate

More than 2,500 people enjoyed the Gourmet Food Markets at the Whakatāne Heads. This event kicked off the inaugural Sunshine and a Plate Food Festival which raised funds for Hospice Eastern Bay of Plenty.



The installation of a larger culvert at the Douglas Street bridge over the Wainui Te Whara Stream is making good progress, with the road expected to be reinstated by the middle of March.

National Surf Life Saving Championships hit Ōhope

From 17 – 20 March, Ōhope Beach will once again be home to the National Surf Life Saving Championships. This is the pinnacle event for the sport, and you can watch all the action right here.

From Masters (over 30s) through to NZ representatives, surf boat crews to beach sprinters, these championships will see almost 1400 athletes compete over the four days. Be sure to check out all the action and cheer our local teams on.



Annual Plan draft budgets approved

The Whakatāne District Council's Policy Committee has approved draft budgets for the 2016/17 Annual Plan which would see an average rates rise across the District of 3.2 percent.

A report detailing financial forecasts for the year and setting out proposed community consultation processes was received by the committee last week. In the report, Finance General Manager Helen Barnes noted that several matters currently under consideration could have an impact on the final Annual Plan, and that a number of assumptions had been built into the forecasts. These included the removal of planned 2016/17 capital expenditure for Matatā wastewater reticulation, and the inclusion of additional capital expenditure and associated operating and financing costs for proposed Plains Water Scheme improvements.

The indicative average rate rise is slightly higher than the 2.96 percent estimate reported to the Council in December last year, although it is still substantially lower than both the 2015-25 Long Term Plan forecast (3.84 percent) and the limit set out in the Council's financial strategy (4.1 percent). The average rate rise across the District for the 2015/16 year was 3.21 percent.

While the report confirms that the financial forecasts comply with all of the Council's financial strategy limits, and are largely in line with the work plan and budget forecast in the Long Term Plan, it concludes that the proposed Plains Water Scheme capital expenditure does trigger the need for formal public consultation. A consultation document summarising key elements of the 2016/17 Annual Plan, including the indicative rates costs applying to various communities and sectors, will be

reported to the Committee on 17 March and made publicly available via a four-page supplement to be published in a local free-delivery newspaper. At the same time, community feedback will also be sought on proposed changes to resource consent fees and the Whakatāne District's draft Gambling Policy.

Copies of the proposed consultation document, supporting reports and submissions forms will be available from Council offices and on the Council website.

Submissions to the Annual Plan will open on 21 March and close on 22 April. Submission hearings are scheduled for 5-6 May, and the Council will then deliberate on any changes required before adopting the final 2016/17 Annual Plan and fees and charges schedule on 23 June.

Community input needed for Gambling Policy review

A draft Whakatāne District gambling policy and draft Social Impact Assessment will be available for community input next month, alongside the Whakatāne District Council's 2016/17 Annual Plan.



The Gambling Policy (Class 4 Venue and Board Venue) focuses on non-casino gaming machines (or 'pokies') and Board Venues (stand-alone TABs) and, as required by the Gambling Act 2003 and Racing Act 2003, must be reviewed and made available for community submissions every three years.

The draft Social Impact Assessment concludes that the Whakatāne District has a medium risk of harm from gambling activities and that the level of risk has not changed significantly since the last review. Based on its findings, the draft gambling policy proposes limiting the number of gaming machines to 141 (six per 1,000 District residents over the age of 18). Because the District now has 181 gaming machines in 13 venues (down from 245 in 19 venues in 2003), that would effectively mean that no applications for new machines could be approved until the total number of pokies in the District falls below 141. In adopting the draft policy for public consultation at its meeting this week, the Council's Policy Committee also asked for changes to be incorporated which would limit the location of new gambling venues in areas with the highest levels of gambling risk.

The proposed policy also limits new Class 4 and Board Venues to locations that are zoned as 'Business Centre' in the proposed District Plan, and that are at least 50 metres away from premises with sensitive uses, such as schools and churches. An additional section has been included which proposes that applications to relocate existing Class 4 Venues will be treated as new applications, except in specific, exceptional circumstances.

Public submissions on the draft policy open on 21 March and close on 22 April. Hearings of submissions are scheduled for 5-6 May, and the Council will then deliberate on any changes required and adopt the final Gambling Policy.

Inspiring Sustainability in the Bay

The Sustainable Business Network (SBN) is holding its annual sustainability event this month at Tūhoe's magnificent living building – Te Kura Whare in Tāneatua.

The SBN carries out activities and projects around New Zealand and online which are aligned with its goals of enabling the use of renewable energy, building thriving communities, maximising the use of all resources, and enhancing New Zealand's natural capital.

Those attending the upcoming event will have an opportunity to be inspired, learn from local sustainability success stories, and connect with like-minded business operators.

Two presentations will help attendees to deepen their understanding of sustainable business. Kirsti Luke,

Chief Executive of Te Uru Taumatua, will discuss how sustainability is incorporated into Tūhoe's investment decisions, and Professor Ralph Sims, Massey University, will talk about sustainable energy and how New Zealand can reduce greenhouse gas emissions so we 'do our fair share' under the Paris Climate Agreement.

Enjoy a tour of Tūhoe's living building, discover the best opportunities for local businesses to address climate change and sustainability through practical workshops, and network with the Bay of Plenty sustainable business community.

Inspiring Sustainability in the Bay will be held on Wednesday, 30 March from 2pm - 6pm. The event includes afternoon tea and early-evening nibbles. Information and tickets to this event are available through the SBN website – www.sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-events

