



WHAKATĀNE
District Council
Kia Whakatāne au i ahau

OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - May 2015



Whakatāne Sister Cities Association wins national award

The work of the Whakatāne District Sister Cities Association has been recognised by an award for the Best Cultural, Sport or Recreation Project at last month's Sister City New Zealand Awards in Wellington. The award was accepted by Whakatāne District Councillor Andrew Iles, the association chairperson, at the annual awards dinner.

The award entry focused on the local group's November 2014 visit to Shibukawa and Kamagaya in Japan, which saw 14 intermediate-aged kapa haka students participate, along with their principal, three teachers, Mayor Tony Bonne, Sister Cities Association chairperson Andrew Iles, and four members of the association.

The entry highlighted the valuable learning experiences of all involved and included excerpts from essays written by the students following their time in Japan.



Airport open day draws crowds

Locals and visitors turned out in force to view and experience a range of aircraft at the Whakatāne Airport open day last weekend. The open day was organised to welcome Air Chathams and recognise the commencement of the company's Whakatāne Air Services for the Eastern Bay.

Spectators were treated to impressive aerial displays from a Vampire jet and formation flying from a Yak formation. Air Chathams' vintage DC3 also flew into town for the weekend and offered hugely popular scenic flights over Whakatāne and Ōhope.

Crowds were treated to entertainment by local artists throughout the day and had the opportunity to view our local fire appliances, Coastguard vessels and learn about the Whakatāne Emergency Response Team. Profits from the day went to Whakatāne Sunrise Rotary to support worthy local activities.



Thousands turned out to the commemorative services held across the Whakatāne District on the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day. Pictured here, Mayor Tony Bonne addresses the audience at the civic service held at the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall.



Council wins Sovereign Tri Series CEO Challenge

Whakatāne District Council has just been confirmed as the inaugural winner of the Sovereign Tri Series CEO Challenge, which means that the Kirsty Lang Family Trust will soon be receiving a cheque for \$25,000. Kirsty was a valued staff member who sadly passed away in 2014. A Trust was subsequently set up to ensure that her children were cared for in the future.

Whakatāne District Council Chief Executive, Marty Grenfell says the win was the result of a great team effort. "The key outcomes were that the Tri Challenge brought us together as a unit and encouraged us to become fitter and healthier. The fact that Kirsty's family will benefit in such a tangible way is the icing on the cake."

The winning business was chosen based on the percentage of staff participation across the Sovereign Tri Series. Whakatāne District Council cemented its win with an 85% participation rate, which included entries in three triathlons, at Mt Maunganui, Kinloch and Takapuna.



Welcome to Edgumbe Community Event Centre

The Edgumbe Community Event Centre was officially opened this week at a ceremony held at the facility's new location on the Edgumbe Domain. The building was acquired by the Whakatāne District Council when it purchased land for the new Pyne Street car park, and was gifted to Edgumbe Blue Light and the community.

The Rangitāiki Community Board funded the building's relocation and positioning and exterior painting. Local artist, Jordyn Davey-Emms was commissioned to create a mural for the new centre which was inspired by the ideas of local youth.

Edgumbe Blue Light Chairman, Senior Constable Michael Lawton, welcomed the community to the opening ceremony before the building was blessed by Kaumatua Timi Peri (Ngāti Awa) and officially opened with a ribbon-cutting by Mayor Tony Bonne.

Rangitāiki Community Board Chair Vicky Richards says the new centre will be a huge asset for Edgumbe Blue Light and the wider community. "Blue Light now has a place to call home in Edgumbe, and our community has a venue for school holiday programmes and youth-focused events."

Photo from left: Rangitāiki Community Board Chair, Vicky Richards; Blue Light Chair, Senior Constable Michael Lawton; Blue Light Committee Member, Kris Byrne; and Whakatāne District Mayor, Tony Bonne.



Trustpower Community Awards now open

Whakatāne District residents have the opportunity to recognise the dedication of their local voluntary groups, with nominations for the Trustpower Whakatāne District Community Awards now open. Run in partnership with the Whakatāne District Council, the Awards are open to all voluntary groups and organisations working to make the district a better place to live.

Anyone can nominate a voluntary group or organisation for the Trustpower Whakatāne District Community Awards – voluntary groups and organisations can even enter themselves.

Entry Forms for the Trustpower Community Awards are available from the Council offices or service centres or can be completed online at www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards. Entry Forms can also be received by calling Trustpower Community Relations Representative Kathlene Cook on 0800 87 11 11.

The awards cover five categories:

- Heritage and Environment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Arts and Culture
- Sport and Leisure
- Educational and Child/Youth Development

Entries for the Trustpower Whakatāne District Community Awards close at 5pm on Friday, 12 June 2015.



Long Term Plan feedback considered



Whakatāne District Council received close to 250 submissions on its Long Term Plan 2015-25. The submissions varied in their focus, with a high number of submitters providing feedback on Whakatāne River access, Harbour/Port development and economic development. The 'Big Decisions' survey, which asked residents about the major proposals in the Long Term Plan, showed that Council's preferred option came out on top for all of the major proposals, although there was a very small margin between support for and opposition to the proposed Museum Redevelopment Project.

A number of those who made submissions will speak to these at the LTP hearings, which are to be held from 7-11 May. Following the hearings, Council will deliberate on the submissions from 14 – 22 May and the final Long Term Plan will be adopted on 25 June.