

# 1 Councillors Report – March 2025

---



To: **Murupara Community Board**

Date: **March 2025**

Author: **Councillor Ngapera Rangiaho**

Reference:

---

## 1 Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

The report is to provide an overview of the activities undertaken and events attended since the last meeting.

## 2 Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki*

**THAT** the Councillor's Report – be received.

## 3 Community Engagement

### 3.1 Māori Ward Referendum update

Kāpu-te-rangi Māori Ward representative and Deputy Chair for Te Maruata (Māori branch of Local Government New Zealand – LGNZ) Councillor Toni Boynton, was instrumental in the establishment of the Māori Wards in our District. She is again gearing up and walking both Rangitāiki Māori Ward Councillor Tū O'Brien and I as Toi-ki-Uta Māori Ward Councillor, in a campaign for the upcoming Māori Ward Referendum and Local elections this year. [Māori Ward Boundaries](#)

What we realised, although our Whakatāne District Council put in a submission to keep the Māori Wards, some of our whānau were unaware that whānau still had to go through a voting process to keep the Māori Wards, which is a separate election to the local elections. As both Councillor O'Brien and I are new to campaigning, it has been a great relief to know that Councillor Boynton is experienced in this area with a team of community members.

We will be utilizing various community events to raise awareness and encourage electoral enrolment. We humbly ask that you continue to support this Kaupapa to ensure that our communities have Māori representation within Whakatāne District Council.

### 3.2 New Road Names

Whakatāne District Council recently reviewed the Council's [Road Naming and Addressing Policy](#) and it was adopted by Council November 2024. We are seeing the benefits of the policy and clear engagement relationship between developers, local communities, hapū and iwi.

New subdivisions are on the rise, some being multiple subdivisions over time hence creating new access ways, right of ways and private roads.

**685 Wainui Rd, Wainui.** The proposed name 'Panekaha Road' by local kaumatua, Wiki Mooney supported by Waimana Kaaku Tribal and Te Uru Taumatua tells the story of Panekaha, a Tūhoe Chief who lived on a hill on the eastern side of Wainui Road, just prior to Te Kooti Rd. Two of his daughters married the son of Rongowhakaata and later were married to Tanemoeahi, the older brother of Tūhoe.

Panekaha was known to do battle whenever disagreements arose in Ōhiwa Harbour where he would drag the bodies of his fallen enemies across the mudflats near a spring. was called 'Te Ara Toto ā Panekaha'.

WDC continues to build relationship with iwi. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare regeneration township development of Murupara and Minginui as part of the PGF Funds received for the two projects. An opportunity for our communities to contribute to road naming and addresses process gives depth and acknowledgement of our past and present.

### 3.3 Murupara Wastewater Consent

The Murupara co-design group has been formed consisting of Ngāti Manawa and Council. The terms of reference include relationship principles and Ngāti Manawa aspirations including the removal of wastewater discharge from the Rangitāiki River has been agreed upon.

Next steps involve creating a project plan and putting together a technical team to manage workstreams i.e. environmental monitoring, wastewater and discharge system options, cultural narratives, legal and planning considerations and communication.



Last year, Community Board member Sheena Jones along with WDC Neal Yeates went to visit our water systems. He gave us a breakdown of how the wastewater treatment plant worked and we were not impressed at what we saw. There have been significant changes from Central Government, and Council has to find a way to move forward. We welcome the Murupara co-design group knowing we have a lens from both Iwi and Council working together to find solutions for our township.

### 3.4 Māori relationship General Manager appointed



Whakatāne District Council welcomed Hone Patrick as the appointed General Manager to Toi kōtūia waka whakarei Māori relationships. Hone held the position of First Secretary, Trade and Economics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as High Commissioner in Suva, Fiji. He is of Ngāti Awa and Scottish Descent, who moved home with his wife and three sons.

We also welcome Turuhira Hotene to WDC who is working with Ngāti Manawa Reorua Strategy.

We look forward to the relationship building skillset they will bring to our communities.

### 3.5 Te Reorua contestable funds

Whakatāne and Murupara are designated Reorua areas as part of a partnership between Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa and Whakatāne District Council. Te Reorua initiative is supported by Aotearoa Reorua which is a national movement that assists towns and cities across New Zealand to become bilingual centres.

At our first Community Funding meeting of the year, we were graced with the presence of Ripeka Hawkins, Ngāti Manawa Project Lead for Murupara Te Reorua Strategy and Te Poono Te Poono of Ngāti Awa, to hear the presentation of applicants.

I have provided a link to the [Community Funding Committee](#) meeting held on 6 March 2025

### 3.6 Dairy NZ Awards

Both Councillor Iles and I attended the Dairy NZ Awards held at Awakeri Event Centre. The key messages that came from all contenders was having the courage to put yourself out there. It was great to see our Galatea entrants, coming away with various award. Dairy Trainee Entrant Khalarn Mason and Cory Miller. Dairy Manager Entrants Lawrence Heurea of Paton Farms Ltd and Reno Moses of Gordon Family Farms were amongst contestants from Whakatāne and Te Puke. Share Farmer Entrants came from Tauranga, Te Puke and Whakatāne. It was a night enjoyed by all.

The winners were as follows:



Dairy Trainee of the year – Alana Fitzpatrick (Tauranga)

Dairy Manager of the year – Thomas Lundman (Whakatāne). His sister accepted his Award on his behalf.

Share Farmer of the year – Andre and Natalie Meier (Te Puke)

Mauri ora