



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - April 2016

Green Fingers Volunteer Expo



Give us a hand!

Friday, 8 April 10am – 1pm
Whakatane Gardens (Near the Rose
Gardens), Parking at end of McGarvey Road

Are you interested in contributing some time, energy and skill - and meeting a great bunch of people? We're looking for enthusiastic people who want to help us improve the quality of our public green spaces.

Come along and listen to some of our volunteers, who will talk about their fantastic contribution to our District through their involvement in volunteer care groups such as Whakatane Harbour Care, the Whakatane Kiwi Trust and the Sullivan Lake, Apanui Saltmarsh and Waiewe Reserve care groups.

We're especially keen to talk to people who are enthusiastic about roses, perennial flower gardens, camellias and rhododendrons, orchards and vegetable gardens or scenic trails such as the Ngā Tapuwae o Toi walkway.

All ages and abilities welcome - you don't have to be skilled to be involved, as you will be supported by District Council staff and others with specialist knowledge. Refreshments will be provided. If it's raining, a notice will go out on 1XX (90.5FM, 92.9FM) at 9am and on our website www.whakatane.govt.nz



Official opening for new Tāneatua playground

A large group of local children and invited guests gathered at the Jack Knowles Reserve in Tāneatua on 22 March to celebrate the official opening of the town's upgraded playground.

A joint Tūhoe - Te Uru Taumatua and Whakatane District Council project, the playground has been progressively redeveloped over the past two years to provide a great new family recreation attraction for the wider Tāneatua and Rūātoki area. Key features include barbecue and picnic facilities, an exciting climbing frame and play equipment suitable for younger children, and teen-focused activities such as a basketball half-court.

Local Elections 2016
**YOUR VOTE
YOUR COMMUNITY**

Do you care about your community? Get interested in voting

The local body election to select the District's Mayor, Councillors and Community Board Members is to be held this year. These are the people who will make the final decisions about how we develop our community, how we set and spend our rates, and where we should be focusing our efforts for the future.

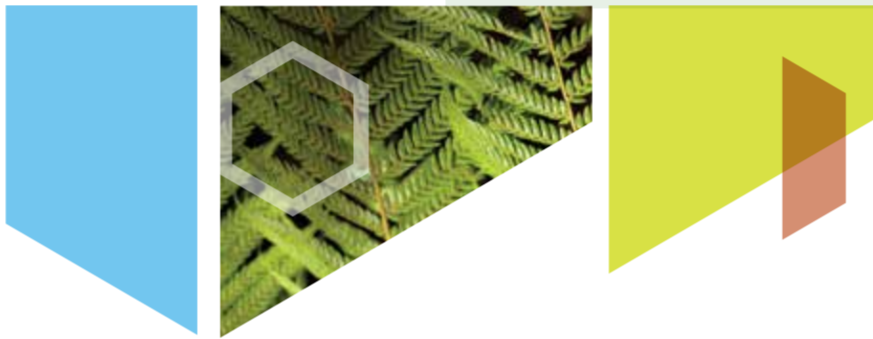
You may be interested in standing for Council and becoming one of those decision-makers for our District. If so, nominations for candidates will open on 15 July and close on 12 August, along with the electoral roll. After this date, anyone who is entitled to vote and who is not enrolled as an elector, or whose details are incorrectly recorded on the roll, will have to cast a 'special vote'.

Local elections for city and district councils, regional councils and district health boards will be held from 16 September to 8 October this year.

In order to receive a voting paper, you must be enrolled on the electoral roll at your current address. So if you are new to the area, have recently changed address, have just turned 18, or never been on the roll - go to elections.org.nz or your nearest Post Shop to enrol.



whakatane.govt.nz
Submissions open until 22 April



Annual Plan 2016/17 IS OPEN FOR CONSULTATION

Tell us what you think - *it's your future*

The Whakatane District Council is seeking community input into the development of its Annual Plan for the 2016/17 financial year, which includes key updates and changes from last year's 2015-25 Long Term Plan (LTP). It is also looking for feedback on options for upgrading Edgumbe and Te Teko's water supply, and proposed changes to the Gambling Policy and Resource Consent fees.

Mayor Tony Bonne says the Council's planned activities and budgets are largely in-line with those set out in last year's LTP, but because the capital cost of the proposed Plains water upgrade had increased, the need for formal community consultation had been triggered.

"Pleasingly, the average rates increase of 3.2 percent across the District is lower than the 3.84 percent increase forecast in the LTP," he says. "Actual changes in rates costs will differ, depending on the projects and activities planned in various parts of the District. Indicative costs for various communities are set out in the consultation document and Council elected members would welcome any feedback, both on the proposed rates and the other key elements discussed."

Improving water quality

Our Long Term Plan (LTP) includes a project to improve the quality of water supplied to Edgumbe, with future stages looking at other areas of the Rangitāiki Plains, such as Awakeri and Te Teko. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has offered a \$2.02 million subsidy for this project.

As a result of the increased cost estimate for the project, and concerns raised by Te Teko residents about the water supply to their community, the Council is considering new options for this project. Five possible options have been put forward for consideration, and we are now seeking community views on which option to pursue.

As part of the improvements to Edgumbe's water supply, we are also proposing to install water meters for Edgumbe properties. This will help identify the source of any system leaks, and promote more efficient use of the resource. The cost of installing meters has been included in the project budget, and billing by meter would be expected to start from 1 July 2017.

Gambling Policy changes

The Gambling Policy has been reviewed, and we want your feedback on the changes we're proposing. The Gambling Policy (Class 4 Venue and Board Venue) focuses on non-casino gaming machines (pokies) and Board Venues (stand-alone TABs). The only significant change proposed to the existing policy is to introduce a relocation clause for venues wishing to change location. The proposed cap on the number of pokies is retained at 141. Because there are currently 181 machines in the District, this effectively means that no applications for new machines would be considered until the number of pokies falls below 141.

Resource Consent Fees reviewed

Council is proposing to fix fees for the following type of resource consents:

- Subdivision consents where a maximum of three additional lots are created
- Land use consents in the Residential and Urban Living zones, for non-compliance with bulk and location standards (such as distance to boundaries and site coverage)

The intent of the fixed fee provision is to enable Council to provide a greater level of certainty for those applying for consents.

HERE'S HOW: Submissions on the Annual Plan, the fees and charges review, water supply upgrade project and the gambling policy review will close at 5pm on Friday, 22 April. To have your say, make a formal written submission, pass your views on to a Council elected member, or post a comment on the Council's website, YouTube channel or Facebook page. www.whakatane.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Rubbish collection changes on the way

The Whakatane District's solid waste activities will cost less and achieve better environmental and service outcomes when new contract arrangements take effect on 1 October.

Council Solid Waste Manager Nigel Clarke said the expected benefits flow largely from a change to a two-stream, 'glass out' recycling system. This will see existing 60-litre recycling crates used only for glass and a new, yellow-lid 240-litre wheelie bin supplied to households for all other recyclables - paper/cardboard, tins, cans and plastics.

"All plastic material (grades 1-7) will be able to be recycled, as opposed to the current system, which allows only grades 1 and 2 to be collected. As a result, we can expect a significant increase in the amount of plastic recycled," Mr Clarke said. "And, based on the experience in other areas where the two-stream system has been introduced, the additional space provided by the new wheelie bin should also increase recycling, so we can expect an overall volume increase in excess of 20 percent of the recycled waste stream."

The new system will involve a change in kerbside collection routines, with recyclables collected every second week - alternating with the existing, fortnightly green waste collection. However, residents will be putting out the same number of bins or crates over each two-week period. Information resources will be prepared and distributed to all households in the lead-up to the introduction of the new waste service to ensure that residents are aware of the new collection schedule and the need to separate glass from other recyclables.

New bin system - From 1 October 2016



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 an arts 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 our website - www.whakatane.govt.nz.

Applications must be completed and returned to the Council by 5pm on Friday, 13 May 2015.

2016 Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund



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 provided Council with a grant to help rural sports clubs and rural school teams with young people aged between 5 and 19 years of age who require help to meet the transport costs required to participate in local sporting competitions.

A total of \$14,710.95 is available for allocation. The fund is not available to representative teams travelling to competition games.

Further information on the fund can be obtained from Janie Storey, Administration Officer Community, on 07 306 0530 or 0800 306 0500.

Application forms can be collected from Whakatane District Council Offices and Public Libraries, or at www.whakatane.govt.nz/sport-nz-fund

Applications close at 5pm on Friday, 22 April 2016 and should be posted or delivered to: Whakatane District Council, Private Bag 1002, Whakatane, 3158.

