



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - May 2019

Home composting scheme uptake overwhelming

Council recently provided a selection of highly-subsidised home composting and worm farm equipment to residents with an overwhelming response. The Subsidised Home Composting Scheme was possible thanks to the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Levy Funding to councils. Petra and her Dad, Nicholas (pictured right) were very happy with their new compost bin they bought through the scheme.



Anzac display and tour of Research Centre

An Anzac commemorative display will be on show at the Whakatane Museum and Research Centre - Te Whare Taonga o Taketake - until July 2019.



Collections Technician Zaida Moffat says the Anzac display features items from the Museum and Research Centre Collection, which are able to be viewed in the Centre's Research Room. "We want our community to know that the Research Room is a place where people can come to connect with the photographs and records we hold of local servicemen and women," she says.

Tours of the recently redeveloped Whakatane Museum and Research Centre - Te Whare Taonga o Taketake - are also available to interested community members. The Centre is holding one tour each month through until June, with the next tour offering spaces on Thursday, 30 May from 10 - 11 am.

Ms Moffat says staff are pleased to offer people with an interest in heritage preservation the opportunity to tour the centre. "This will also be the ideal opportunity to take in the Anzac display and appreciate how far-reaching the impacts of World War One were for the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

For practical reasons, tour numbers are limited, so anyone interested is invited to register on the Whakatane Museum and Arts website.

DO YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY? Consider standing for election

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 19 July and close on 16 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 20 September to 12 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.



Shared use path widening and redirection works underway

Work has commenced this week to widen and redirect the shared-use riverside path on the eastern end of the Warren Cole Walkway, to take users around the safety-sensitive game wharf and boat trailer parking areas.

The existing path will be widened and rerouted from the top of the stop bank past the southern (town) side of the waka shed and back on to the shared-use path on Muriwai Drive. This work is being carried out for public safety reasons, to provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists to and from the Whakatane Heads.

The new path will be constructed in concrete and will be three metres wide. Where the path rises over the stop bank, it will be paved with recycled paving blocks, to tie into the existing path and allow for a possible future raising of the stop bank, for flood protection reasons.

As part of the works, the existing path between the waka shed and the wharf and boat trailer park will be reinstated as a grassed area.

While the works have been programmed to cause minimal disruption, Mataatua Reserve may be closed to overflow boat trailer parking for a short period.

The path works will be carried out by contractors, Crossroads, and are expected to be completed by 30 May 2019. A cultural monitor will be onsite to oversee the works.

Changes to plastic recycling on the way

Whakatane District Council's kerbside recycling service will soon stop accepting grades 3 to 7 plastics as a result of significant changes to the global recycling market.

Residents will have stickers delivered to their households later this month, which should be placed on the yellow-lid bins as a reminder that only grade 1 and 2 plastics will be accepted. Grades 3 to 7 plastics include widely-used items such as ice cream containers, yoghurt pots and takeaway containers.

Waste Management NZ Ltd, the local contractor for rubbish and recycling, began rejecting these grades from commercial customers at the end of last year. In the coming months they will no longer be accepting them from household kerbside collections either.

A key factor in this change is China's decision to stop importing 24 grades of waste, including household plastics and mixed paper. Since then New Zealand has been sending plastic waste to South East Asia, but now Malaysia is also banning imports of many plastic grades.

Whakatane District Council Solid Waste Manager, Nigel Clarke says some councils are stockpiling these plastics while they look into other options, but the most sustainable way forward is a change in consumer habits.

"People can stop these plastics ending up in landfill by choosing not to buy them in the first place," he says. "The type of packaging a product comes in should be a factor in purchase decisions - check the grade of plastic first to identify whether it can be recycled. If it can't, try to choose an alternative."



CHANGES to your recycling

From 1 June 2019
**PLASTICS KIRIHOU
GRADES 1 & 2
only, can be recycled**

Council will no longer collect grades 3 - 7 plastics



CHECK YOUR PLASTIC WASTE
Look for these symbols, and place only these grades in your yellow-top bin.



Let's make sure that the limited plastics we can recycle do not end up in landfill.



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING AVAILABLE

Time is running out to get your application in for funding your creative project. The Creative Communities Whakatane Scheme is aimed at increasing participation in the arts at a local level and increasing the range and diversity of arts available within communities. All artists or art-related organisations are eligible to apply, either as individuals or groups. The Scheme offers support for a variety of art-based projects, and all applications are assessed on the merit of the project and how it fits within the Creative NZ Communities Scheme criteria.

All applications are required to outline the benefits of the proposed project to the community, as this is the basis for receiving the fund from Creative NZ. The three categories are Participation, Diversity, and Young People. More information on these categories as well as how to apply can be found on the Whakatane District Council website. There is \$15,000 available to allocate to projects, so get your application in by 5pm Friday, 10 May 2019.

Elements of fun at Te Kōputu



Flynn Dominick took advantage of the fun and creative activities that were on offer through the Whakatane HEG Library's school holiday programme last month.

The activities were centred around science and celebrated the 150th anniversary of the periodic table. This workshop was a hit with the kids, who got to make their own t-shirt with words spelled out of elements.