



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - June 2020



## Air Chathams takes to the skies again

After a hiatus during lockdown, the Air Chathams team is thrilled to have resumed flights from the last week in May. Duane Emeny, Airline & Charter General Manager, says the unprecedented COVID-19 circumstances have been challenging, but local support has ensured the airline will once again take to the Eastern Bay skies.

"Air Chathams and the Emeny family have been overwhelmed by the messages of support received from the Whakatāne community and its business leaders," Mr Emeny says. "This, combined with a proactive approach from Whakatāne District Council and the Eastern Bay Chamber of Commerce, means we were confident to restart a reduced flight schedule. We are excited and motivated to rebuild our airline and continue to provide the safe, reliable service our reputation is built on."

## Message from the Mayor

Our thanks to everyone for sticking to the rules and helping break the chain of COVID-19. We did that together, and now we have another job to do.



The move back to Level 2 has been helpful to our community, and allowed many businesses to open and whānau to go back to work, but it is still very tough out there. It's critical now that we get our local economy moving again, and that we carefully manage the immediate economic impact for our communities in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

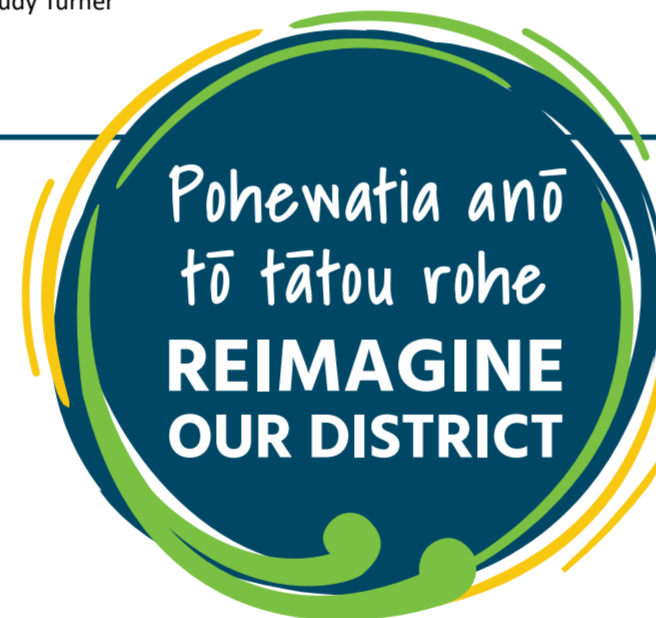
Our District has been hit twice in the last six months with COVID-19 and the Whakaari / White Island eruption. We need to continue to support one another and embody the true essence of what makes the Whakatāne District so unique – our resilience and community spirit.

I'd encourage you, if you can, to visit the local coffee shop or bakery, take the whānau to one of our local tourist attractions, or, grab a sausage at the local sausage sizzle. At Council, we are working hard to connect people to the support that is available. We cannot play the role of Central Government, but we can be a facilitator and enabler.

What's next? It is important that we understand what the medium- to long-term economic impact looks like. There remains a lot of uncertainty, but what we do know is that our future will look different. While we reimagine our future, don't worry, we won't lose all of the amazing things that make our District special.

Take care and look after each other.  
Kia haumaruru te noho

Mayor Judy Turner



## Kōrero mai - Let's talk

'Reimagine our District - Pohewatia tō tātou rohe' is an exciting new project that will guide the Annual Plan, Long Term Plan, and decision-making for other key projects and initiatives in the coming year.

We want your thoughts to help shape the future of our District. Alongside the Annual Plan 2020/21, we are beginning an early conversation – called Future in Focus - to determine the priorities that will inform the Long Term Plan 2021-31.

Our new online engagement platform – [koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz](http://koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz) – is your place to join in on these conversations. All you need to do is sign-up, and click on the project that interests you to provide your feedback and stay in the loop.

Visit [koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz](http://koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz) and give your feedback by 5pm Monday, 15 June 2020.



## Get behind the Discover Our Local campaign

A collaborative effort between Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki District Councils, EBOP Chamber of Commerce, EPIC Whakatāne Town Centre and Radio 1XX has seen the launch of the Discover Our Local marketing campaign, aimed to support local businesses across the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Encouraging both locals and visitors to buy local, the campaign will continue for a number of months and supports businesses in the tourism, retail, hospitality and service sectors. Campaign initiatives currently underway include:

- Facebook and Instagram marketing campaigns
- Street banners erected at key sites around Whakatāne and Ōhope
- 1XX radio ads and road show
- SunFM advertising campaign
- Discover Our Local Facebook frames and shop decals
- Campaign to target visitors from the wider-Bay of Plenty, Rotorua and Gisborne

**Keen to get involved?** Businesses are encouraged to spread the word and share the love of local. For campaign collateral, tips and more visit [ebopchamber.co.nz/discover-our-local](http://ebopchamber.co.nz/discover-our-local)



Right now, there are three things we want your feedback on:

- Annual Plan 2020/21 – Te Mahere ā-tau 2020/21
- Future In Focus – Arotahi Ki Anamata
- Significance and Engagement Policy

Your feedback is reviewed by elected members and helps them make the big decisions on the things that matter most.

## RECYCLING BACK IN ACTION

All recycling and refuse services are back to normal this week.

Remember to only include the 'Big Six' in your yellow-lidded bin: paper, cardboard, tins, cans, plastics 1 and 2. Do the right thing – a single contamination can mean the entire bin will be sent to landfill!

The Whakatāne and Murupara refuse transfer stations are fully operational, but please follow the signs and maintain physical distancing measures.

There are 6 things you can recycle in your yellow-lid bin:



CARDBOARD  
PEPAMĀRŌ  
PAPER PEPA



CANS NGĀ KĒNE  
TINS NGĀ TINĪ



PLASTICS 1 & 2  
KIRIHOHU 1 & 2

## Wharf remediation officially begins

The Whakatāne Wharf remediation project is officially underway, the first of the infrastructure projects associated with the Whakatāne Regeneration Programme to get started. The 134m wharf will become an integral part of the new riverside walkway and public space, which is part of the \$29.2 million dollar Whakatāne Riverfront Revitalisation.

In order to ensure the wharf is strong and safe for many years to come it requires maintenance and strengthening. This will include replacing and strengthening piles and concrete structures underneath the wharf – around 70 cubic metres of concrete in total.

The wharf will remain open most of the time that work is underway, although visitors and those working and living nearby will notice noise from the works. Vessels moored on the wharf will be relocated to safe berthage nearby, and will be permanently located in the proposed new Boat Harbour when this is completed. The physical works are expected to take around seven months to complete.

The Whakatāne Town Wharf Remediation is funded by the Whakatāne District Council and the Provincial Growth Fund. The programme is forecast to provide \$80 million in local GDP growth per annum when it reaches fruition.

