



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - September 2019

PUBLIC PERCEPTION SURVEY YIELDS POSITIVE RESPONSES

Results for Whakatāne District Council's 2018/19 Communitrak Perception Survey have been received and show the community is largely pleased with the organisation's work.

Council undertakes the survey every year to gauge how residents perceive its key services, facilities, elected representatives and staff. This year's results showed the highest average levels of satisfaction and the lowest average levels of dissatisfaction since 2013/14.

"The positive results reflect the continuous efforts of Council staff to ensure all Whakatāne district communities receive the best possible services and facilities," says Cashy Ball, Manager Strategy and Community Development.

The information captured by the survey is used alongside other data to help guide Council's corporate planning and performance frameworks. "The survey also gives us the opportunity to ask specific questions about Council policy and direction, projects, and local issues," Cashy says.

Council has used the Communitrak Perception Survey, conducted by NRB, since 2014. Respondents are randomly sampled, with quotas for gender and community boards, and a target of 90 respondents in the 18-44 age demographic.

Full survey results are published annually on Council's website. The results for the 2018/19 year will be online shortly.



Civic Centre seismic strengthening, upgrades

Seismic strengthening and upgrade work on the Whakatāne District Council Civic Centre building is expected to start later this year. The strengthening work will allow Council to continue using the building as a Civil Defence emergency operations centre, which requires a higher level of earthquake resistance.

Council is also taking the opportunity to modernise the building, which has had no significant upgrades since it was built in 1989. Whakatāne District Council General Manager Community Services Mike Naude says demands on the building are changing and it no longer meets expectations.

"The seismic strengthening work provides an opportunity to remodel the building within the existing footprint," he says. "This seismic strengthening and upgrade work will better enable us to meet community and staff needs."

Agreement signals exciting new journey for partners

A transformational partnership between the Rangitāiki Lot 28B No 22 Block Ahu Whenua Trust, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Awa Group Holdings Limited and Whakatāne District Council has been confirmed following the signing of a Heads of Agreement between the parties on Monday 26 August 2019.

The Heads of Agreement is a result of the parties working together in partnership to seek opportunities for improved cultural, community, economic and environmental outcomes as part of the Whakatāne Regeneration Programme.

The Heads of Agreement creates clear expectations for how the relationship between all parties will operate. It sets out the intention to cooperate and work together by meeting and communicating regularly and openly to progress the investigation into the Proposed Boat Harbour, and to promote the mutual interests of the parties. It also outlines the agreement to raise any issues or perceived problems at any early stage and engage with one another in good faith.

Whakatāne District Mayor Tony Bonne says this is the most exciting opportunity the District has seen in decades. "This partnership is a significant step forward, and one which will ensure there are opportunities for Trust beneficiaries, Iwi and the whole District to significantly benefit from," he says.

"I have looked forward to this kind of partnership with Iwi for many years and it's great to see this come to fruition.

"There has been great support from the community for the vision for the project so far. I acknowledge that there has been significant input from key project partners, the contributing staff and the guidance we've received from the Provincial Development team."

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa Chairman Dr Hohepa Mason says the Heads of Agreement is a step towards partnership between the Council and Iwi, which ultimately will mean better outcomes for all who reside within the rohe of Ngāti Awa.

Echoing those sentiments, Trust Chair Brian Simpson says the project has the ability to transform the future of the Trust and its ability to support its owners. "What we've identified here is an opportunity that will ultimately enable us to provide long-term and holistic benefits that will make a practical and positive impact on the wellbeing of the owners and their whānau."

The parties have confirmed their commitment to the outcomes of the Whakatāne Regeneration Programme, but look forward to the opportunity to accelerate and unlock these earlier through co-investment with Central Government.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONSULTATION

Consultation on Whakatāne District Council's draft Climate Change Principles has now closed. Community feedback has been received through a range of events and engagement opportunities across the district in recent weeks. On 18 September, Council will consider all feedback received before reviewing and adopting the Climate Change Principles. The principles will then be embedded into a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans, to guide future decision-making and help us work through the challenges and opportunities climate change presents for the Whakatāne District.

THE DRAFT PRINCIPLES ARE:

We will act now
Ka mahi mātou ināianei

We will look after our people and place
Ka tiaki mātou i o tātou tāngata me tō tātou kāinga

We will acknowledge those more affected
Ka mihi mātou ki a rātou kua pā mārika i ngā Take Āhuarangi

We will think and act long-term
Ka whakaaro pae tawhiti, ka mahi pae tawhiti mātou

We will learn
Ka ako mātou

We will be part of the solution
Ka āwhina mātou ki te whakatika i ngā raru

We will build capacity to recover from difficulties
Ka whakakaha mātou i a tātou

The full Draft Climate Change Principles document is available at:
whakatane.govt.nz/climate

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

The local government elections are coming up in October. This is your chance to have input into deciding who will represent you on the Whakatāne District Council and local community boards. 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 focus our efforts for the future. Voting papers will be posted to all registered voters this month – make sure you have your say.

whakatane.govt.nz/vote



Port Ōhope toilets shortlisted for Best Loo award

The Port Ōhope Wharf Permaloo has been shortlisted for the Best Loo title in this year's Beautiful Awards. Run by Keep New Zealand Beautiful, the awards require entrants to show sustainable and environmentally conscious behaviours across four key areas: litter prevention and waste minimisation, community beautification, recycling projects and sustainable tourism. They celebrate the environmental excellence and positive actions taken by communities, businesses, schools and individuals.

Mike Naude, Council general manager community services, says the shortlisting of the Port Ōhope toilets reflects the continuous improvements Council has been making to public convenience facilities around the Whakatāne District.

"We are constantly seeking to ensure Council-run facilities meet community needs and expectations, and this was acknowledged in the latest Communitrak survey."

The Port Ōhope Wharf Permaloo is up against Colac Bay Toilet in Invercargill, and Spa Park in Taupō for the overall prize. The award winners will be announced on 24 October.

What's on at Te Kōputu?

THE 80s SHOW
OPEN NOW UNTIL SUNDAY,
24 NOVEMBER 2019

The 80s Show, featuring paintings from the Fletcher Trust Collection, gives people born after 1990 an insight into the 1980s. It also gives older generations a chance to reminisce.

The 80s are synonymous with pop culture classics and tumultuous events. This exhibition features paintings by significant New Zealand artists such as Dick Frizzell, Philippa Blair, Gordon Walters and Max Gimblett.

An exciting line up of public programmes will complement The 80s Show, such as a Patea Māori Club-inspired poi-making workshop in the school holidays and an October 4 presentation from Tāme Iti, speaking about his experiences during the Springbok Tour.



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