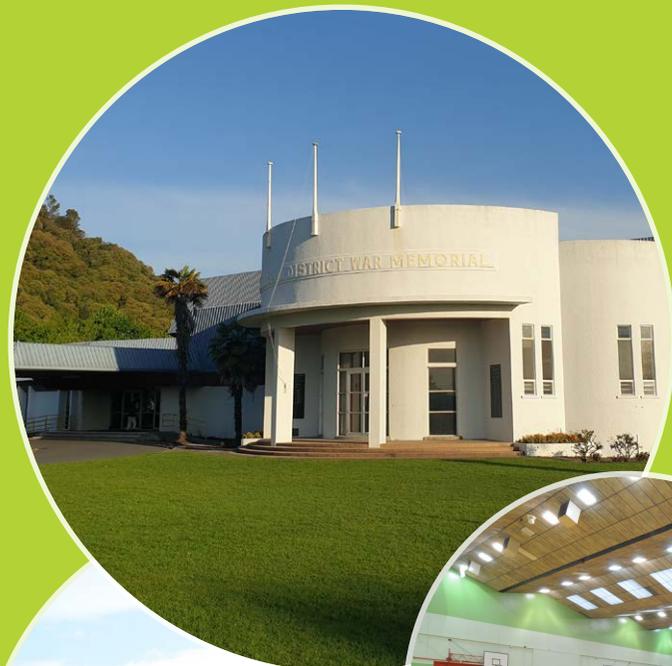


# REX MORPETH RECREATION HUB

## Master Plan

Enhancing community spaces where people  
come together to do the things they love.

Sport • recreation • arts • culture • events • wellbeing



*Kōrero mai*

*Tell us what you think by 5pm Monday, 9 October*

[koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz/ourpeopleourspace](http://koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz/ourpeopleourspace)



**MĀ KOUTOU, MĀ TĀTAU**  
Our People, Our Spaces

**Kōrero mai**  
SHAPING YOUR DISTRICT

**WHAKATĀNE**  
District Council  
*Kia Whakatāne au i ahau*

## What is the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?

Whakatāne War Memorial Hall, the 17 hectares of surrounding reserve land at Rex Morpeth Park and Rugby Park, Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre and the Whakatāne Arts and Craft Centre is collectively referred to as the 'Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub'.

## What's happening?

We're handing you the pen and asking you to have your say on the draft redevelopment plans we've had developed for the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub.

## Why are we doing this?

Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub is one of Whakatāne District's most loved and used community assets. It's a special place where memories are made, and lifelong friendships and skills are developed - however, the space isn't fit for purpose anymore. The hall and theatre haven't been updated for 50 years and changes are required in response to varying uses and challenges.

For example, basketball and volleyball are two of the most popular sports in our district, but demand for court space exceeds supply. This means our tamariki and rangatahi are missing out. In addition, the Rugby Park grandstand requires seismic strengthening.



Sport



Recreation



Arts



Culture



Events



Wellbeing

## Community survey

Some time ago, Whakatāne District Council acknowledged the need for significant upgrades to the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall. A commitment was made to upgrade the hall and develop a master plan for the surrounding fields and facilities as part of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

Earlier this year we asked for your thoughts about the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub Master Plan project and what the future of this space could look like. We worked with a wide sector of our communities and key users of the facilities and space to better understand current uses and consider needs and wants. Since then, we progressed with the master planning process and three master plan options have been developed based off this feedback.

Some common themes came through and we took those on board. We agree there are many things to consider, including parking, traffic management, 'hubbing' of sporting codes, disconnection of Rugby Park and Rex Morpeth Park, demand for field space, upgrades to the theatre and much more.

**We've taken your initial feedback and turned it into three draft master plans and an 'enhance status quo' option.**

*We'd love to hear your feedback.*



*The Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub is a place where many memories are made and lifelong friendships and skills are developed. It has served us well; however, significant upgrades, expansion, or maintenance investment is now required to respond to changing uses and modern challenges. Please take the time to provide feedback and help us shape the future of one of our most loved and used community assets."*

**Georgina Fletcher**  
*General Manager Community Experience*



## The bigger picture

**This is a unique opportunity to provide a multipurpose facility that meets the current and future social, wellbeing, cultural, and sporting needs of our communities.**

It's tricky to discuss investing in our district at a time when the cost of living is front of mind. However, it's important to plan now for future generations so we can work towards staging development over time and have credible plans in order to seek external funding.

Typically, community facilities such as this can attract a significant portion of external funding so it's important to keep this in mind when having a say on your preferred option.



# OPTION 1

## Optimising for now and the future

- **Refurbish and extend Whakatāne War Memorial Hall including:**
  - » Flexible event/function space
  - » New commercial kitchen
  - » Doubled size of sports stadium with flexibility for multi-use at once
  - » Refurbished theatre
  - » Sports club rooms and changing facilities
- **Additional parking**
- **Open up the hub by relocating new croquet facilities next to Whakatāne Tennis Club, and turn croquet area into an open flexible multi-use green space**
- **Open up Rugby Park and connect to the rest of the Hub**
- **Further parking adjacent to rugby fields and form access through to Russell Street**
- **Remove rugby grandstand and build a new multi-use sports pavilion with clubrooms, changing rooms, and spectator seating**
- **New playground with toilets**

HIGH LEVEL COST ESTIMATE: \$75M+ to be staged over time.



*Inspiration...*



*Inspiration...*

# OPTION 2

## Full redevelopment

- **New Whakatāne War Memorial Hall which includes:**
  - » Flexible event/function space
  - » Commercial kitchen
  - » Sports stadium with flexibility for multi-use at once
  - » Theatre
  - » Sports club rooms and changing facilities
- **Additional parking**
- **Reinstate old Whakatāne War Memorial Hall area with open flexible use field space**
- **Relocate croquet to new facilities located next to Whakatāne Tennis Club**
- **Remove rugby grandstand and build a new multi-use sports pavilion with clubrooms, changing rooms, and spectator seating**
- **New playground with toilets**

HIGH LEVEL COST ESTIMATE: \$139M+ to be staged over time.



*Inspiration...*





*Inspiration...*

# OPTION 3

## Integrated event and recreation centre with new town theatre

- **Demolish and build a new sports/recreation facility integrated with Aquatic Centre which includes:**
  - » Flexible event/function space.
  - » Commercial kitchen.
  - » Sports stadium with flexibility for multi-use at once
- **New theatre built in town centre**
- **Reinstate old Whakatāne War Memorial Hall area with open flexible use field space**
- **Open up Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub by relocating new croquet and athletics facilities within Rugby Park space**
- **Additional parking spread over the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub, with shared access each side of the Hub**
- **Remove rugby grandstand and build a new multi-use sports pavilion with clubrooms, changing rooms, and spectator seating**
- **New playground with toilets**

HIGH LEVEL COST ESTIMATE: \$154M+ to be staged over time.



*Inspiration...*



*Inspiration...*



# OPTION 4

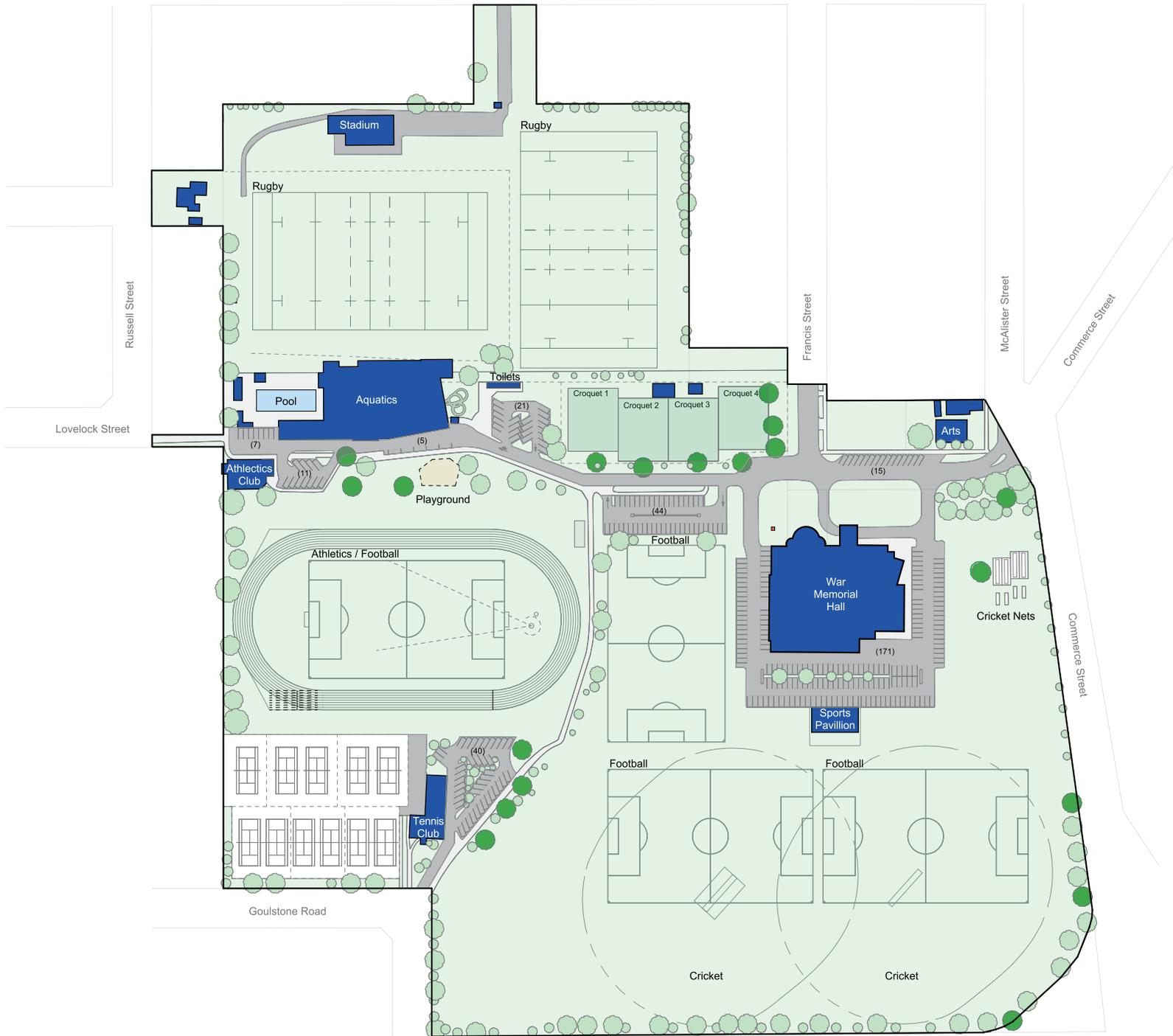
## Enhance status quo

- **Add approximately 100 carparks east of Whakatāne War Memorial Hall**
- **Other minor upgrades to park:**
  - » Seismic strengthening of Rugby Park grandstand
  - » Maintenance needs of Whakatāne War Memorial Hall
  - » Upgrade to existing playground

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**HIGH LEVEL COST ESTIMATE: \$2M+ to be staged over time.**





# Kōrero Mai

## Have your say

We're seeking community feedback on the options from now until Monday, 9 October.

We'll also be hosting community pop-in sessions and attending Community Board and resident association meetings.

Following community feedback, an evaluation report will be presented to elected members (Nov-Dec) along with a preferred option to be included within the 2024 – 2034 Long Term Plan consultation.

*There are many ways to have your say:*

-  [koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz/ourpeopleourspace](https://koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz/ourpeopleourspace)
-  [koreromai@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:koreromai@whakatane.govt.nz)
-  Whakatāne District Council, Private Bag 1002, Whakatāne 3158

Contact your elected members: [whakatane.govt.nz/elected-members](https://whakatane.govt.nz/elected-members)



### Community pop-in sessions

**Saturday, 9 September**  
10am to 12pm  
Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi  
Whakatāne Library

**Wednesday, 13 September**  
1pm to 3pm  
Main Council Building

**Thursday, 21 September**  
11.30am to 1.30pm  
Wharaurangi

**Thursday, 14 September**  
4pm to 6pm  
Whakatāne Aquatic  
and Fitness Centre



### WE'LL KEEP YOU IN THE LOOP

Whether or not you choose to make a submission, we'll keep you posted on progress on the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub via our website and social media channels.

-  [whakatanedistrictcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/whakatanedistrictcouncil)
-  [whkdc](https://www.instagram.com/whkdc)



## Scan me

Tell us what you think by 5pm Monday, 9 October  
[koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz/ourpeopleourspace](https://koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz/ourpeopleourspace)

