



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - August 2021

## MCALISTER STREET WORKS UPDATE

Thanks to considerate commuters who are taking on board the message to avoid McAlister Street in Whakatāne while contractors complete the major infrastructure project to replace and upgrade the water main.

There are a number of traffic management measures in place while the work is concentrated from Apanui Avenue to Domain Road.

Temporary speed humps and pedestrian crossings, plus dedicated drop-off and pick-up parking for the Apanui School community are part of the measures to increase safety for children and contractors.

Work started on this project in April and includes the renewal of the entire length of McAlister Street water main from Beach Street to Domain Road, including all valves, hydrants, fittings, service lines, water meters and connections. It has required extensive investigation of underground services to determine the location of the new water main.

We appreciate the degree of disruption for residents, businesses and the school community and thank everyone for their ongoing patience. Work is expected to be completed in September, which will be followed by reinstating footpaths.



## Take care driving around schools

School children are vulnerable outside the school gate, and the Eastern Bay of Plenty Road Safety team is asking motorists to be mindful of children crossing roads, and be especially aware of distractions and speed.

Senior Constable – Schools, Maree Bicknell, says safety outside school gates is greatly enhanced with the awesome work of our school road patrollers who ensure students and whānau/parents can cross the road safely.

“It is a big responsibility and they do the job in all weather. They are amazing!”

Crossing patrols are managed by schools and are supported by the Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme and Police.

## THE JOURNEY FORWARD Ka anga whakamua

Whakatāne District Council adopted its 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP) and associated supporting documents at an extraordinary meeting on 14 July.

Speaking at the meeting, Mayor Judy Turner outlined the Long Term Plan journey and the milestones that had been achieved to get to the final decision-making point.

“A significant amount of elected member and staff time has gone into the development of the Long Term Plan, preparation of the consultation document for community feedback and then the hearing of submissions and deliberations process,” she said. “Where possible, those submissions have been built into this Long Term Plan. I think the result is a well-balanced plan that enables the Council to progress the essential investment needed in our communities’ drinking water, storm water and wastewater infrastructure (the three waters).”

You can find the full Long Term Plan 2021-31 and supporting documents on our website.

## Funds available for community groups

APPLY NOW!

Annual grant applications are now open. Annual grants fund financial assistance to community-based, non-profit organisations providing a service to the general public of the Whakatāne District.

If your organisation fits the criteria, visit [whakatane.govt.nz/annual-grants](http://whakatane.govt.nz/annual-grants) or call Janie Storey on 07 306 0500 for more information. Applications close at 5pm on Tuesday, 31 August 2021.

## Bin audit disappointing

Our Waste Management and Minimisation team, along with some Councillors and Community Board members, carried out a public recycling bin audit last week. Unfortunately, there was a lot of rubbish strewn through the items that were recyclable – meaning all the contents would normally have been sent to landfill.



Remember the six things that CAN be recycled, including in public bins:



CARDBOARD PEPAMĀRŌ  
PAPER PEPA



CANS NGĀ KĒNE  
TINS NGĀ TINI



PLASTICS 1 & 2  
KIRIHOHU 1 & 2

## More cabinet art for Whakatāne District

Chorus is once again working with Whakatāne District Council to extend its cabinet art programme in the district and is calling for designs from local artists.

Three cabinets, one each in Whakatāne, Matatā and Edgecumbe, have been chosen for beautification and artists are encouraged to get their designs in.

Council Reserves Planner Kayla Warren will be co-ordinating designs and artists and says it’s a great opportunity for artists to showcase their talents to not only the local community but also the wider world.

“This is a win-win for our communities. Not only do we get fantastic art works in our streetscape, but also it provides work and promotion of our local artists,” she says.

Requests for designs are now open and the winning design for each cabinet will be chosen from entries received. Entries close on 1 September 2021.

Check out [chorus.co.nz/community/cabinet-art-programme](http://chorus.co.nz/community/cabinet-art-programme) for more information.



## Congratulations to the winners!



There were lots of smiling faces when winners of our recent e-invoice and direct debit competitions were drawn last month.

The e-invoice competition celebrated the launch of our new digital invoice service, designed to save money and time. Those who signed up before 5 July went in the draw to win one of a raft of locally-sourced prizes. Alongside this promotion, ratepayers could also use the new function to sign up for direct debit online and go in the draw to win grocery vouchers.

If you haven’t already, you can sign up for e-invoices or direct debits online at any time – visit [online.whakatane.govt.nz/online-services](http://online.whakatane.govt.nz/online-services) for more information.



Andrea Wigglesworth was the happy winner of a guided Ōhiwa Harbour kayak tour, with Kenny McCracken from KG Kayaks.

## Representation review open for public consultation this month

Whakatāne District Council is carrying out a representation review for the 2022 and 2025 local elections. Elections for your local council are held every three years, so you can decide who will represent you as Mayor, Councillors and Community Board members. To achieve fair and effective representation, councils must review their representation structure at least once every six years.

In May 2021, Council voted unanimously to include Māori wards as part of the Whakatāne District’s representation.

The representation review involves deciding:

- the number of Councillors for General and Māori wards.
- whether Councillors are elected from wards or ‘at large’ across the whole district, or a mix of both.
- whether there should be community boards, and if so – how many, their names and boundaries and the number of members for each board.

Council will make a decision on the initial representation proposal for public consultation on Tuesday, 17 August. Public consultation opens on Monday, 30 August.

## Meet the team Kanohi kitea

Deb Ganley  
Senior Policy Planner



**What I love most about my job**  
Working with our community is really motivating and rewarding. I believe strongly in encouraging community involvement within decision-making processes, and creating opportunities for individuals to make positive change.

**What I find most challenging about my job**  
As with many legislative processes, the speed of change can be slow. But I’m mindful that good things take time, and eventually we’ll get there.

**What I love about the Whakatāne District**  
That I was able to grow up in a part of our country with such a stunning natural landscape. I’m privileged to

be able to share that with my family, and live in a caring community.

**Hobbies/interests outside work**  
I’m usually busy supporting my children in their sports interests, helping out at Riding for the Disabled and working on our lifestyle block.

**Anything else to add?**  
I always value the willingness and passion of our communities to participate in planning projects, and help shape the future of the Whakatāne District.

Each month, we’ll introduce a Whakatāne District Council staff member so you can ‘meet’ the team working for our communities.