



# Murupara Community Board

## *Te Poari Hapori o Murupara*

Monday, 23 March 2026  
*Mane, 23 Poutūterangi 2026*

Murupara Service Centre  
48 Pine Drive, Murupara  
Commencing at 10:00 am



Chief Executive Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 18 March 2026

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





**A Membership - *Mematanga***

**A Membership - *Mematanga***

Board Member Mere Honeycombe - Chairperson

Board Member Irma Prentice - Deputy Chairperson

Board Member Mansahn Kereopa

Board Member Karito Paul

Board Member Alison Silcock

Board Member Karen Isemonger-Rameka

Councillor Jesse Morgan-Ranui

Alternate Councillor Andrew Iles

## **B Role of the Community Board**

### **B Role of 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.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Declaration .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies - <i>Te hunga kāore i tae</i> .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Acknowledgements/Tributes - <i>Ngā Mihimihi</i> .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conflicts of Interest - <i>Ngākau kōnatunatu</i> .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Public Participation - <i>Wānanga Tūmatanui</i> .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Public Forum - <i>Wānanga Tūmatanui</i> .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Deputations - <i>Ngānanga Whakapuaki Whaitake</i> .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes - <i>Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui</i> .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Minutes – Murupara Community Board 27 January 2026 .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Reports - <i>Ngā Pūrongo</i> .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7.1</b>	<b>MCB Activity Report – March 2026 .....</b>	<b>12</b>
	7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026 .....	26
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Governance Services Report – March 2026 .....</b>	<b>38</b>
	7.2.1 Appendix 1 – Final Declaration of Results Community Board By-election 2026 .....	40
<b>8</b>	<b>Chairperson and Sub-Committee Reports .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Chairperson’s Report – January 2026 .....</b>	<b>42</b>

## 1 Declaration

### 1 Declaration

To enable Members Karito Paul and Karen Isemonger-Rameka, of the Murupara Community Board, to make their declarations.



## MURUPARA COMMUNITY BOARD DECLARATION BY MEMBER

I, Name Name

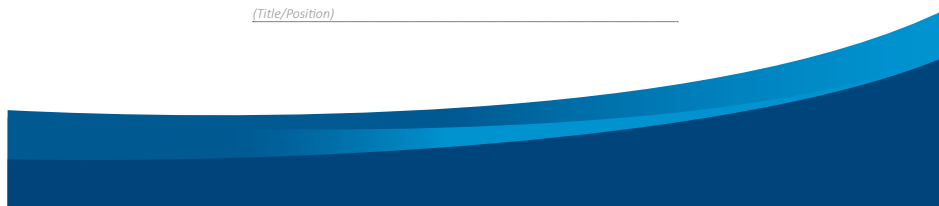
*declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Murupara community, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as a Member of the Murupara Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

DATED AT MURUPARA THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2026

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF: (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(Title/Position) \_\_\_\_\_



## **2 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae***

### **2 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae***

An apology was received from Councillors Morgan-Ranui and Iles at the time of compiling the agenda.

### **3 Acknowledgements/Tributes - *Ngā Mihimihi***

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***

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 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.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Board Members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

- Sheena Jones - Community Public Day Morning Tea for our Volunteer First Responders.

#### **5.2 Deputations - *Ngānanga 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 5 minutes, or with the permission of the Chairperson, a longer timeframe 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.

- Regional Councillors Mawera Karetai and Sarah McCorkindale - Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes - *Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui*

### 6 Confirmation of Minutes - *Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui*

#### 6.1 Minutes – Murupara Community Board 27 January 2026

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	<b>MURUPARA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD AT MURUPARA SERVICE CENTRE, 48 PINE DRIVE, MURUPARA, MONDAY, 27 JANUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM</b>
	Present:	Chairperson M K Honeycombe, Members I Prentice, M Kereopa, A Silcock, Councillor J Morgan-Ranui and A Iles as Alternate Councillor
	In Attendance:	H Patrick (Kaihautū Māori Partnerships and General Manager Commercial), V Richards (Strategic Coordinator – Community Partnerships), J Eruera (Emergency Management Officer), and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor)
	Visitors:	
	Apologies:	Member K Paul

The Chairperson welcomed those present and opened the meeting with a Karakia at 10.05 am.

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Members noted the apology received from Member K Paul, who was unable to attend. It was noted that his declaration would be completed at the next Murupara Community Board meeting.

#### 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

Members were advised that a medical case involving Bernard Connel was scheduled for 9 March 2026 in Rotorua and was expected to span over two weeks.

Staff member Awhina Chapman was acknowledged for receiving the Toitu te Tangata Award.

It was also acknowledged that free delivery of the Beacon had been provided during December and January in Murupara, with payment for further copies resuming in February 2026.

Members acknowledged those who had lost their lives in the recent slip at Mount Maunganui and within the Tauranga City Council and Welcome Bay communities.

#### 3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

## 6.1 Minutes – Murupara Community Board 27 January 2026(Cont.)

### 4. PUBLIC FORUM

Nil.

### 5. REPORTS

#### 5.1. Murupara Community Board Activity Report

Refer to pages 9-15 of the agenda.

The Strategic Coordinator – Community Partnerships presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- Progress on the Youth Council was discussed, with ongoing efforts to secure representation from Murupara. Members Prentice and Honeycombe volunteered to act as contact points.
- The visibility and utilisation of community vans within the Galatea/Waiohau area were considered in anticipation of upcoming Council initiatives. Member Silcock agreed to act as the Board contact.
- Staff were acknowledged for their efforts in delivering a successful swimming season at the local pools.
- Clarification was requested regarding the location of the water treatment plant.
- A request was made for a one-page, plain-English summary for residents outlining the replacement of wastewater consents.
- A review of fees at the Murupara Recovery Centre was initiated, including reporting on solid waste data relating to bins that had received strikes.
- The Emergency Management Officer (Civil Defence) introduced himself and outlined the role of his team.
- The Board requested the provision of detour and communication plans for transportation works on Ruatāhuna and Waikeremoana Roads.

Moved Member Prentice / Seconded Councillor Morgan-Ranui

#### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the Murupara Community Board Activity – January 2026 report be **received**.

#### **CARRIED**

#### 5.2. Governance Administration

Refer to pages 16-18 of the agenda.

The Governance Administration Report was presented and discussed. The Board considered scheduling strategic planning sessions for after March 2026 and reviewed the follow-up process for the Murupara Community Board Master Plan. Additionally, procedures for adding items to future agendas, including indicative dates, were discussed. The member also discussed workshops and more education being made available for the community on SmartyGrants.

**6.1 Minutes – Murupara Community Board 27 January 2026(Cont.)**

Moved Member Morgan-Ranui / Seconded Member Silcock

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Governance Administration January 2026 report be **received**.

**CARRIED**

**6. CHAIRPERSON AND COUNCILLOR REPORTING**

**6.1. Chairperson Report**

Refer to pages 19-21 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Morgan-Ranui / Seconded Member Kereopa

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the MCB Chairperson's Report – January 2026 be **accepted**.

**CARRIED**

**The meeting closed with a Karakia from the Chairperson at 11:02 am.**

<b>Confirmed at the meeting dated:</b>
CHAIRPERSON

## 7 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

### 7 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

#### 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026



To: **Murupara Community Board**

Date: **Monday, 23 March 2026**

Author: **V Richards / Strategic Coordinator – Community Partnership**

Authoriser: **H Patrick / Kaihautū Māori Partnerships and GM Commercial**

Reference: **A3075718**

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

This information report provides the Community Board with an update on projects, activities and events delivered by Council to March 2026. Information is grouped as per GM Portfolio.

#### 2. Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Murupara Community Board **receive** the MCB Activity Report – March 2026.

#### 3. Community Experience Update

##### 3.1. Aquatic Centres

What a busy last couple of weeks it has been for the Murupara crew as the 2026 Summer Season ends. Beginning in February the pool has been very busy with school bookings for swim lessons or even school swimming sports. A couple of the schools that have visited would be Murupara Area School, Kāingaroa Forest, Galatea, Tawhiuah, Te Whāiti, and Te Wairaikei trust to name a few.



### 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Our 2026 season will be coming to an end this year on **Thursday, 2 April**. We want to give a big shout out to our Lifeguards Eruka, Trina, Chelsea, and Skylark who worked so hard to keep our communities safe throughout the year. We are also sad to say that this will be the last season for Eruka and Trina, with Eruka having served 17 years and Trina serving 7. We will pretty much have a new team when we open the pool again in late October 2026 for the next season!

### 3.2. Libraries

#### Molly the Moa takes flight to Murupara



Molly the Moa has made the journey to the Murupara Library, travelling in style via the Ki Tai Hono Hapori van, delivered and installed by our museum kaimahi Wairaka and Kieran.

Made in 1986 by Wim Speikman, Molly is the last of three model moa originally displayed in the Dominion Farmers Institute building in Wellington. After several relocations - including Te Puni Kōkiri and the Tāneatua shed of former MP and one-term WDC Councillor Ian Shearer - she joined the Whakatāne District Museum collection in 2011 through the Gordon Ellis Trust.

### 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)



From Kura kids to Councillors, Molly the Moa is a big hit with everyone that enters the Murupara Library and Service Centre! Our Councillors popped in for a quick visit while on a visit to the southern communities in our district. Whaea Hine Anderson and the junior kids from Tawhiuau Kura came to visit 'Molly' and also had time for a story!

We love seeing taonga from our collection out in the community

Pop into the Murupara Library to say kia ora to Molly!

## 4. Finance Update

### Promotion of Rates Rebates Scheme

Following a question raised about how we promote rates rebates, please see a summary of our current approach below.

- **Sunday Market attendance**  
This is a relatively new initiative. Last year was the first time we attended the Whakatāne Sunday Market, and we assisted with more than 80 completed applications on the day. We will be attending again this year on Sunday, 8 March and have social media posts planned to encourage people to visit our team for support.
- **Social media posts**  
We share reminders and key information about eligibility, deadlines and how to apply across our social channels.
- **Digital noticeboards**  
Promotion runs across digital screens in our facilities, including the Civic Centre, the Library, and the Murupara Library and Service Centre.
- **Community newsletters**  
Rates rebate information is included in our community newsletters.
- **Newspaper advertising**  
We advertise in the Whakatāne Beacon to reach residents who may not be active online.
- **Website banner**  
A banner is placed on our website homepage during the rebate period to direct people to the relevant information.
- **Annual rates newsletter**

## 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Rates rebate information is also included in the annual rates newsletter sent to all ratepayers across the district.

### 5. Kaihautu Māori Partnerships and Commercial Update

#### 5.1. Solid Waste

Whakatāne Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) states under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 that we must stay below 70% of the national average waste to landfill per person per annum. When accepting loads from outside our ratepaying district, it affects our ability to achieve these requirements. All data is monitored by central government, and our figures are audited across the district. For the Murupara Resource Recovery Centre (MRRRC) we rely on information collected through the eftpos payment data.

There are nationalised weight standards for all six waste sizes we accept, and this is recorded through the eftpos system. The cost to install a weighbridge is over \$200,000 including the software and computer system to run it and internet connection which would also need to be installed. Unfortunately, this sort of investment is costly and would likely see rates increased, which we don't want to do. Although we do have set fees and charges, we do state on our website that 'Staff decisions on load type and charges are final' and we support our contractor's decision at the price charged, including managing acceptance of loads.

#### 5.2. Strategic Māori Partnerships

##### RMA Wānanga

On 5 February, local iwi and hapū gathered at Te Rangihouhiri Marae for a crucial Resource Management Act Wānanga, hosted by Tina Porou of Poipoia - a Māori-owned and operated environmental consultancy.

The wānanga addressed the Government's proposed RMA reforms, which may have significant and adverse implications for iwi and hapū. Tina described these reforms as an attempt to "invisibilise" Māori and their rights, providing iwi and hapū with tools and support to navigate and respond to these changes.

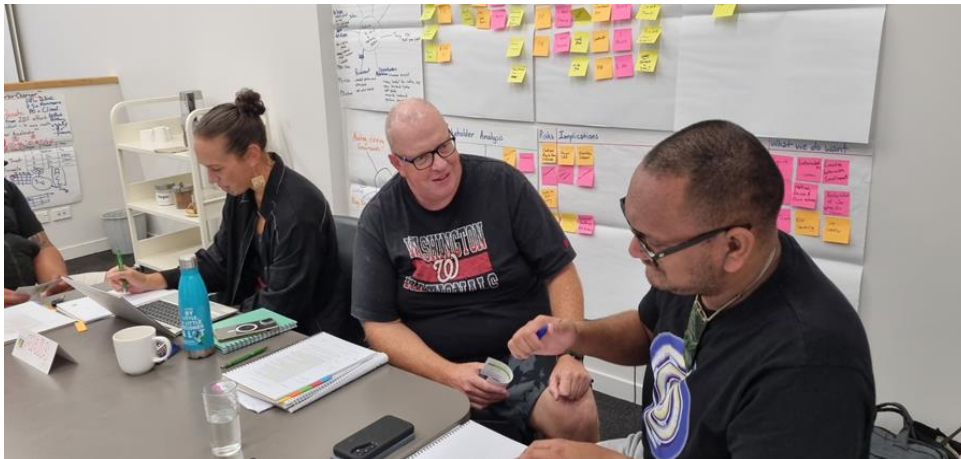
##### Building project management capability with iwi partners



### 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Local iwi partners came together on 18 and 19 February for a Project Management workshop facilitated by Frank Aldridge of Integral Group Ltd. Representatives from Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitihi, Ngāti Whare, and Ngāti Manawa took part, gaining practical methods, processes, and tools they could immediately apply to projects already underway or in the pipeline.

The hands-on approach was well received and feedback from iwi partners was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a desire for the training to be extended to others within their iwi.



#### Elected Members haerenga

The Exec Team joined Elected Members on iwi-led haerenga to the south and west of the district this week.

Monday morning, we received a warm welcome from Ngāti Whare in the picturesque setting of the Mangamate Waterfall camp area, before a tour of the Minginui village and quick stop off at the Minginui nursery. The afternoon started with a working lunch at Te Rūnanga of Ngāti Manawa where Tumu Whakarae/Chief Executive Officer Eugene Berryman-Kamp shared iwi aspirations and the pillars of the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement with the Council. Then it was back on the bus to visit the Miro Drive housing development site, Rangitahi Marae (with a focus on community emergency resilience) and down to Taniwha Park to look at the site for the future Murupara wastewater treatment station. A visit to the Murupara Service Centre and Aquatic Centre closed out the day.

Wednesday – back on the bus – to Matata and the Tahi Hill Farms which the Council has bought as part of the Matata wastewater project. Councillor Dennis had hold of the mic to turn tour guide with a commentary on the Awakaponga Hall. We connected with Tipene Marr who shared information about the awa, Otaramuturangi urupā and Awatarariki. Vinnie Smith shared kōrero at Edgecumbe Library and we swung by the War Memorial Hall.

The two days were a real privilege to hear iwi aspirations, learn about projects and challenges and to take up some wero. Haerenga to other parts of the rohe are planned.

**7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)**



*Mayor Nándor acknowledges the warm welcome by Ngāti Whare at the stunningly beautiful Mangamate Waterfall.*



*Working lunch at Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa - Tumu Whakarae/CEO Eugene Berryman-Kamp shares some points from TRONM Strategic Plan.*

## 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

### 6. People and Partnerships Update

#### 6.1. Community Partnerships

Great interest in Youth Council

We're thrilled to have received 63 applications for the 2026 Youth Council - a big increase from the 30 we received last year. It's fantastic to see so many young people eager to get involved in local government.

Given the high number of applications, we'll be running a selection process. 30 applicants will be shortlisted and invited to submit a short video answering four set questions.

This ensures a fair and structured process while giving applicants valuable interview experience. Final Youth Council appointments will be announced by 13 March, with the first meeting planned for the end of March.

#### **Community Funding applications sought**

The Councils Community Grants and Funding Programme second round opens on 13 April, there will be three funds open until 3 May. The Community Grants and Funding Committee will meet on 20 May to make the funding decisions. The three funds that are open are:

Creative Communities Scheme - This fund champions local and community art centred projects, events, festivals, exhibitions, installations, workshops and performances.

Te Puaha Waterways and Marine Environment Fund - Purpose of this fund is to support projects, activities and programmes that make the most of the waterways and marine environment in the Whakatāne District

Community Climate Action Fund - Designed to empower our community to take real action on climate change through climate change adaption and climate change mitigation.

For more information on how and when to apply to these two funds visit Council's [website](#).

#### **Road Safety**

This event is planned for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. We have had one planning meeting in the community and another coming up. Currently has the following groups, agencies, and staff are onboard with co-delivery.

- Library staff
- Murupara Heartlands – Eastbay REAP
- Te Ahi Mauri ki Murupara
- Animal Control
- Police
- Te Ika Whenua Hauora
- Murupara Youth Space
- We also have Rock Up bringing a Climbing wall, Basketball activity and Hunger ball with an inflatable activity supporting this event.

**7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)**

The road safety programme is continuing to support the training, assessment, and licencing of motorcyclists in Murupara with at least nine of the group supported last year to gain their Basic Handling Skills Certificate, having also obtained their Motorcycle Learner Licence. We are currently collaborating with Eastbay REAP to support even more riders to become trained and licenced and working towards a MotoMed Workshop being delivered which provides riders with the tools and knowledge of what to do if they were the first on the scene of an accident involving another rider.



**THE AMAZING  
RACE  
MURUPARA**

**Wednesday,  
8 April 2026**  
**10.30am to 2pm**

10:30am - registrations open  
10:45am - briefing  
1:30pm - prizegiving

Starts outside the **Murupara Library and Service Centre** with activities around town.

**FREE** activity for teams of 4  
**FREE** BBQ for teams at the end

**COST**  
**FREE!**

**CATEGORIES**  
Youth – 12 to 24 years  
Whānau – mixed ages

Join us for 2 hours of fun and laughter around town! Heaps of cool prizes to be won plus prizes for best fancy dress!

Your team needs to gain points by collecting images, completing fun tasks and finding information in local businesses. You will need a camera or phone to capture photos!

**RULES**

- Teams must be made up of max of 4 players.
- All children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Teams must stay together at all times.

Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme supported by our partners

**6.2. Health and Safety****Whakaora - focus on health and safety**

We recently facilitated our Managing Risk training workshop. This marks the completion of the second module in our Whakaora training series. Whakaora is our Council-wide approach to strengthening how we embed health, safety, and wellbeing into everything we do.

This workshop builds on the Understanding Risk sessions delivered to all staff at the end of last year. The Managing Risk module was delivered in a smaller, more targeted 1:1 workshop format to allow for deeper discussion and practical application.

During the session, we covered:

- How Council's Risk Management process works in practice - including risk responses and controls
- Roles and responsibilities within the process, particularly for Activity Managers and those responsible for maintaining risk registers
- Our critical risks and how they link into the wider Risk Management framework (with more detailed Critical Risk training to follow later in 2026)

### 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

- How and when risk register reviews will take place
- Where to go for further guidance and support

It has been encouraging to see the engagement and commitment across the organisation as we continue strengthening our risk maturity together. More training focused specifically on Critical Risks will roll out over the coming months.

## 7. Planning, Regulatory and Transport Update

### 7.1. Transportation

Underslip repairs Ruatāhuna and Waikaremoana Road

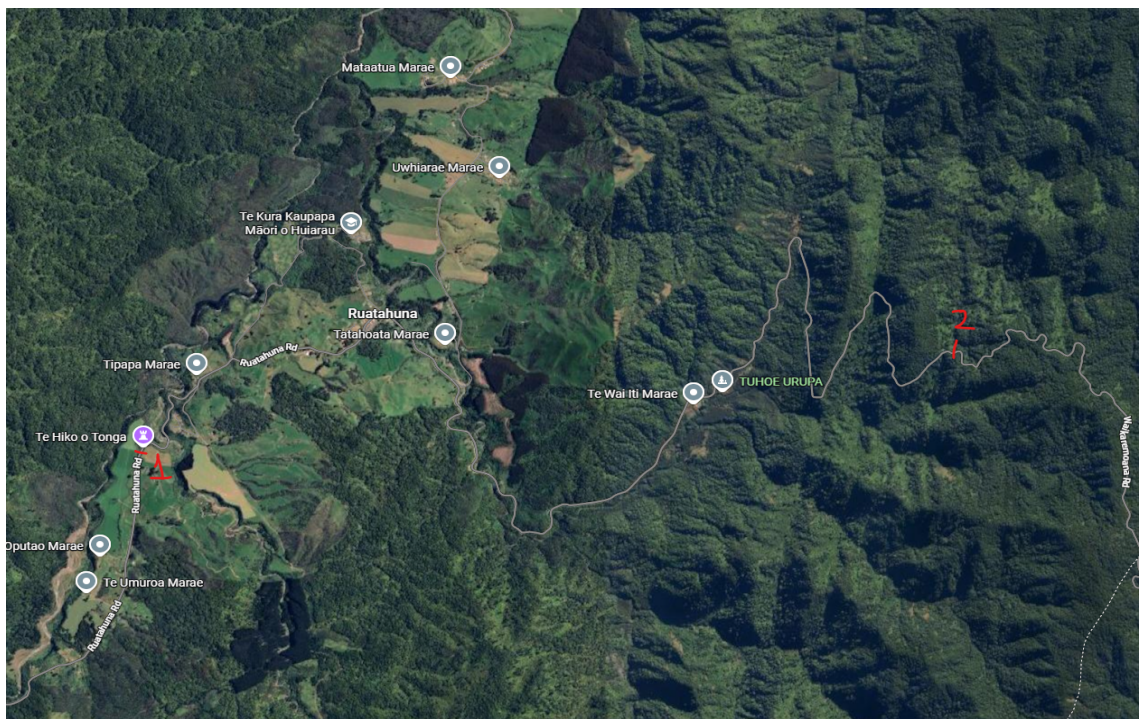
(Refer to locations on Map below)

Repair of two underslips are commencing this week from 16 March.

1. Ruatāhuna Road underslip approx. RP 26km
2. Waikaremoana Road underslip approx. RP 11km

The repairs are expected to take 2-3 weeks to complete both sites.

There is also a further underslip on Ruatāhuna Road around RP 11km. This repair requires design and planning inputs and therefore will be completed next season (Spring 2026 to Autumn 2027). Further info will be provided as this design is finalised and likely timing of the construction works can be confirmed.



Bridge 72 Abutment Repairs

**7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)**

Ongoing erosion around the abutments of Bridge 72 (located at approximately RP44540 Galatea Road, between Haumea Road and Horomanga Road, crossing the Haumea Stream), is resulting in slumping of the bridge approaches and damage to the road pavement.

Repair works are planned to commence in March to protect the bridge abutments from further erosion. The works will involve sheet piling and placement of compacted materials to create a sound foundation for the bridge approaches. Works are expected to be complete in April.



At Jolly Road bridge we have been working with BOPRC to install scour protection. BOPRC have constructed a basket-type wall approximately 40 metres long at the site. Please refer to Photos 1 and 2 below. The plan now is to extend the protection works for another 60 metres, starting from the end of the basket wall and continuing towards the bridge, (see Photo 3). Instead of using the same basket system, we will install large rock riprap as per our original design.



## 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)



### 7.2. Master Plan Update

The first stage of the project has involved confirming the strategic visions through the development of masterplans for both Ngāti Whare and the community of Minginui and Ngāti Manawa and the community of Murupara. The second stage of the project involves activation funding to unlock early project development and support the implementation of the masterplans.

The final masterplan for Murupara captures the aspirations of Ngāti Manawa and the community of Murupara, and although it is non-statutory in nature and does not impose requirements or obligations on Council. It does provide a basis for ongoing planning between Council, TRoNM and the community. It recognises that it is not the responsibility of Council to implement everything in the plan, but instead it serves as a blueprint for Council and TRoNM to work together in the future and partner as external funding become available in the future. The Murupara masterplan has now been approved by TRoNM and will be presented to Council on 26 March.

Ngāti Whare and the community of Minginui are currently in the final stages of confirming their strategic visions and once completed they will also present their plan to Council.

## 8. Strategy and Growth Update

### 8.1. Climate Change and Resilience

#### Adaptation Explorer project

The public version of the Adaptation Explorer will be released on 20 March 2026. The Adaptation Explorer is an interactive online map that shows how climate change risks may affect different parts of our district, including flooding, sea level rise and landslides. The Environment, Energy and Resilience

## 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Committee approved release of the Climate Change Risk Assessment last year including a staged release of the information in an online viewer (the Adaptation Explorer). Adaptation Explorer was released internally to staff in December 2025.

The external release of the tool helps residents and businesses understand potential hazards so they can make informed decisions and plan ahead. The release is supported by updated website content, a user guide and FAQs to clearly explain what the Adaptation Explorer does and does not show, with a focus on easy-to-understand information that helps the community plan ahead.

### Emergency Management

The Emergency Management team has been actively supporting our communities across the district. Recent efforts have focused on working alongside all five Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), particularly in the setup and training of the portable Starlink units. This capability will ensure that, when needed, communities can provide essential Wi-Fi connectivity to support communication during an emergency.

We've also begun wider engagement with our communities around river-flooding preparedness and tsunami evacuation planning. A key message we continue to emphasise is: **“Do you have an emergency response plan and a grab-and-go bag ready?”**

In addition, positive progress is being made toward establishing an animal welfare emergency hub, which will further strengthen our district's resilience and support network during emergencies.

## 8.2. Events

### Full-on Summer for Tourism & Events

The peak summer season has been busy for the Tourism and Events team, promoting and supporting key events: Local Wild Food Festival, NZ Life Saving Nationals, Mataatua Regional Kapa Haka Festival, Flavours of Plenty Food Festival, Matatā Bike Week, Farming like Grandad and more.

Whakatāne welcomed around 10,000 visitors for the Mataatua Kapa Haka Regionals this past weekend; with 5,000 expected for the NZ Life Saving Nationals at Ōhope Beach from 5–8 March. These activities generate significant economic impact, particularly for local hospitality and accommodation as the summer season winds down.

## 8.3. Tourism & Economic Development

### Economic Development

The Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitor report was released in February. Below is a summary of the Whakatāne District's economic performance over the last quarter.

Whakatāne District's economy showed modest improvement through 2025, with early signs of recovery alongside ongoing areas of weakness. GDP grew 0.3% over the year, supported by stronger primary sector returns and gains in real estate and professional services. Tourism was a clear bright spot, with spending up 6.9%, and the housing market showed renewed activity with house sales rising 13%. However, business unit numbers fell 0.6% and non-residential consents dropped 14.4%, indicating private investment remains cautious and the recovery is still uneven.

### 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Labour market and household indicators present a mixed picture. Jobseeker Support numbers declined slightly and the fall in consumer spending has begun to narrow. At the same time, employment fell 2.6% and the unemployment rate rose to 7.3%, remaining above the national average (5.3%). Youth outcomes remain a concern, with the NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) rate at 22.7%. These trends suggest that while the worst of the downturn may be passing, many households are still under pressure and job recovery is lagging broader economic activity.

The primary sector remains the district's economic backbone, with the dairy payout expected to reach around \$327 million for the 24/25 season and kiwifruit export growth supporting activity. Housing affordability remains better than the national average, and emergency housing demand has fallen. Business confidence appears subdued, however, with non-residential consent values down 14.4% signalling weak private investment appetite.

Overall, the district is showing early signs of recovery but remains vulnerable, with employment, investment, and population-linked demand requiring close monitoring and targeted economic development responses.

#### Tourism

The tourism team attended the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTONZ) hui in Auckland last week. Tourism Minister Louise Upston spoke to aspirational growth goals for the sector, including doubling the value of tourism exports by 2034. She acknowledged the important role local government plays through investment in destination marketing, events, community facilities, and experiences, and signalled the need for sustainable funding going forward - while recognising the challenges councils face amid the current reform environment.

### Tourism expenditure

Figure 9. Tourism expenditure

Annual average % change December 2024 - December 2025

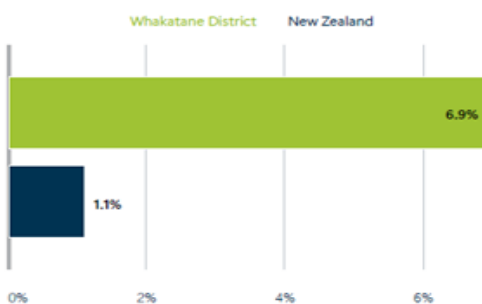
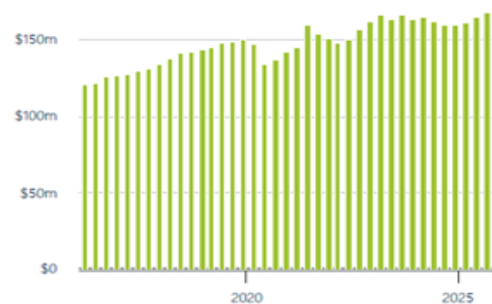


Figure 10. Tourism expenditure

Annual total, Whakatane District



#### Highlights

- Total tourism expenditure in Whakatane District increased by 6.9% in the year to December 2025, compared to a year earlier. This compares with an increase of 1.1% in New Zealand.
- Total tourism expenditure was approximately \$171 million in Whakatane District during the year to December 2025, which was up from \$160 million a year ago.

## 9. Three Waters

### Murupara Reservoir roof relining

## 7.1 MCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

The three concrete reservoirs serving the Murupara community, each around 60-years-old, had their roofs cleaned and resurfaced using a Mastermix proprietary multicoat concrete repair system. This product seals age-related cracks caused by creep, expansion, and contraction, preventing rainwater from carrying contaminants into the treated water. The work, completed in February, is expected to extend the reservoirs' service life by at least 25 years



### 9.1. Murupara Wastewater Project

The Murupara Wastewater Project is currently in the options assessment phase, with the project team working alongside Ngāti Manawa through a co-design process to identify and assess future wastewater system options. This work is considering different combinations of treatment technologies, possible treatment plant locations, discharge pathways (land, surface water, or hybrid approaches), and opportunities for natural treatment or mauri restoration measures. The assessment is guided by outcomes focused on meeting Ngāti Manawa aspirations, delivering a resilient long-term system (50+ years), minimising environmental effects on the Rangitāiki River and surrounding environment, protecting public health and keeping solutions affordable for the Murupara community and the wider district.

Next steps include refining the options list, completing further technical, environmental and cultural assessments, and developing indicative cost and funding information, with ongoing community engagement through forums, Community Board updates, and a community open day planned for later in 2026.

The Project team will provide an update of the progress of the Project to the Board.

## 10. Local Waters Done Well Update

### CCO investigations

Following Council's mid 2025 decision we have been investigating potential benefits of a multi-council CCO for water services. A Heads of Agreement (HoA) was signed in December 2025 between the four partners - Rotorua, Kawerau, Ōpōtiki and Whakatāne. This HoA outlines that we collaboratively will investigate a joint Water Service Organisation, with final decision making to come back to each council in early 2027.

On 2 February the Water Working Group (WWG) held its second meeting, in Whakatāne, welcoming the visiting councillors with a mihi whakatau. Topics on the agenda were: (i) future work programme and the need for technical support, (ii) potential candidates for the WWG independent advisor –

### 7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026

funded by DIA (Department of Internal Affairs), and (iii) potential strategic objectives that can be used to support our analysis of a joint WSO against a stand-alone option for future water service delivery.

- The WWG is an advisory group only and relevant information will come back to individual councils as part of a workshop in March 2026 to seek feedback on the proposed technical analysis approach and potential engagement options.
- The need was noted to elevate the community conversations alongside the completion of any technical analysis. A communications and engagement plan will be prepared for discussion at the Waters Working Group on 23 February 2026. This engagement will be confirmed with all councils through workshops in March 2026.
- The WWG supported Max Baxter as a potential independent advisory. Max is the ex-Mayor of Ōtorohanga District Council and has had good insight into the development of the Waikato Water Done Well (WWDW) joint Water Service Organisation.
- It was noted that procurement for the technical analysis to support the Water Working Group / Council decision making will be through a targeted procurement approach due to the technical nature and limited number of companies with relevant capabilities to carry out this work. It is intended to finalise procurement for this vendor before 23 February 2026.
- The proposed Strategic Objectives (which were pulled from Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki Water Service Delivery Plans) were endorsed in principle. Strategic Objectives clarify our aspirations and provide crucial direction, focus and a roadmap for our collaboration, translating a broad vision into measurable goals They are:



## 11. Community Board Specific Updates

### Attached to this Report:

- Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update – Presentation March 2026

### 7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026(Cont.)

Murupara Wastewater Project Update

Murupara Community Board - March 2026

whakatane.govt.nz

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

## Recap - Reasons for the project



- The current discharge consent expires on 26 August 2028
- Council is required to apply for a replacement consent
- This provides an opportunity to reassess the current discharge and consider alternatives
- There are ongoing concerns about effects on the mauri of the river
- Ngāti Manawa have expressed a desire to explore alternatives to river discharge
- The project aims to identify a solution that supports environmental, cultural, and community outcomes, while remaining affordable and sustainable



7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026(Cont.)

## Recap - The Existing System



- The system was established around 1979, with upgrades in the late 1990s and 2011
- Wastewater is collected through a gravity reticulation network
- It is treated in a two-stage oxidation pond system
- Treated wastewater is discharged to the Rangitāiki River




Murupara Wastewater Treatment Plant Location

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026(Cont.)

# Project Desired Outcomes



Outcome	Underlying Considerations
To meet Ngāti Manawa’s objectives for the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discharge of treated wastewater to surface water</li> <li>Relocation of the Murupara WWTP away from the current culturally significant site</li> </ul>
Murupara will have a resilient wastewater system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wastewater collection, treatment and disposal will be fit for purpose for the next 50+ years</li> </ul>
The wastewater system will minimise effects on the taiao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The discharge shall not adversely affect the quality of the Rangitāiki River</li> <li>The discharge shall not adversely affect groundwater quality</li> </ul>
The wastewater system will protect public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wastewater system will be resilient</li> </ul>
The wastewater system will be affordable to the people of Murupara and the wider Whakatāne district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital costs, and their impact on rates</li> <li>Operating costs, and their impact on rates</li> </ul>



Through the co-design process, we will work through these together to determine how they can be achieved, acknowledging that some outcomes and considerations may require balancing environmental, cultural, technical, and affordability.

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026(Cont.)

## Where are we



We are currently in the options assessment phase of the project, considering a wide range of options to refine down to a short list.

Through this process, we are assessing the building blocks:

- Treatment location
- Treatment technology
- Discharge pathways – land or surface water
- Mauri restoration and natural treatment options
- Hybrid possibilities



*Co-design Group Site Visit to Murupara WWTP*

# What does the process look like



## 1. Setting project desired outcomes

We agree the criteria we'll use to compare options - including cultural outcomes, environmental effects, public health, resilience and affordability.

## 2. Identify Possible Options

We look at different combinations of:

- Where the plant could be located
- What treatment process could be used
- How treated wastewater could be discharged (land, water or a mix)
- Whether mauri restoration measures are included

## 3. Test What Is Actually Feasible

We carry out technical, environmental and cost investigations to understand what is realistically achievable.

## 4. Narrow Down the Options

Options that are not workable are removed.  
The remaining options form a short-list.

## 5. Take a Closer Look

We do more detailed technical, cultural and financial assessment of the short-listed options.

## 6. Recommend a Preferred Option

The co-design group provides input, and a preferred option is recommended to Council for decision.



7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026(Cont.)

# Options Assessment



Component	Umbrella Option	Option
Treatment	Treatment plant on a new site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activated sludge-based</li> <li>Trickling filter-based (or similar)</li> <li>WSP-based</li> </ul>
	Treatment plant on the current site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activated sludge-based</li> <li>Modified WSP</li> </ul>
Treated effluent discharge	Irrigation to land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slow rate irrigation</li> <li>High rate irrigation</li> </ul>
	Other forms of mauri restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetlands</li> <li>Rock filter</li> </ul>
	Discharge following mauri restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface Water</li> </ul>
	Hybrid option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer irrigation, alternative discharge during winter</li> </ul>



7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026(Cont.)

# Land Analysis Feasibility Study



## Purpose

- Assess whether land application of treated wastewater is feasible
- Apply the new national wastewater standards
- Provide information to support decision-making

## Scope

- Review soil, slope, groundwater, and flood risk
- Identify environmental, cultural, and land-use constraints
- Assess feasibility and indicative land requirements
- Develop high-level cost estimates and mapping

## Study Area

- Land within approximately 10km of Murupara
- Includes Galatea Basin and surrounding areas

## Key questions this will help answer

- Is land application feasible?
- What are the key risks or constraints?
- How much land may be required?
- What are the indicative costs?

## Timing

- Draft report due April 2026



## Next Steps in Options Assessment



Once a short-list of options is identified, we will:

- Undertake further technical and cultural assessments, including:
  - Further investigation on land irrigation
  - What mauri restoration could look like for discharge to water
  - Feasibility of retaining or relocating the existing WWTP
  - Develop cost estimates and understand funding and rating implications
  - Continue working with iwi to understand values, perspectives, and opportunities
  - Hold a community open day and continue engagement.



7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026(Cont.)



# Upcoming Engagement



Forum/ Hui	Timing
Rangitāiki River Forum	6 March 2026
Murupara Community Board Hui	23 March 2026
Community Day	TBC – May

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Murupara Wastewater Project Update - March 2026(Cont.)

Thanks for having us

Questions/ Patai?



**7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026**

**7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026**



To: **Murupara Community Board**  
 Meeting Date: **Monday, 23 March 2025**  
 Author: **A Dass / Governance Support Advisor**  
 Authoriser: **S Duffy / Senior Governance Support Services**  
 Reference: **A3048380**

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

This report provides the Murupara Community Board with updates from the Governance Services team, including an update on the by-election following the 2025 triennial elections.

**2. Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki***

THAT the Governance Services Report March 2026 report be **received**.

**3. Background - He tirohanga whakamuri**

**3.1. Discretionary Funding**

No discretionary fund applications have been received for consideration at the March 2026 Community Board meeting.

We encourage members to speak with their contacts, groups and organisations to ensure awareness of the Smarty Grants platform for funding applications.

The following table indicates the unallocated grants and subsidies (discretionary) fund. The balance of the Murupara discretionary fund at 28 February as shown below, is approximately \$19,568.00.

Murupara Community Board	
<b>Unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund) as at 28 February 2026 is</b>	<b>\$ 19,568.27</b>
2026 Opening Balance carried forward from prior years unallocated grants*	\$5,445.00
Funding operating surplus (deficit) for 2025 FY	\$4,828.00
2025/26 Annual Plan	\$15,775.00
<b>2025/26 revised Budget of Grants and Subsidies to allocate</b>	<b><u>\$19,568.27</u></b>
<b>2026 Allocations</b>	
Year to Date allocations	\$ -
<b>Current unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund)*</b>	<b>\$ 19,568.27</b>

## 7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026(Cont.)

### 4. Subjects – *Kaupapa*

This section contains information that the Governance Services team wish to update Members with.

#### 4.1. By-Election Results

The By-Election held for the Murupara Community Board - Galatea-Waiohau Subdivision and Tāneatua Community Board closed on the 3 March 2026 at noon. The final declaration of results are provided below.

##### 4.1.1. *Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision) – one vacancy:*

<b>Murupara Community Board</b>	<b>Votes Received</b>	<b>Rank</b>
ISEMONGER-RAMEKA, Karen	84	1
OLIVER, Alicia	53	0
<i>Informal</i>	0	
<i>Blank</i>	4	

Karen ISEMONGER-RAMEKA had been elected as a member to the Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision).

##### 4.1.2. *Tāneatua Community Board – three vacancies:*

<b>Tāneatua Community Board</b>	<b>Votes Received</b>	<b>Rank</b>
GOSLING, Kerry	239	1
JAHN, Ozgur	39	
JAMES, Elise	142	
MASON, Phillipa Marie	181	3
ROTA, Angie	214	2
TUWAIKUA, MJ	145	
<i>Informal</i>	0	
<i>Blank</i>	0	

Kerry GOSLING, Phillipa Marie MASON and Angie ROTA had been elected as members of the Tāneatua Community Board.

## **7.2.1 Appendix 1 – Final Declaration of Results Community Board By-election 2026**

### **4.1.3. 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.

The Zone 2 representative elected to CBEC is Dianne Firth, from the Ngāruawāhia Community Board.

### **4.2. Community Board Delegations**

Council has identified a small number of minor wording refinements to the Community Board delegations to better reflect the statutory role of Community Boards under the Local Government Act 2002. The Act provides that Community Boards are to represent and act as advocates for the interests of their communities and prevails over any inconsistent wording.

The proposed refinements are intended to improve clarity and consistency only and do not change the scope or intent of Community Board functions. Before the Delegations Register is updated, Council is sharing the proposed wording with Community Boards for visibility and awareness, noting their role within the governance framework.

Community Boards are invited to note the proposed wording refinements to the Community Board delegations.

Following circulation to the Community Boards, any comments received will be reviewed and incorporated where appropriate. The Delegations Register will then be updated to reflect the final wording, in accordance with Council's governance processes.

### **4.3. Social Media Training**

Representatives from the Communication and Engagement Team will be facilitating a training session for all Community Board members regarding Social Media. This is scheduled for Tuesday, 14 April 2026 and will be held at Tōtara Room at the Civic Centre Whakatāne.

### **4.4. Media Enquiries**

Please remember that all media enquiries should be directed through our Communications team. If you are contacted by the media, kindly refer them to [media@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:media@whakatane.govt.nz) rather than responding directly.

#### **Attached to this report:**

- Appendix 1 – Final Declaration of Results Community Board By-election 2026

## **7.2.1 Appendix 1 – Final Declaration of Results Community Board By-election 2026**

## 7.2.1 Appendix 1 – Final Declaration of Results Community Board By-election 2026(Cont.)

**Declaration of Result of By-Elections**  
**Whakatāne District Council**  
**Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision)**  
**Tāneatua Community Board**



I declare the results of the by-elections held on Tuesday 3 March 2026 for **one member of the Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision)** and **three members of the Tāneatua Community Board** to be as follows:

**Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision) – one vacancy:**

ISEMONGER-RAMEKA, Karen	84
OLIVER, Alicia	53

(0 informal votes and 4 blank votes)

I therefore declare Karen ISEMONGER-RAMEKA elected.

21.23% or 141 of the 664 electors had voted by the close of voting.

**Tāneatua Community Board – three vacancies:**

GOSLING, Kerry (Independent)	239
JAHN, Ozgur	39
JAMES, Elise	142
MASON, Phillipa Marie	181
ROTA, Angie	214
TUWAIURUA, MJ	145

(0 informal votes and 0 blank votes)

I therefore declare Kerry GOSLING, Phillipa Marie MASON and Angie ROTA elected.

12.90% or 387 of the 3,000 electors had voted by the close of voting.

Dated at Whakatāne

3 March 2026

Dale Ofsoke, Electoral Officer  
Independent Election Services Ltd  
for **Whakatāne District Council**

## 8 Chairperson and Sub-Committee Reports

### 8 Chairperson and Sub-Committee Reports

#### 8.1 Chairperson's Report – January 2026



---

To: **Murupara Community Board**

Date: **Monday, 16 March 2026**

Author: **M McLean / Board Chairperson**

Reference: **A3084466**

---

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

**Karakia: Traditional Māori Chant (Opening)**

**Whakataka te hau ki te uru Cease the winds from the west**

**Whakataka te hau ki te tonga Cease the winds from the south**

**Kia mākinakina ki uta Let the breeze blow over the land**

**Kia mātaratara ki tai Let the breeze blow over the ocean**

**E hī ake ana te atakura Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air**

**He tio, he huka, he hau hū A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day**

**Tīhei mauri ora! The breath of life!**

**Tēnā koutou katoa.**

**Tuatahi, ngā mihi nui mo te tau hōu, ko te manako he tau whai hua tēnei. Kaare e tawhiti atu aku whakaaro ki a rātou kua mene ki te pō. Kia noho tonu koutou ki te uma piri ai.**

First, I send my new year wishes. I also want to remember those who are no longer with us; may their memory remain in our hearts and minds.

2. Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the MCB Chairperson's Report – March 2026 is **received**.

3. Induction & Celebrations – MCB Te hapori

The results of the by-election mean that a new member has joined the Murupara Community Board. I'd like to thank both candidates, Alicia Oliver and Karen Isemonger-Rameka, for putting their names forward. Congratulations to Karen Isemonger-Rameka.

### 8.1 Chairperson's Report – January 2026(Cont.)

Once we complete the commitment process of being sworn in a full board will be in place, one of our main priorities is to address the Murupara Community Board action plan.

A community board action plan is a strategic document developed by local community members and board representatives. Its purpose is to identify, prioritise, and accomplish specific goals for the community.

#### 4. Moving forward – Te haere whakamua

On 9 March 2026, Whakatāne District Council officials visited Minginui, Te Whāiti, and Murupara. The visit coincided with the opening day of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal for Dr Bernad Conlon, who has served the community for over thirty years. Support for Dr Conlon is being coordinated by He Tākuta Tipua, a voluntary group formed to coordinate our communities which includes Murupara, Galatea, Waiohau, Minginui, Te Whāiti, Ruatāhuna and Kāingaroa.

Since 1989, the New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards have served as a standard of excellence for the industry, recognising innovation, achievement, and outstanding contributions to dairying across New Zealand.

The regional awards were recently held in Awakeri—congratulations to all the winners. Special recognition goes to Reno Moses, a Galatea local, who received multiple honours including the Fonterra Dairy Management Award, DeLaval Pasture and Feed Management Award, MPI Sustainable Farming Environment Award, and the Dairy Training Limited People and Leadership Awards.



The Mataatua Kapa Haka Regionals is a top Māori performing arts event to select groups for Te Matatini. The 2026 festival was held at Rugby Park, Whakatāne, hosted by Te Whānau ā Apanui. Te Taumata o Apanui won the championship, with Ōhinemataroa ki Ruatāhuna taking second place and Ruatāhuna Korosins placing second in entertainment.

On the community side, Murupara Rugby Club is gearing up for another season, with both rugby and netball activities planned. Despite some setbacks, Galatea Rugby JAB is also preparing for this season. Meanwhile, one of the newest clubs, Te Urewera Stags, is building momentum in rugby league.

### 8.1 Chairperson's Report – January 2026(Cont.)

The development of the Murupara Community Emergency Response Plan is progressing steadily. The inaugural meeting of the collective took place on Wednesday, 11 March 2026, complementing the ongoing efforts of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa to establish welfare centres that will support a coordinated district-wide response if necessary.

Thanks to the Murupara Aquatic Team for their efforts this season, despite break-ins and disruptions. Recently, police were highly visible in Murupara as the Tribesmen hosted an event, during which a large fire destroyed the old Murupara theatre on State Highway 38.

I also extend condolences to the Vari family on their loss during our annual Mt Tawhiuau run.



*Photo sources from Laura Halliday*

**Karakia: Closing**

**Karakia: Traditional Māori Chant (Closing)**

**Ka whakairia te tapu Restrictions are moved aside.**

**Kia wātea ai te ara So the pathway is clear.**

**Kia turuki whakataha ai To return to everyday activities**

**Kia turuki whakataha ai To return to everyday activities**

**Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē! Enriched, unified, and blessed.**