



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - April 2015

Tourism numbers positive for Whakatane

Recent accommodation statistics show a continued upturn in visitor 'guest nights' spent in the Whakatane District. The January 2015 Commercial Accommodation Monitor figures show that while there was a decrease throughout the Bay of Plenty as a whole, guest nights in Whakatane rose by 2.4%, compared to the same period in 2014.

Whakatane District Council Business Services Manager Roslyn Mortimer says the figures reflect a very positive trend. "We have seen an increase of around 40,000 guest nights over the past two years, which is very encouraging," she says. "The most recent figures show that we have had strong domestic and international visitor numbers and I believe this is because we are an affordable destination – and of course, we have great beaches and plenty of sunshine. The District is a good honest Kiwi destination that offers a slice of New Zealand and that appeals to people who want to avoid larger, more hectic destinations."



A national campaign has been launched to reduce the amount of household food waste New Zealanders discard each year. The "Love Food, Hate Waste" campaign is being run by councils nationwide and aims to significantly reduce the estimated \$872 million in food that Kiwi households waste annually.



Love Food, hate waste

Research has shown that bread, fruit, veggies and meal leftovers are the most commonly discarded foods, with nearly 80kg of edible food being wasted in each household each year.

Whakatane District Council Solid Waste Manager Nigel Clarke says that not only is this a drain on family budgets, it's also an unnecessary burden on the environment. "Based on the number of households in the Whakatane District, we are likely to

be throwing away more than 900 tonnes of food, with a value of at least \$6.7million, every year," he says. "All of that has to be disposed of, so there are other costs to be considered.

Nationally, if we eliminated the amount of gasses our food waste produces in landfills, it would be equivalent to taking 118,000 cars off the road."

Mr Clarke says there are numerous ways that households can reduce their waste and save money. "Try keeping your bread in the fridge to keep it in condition, or freeze it and just take out the number of slices you need each day. Also, try planning

meals for the week and just buying what you need."

For more information on how to reduce your food waste go to: www.facebook.com/lovefoodhatewastenz



Cryptolocker virus attack

The Whakatane District Council's computer systems were recently attacked by a cryptolocker virus variant which was so new that it was not recognised by our protection software.

As soon as the attack was detected, all systems were shut down to limit the damage and prevent the virus spreading. Council IT and external support staff worked around the clock to identify and cleanse the systems of infected files and progressively restart them as they were confirmed safe. The prompt and thorough reaction by staff meant the situation was contained and all essential systems were back in operation in a relatively short timeframe.

Representation Review underway

Every six years, the Council is required to undertake a Representation Review to ensure that all parts of the District are represented fairly and appropriately. Councillors considered a range of different options to achieve that at last week's Policy Committee meeting, and the preferred options are now available for Community Boards, other key stakeholders and the wider community to provide feedback on.

Key aspects include:

- The proposed retention of the current four wards;
- Retention of 10 Councillors, with the number of representatives for each ward determined by population – Whakatane-Ohope (5 Councillors), Rangitaiiki (3), Taneatua-Waimana (1) and Galatea-Murupara (1);
- The Mayor to be elected by all electors;
- The proposed amalgamation of the Ohope Beach and Whakatane Community Boards. All other Boards – Rangitaiiki, Murupara and Taneatua – to be retained;
- The retention of the current Community Board membership – six elected members and one appointed Council member.

Any community organisations or individuals who wish to express their views on the proposed arrangements are invited to make a submission for the Council's consideration by 29 May 2015. A formal decision will then be made before the end of July, which may then be subject to hearings.



Creative NZ Funding

The Whakatane District Council, in conjunction with Creative New Zealand, has funding available to assist artistic and cultural projects that fit into one of the following three categories: Participation, Diversity and Young People.

If you are planning a project or event that fits one of these categories and would like to seek funding support, information and application forms are available from Council Offices, Libraries or on the website – www.whakatane.govt.nz. Applications must be completed and returned to the Council by 5pm on Friday, 15 May 2015.

100th ANZAC DAY

ANZAC DAY 2015 will be commemorated with Dawn Parades on Saturday 25 April starting at 5:30pm at the following locations: Wairaka Marae, Muriwai Drive; Rewarewa Marae, Ruatoki; Tipapa Marae, Kopuriki Road, Murupara; War Memorial Hall, Te Teko; and Rangitihia Marae, Matata.

In order to allow those from outlying areas to attend, the District Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, 25 April at 10:30am (not 9:30am as in previous years) at the Whakatane War Memorial Centre; the guest speaker will be Royal New Zealand Navy Lieutenant Commander Greg Camburn.

Roundabouts at high profile locations in Whakatane feature a special garden treatment as part of this year's centenary commemoration of the World War One ANZAC landings at Gallipoli. The poppies being planted here by Parks staff Raneë Whiting (left) and Stacey Evans and Parks Supervisor Vicki Gillard should be in full bloom by ANZAC Day.



LONG TERM PLAN 2015-25

» The Big Decisions «

Ngā whakataunga matua

Have your say! Should we...



Increase our focus on attracting jobs, investment, events and people?



Develop a modern events, conference, indoor-sports and theatre facility?



Redevelop the Whakatane Museum & Research Centre?



Transfer our pensioner housing units to a Community Housing Provider?



Keep most services at the current level?



Improve our harbour facilities and access?

What do you think? We want to hear from you!

Our Long Term Plan sets the Council's priorities and work programme for the next 10 years and will be our guiding document. It is currently out for community consultation, until Monday, 13 April 2015. We want you to tell us if we are heading in the right direction and what you think the Council's priorities should be.

Making a submission is easy. You can fill in a submission form or write a letter. You can also complete an online submission on our website, or send it as an email. If they wish to, submitters can present their views directly to Council hearings, but make sure you put in a written or electronic submission, letting us know you wish to be heard and the key points you want to raise. Make sure we receive your submission before 5pm on Monday, 13 April.

Information on the key proposals can be found in our consultation document, 'The Big Decisions', which you should have received through the mail. It is also available on our website (www.whakatane.govt.nz) and at Council libraries and service centres. Additional supporting information can also be found on our website, along with the Draft Policies and Proposals which support the LTP.

KEY TIMEFRAMES

13 APRIL
Submissions close

7-11 MAY
Public hearings

14-22 MAY
Deliberations

25 JUNE
Adoption of final LTP