



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - October 2017

Whakatāne District Council going paper-light

Whakatāne District Council is adopting a 'paper-light' environment in the interests of increasing efficiency and reducing risk, as well as addressing its carbon footprint. Most departments throughout the organisation already have all relevant forms available online and will be promoting their usage over hardcopy versions and working to reduce the usage of printed documents through all Council workflows.

Brian Elliott, Manager Corporate and Information Services, says the Council has already made a major step towards being paper-light by undertaking the digitisation of all property files, with the building consents process set to follow. Elected members have also moved onto tablets and away from hard copies for all agendas and documentation.

"The benefits to the District are considerable," Mr Elliott says. "In addition to the environmental advantages, digital processes also mean that multiple users can access documents at the same time, there is less risk of hard copies being lost, and we can greatly reduce our quite considerable printing costs. We understand some members of the public still prefer printed versions of documents, but our customer service staff are there to help and can walk you through completing any forms online."

'Kennel drive' to seek shelter for dogs

The Whakatāne District Council and Whakatāne SPCA are joining forces on a 'kennel drive' to provide unused shelters for animals that are being kept in poor conditions or inadequate housing. Graeme Lewer of Whakatāne District Council says his Animal Control staff frequently encounter dogs in less than ideal conditions, and the two groups are appealing to anyone who has a kennel they no longer need to get in touch so that it can be put to good use.

"There is a legal requirement under the Dog Control Act and the Animal Welfare Act that an owner has to supply proper and sufficient food, water and shelter for their animals," Mr Lewer says. "There are quite heavy penalties for failing to ensure those basic needs are met. We know that some owners do find it difficult to provide adequate shelter for their animals, so we are teaming up with the SPCA to see what we can do to help. We have had great support in the past from people who no longer have a dog, but still have a kennel that's not being used. If you're in that situation, or know someone who is, then get in touch."

Inspector Liisa Jones of Whakatāne SPCA says she also comes across situations where dog owners haven't provided adequate shelters for their dogs, particularly kennels that are old and no longer adequate. Minimum standards in the Dogs Codes of welfare state:

- A dog must be provided with sheltered and dry sleeping quarters
- Measures must be put in place to enable a dog to keep warm in cold weather
- Sleeping quarters must be large enough to allow the dog to stand up, turn around and lay comfortably for its size
- Dogs must be able to toilet away from their beds
- Ventilation and shade must be provided in situations where dogs are likely to experience heat stress

"The code of welfare applies to everyone responsible for the welfare of a dog," she says, "including breeders, owners of pets, hunting dogs, sporting dogs, working dogs, or people looking after your dog for any reason. Failure to meet a minimum standard in the code may result in a prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act."



The above photos are local examples of the inadequate housing conditions that some dogs are kept in.

Trustpower Community Awards

Volunteers are at the heart of every community, and the Trustpower Community Awards seeks to celebrate and reward those who dedicate their time and energy to helping others. Any voluntary groups or volunteer-based, not-for-profit organisations working in the interests of their community are eligible for the awards, with categories covering heritage and environment, health and wellbeing, arts and culture, sport and leisure, and education and child/youth development.

Find more information and how to enter at www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards



Council scoops website award for third year in a row

Whakatāne District Council has won the ALGIM Supreme Website Award, sponsored by ReadSpeaker, for the third year running at ALGIM's 2017 Spring Web & Digital and Customer Experience Conference.



The winning website is based on a web audit carried out by ALGIM each year to encourage development of the digital customer experience in local government and looks at what self-service functions the website provides, accessibility features, how it complies with best practice for websites, and how quickly councils respond to enquiries through email and social media channels.

ALGIM CEO Mike Manson said, "Coming out on top of 78 councils is a tough ask, given the amount of work going into enhancing online services in local government. To do it three years in a row is an admirable result, and one that Whakatāne District Council should certainly be proud of."

The runner up in this category was Palmerston North City Council, who have performed well in recent years, moving up one place from third in 2016.

The web audit also provided some interesting insights into the online services provided by councils. Rates can now be paid online at 80% of councils, dog rego renewals at 61%, and building consents at 44%.

The majority of councils now also see 25-50% of their traffic coming from mobile devices – such as smartphones and tablets – meaning that mobile responsiveness is a crucial feature.

WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENTS

YOUTH COUNCIL KAUNIHERA TAIHOI

YOUTH FEST 2K17

Clubs, hobbies, sports, groups, activities and volunteering – all jampacked in one place for you. Get amongst it!

Whakatāne Rose Gardens
1:00PM | 14 OCTOBER 2017

Food, Live Demos, Music, Entertainment, Fun stuff and Giveaways! Outdoor Movie by Blue light
www.facebook.com/whkdyc

The America's Cup is here on Monday

Edgecumbe is in for a boost, with Emirates Team New Zealand bringing the America's Cup to town on Monday, 9 October from 12 midday until 2 pm. This once-in-a-lifetime event has been arranged to allow local businesses affected by the April floods to showcase their products and services at the Riverslea Park event venue and spread the news that Edgecumbe is back in business.

The event programme will see Emirates Team New Zealand and the Cup welcomed onto the Rata Street Park, first by local iwi and Deputy Mayor Judy Turner, followed by local business and District Recovery Team representatives. A brief question and answer session will be followed by an opportunity for people to get their photo taken with the Cup, before the Team departs at 2 pm.

Whakatāne District Council Tourism and Events Advisor, Nicola Burgess, says the event is a locally-led initiative. "We are very lucky to have people in the local business community who came up with the idea and put it out there. When it was brought to their attention, Emirates Team New Zealand generously agreed to create this unique opportunity for the Edgecumbe community, and the Council is very happy to help make it happen."

The America's Cup visit is expected to boost morale for the community, which was impacted by massive flooding when the Rangitāiki River breached its stopbanks on 6 April this year, causing a local Civil Defence State of Emergency and the complete evacuation of the township. Some 300 homes and a number of businesses and surrounding rural properties sustained significant flood damage.

The America's Cup is coming to Edgecumbe!

Monday, 9 October, from 12-2pm
Riverslea Park, Rata Ave, Edgecumbe

Meet members of Emirates Team New Zealand and welcome the America's Cup to Edgecumbe.

- School Holiday activities from 11am
- Questions/answers and photo ops
- Heaps of local business stalls
- Food and coffee stalls

Join in the fun at this once-only event - and help get Edgecumbe businesses back on their feet.

whakatane.com