

AGENDA

Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board *Te Poari Haporī o Whakatāne-Ōhope*

Monday, 2 February 2026
Mane, 2 Huitanguru 2026

Ōhope Fire Station
Harbour Road, Ōhope
Commencing at 5:30 pm

Chief Executive Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 28 January 2026

A Membership - *Mematanga*

Board Member Linda Bonne - Chairperson

Board Member Sue Whale - Deputy Chairperson

Board Member Sasha Cessford

Board Member Christopher Howard

Board Member Doug McLean

Board Member Rosemary Sloman

Appointed - Councillor Carolyn Hamill

Alternate - Councillor Malcolm Whitaker

B Delegations to the Community Board

B Delegations to the Community Board

1. Purpose

To receive applications for funding and issue funding grants from the respective Community Board funds.

To support Council engagement and consultation processes where required, and act as an advocate for the interests of Council.

To engage with their constituent communities and provide information to Council on matters of importance to those communities as they arise.

2. Specific Function, and Delegations to the Community Board

- a. Receive applications for funding from their constituent communities, deliberate and make funding grant decisions that are funded from the respective Community Board funding allocations.
- b. Consider and report on all matters referred to by the Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board.
- c. Receive correspondence and reports.
- d. To engage with the community, community organisations and special interest groups to both represent the interest of Council and gather community feedback and themes.
- e. To prepare an annual submission to the Council for expenditure within the community for projects that are specifically funded by the community
- f. To make submissions to the Council's Long-Term Plan and other consultation processes on behalf of the Communities it represents
- g. To authorise, within approved budgets, Board Members attendance at relevant conferences and/or training courses
- h. To make presentations verbally to the Council at the Board's discretion on matters of importance to the community or Board (Note: the ability to make presentations verbally to the Council or any Committee of Council is subject to the approval of the Mayor or chairperson presiding at that meeting).
- i. Community Boards are delegated the responsibility to develop and adopt a Strategic Plan as a Board. The Strategic Plan must articulate the collective aspirations, priorities, and objectives of the Board, serving as a guiding document for decision-making and advocacy. The plan may be developed in consultation with the community to ensure it reflects the community's needs, values, and future vision. Where an approved Community Plan exists, the Strategic Plan should reference and align with that document to maintain consistency and strengthen the connection between Board priorities and broader community objectives.

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1 Opening Karakia - *He Karakia Tīmatanga*

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	<i>Cease the winds from the west</i>
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	<i>Cease the winds from the south</i>
Kia mākinakina ki uta	<i>Let the breeze blow over the land</i>
Kia mātaratara ki tai	<i>Let the breeze blow over the ocean</i>
E hī ake ana te atakura	<i>Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.</i>
He tio, he huka, he hau hū	<i>A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day</i>
Tīhei mauri ora!	

2 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae*

No apologies were received at the time of compiling the agenda.

3 Acknowledgements/Tributes - *Ngā Pānui*

An opportunity for members to recognise achievements, to notify of events, or to pay tribute to an occasion of importance.

4 Conflicts of Interest - *Ngākau kōnatunatu*

4 Conflicts of Interest - *Ngākau kōnatunatu*

Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or other external interests they might have. Elected Members are also reminded to update their register of interests when changes occur.

The register of interest is available on the Council website.

1. Financial Conflict

- Members present must declare any direct or indirect financial interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.
- Members cannot take part in the discussion, nor can they vote on any matter in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest, unless with an approved exception.
- Members with a financial interest should physically withdraw themselves from the table. If the meeting is public excluded, members should leave the room.

2. Non-Financial Conflict

- If a member considers that they have a non-financial conflict of interest in a matter they must not take part in the discussions about that matter or any subsequent vote.
- Members with a non-financial interest must leave the table when the matter is considered but are not required to leave the room.

5 Public Participation - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

5.1 Public Forum - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

The Board has set aside time for members of the public to speak in the public forum at the commencement of each meeting. Each speaker during the forum may speak for five minutes. Permission of the Chairperson is required for any person wishing to speak during the public forum. Applicants seeking funding from the Board are encouraged to speak in support of their application at this time.

Board Members may ask questions of the speaker but these should be confined to obtaining further information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

1	Angus Robson and Bridgit Robson	West End-Ōhope Track Walkway
2	Arts Whakatane	Claire House
3	Arts Whakatane	Claire House
4	Whakatane Citizen's Advice Bureau	Peter Milton
5	The Edgecumbe Choir	Moira Hanna
6	Have a Heart Charitable Trust	Wendy Anderson
7	Life Education Trust EBOP	Louise McConnell
8	Kay Montgomery	
9	Theatre Whakatane Incorporated	Andrew Watson

5.2 Deputations - *Ngā Whakapuaki Whaitake*

A deputation enables a person, group or organisation to make a presentation to Community Board on a matter or matters covered by their terms of reference. Deputations should be approved by the Chairperson, or an official with delegated authority, five working days before the meeting. Deputations may be heard at the commencement of the meeting or at the time that the relevant agenda item is being considered. No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation's deputation. Speakers can speak for up to five minutes, or with the permission of the Chairperson, a longertimeframe may be allocated.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the deputation.

6 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report



To: Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board

Date: Monday, 2 February 2026

Author: I McNiven / Procurement and Risk Manager

Authoriser: P Davidson / Chief Financial Officer

Reference: A3051026

1. Reason for the report - Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata

This report is to provide the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board with an update on Council activities to January 2026, and covers the following activities:

- Community Experience Update
- Strategic Māori Partnerships and Commercial Services Update
- People and Engagement Update
- Planning, Regulatory and Transportation Updates
- Water Services Update
- Strategy and Growth Update
- News Reference sites

2. Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report: February 2026 be **received**.

3. Community Experience Update

3.1. **CE Drawing Workshop with Ōhope Artist Patricia Long: What a day!**

The whare was full at Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi at its free drawing workshop with local artist Patricia Long.

With her exhibition Complexities gracing the walls, Patricia took participants on a creative journey exploring harakeke-inspired drawing techniques. She opened up about the deeper meaning behind her work - how harakeke represents the strength, unity, and resilience we're all searching for in our increasingly divided world.

From beginners to experienced artists, everyone got stuck in, creating thoughtful and expressive pieces while soaking up Patricia's insights and creative energy. Whether you brought your own sketchpad or borrowed ours, we loved seeing the community come together to learn, connect, and create.

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report(Cont.)

Acknowledgements to Patricia for such a meaningful and inspiring workshop and to all who came along and made it a fun and creative afternoon!



3.2. CE Whakatāne Intermediate School – Room 25's Year 7s enjoyed an inspiring day out

Whakatāne Intermediate School students explored Tapa Moana Nui at Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi - an exhibition celebrating artists from right across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa who are breathing new life into the ancient practices of tapa and siapo.

Walking through the gallery, students witnessed something powerful - intergenerational knowledge passed down through ancestral storytelling and Pacific creativity. The exhibition beautifully illustrated how traditions stay alive - through making, sharing, and coming together as community - giving our rangatahi a real sense of the bonds connecting us across the Pacific.

3.3. CE Ngāti Awa Kaumātua Roopū

It is always a joy to welcome our Ngāti Awa Kaumātua Roopū to Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi. This time, for their final gallery visit of 2025. This special relationship, where our kaumātua join us with every new exhibition, has become one of our most cherished traditions.

The morning unfolded as it always does with karakia and waiata to begin, followed by a warm kapu tī before wandering into the galleries.

This time there was something extra special, a hands-on workshop with Maia Wharewera-Ballard where kaumātua crafted their own tapa badges, weaving together making, memory, and cultural practice.

We're so grateful to our kaumātua for bringing their stories, laughter, and light into our space.

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report(Cont.)



3.4. Maraetōtara Improvements

Staff are currently working on a project to upgrade the Maraetōtara playground and immediate surrounds. The aim of the project is to make the playground and associated facilities more accessible, improve pathways/connections, seating, shade, remove end of life play items, incorporate accessible play equipment and improve overall play value for a range of users. The scope of the project remains within the current play footprint and immediate surrounds and excludes the old skate bowl and new flying fox areas. Development will exclude drainage areas of the reserve, carpark and toilets although the design will incorporate connections to these areas. Funding for the project is included in the current Annual Plan.

Focused stakeholder engagement was undertaken during November and December 2025 with Sport Bay of Plenty (Regional Play System Lead), Disabilities Resource Centre, REAP play group and Council staff also visited the Ōhope Beach school. Port Ōhope Playcentre and Ōhope Beach Montessori Preschool were also invited to provide feedback. Draft concept plans are currently being developed which will include feedback from this engagement, where possible and shared with the Whakatāne Ōhope Community Board. Engagement with mana whenua has also commenced, who will be invited to provide feedback once the draft concept plans are received.

Detailed design and specifications are expected to be completed in March/April followed by procurement, with construction expected to be completed during June/July 2026.

3.5. Otarawairere Walkway

At the 4 December 2025 Council meeting Mr Robson, representing the West End Track group, described the strong community support for reopening the Nga Tapuwae o Toi walkway between West End and Ōtarawairere, noting it had been closed for four years due to slips. He explained that local volunteers were ready to restore the track, proposing a practical and cost-effective approach that would save ratepayer funds compared to contractor-led repairs.

There is a report being presented to the Projects and Services Committee on 19 February 2026 on the options for reinstatement of the walkway, following which the Geotech investigation reports requested by Mr Robson will become public.

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report(Cont.)**4. Strategic Māori Partnership and Commercial Services Update****4.1. Dusty the Plane joins Whakatāne Airport as a playground feature**

A life-size replica of Dusty, the crop duster from the 2013 animated film *Planes*, is now ready for children to enjoy at Whakatāne Airport. This has been made possible through our close relationship with Classic Flyers in Mt Maunganui, who gifted the aircraft to Council. The agreement allows us to keep Dusty for as long as we wish, with the understanding that it cannot be sold and will be returned to Classic Flyers when we are finished with it.

The accompanying stairs were donated by Air Chathams and were previously used to load the DC3 when it operated in Whakatāne.

Our Ports and Airports team anticipates that Dusty will provide a unique, plane-themed play experience for children, complement the Rere Café space, and create a distinctive attraction for the community.

**5. People and Engagement Update****5.1. Youth Council Applications Open**

The Whakatāne District Youth Council is looking for enthusiastic young people aged 14 to 24 to join the team for 2026. The Youth Council provides a platform for rangatahi to have their voices heard, influence positive change, and help shape initiatives that support young people in our district. Members gain leadership experience, build connections, and contribute to meaningful community projects. Help us spread the word through your networks and encourage eligible youth to apply through our website. Applications close Friday, 20 February 2026.

5.2. P&E Road Safety

Richard Hamer from the Community Partnerships team is delivering a series of workshops called 'Bike Safety with Richie' in conjunction with our library teams. The workshops for Tamariki at the Murupara Library kicked off on Monday 19th January.

The workshops aim to encourage safe cycling within our communities with the following: description: Bring your bike to pimp your ride! Learn bike safety, enjoy stories, and decorate your wheels. Ride away in style with a safer, cooler bike!

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report(Cont.)

The attached photo is from a similar event organised by Rich and held in Murupara previously

6. Planning, Regulatory and Transportation Updates**6.1. Whakatāne River Bridge debris cleaning**

Gravel The SH30 bridge over the Whakatāne River has had the debris from recent flooding removed. The bridge is an NZTA Waka Kotahi asset, and it is the agency's responsibility to remove debris when it accumulates around the piers. NZTA Waka Kotahi worked with Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Whakatāne District Council to arrange the clearing of the debris. Toi Moana carried out most of the debris removal during this week, on behalf of NZTA – a great job and awesome collaboration between all parties. There is still some material embedded in the sediment on the upstream side of the middle pier, which may not be able to be removed. This does not impact the bridge structure and is likely to be left in place.

6.2. Appenzell Drive Whakatāne, concrete kerb and channel replacements

Work on Appenzell Drive is now complete. Three other sites have been added to the kerb and channel programme - Riverside Drive, Lord Cobham Avenue, and Bellevue Place, and work on these sites will be planned in the new year.

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report(Cont.)**6.3. Bridge Street/Arawa Street Whakatāne roundabout**

This roundabout reconstruction will see the closure of the intersection, leading to a need for residents in Awatapu and those living near the intersection (Arawa Street and adjoining streets) to use alternative routes to get to and from their homes. To compound this, Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council contractors will also be installing a culvert near Red Conway Park, closing that end of Arawa Street at the same time.

7. Water Services Update**7.1. Hinemoa stormwater pump station**

Construction of the Hinemoa stormwater pump station is nearing completion. The concrete quality issues identified in the pump station roof slab have been remedied by Construction Technologies, an Auckland-based specialist in concrete repair and maintenance. The cost of these remedial works has been deducted from the contractor's contract price.

All three Grundfos pumps are now installed in their respective pump bays. The electrical building is largely complete, with only the external painting remaining. Electrical works are progressing, including final connections of the three pumps to the VSD control panel, switchboard, generator, and transformer. We are aiming to commission the pumps before the Christmas break.

Decommissioning of the existing pump station, along with the required offsetting works, will follow early in the new year.

The project budget (as per the approved procurement plan) is \$6.8 million. Design and investigations began in the 2024 financial year, with the contract awarded in March 2024 and civil works commencing in July 2024. The project spans three financial years and current expenditure sits at \$6.9 million. Waiotahi has \$66,000 remaining to complete their contract.

Offsetting works are required as a condition of the resource consent, which was granted by BOPRC after the contract was awarded. These works were therefore not included in the original budget. They include riparian planting along the stream bank behind James Street School and the construction of an additional drain channel with wetland planting at the reserve at 86 Victoria Avenue, with an estimated cost of \$100,000. With a review of forecast expenditure for this financial year we expect to be able to absorb this cost without exceeding the budget.

This brings the total project cost to approximately \$7.08 million, which is about 4% above the originally approved budget.

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report(Cont.)**7.2. District wide wastewater manhole refurbishment**

Forty-three key receiving manholes across the Whakatāne, Ōhope, and Edgecumbe wastewater schemes have been inspected as part of condition assessment activities. The inspections confirmed that the manholes are in poor condition, with varying levels of corrosion requiring refurbishment to prevent further deterioration.

Mastermix lining products have been selected as the preferred refurbishment method for manholes exhibiting concrete degradation caused by acid attack, sewer gases, or minor abrasion. Applying a protective liner seals the internal surface, prevents further corrosion, and can significantly extend the service life.

Eastern Bay Drainage Limited, an approved Mastermix applicator, is completing the refurbishment of all 43 manholes. Thirty-one manholes have been completed to date, and the programme remains on track for completion in January 2026.

7.3. District wide wastewater pipe lining

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report(Cont.)

Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) has been identified as a highly effective trenchless rehabilitation method. The process involves inverting a resin-impregnated liner into the existing pipe using an air compressor, then curing it with UV light to create a seamless, corrosion-resistant internal pipe. This restores structural integrity, delivers a minimum 50-year design life, prevents infiltration and root intrusion, and enhances hydraulic performance due to the liner's smooth internal finish.

The 2025–2026 programme includes the rehabilitation of 1,973 metres of wastewater pipelines across Whakatāne, Edgecumbe, and Ōhope. New Zealand Lining Limited has commenced the works, starting in Edgecumbe at the end of October and currently progressing with lining in the service lane behind The Strand. To minimise disruption to residents and traffic, the majority of the works will be completed at night.

7.4. Watermain Renewals

We're about to start major renewal packages to replace ageing watermains and improve network reliability:

Whakatāne:

Portions of Muriwai Drive, Apanui Avenue, Pounamu Place, Tui Street, Sullivan Street, and Stewart Street.

8. Strategy and Growth Update

8.1. Adaption Explorer

We've recently completed internal training for staff on the Adaptation Explorer – an interactive online map that shows climate risk information for the Whakatāne District. The tool combines 28 datasets on natural hazards, infrastructure, and community assets, helping users understand how flooding, sea level rise, landslides, and other hazards could affect different areas now and in the future.

The Adaptation Explorer is designed to support better planning, decision-making, and community conversations by providing a district-wide overview of potential risks. As part of the rollout, two workshops open to all staff attracted more than 200 attendees. We've also trained 10 Adaptation Champions from across different business areas to support their teams using the viewer effectively.

8.2. Ōhope Beach Festival

The new Ōhope Beach Festival's vision is to celebrate Ōhope as the most loved beach in Aotearoa, enhancing pride for all its communities – past and present – and reconnecting whānau and visitors to the whenua, moana and stories that make it unique.

The inaugural event takes place on 31 January 2026. The vibrant, family-friendly event brings community and manuhiri together with kite flying, sandcastle competitions, sand art, a lively festival hub filled with food trucks and entertainment, and much more.

The events team successfully supported two recent community events, including sponsoring a hole at the Whakaari Hayden Marshall-Inman Memorial Golf Tournament on 5 December, where we provided food, drinks, and a welcoming presence. The team also assisted the Toi's Challenge with marketing support, which received excellent feedback from organisers. Looking ahead, tomorrow,

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report(Cont.)

13 December, we are hosting A Little Christmas at Mitchell Park, offering families a festive space to continue celebrations after the Christmas Parade while showcasing the newly redeveloped Mitchell Park.

8.3. Freedom Camping

Under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, councils can introduce freedom camping bylaws, but only when necessary for one or more of the following purposes:

1. Protecting the area – Preventing environmental damage or degradation in sensitive places such as coastlines, reserves, and culturally significant sites.
2. Protecting people's health and safety – Managing risks including overcrowding, sanitation concerns, fire hazards, or unsafe terrain.
3. Protecting access to public spaces – Ensuring freedom camping does not obstruct access to facilities, roads, walkways, beaches, or car parks.

Whakatāne District Council recently reviewed its Public Places Bylaw and introduced a Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024 to ensure it effectively manages freedom camping and protects communities, public spaces, and the environment. The bylaw clarifies where freedom camping is allowed, where it is not, and any conditions that apply (e.g., self-contained requirements and maximum stay durations).

Monitoring of sites

In the past we had funding from MBIE towards Freedom Camping and we used this to carry out daily patrols of our freedom camping sites over the peak period (mid-December to mid-January) and patrols every three days for periods of the year outside of this.

In 2024, the funding stopped and a decision was made regarding the frequency of patrols, both in peak season and throughout the year. Our current process is that throughout the year we organise patrols when an issue around freedom camping is raised. This may be a one-off patrol or a number of patrols over the course of multiple nights or weeks depending on the issue. For example, over the peak season we patrolled every three days at West End Freedom Camping site as there was an issue leading into Christmas with people overstaying and also not parking in the allocated Freedom Camping spots. Prior to Christmas, there were reports of issues at Port Ōhope Boat Ramp Freedom Camping site so regular patrols were carried out for several weeks at this site.

8.4. Project Futureproof – Floodwall integration works

The concept design for riverfront areas at Otuawhaki (corner of Kakahoroa Drive and Quay Street) and The Strand (including the Kāinga Block and Sports Fishing Club precinct) is progressing well and scheduled for completion by mid-February 2026. Community and iwi/hapū engagement will follow in February–March to help shape the next steps. Construction of stage 2 of the floodwall along Quay Street, led by Bay of Plenty Regional Council, remains on track for completion this month with minor finishing works continuing into January 2026. Stage 3 works are due to begin early 2026.

8.5. Civil Defence

Introducing John Eruera who joined Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Whakatāne in early August 2025, as the new Emergency Management Officer. John brings to the role his previous work experience of Operations Manager and most recently the Health & Safety Specialist for Ngāti Awa Group Holdings Limited.

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board Activity Report(Cont.)

Over the past six months John has been immersed in learning the Emergency Management role and its full responsibilities. A key component of this role is connecting with communities across the district and supporting preparedness for emergency events.

John is looking forward to building a strong relationship with the Murupara Community Board and working together in the Emergency Management space.

8.6. Reform and legislative change coming

At a recent Council meeting, one of the agenda papers touched on the reforms and legislative changes currently being progressed by central government. There was a workshop on 18 December 2025 where a number of key reforms and proposals were covered with opportunity for discussion. Should members wish to do a bit of further exploration some resources are provided below (this is not required reading, just sharing as fyi):

- Replacing the RMA: [New planning system to replace RMA](#)
- Simplifying Local Government: [Simplifying Local Government Proposal](#)
- Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Bill: [IFF Amendment Bill](#)
- Rates Capping: [Rates Capping Proposal](#) [Rates Capping Proposal](#)
- Development Contributions Amendment: [Development Levies and Contributions Amendment](#)

9. News

To keep up to date with current news members are encouraged to review the “Latest News” and “Public Notices”:

<https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/news> ; <https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/about-council/public-notices>

Social media: Social media is also a useful way for members to keep up to date with Council activities in your hapori.

<https://www.facebook.com/WhakataneDistrictCouncil>

<https://www.facebook.com/WhakataneAquaticCentre/>

<https://www.facebook.com/taketakemuseum>

<https://www.facebook.com/whakatanelibrary>

The Council Facebook page is a critical communications channel for our emergency management team and posts will always be put up during times the Incident Management Team is monitoring weather or other emergency events.

Events: For up to date listings on community events, information can be found here

<https://www.whakatane.com/events>

<https://www.whakatane.com/events/community-events-and-markets>

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026**6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026**To: **Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board**Meeting Date: **Monday, 2 February 2026**Author: **S Duffy / Senior Governance Support Advisor**Authoriser **C Viljoen / Manager Governance Services**Reference: **A3046170****1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata***

This report provides the Whakatāne/Ōhope Community Board with updated information on the latest discretionary fund applications received for the Whakatāne/Ōhope ward and request that the Board consider these applications. This report also includes updates from the Governance Services team.

2. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

1. THAT the Governance Services Report - February 2026 report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$1,100 from their discretionary funds to the Whakatāne District Community Arts Council Incorporated for costs toward their live concert event - Under the Rakau March 2026; and
3. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$4,766.40 from their discretionary funds to Whakatāne District Community Arts Council Incorporated for costs toward personnel and performer costs for their Jazz in the Park 2026 event; and
4. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$10,732.95 from their discretionary funds to Whakatāne Citizens Advice Bureau for the purchase of a new photocopier; and
5. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$2,888.00 from their discretionary funds to the Edgecumbe Choir Incorporated, for digital marketing promotional costs; and
6. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$2,990.00 from their discretionary funds to the Have a Heart Charitable Trust, for venue hire and traffic management in support of the Have a Heart Expo and Family Festival March 2026; and
7. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$10,456.77 from their discretionary funds to the Life Education Trust EBOP, for workbooks, carpet and a new Harold puppet; and

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026(Cont.)

8. THAT the Whakatāne-Ohope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$1770.00 from their discretionary funds to the Kay Montgomery, in order to hire a local artist to beautify the Coastland School Bus Shelter; and
9. THAT the Whakatāne-Ohope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$9,450.00 from their discretionary funds to Theatre Whakatāne Incorporated, to cover the venue hire during the preparation and performances of the musical stage show Matilda.

3. **Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri***

3.1. Funding Criteria

Applicants complete their funding application via SmartyGrants; a cloud-based platform for managing grants. The criteria for the Community Board Discretionary Fund are as follows:

- Retrospective applications will NOT be considered.
- Applications must be submitted before the SmartyGrant Round closing date. Valid applications will be approved and a summary included within the Board's agenda.
- Applications will be considered throughout the year; as determined by the SmartyGrant Rounds.
- The project must be held within the community board area you are seeking funding for.
- Groups should apply to the Board corresponding to the area where most of their members reside.
- Each SmartyGrants round will automatically close 14 days before each Board meeting. Meeting dates can be found at - <https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/about-council/meetings>
- The Board has the option to collaborate with other Boards in the joint funding of major projects.
- Boards generally lean towards funding an annual or biannual event once but reserve the right to consider each one on a case-by-case basis.
- Supporting documentation on cost calculations is required to justify the amount sought.
- A “guarantee against loss” may be offered to support an event that may require either seeding or back up finance – this is to give you confidence that funds up to the value offered will be available following the event if it runs at a loss.
- Applicants are invited to attend the Board meeting, that the application will be considered at, to provide a brief overview of the application.
- If successful, it is requested the relevant Community Board logo is included in advertising material and other items associated with the event or project to acknowledge the grant made.
- A declaration of expenditure and project report MUST be provided once the funding has been spent.
- Funds not uplifted within six months from the allocation date will lapse.

3.2. Project Fund

The current balance of the Whakatāne-Ohope discretionary fund as at 15 January 2026 is approximately \$92,700.

The following table indicates the unallocated grants and subsidies (discretionary) fund:

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026(Cont.)

Whakatāne/Ōhope Community Board	
Unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund) as at 31 December 2025 is	\$ 92,700.25
2026 Opening Balance carried forward from prior years unallocated grants	\$24,795.64
Funding operating surplus (deficit) for 2025 FY*	\$3,738.00
2025/26 Annual Plan	\$89,390.00
2025/26 revised Budget of Grants and Subsidies to allocate	\$117,923.64
2026 Allocations	
JULY 2025 WHAKATANE OHOPe COMMUNITY BOARD - ANNETTE SUCH - MORNING TEA- THE CORNER KITCHEN	\$217.39 Approved & Paid
JULY 2025 - OLYMPIC SIGN OHOPe COMMUNITY BOARD- ROADSIGNS & TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIP LIMITED/HUBBARD CONTRACTING	\$307.00 Approved & Paid
GRANT Michal Akurangi Whakatane-Ohope Community Board, MICHAL AKURANGI- Michal Akurangi	\$2,000.00 Approved & Paid
AUGUST 2025, WHAKATANE LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC- WHAKATANE LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC	\$3,699.00 Approved & Paid
AUGUST 2025 ASSIST IN COSTS WITH COMPETING IN KIWI CUP 2025, ABOVE THE NET INC- ABOVE THE NET INC	\$2,000.00 Approved & Paid
AUGUST 2025 PURCHASE A BLUETOOTH SPEAKER AND THE ONAM EVENT, WHAKATANE KERALA COMMUNITY INC	\$3,000.00 Approved & Paid
HOLE SPONSORSHIP AT THE WHAKAARI HAYDEN MARSHALL INMAN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT	\$500.00 Approved & Paid
AUGUST 2025 TO ASSIST WITH COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HILLARY CHALLENGE FINAL 2025, WHAKATANE HIGH SCHOOL (TRUSTEES)	\$2,000.00 Approved & Paid
TO ASSIST WITH COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHRISTMAS PARADE 2025, ROTARY CLUB OF Whakatāne	\$5,000.00 Approved & Paid
AUGUST 2025 TO ASSIST WITH COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SPACE CAMP TRIP 2025, WHAKATANE HIGH SCHOOL (TRUSTEES)	\$2,000.00 Approved & Paid
CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF DRINKING FOUNTAIN AT ŌTARAWAIRERE	\$4,500.00 Approved & Paid
Year to Date allocations	\$ 25,223.39
Current unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund)*	\$92,700.25

4. Subjects – Kaupapa**4.1. 2026 By-Elections**

Nominations for the 2026 By-Elections have closed.

	Nominations Received	Number of Vacancies
Tāneatua Community Board	6	3
Murupara Community Board (<i>Galatea-Waiōhau subdivision</i>)	2	1

The list of Candidates can be viewed on the Whakatāne District Council website:

[2026 By-Elections for Community Boards](#)

Voting papers will be posted to electors of each of the respective areas from Friday, 30 January 2026.

Voting documents must be returned no later than noon Tuesday, 3 March 2026. They can be returned by post, or hand delivered during business hours to the following locations:

- Whakatāne District Council, 14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne
- Murupara Service Centre and Library, Civic Square, Pine Drive, Murupara.

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026(Cont.)

4.2. New Triennium Information

4.2.1. *Inaugural Combined Community Board meeting*

Council held its first Inaugural Combined Community Board meeting in the Tōtara Room on 1 December 2025, where members were formally welcomed, completed their statutory declarations, and received legislative advice relevant to the 2025–2028 triennium. The meeting acknowledged retiring members from the previous triennium.

Following an adjournment each Community Board convened separately, to appoint their Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons for the triennium and set their first meeting dates for early 2026. The minutes from the meeting are available via the following link: [Inaugural Combined Community Board Meeting - 5 December 2025](#)

4.2.2. *Pecuniary interest*

During the legal advice presentation at your Inaugural meeting, you were advised of the requirement that all elected members must complete a pecuniary interest form. The forms have been sent to you and *must* be returned by 27 February 2026.

Elected Members have specific *obligations* to declare their pecuniary (financial) and non-pecuniary interests to ensure transparency and public trust. It is to be noted if you do not return the completed forms, you may face a fine of up to \$5,000.

4.2.3. *Standing orders*

Local authorities, local boards and community boards must adopt standing orders for the orderly conduct of their meetings.

Standing orders are a critical element of good governance and great local democracy, because well-run meetings and hui should increase community awareness and understanding of decision-making processes and build trust.

The Department of Internal Affairs is currently updating the NZS 9202:2003 Model Standing Orders to reflect legislative changes and improve consistency across local authorities.

The Board's current Standing Orders remain in place however, once the model standing orders are released, a paper will be included in your Board agenda.

4.2.4. *Training and professional development*

Ākona is Local Government New Zealand online learning and development program designed specifically for elected members of local government. It contains many bite-sized learning modules and Ākona also hold webinars that you are welcome to participate in.

There is also a limited Council budget for professional development for Community Board members.

4.2.5. *Community Board Executive Committee (CBEC)*

CBEC supports community board members, offers advice to LGNZ's National Council, and champions the role of community boards in local decision-making. It has one representative from each of [LGNZ's six zones](#), plus representatives from Te Maruata (Māori elected member network) and Young Elected Member network.

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026(Cont.)

Nominations for new members closed on 16 January 2026.

Voting papers will be sent late January. Voting will be open from 28 January to 27 February 2026. Each Community Board has one vote.

4.3. Strategic Planning

A Strategic Plan is a ‘living document’ and a framework to guide direction, outline the goals, the actions need to achieve them, and the resources required for implementation. Benefits of strategic planning include clarity and alignment, proactive goal setting, efficient resource allocation and enhanced responsiveness.

The Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board’s Strategic Plan requires a review early in the 2025-2028 triennium. Council’s Community Partnerships team will be available to assist this process, and their experience and involvement with Community Plans will be valuable to enable the Board’s Strategic Plan to have alignments with the communities, thereby ensuring best outcomes to the rohe.

Next steps

- Members review their [2022-2025 WOCB Strategic Plan](#)
- Members could research and review other Community Board plans for inspiration and ideas.
- A facilitated session be organised for members to develop an updated plan.
- Once developed the Plan will be formally adopted by the Board.
- At meetings, review progress on plan actions and outcomes.

4.4. Funding Applications

A summary of the submitted, and valid, applications for funding via SmartyGrants is as follows:

Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board - SmartyGrant Applications - Round 1 2026

Application Number	Applicant	Project Title	Project Start Date	Project End Date	Total Project Costs	Total Amount Requested
WOCB01	Whakatāne District Community Arts Council Incorporated	Arts Whakatāne live concert Opera Under the Rākau 2026	01/08/2025	20/04/2026	\$4,170.00	\$1,100.00
WOCB02	Whakatāne District Community Arts Council Incorporated	Jazz in the Park 2026	01/08/2025	27/03/2026	\$31,150.65	\$4,766.40
WOCB04	Whakatāne Citizens Advice Bureau	Equipment Supporting Community Service	09/02/2026	30/06/2026	\$10,732.95	\$10,732.95
WOCB06	The Edgecumbe Choir Incorporated	Digital Marketing to promote Edgecumbe Choir concerts and increase membership	09/02/2026	23/11/2026	\$2,880.00	\$2,880.00
WOCB08	Have a Heart Charitable Trust	Have a Heart Expo and Family Festival 2026	20/03/2026	21/03/2026	\$19,026.19	\$2,990.00
WOCB09	Life Education Trust EBOP	Enhancing Harold's Learning Environment	01/04/2026	30/04/2026	\$10,456.77	\$10,456.77
WOCB10	Individual - Kay Montgomery	Coastland School Bus Shelter Upgrade	27/03/2026	30/05/2026	\$1,770.00	\$1,770.00
WOCB11	Theatre Whakatane Incorporated	Matilda the Musical	31/01/2026	31/05/2026	\$9,450.00	\$9,450.00

Members now need to consider the applications and any allocation of discretionary funding.

7 Chairperson and Sub-Committee Reports

7.1 WOCB Chairperson's Report – February 2026



To: Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board

Meeting Date: Monday, 2 February 2026

Author: WOCB Chairperson

Reference: A3051688

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

Tēnā koutou katoa. Welcome all for the first Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board meeting of the 2025-2028 triennium.

2. Recommendations - Tohutohu akiaki

1. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Chairperson's report February 2026 be **received**; and
2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **donate** \$1500 from their discretionary fund to the Whakatāne Touch Association Charitable Trust in support of their annual Touch Tournament.

3. From the Chair

I would like to begin my Chairpersons Report endorsing the words of His Worship the Mayor, Nandor Tanczos, and offer condolences to those suffering serious loss in the weather events of last week. Northland, Coromandel Peninsula, the Bay of Plenty, Waioweka Gorge, East Cape and Tiarawhiti seemed to be hit hardest. Whilst we were fortunate to have had this weather event pass us by, the consequences of a month's rainfall in just a few hours had devastating consequences, with the lives of nine people lost. This is heart-breaking, and we all feel this pain. Whilst land recovers, lives will be forever scarred. Nā koutou i tangi, nā tātou katoa - *when you cry, your tears are shed by us all, and emphasises the collective grief and empathy, reminding those affected that they are not alone in their suffering.*

The Whakatane Ōhope Community Board members for 2025-2028 were inducted on 1 December 2025. At our first meeting, I was elected Chair and Sue Whale as Deputy Chair. I am looking forward to being a part of and leading a team of very well informed, community leaders.

We held an informal gathering on 10 December 2025. The purpose of this hui was to meet Paul Davidson, the WDC Manager who will support the WOCB, alongside Ingrid McNiven as our WDC representative. We discussed some excellent ideas on what we would like to achieve in this next triennium, set a date for our first workshop to prepare a strategic plan for 2025-2028, discussed discretionary funding including the introduction of Smarty Grants, and Freedom Camping and Otarawairere Walkway. We had well informed discussion and set the scene for our term together as a cohesive team who all have similar interests and outcomes for this triennium.

7.1 WOCB Chairperson's Report – February 2026(Cont.)**4. Community Engagement****16 December 2025**

I participated in a Zoom hui led by Rehette Stoltz - Mayor Of Tairawhiti from the LGNZ National Council about the changes in Local Government, and within LGNZ.

17 December 2025

I participated in a Zoom hui with DIA on rates capping. Both were valuable, and whilst we are not directly affected by these, it was useful to participate and listen to the discussion.

Otarawairere Westend Track Reopening Project had a public meeting at the Ōhope Hall on 17 December regarding getting the track up and running. Jim Robinson, who was instrumental about development of the Motu Trails Great Ride with the Opotiki District Council gave an overview of the process he and his people went through to build the Motu Trail. The Mayor and CEO were in attendance. From this hui a team of volunteers was established. There was a further hui on 23 January 2026, with a BBQ, to split the track maintenance and get assurance from those who are going to help that a safety plan has been put in place and reviewed by appropriate people. Angus Robson will be presenting to the February WOCB hui, with time for questions.

5. Follow-up from events/meetings

At the final meeting of the 2022-2025 triennium (held August 2025), it was requested that the Board consider installing a water fountain at Otarawairere. This water fountain was installed late last year, with funding from WOCB. It has been well received - one user (Janie Storey) provided the following feedback:

'Hi Linda, Carolyn, Jim and Ian - just wanted to say a big thank you for the water fountain at Otarawairere Village - it looks great and I have used it as I am sure that many others have as well with these extra hot days. I appreciate that you have taken this suggestion and made it a reality.'

At this same hui, the Ōhope Beach Football Club gave a presentation to the public forum session of the meeting. The note in the minutes is below.

Recently, Tacy Lothian requested another opportunity to speak at a WOCB meeting, and this will occur at our March meeting. They are a women's football team who would like to practice and have games at Ōhope on Bluett Park, but they are unable to do so, as there is insufficient lighting. As the football club shares the space with the cricket pitch, there is an inability to install lighting to cover the complete area. So, the football Club would like portable lights. These cost \$25,000 each, and they would need two of these portable lights. The football club has secured funding for one set, but not for the other set. Horizon Energy Trust cannot support the football club in funding the portable lights at present. This may be an avenue they will explore if Horizon Energy Trust changes its funding model.

5 PUBLIC FORUM**5.1 Ōhope Beach Football Club – Jonathan Barnes**

Mr Barnes outlined the club's intention to form a women's team, emphasising the need for parental involvement and lighting at Bluett Park to enable evening play. The club sought guidance and advised that as the project progressed they may request a letter of support from the Board. They are currently working with Council staff and may have potential funding from Trust Horizon for lighting. Initial estimated costs ranged from \$117,000 to \$190,000.

7.1 WOCB Chairperson's Report – February 2026(Cont.)**6. Funding**

At our informal gathering on 10 December, the WOCB members agreed in principle to donate towards to the Touch Tournament organised by the Whakatāne Touch Association Charitable Trust. This tournament attracts approximately 2000 players and a further 2000 supporters and spectators to Whakatāne.

On Monday 12 January, there was a workshop on the new funding platform, Smarty Grants, by Council's Community Funding Advisor (Emma Parsons Rossiter). This was very useful training, and it made the Smarty Grants process easy to understand, and we were able to ask questions about the application process. Because the workshop was so well explained, the follow-up workshop on Wednesday 14 January 2026, for Community Board Chairpersons, was cancelled.

A reminder to members that retrospective funding is contrary to WDC policy.

8 Closing Karakia - *He Karakia Whakakapi*

8 Closing Karakia - *He Karakia Whakakapi*

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa
Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti
Me te aroha o te Atua
Me te whiwhingatahitanga
Ki te wairua tapu
Ake, ake, ake
Amine**

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all
Forever and ever
Amen*