



Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board

Te Poari Hapori o Whakatāne-Ōhope

Monday, 30 March 2026

Mane, 30 Poutūterangi 2026

Tōtara Room, Whakatāne District Council

14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne

Commencing at 5:30 pm

Chief Executive Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 25 March 2026

whakatane.govt.nz



A Membership - *Mematanga*

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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

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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*

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*

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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.

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	Eastern Bay Media Trust	Andy Galbraith
2	Dominic Rowland	
3	Bay of Plenty Music School	Warner Haldane
4	EBOP Kayak Fishing Club	Jeff Symonds and Nic Twaddle
5	Kingsley Scout Group	Verity Spencer
6	Ohope International Golf Club	Ryan Walker
7	Seven Six Sports Club	Eilish O'Flaherty
8	Tania Masters	
9	Quin Kingi (Awatapu Community and the Pou Whenua Project)	

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 long time frame 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 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 – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 2 February 2026**

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	WHAKATĀNE-OHOPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE ŌHOPE FIRE STATION, HARBOUR ROAD, ŌHOPE, WHAKATĀNE ON MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 5:30 PM
	Present:	Mayr N Tánczos, Chairperson L Bonne Deputy Chairperson S Whale and Members S Cessford, C Howard, R Sloman and Councillor C Hamill
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), Councillors M Whitaker and T Boynton, P Davidson (GM Finance), I McNiven (Procurement and Risk Manager), and S Duffy (Senior Governance Advisor)
	Visitors:	Angus Robson, Bridget Robson and Austin Oliver (West-End Track Walkway), Claire House (Arts Whakatāne), Peter Milton, Shona Gow and Jennifer Manning (Citizens Advice Bureau), Moira Hanna (Edgecumbe Choir), Wendy Anderson (Have a Heart Charitable Trust), Louise McConnell (Life Education Trust EBOP), Kay Montgomery, and Andrew Watson (Theatre Whakatāne)
	Apologies:	Member D McLean

1. KARAKIA

The Chairperson opened the meeting with a Karakia at 5:30 pm and welcomed members of the public, Council staff and Mayor Tánczos.

2. APOLOGIES

Moved Member Whale / Seconded Chairperson Bonne

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **accept** the apology from Member D McLean.

CARRIED**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/TRIBUTES**

The Board acknowledged with sadness the recent of passing Mrs Yvonne Osborne and recognised her significant contribution to community music.

6.1 Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 2 February 2026(Cont.)

A tribute was given to those who had lost their lives resulting from the recent severe weather event, both locally and in other regions.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The following conflicts of interest were declared:

- Member Whale – Discretionary Fund applications for Arts Whakatane and The Edgecumbe Choir
- Councillor Hamill – Discretionary Fund application Theatre Whakatane

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Refer to page 8 of the agenda.

5.1. Angus Robson and Bridget Robson (West-End Track Walkway)

Mr Robson relayed the aspirations of the volunteer group to restore access to Ōtarawairere:

- A safe design, safe construction, resulting in a safe-to-use track
- Community involvement
- Cost effective and occurs soon

Experience designers and a Health and Safety expert had prepared a repair plan. Mr Robson explained the plan included the identifying hazards and managing of risks (geotechnical, construction, PPE and equipment requirements and safe work practises) and would be signed off by Frame Group (Engineering Consultants Specialising in Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures). He added they wanted to work closely with Council.

Mr Robson said the risk to track users was 50x higher during or after heavy rainfall and proposed closing the track for a period following such events to allow it to settle and reveal any potential issues. He also noted that repairing tracks over old slips posed a lower risk than creating a new route.

Attendance: Councillor Boynton entered the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Mr Robson reported there had been an incredible response from the community to help. Project volunteers would be assessed, and assigned tasks based on their qualifications, fitness level and attitude to Health and Safety.

Donations had paid for the work carried out to date, and Mr Robson reported that donors had offered to pay for the complete project, however they would be grateful for any funds from Council that had been set aside for the track repair. He spoke of suggested enhancements such as weather station that could initiate the shutting of gates and thermal track counters.

In conclusion Mr Robson reported that once their plan had been reviewed by Tonkin and Taylor, he believed the work could commence quite quickly.

Attendance: Mr Robson, Ms Robson and Mr Oliver left the meeting at 5:48 pm.

6.1 Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 2 February 2026(Cont.)**5.2. Arts Whakatāne (Under the Rakau) – Ms House**

Ms House advised that a backup date (15 March) had been set for the 'Under the Rakau' event in case of poor weather and that Arts Whakatāne were considering alternative venues due to cost increases. Local talent and one headline act from Tauranga would be performing. She also discussed event promotion, including targeting the Whakatāne, Ōhope and Tauranga areas, and outlined how the board would be recognised if the application were successful.

5.3. Arts Whakatāne (Jazz in the Park) – Ms House

Jazz in the Park is an established arts calendar event and will be held at Whakatāne Rose Gardens on 28 February, with an alternative date of 1 March should the weather be unfavourable. Ms House advised that attendance of over 1,000 people was anticipated from across the region to see jazz musicians and the Auckland-based headline act 'Croque Madame'. She noted that some sponsorship had been confirmed and outlined the promotional activities, including profiling performers and the food and market vendors.

Attendance:

Ms House left the meeting, and Ms Anderson entered the meeting, at 6:03 pm.

5.4. Peter Milton (Citizen Advice Bureau)

Mr Milton explained the Citizens Advice Bureau provided free, confidential, information and advice. The Bureau was in their 45th year and he said they had a positive effect on the community. They also provided support, access and use of digital equipment and he commented that the 'digital divide was growing' and gave a statistical breakdown of age and ethnicity. Mr Milton noted that one point of difference was that the Bureau was 'face-to-face' contact with clients

Mr Milton said their current photocopier was 6 years old and the Bureau wanted to future-proof the organisation and invest in a multi-function printer. He added that other organisations were also directing their clients to CAB when they required printing done as the CAB did not charge for printing.

In response to a query about possibility of leasing a machine Mr Milton said comparison had been made and the outcome, for future proofing, it was better to purchase.

5.5. Moira Hanna (Edgecumbe Choir)

Based in Whakatāne, the Edgecumbe Choir has been operating for approximately 70 years and wishes to modernise its digital presence and launch a targeted recruitment campaign. Ms Hanna said their mission was to deliver world-class choral performances and to invest in the next generation.

To market the choir, increase concert attendance, and to keep ticket prices affordable, Ms Hanna said the choir was seeking funding to outsource the management of their social media pages. By improving their social media content, they aimed to increase concert attendance by 50% and grow membership 40% by the end of 2026.

Ms Hanna reported accumulated funds were assigned to their up-coming 70th anniversary and as part of this, they seek to commission a local composer to write an original score to mark the event. She acknowledged the Creative Communities Scheme and other funding the choir had received.

Attendance:

Mr Milton left the meeting, and Ms McConnell entered the meeting, at 6:14 pm.

6.1 Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 2 February 2026(Cont.)**5.6. Wendy Anderson (Have a Heart Charitable Trust)**

In March 2026 the Have a Heart Expo and Family festival event would be held at the War Memorial hall. The event enables service providers from throughout the region to connect with the community and to build relationships. Ms Anderson advised the event had been running for 10 years and had seen an increase in attendees. The Trust was seeking funding towards venue hire and traffic management costs.

In response to a query, Ms Anderson spoke about the various services the Trust provided, the participation of the multiple volunteers, and noted there was one paid staffing position. She explained it was a free event as it enabled the providers to connect with those that needed their services.

Attendance: Ms Anderson left the meeting at 6:28 pm.

5.7. Louise McConnell (Life Education Trust EBOP)

Each year the charity organisation Life Education Trust delivers evidence-based wellbeing education, not covered in the traditional curriculum, to more than 3,500 children, helping them build life skills. Ms McConnell reported there was a small charge to the schools, but this did not cover costs, and the salary for the educator was the main outgoing. The Trust organised fundraising events (duck race and dancing for life Ed) and did receive occasional one-off grants.

Ms McConnell said the Kura required Te Reo workbooks and any funding received would contribute this, to replacing the carpet and a new puppet was required. They had approach businesses for carpet however had not been successful. The board suggested the Trust could approach carpet manufacturers to see if they could assist with the carpet required.

Attendance: Ms McConnell left the meeting at 6:38 pm.

5.8. Kay Montgomery

Refer to pages 8a of the tabled items.

Ms Montgomery outlined the inspiration behind the project and presented the Coastlands School Bus Shelter project overview. She advised that 30–40 students utilised the current bus shelter, which was not fit for purpose. The project included installing an upgraded shelter, and funding was being sought from the Board to commission a local artist to design and paint the base board following completion of the upgrade.

Ms Montgomery reported the upgraded bush shelter would become a Council asset, with ongoing graffiti-repair responsibilities to be held by the community. She advised a graffiti-guard coating would be applied.

In conclusion, Ms Montgomery took the opportunity to note that there were many bus shelters in the region that were not enclosed, and therefore lacking in weather proofing.

5.9. Andrew Watson (Theatre Whakatāne)

Theatre Whakatāne Inc had secured the performing rights to Roald Dahl's stage show 'Matilda', to be staged at the Little Theatre in May 2026. Mr Watson said theatre brings the community together, all ages and varieties of talents, and the skills sets gained could be utilised in other aspects of life.

6.1 Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 2 February 2026(Cont.)

The show itself had approximately 60 cast and a further 50 in support, and with local procurement, Mr Watson said the community reach was huge. To help keep ticket prices affordable Theatre Whakatane were seeking funding towards the venue hire.

When asked if further shows could be held to increase income, Mr Watson said they had need to apply to the rights holder if the Theatre was to perform more than the allocated 12 shows.

Attendance:

Mr Watson left the meeting at 6:49 pm. Ms Hanna, Ms Montgomery entered the meeting at 6:50 pm and Councillor Boynton returned to the meeting at 6:50 pm.

6. Reports**6.1. Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board – Activity Report February 2026**

Refers to pages 9-18 of the agenda.

The Procurement and Risk Manager updated the members that the Bridge Street roundabout and Flood Wall stage 2 were both now complete, and that a media release was imminent regarding the Ōhope Beach Festival. Members congratulated the council on the success of the event.

During discussions the following points were note:

- The Board expressed interest to be involved with the Maraetōtara Improvement project.
- Council staff will attend the March Board meeting to answer queries regarding Freedom camping.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Whale

RESOLVED:

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

CARRIED**6.2. Governance Services Report – February 2026**

Refer to pages 19-23 of the agenda.

Mayor Tánczos suggested Community Board members be specifically notified of public briefing and noted if they were unable to attend, recordings of briefings were available.

Discussion for funding allocations was led by the chairperson.

Moved Councillor Hamill / Seconded Member Cessford

RESOLVED:

1. **THAT** the Governance Services Report February 2026 be **received**.

CARRIED

Member Whale did not participate in the discussion and did not vote on the motion.

6.1 Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 2 February 2026(Cont.)

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Councillor Hamill

RESOLVED

2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$1100.00 from their discretionary funds to the Whakatāne District Community Arts Council Incorporated for costs toward their live concert event - Under the Rakau March 2026.

CARRIED

Member Whale did not participate in the following discussion and did not vote on the motion.

Moved Chairperson Bonne / Seconded Member Sloman

RESOLVED:

3. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$2500.00 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.

CARRIED

Attendance: Mayor Tánczos and Councillor Boynton left the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Moved Member Chairperson Bonne / Seconded Member Howard

RESOLVED:

4. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$5000.00 from their discretionary funds to Whakatāne Citizens Advice Bureau for the *purchase of a new photocopier*.

CARRIED

Member Whale did not participate in the discussion and did not vote on the motion.

Moved Member Sloman / Seconded Member Howard

RESOLVED:

5. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$2000.00 from their discretionary funds to the Edgumbe Choir Incorporated, *for digital marketing promotional costs*.

CARRIED

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Councillor Hamill

RESOLVED:

6. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$1500.00 from their discretionary funds to the Have a Heart Charitable Trust, *towards venue hire and traffic management* in support of the Have a Heart Expo and Family Festival March 2026.

CARRIED

6.1 Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 2 February 2026(Cont.)

Moved Member Sloman / Seconded Member Cessford

RESOLVED:

7. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$3000.00 from their discretionary funds to the Life Education Trust EBOP, towards Te Reo *workbooks and a new Harold puppet*.

CARRIED

Moved Member Whale / Seconded Member Sloman

RESOLVED:

8. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$1770.00 from their discretionary funds to Kay Montgomery, in order to *hire a local artist* to beautify the Coastland School Bus Shelter.

CARRIED

Councillor Hamill did not participate in the following discussion, nor did she vote on the motion.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Whale

RESOLVED:

9. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$5000.00 from their discretionary funds to Theatre Whakatāne Incorporated, to assist with cost for *venue hire during the preparation and performances* of the musical stage show Matilda.

CARRIED

Attendance: The Chief Executive and GM Finance left the meeting at 7:37 pm.

7. Chairperson and Member Reporting

7.1. Chairpersons Report June 2025

Refer to pages 24-26 of the agenda.

The Chairperson presented the report and reiterated condolences resulting from the recent severe weather events.

Members acknowledged the efforts and planning undertaken to date by the Otarawairere Westend Track Reopening Project team. They expressed support of the concept and commended the team for effectively galvanising the community. Members also noted a potential risk that the recent weather event could potentially impact project progress.

The Chairperson proposed an additional recommendation to donate to the Ōhope Lions Club to support their 2026 Book Fair.

6.1 Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 2 February 2026(Cont.)

Moved Chairperson Bonne / Seconded Councillor Hamill

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Chairperson’s report February 2026 be **received**.
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.

CARRIED

A discussion ensued and referenced the funding criterion regarding the frequency of funding events, and it was queried if the Lions Club were looking to become more self-sustaining.

Moved Councillor Hamill/ Seconded Member Howard

RESOLVED:

3. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board make a one-off **donation** from their discretionary funds of \$750 to the Ōhope Lions Club to help cover costs of the venue hire of their 2026 Book Fair.

CARRIED

Member Sloman requested her vote against the motion be recorded.

The meeting closed with a Karakia led by the Chairperson at 7:52 pm.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON

7 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

7 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026



To: **Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board**

Date: **Monday, 30 March 2026**

Author: **I McNiven / Procurement & Risk Manager**

Authoriser: **P Davidson / Chief Financial Officer**

Reference: **A3075734**

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 General Manager Portfolio.

2. Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **receive** the WOCB Activity Report – March 2026.

3. Community Experience Update

3.1. Aquatic Centres

3.1.1. *New leader and new beginnings*



A huge welcome to our new Swim School Team Leader, Anahera Hakiaha.

Although raised in West Auckland, her roots are right here in Whakatāne, and she's moved back home bringing with her a treasure trove of swim school experience.

Over the years Anahera has worked for numerous swim schools in Auckland, and we're absolutely stoked to have her expertise on our team. She's already making quite the splash...

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)



Thanks to Anahera's mahi, we've brought Water Safety New Zealand's Water Skills for Life programme back to Whakatāne for the first time in years. This programme teaches tamariki structured, age-appropriate water survival skills that prepare them for real-world water situations.

This term alone, we're teaching nearly 300 students from Edgecumbe, Nukuhou, and Waimana. That's a lot of future water-safe rangatahi.

3.1.2. Term 1 classes begin

	6.30am	9am	11am	
Monday	Hybrid 60	Aqua		
Tuesday	Hybrid 60	Aqua	Movement Matters	
Wednesday	Hybrid 60	Aqua	Movement Matters	
Thursday	Group Run	Aqua		
Friday		Aqua		

■ — Water based classes
■ — Land based classes
 Location: Hybrid 60 - Outdoor Gym | Movement Matters - Memorial Hall | Group Run - Athletics Track

New classes have kicked off at the Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre! Running for eight weeks, the programme covers a wide range of interests and abilities.

Aqua Fitness - low-impact, high-energy, and perfect for all fitness levels. Using noodles and foam dumbbells for resistance in the 28.5°C heated pool, it's a refreshing way to build cardio, strength, and balance.

Hybrid 60 - A high-intensity, 60-minute session bridging functional strength and metabolic conditioning. Designed to challenge, every movement scalable for beginners and experienced athletes alike.

Movement Matters - Designed for those managing joint pain, arthritis, or lower back issues. A slow-paced, educational class with practical strategies to improve joint health.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Group Walk/Run - Your pace, your goal. Whether you're walking or jogging, we move together to build fitness and connection. Just bring your favourite trainers and a positive attitude.

3.1.3. *Swimming sports galore*



It's that time of year again! The outdoor pool has welcomed over 900 students from Whakatāne Intermediate, St Joseph's, Awakeri, and Te Kura o te Paroa for swimming sports.

There were plenty of goofy costumes, loud cheers, and smiles all round - and the team was genuinely impressed with how well the schools cleaned up after themselves. A great effort from everyone! Arts and Heritage

3.1.4. *WHITI – Te Ātinga 10th International Indigenous Artists Gathering*



Te Ātinga Committee at Te Poho o Rāwiri Marae, Gisborne

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Aimee Ratana, our Manager Arts & Heritage, was one of two curators tasked with composing an exhibition that brought together 100 artworks from artists represented at the gathering.



Collaborations on the work Tame Iti started. Johnny Poi, Kylie Tiuka and Linda Munn



This year, two artists from the Whakatāne District were invited to attend this significant creative and cultural kaupapa at Te Poho o Rāwiri Marae, Gisborne. Tame Iti and Glenda Hape represented local talent at this international gathering.

WHITI brings together Māori and international Indigenous artists to share knowledge, develop contemporary art practice, and strengthen global Indigenous connections. Think making, kōrero, collaboration, and a public exhibition that showcases the best of Indigenous creativity.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

3.1.5. Behind the scenes where past meets present



Exciting things are brewing as kaimahi at Te Whare Taonga o Taketake prepare for the Whakatāne Art Gallery reopening.

Here's the concept: they're pairing historical taonga from the collection with brand new artworks by Ngāti Awa ringatoi. By placing them side by side, visitors will see how creative practices have been passed down through generations – and how our artists today are continuing and evolving those traditions in their own contemporary work.

We recently had artist Zena Elliott (pictured) visit Te Whare Taonga o Taketake to check out the taonga that will be displayed alongside her artwork. Zena is currently completing an artist's residency at Colin McCahon House. Watching artists connect with pieces from the collection? Pure magic.

This exhibition will be the first kaupapa in the refreshed Art Gallery space.

3.2. Libraries

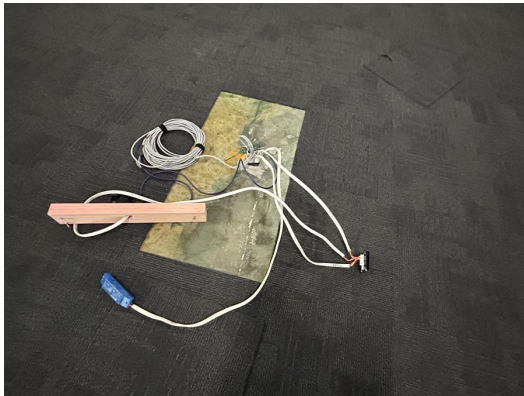
3.2.1. Summer Adventures wrapped



7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Summer at our libraries was filled with adventure, excitement, and a whole lot of fun! Te Kōputu welcomed over 400 whānau through the doors for events that kept everyone entertained. Meanwhile, 200 Summer Adventure booklets sent tamariki on epic missions around the rohe in search of knowledge, excitement and connection.

The highlight? The legendary Richard Hamer rolled into Edgecumbe, Murupara and Whakatāne with his Bike Safety workshops – and even jumped up to do story time himself.

3.2.2. *A noisy Friday at Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi*

It was all go in the gallery last week, with concrete cutters onsite preparing for the installation of new floor power boxes – small changes that will make a big difference to how we use the space in future.

It's been great reconnecting with contractors who originally worked on the space 14 years ago when the old Briscoes building was transformed into the gallery. Now they're back, helping shape its next chapter.

Watch this space.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

3.2.3. A very special lego gift



The library has been buzzing with our regular after-school free programmes.

Last week's Creative Corner saw tamariki make mini hobby horses for Lunar New Year: Year of the Fire Horse.

Our Lego Legend sessions continue to draw a dedicated group of budding engineers - and we received a wonderful gift from one of our Lego whānau - a fully functional rollercoaster which has been a massive hit with visitors.

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**

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

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**

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

5. Kaihautu Māori/Strategic Māori Partnerships and Commercial Update

5.1. Solid Waste

Today we are pleased to provide some updates from various groups we have supported in their journey with waste management and minimisation:

5.1.1. *Taiwhakaea Food Forest Project – good things take time*



Late last year, Taiwhakaea Marae at Te Pāroa shared an inspiring vision: starting with a maara kai and growing into a thriving, ever-evolving food forest for their community.

This project is about more than fruit and vegetables. It's reconnecting whānau with the wisdom of Maramataka, the traditional Māori lunar calendar that guides planting, nurturing, and harvesting. It's about creating spaces to gather, kōrero, learn, and pass on knowledge across generations. And it doesn't stop there - the plan also includes a rongoā garden and plantings to restore and protect their awa.

We were honoured to support this kaupapa.

Through the Waste Levy Fund, we supplied 20 cubic metres of compost to kickstart their growing beds, funded a state-of-the-art composting system to keep the gardens thriving, and will run a composting workshop once the system is installed.

Taiwhakaea Marae should be proud of all they've achieved. Their vision, commitment, and passion for kaitiakitanga is inspiring, and we can't wait to watch their food forest flourish. We're grateful to play a small part in helping this dream take root.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Whakatāne High School’s Level 2 NCEA Environmental Studies class takes a different approach to English - they dive into non-fiction, from National Geographic articles to the Resource Management Act, NZ standards, and documentaries that spark their environmental curiosity.

Last year, thanks to the Waste Levy Fund, they received six donated worm farms. What started as a simple addition to the programme has grown into a hands-on learning hub. Students carefully tended the worms and used their nutrient-rich castings in vegetable gardens, producing impressively healthy crops and proving the power of organic systems.

Their enthusiasm has spread beyond the classroom. Students are helping staff set up their own worm farms, sharing knowledge and guidance to encourage sustainable practices across the school. The food technology department has partnered with the class to run a raw food waste collection system, creating a closed-loop cycle that turns kitchen scraps into high-quality worm food - a true example of kaitiakitanga in action.

With each project, students deepen their understanding of soil health, biodiversity, and waste reduction. Their curiosity, commitment, and practical mahi are already making a real difference - and promise an exciting future for sustainability at Whakatāne High School.

5.2. Strategic Māori Partnerships**5.2.1. 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.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

5.2.2. *Building project management capability with iwi partners*



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 Rangitahi, 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.



6. People and Partnerships Update

6.1. Community Partnerships

6.1.1. *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.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)**6.1.2. Community Funding applications sought**

Council's Community Grants and Funding Programme is set to get underway this month ahead of the first Community Grants and Funding Committee meeting on 18 March. Two funds will be opening for applications from 9 February to 1 March.

Reorua Fund – This fund champions the use of te reo Māori in the Whakatāne District. The funding focus is for events, projects and activities that encourage and uplift te reo Māori.

Rural Travel Fund – This fund, set up by Sport New Zealand, encourages participation in sports for children and young people (aged 5-18) in rural and isolated communities. This fund provides financial support to schools and sports clubs, who can apply for the cost of travel expenses for sport competitions, events and practices.

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

6.1.3. Hapori Highlights

The Community Partnerships Team launched a new bi-monthly newsletter at the end of January. Hapori Highlights will share updates on the work the team is doing alongside communities across the district. It highlights community impact, upcoming events, funding opportunities and other ways to get involved and make a difference. The newsletter is also published on the Council [website](#)

6.1.4. Road Safety**Bike Month activities**

February is Bike Month and several events have been held, with more to come, in Eastern Bay schools and Whakatāne township to celebrate bikes and cycling:

- Tues 3 Feb Go By Bike Day @ Robert Harris
- Tues 10 Feb Burma Road Explorer
- Wed 11 Feb Free BBQ and Explore Onepū Mountainbike Park
- Thurs 12 Feb Wheels Day – Kawerau Schools
- Tues 17 Feb Whakatāne/Coastlands Explorer
- Thurs 19 Feb Wheels Day - Whakatāne Schools
- Mon 23 Feb Big Bike Film Night
- Thurs 26 Feb Wheels Day – Ōpōtiki Schools

Bike month events in 2026 are supported by Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme, Bike Whakatāne Trust, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Robert Harris and Tracks Concrete Ltd.

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

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.

6.3. Programme Enterprise Update

Programme Enterprise continues to progress, with the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) component of Datascape successfully implemented. This project included Service Requests and contact management, which are now live.

Delivery of the CRM project was completed on time and within budget and has now transitioned to business-as-usual. Two additional elements - integration with RAMM (our asset management software) and the Fieldwork mobile app for staff - are still to be implemented and are planned to be completed by 30 June 2026 at no additional cost to Council.

The programme is now focused on the Finance, Property and Rates (FPR) project, which covers Council's core financial systems and rates management.

This project represents a significant change, including new financial processes, a revised chart of accounts and enhanced reporting to meet new DIA Three Waters requirements.

Design and build are close to completion, training has commenced, and the programme remains targeted for a July 2026 go-live, which is critical to support year-end processing, audit and Long Term Plan work.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

While the project is currently assessed as 'at risk' due to integration complexity, vendor resourcing challenges and legislative changes, these risks are being actively managed through strengthened governance, contract management and the deferral of the Regulatory project to September 2026.

Overall programme costs remain within the approved business case, with a forecast shortfall to be addressed through the Annual Plan 2026–27 process and an anticipated rates impact of less than 0.1%.

7. Planning, Regulatory and Transport Update**7.1. Policy, Planning and Consents**

Plan Change 4

Plan Change 4 is a proposed change to the Whakatāne District Plan aimed at improving how stormwater flood risk to buildings is managed.

The plan change has been publicly notified and submissions have been received, with Council staff now having completed the planner's report, which analyses those submissions and makes recommendations.

The report will be circulated to submitters shortly, with the aim of resolving or narrowing any remaining issues ahead of the plan change hearing.

7.2. Resource Consents

Nelson Petroleum Distributors – Phoenix Drive

Consent has been granted by Whakatāne District Council for a self-service fuel station at the corner of State Highway 30 and Phoenix Drive, in front of the Bunnings store.

The proposal is yet to finalise consent from Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council for dewatering the site to allow the installation of underground fuel tanks.

This consent is of note as it is now the third consented self-service fuel station in the Gateway and Hub area, following a Mobil facility planned for the corner of State Highway 30 and the Māori Roadway, which extends towards Hokowhitu Marae, and a Waitomo facility planned for 10 Gateway Drive, on the corner of Gateway Crescent and Gateway Drive.

7.3. Transportation**7.3.1. Whakatāne River Bridge closure**

The NZTA work to re-seal the Whakatāne River Bridge was postponed due to forecast bad weather. The Bridge closure was scheduled to take place overnight on Thursday, 12 February 2026. A new date is yet to be set. Whakatāne District Local Road resurfacing

The resurfacing programme of work continues to make good progress. The chipseal and asphalt are both programmed for completion before the end of April 2026.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

7.3.2. Kowhai Street, Ōhope, retaining wall strengthening



A retaining wall on Kōwhai Street in Ōhope is showing signs of stress, including horizontal and vertical cracking in the concrete.

A repair approach has been developed, and a request for tender for the physical repair works closed on 13 February.

The contract is expected to be awarded by the end of February 2026, with physical works programmed to be completed in March 2026.

The contract has been awarded to Romanes Construction NZ Limited, with work due to start early this month. The retaining wall strengthening will be completed under a lane closure, with resident access maintained for the duration of the project.

8. Strategy and Growth Update

8.1. Climate Change and Resilience

2025 ShakeOut



Whakatāne District Council Emergency Management Officer John Eruera visited Matatā Public School in December, attending an assembly to celebrate the school's success in the 2025 ShakeOut organised by the National Emergency Management Agency.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Students and staff received a prize, a Civil Defence wheelie bin filled with emergency preparedness supplies and equipment. The award recognises the school's enthusiastic participation in ShakeOut 2025 and highlights the importance of building emergency readiness from a young age.

Whakatāne District Council congratulates Matatā Public School for its commitment to preparedness and for helping foster a culture of safety within the community, and thanks everyone who took part in ShakeOut 2025 by practising Drop, Cover and Hold.

8.2. Events**Full-on Summer for Tourism & Events**

The peak summer season has been busy for the Tourism and Events team, with multiple marketing campaigns to promote summer activities, Wharfside and the first Ō Festival.

Wharfside proved a huge success this season, with hundreds arriving each day to take advantage of the refurbished Wharfside venue supported by activities from operators, Takutai Adventures and Tio Ōhiwa, Mata Brewery, live music and several food trucks. The pop-up isite promoted daily activities and brochures flew out the door. A dedicated Wharfside social media page, launched in December, rapidly gained followers with daily programme updates.

We are thrilled with the success of the inaugural Ōhope Beach Festival that took place last weekend. Ō Festival attracted many locals and manuhiri, thanks to an engaging marketing campaign, for a day of Kites, Sand Art, Sandcastles, Yoga, Environmental care and weaving activities. We're looking forward to making the event bigger and better in 2027, with the aim of making Ō Festival an iconic annual event that celebrates our special place in Aotearoa.

The marketing and events teams have a continued busy season ahead, 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.



Ōhope Fishing Competition at Wharfside

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Rake Healing Ōhope Beach Festival



The 10th Local Wild Food Festival on 21 February was a fantastic success, drawing more than 2,100 attendees - 42% of whom were visitors staying for the weekend.

Attendees enjoyed wild food tastings, food demonstrations, cooking challenges, and live music, with the smoky BBQ zone proving a standout highlight. Celebrity and local hunters helped showcase kai sourced directly from the forests and ocean that surround Whakatāne.

The event excitement continues. 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

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

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.

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

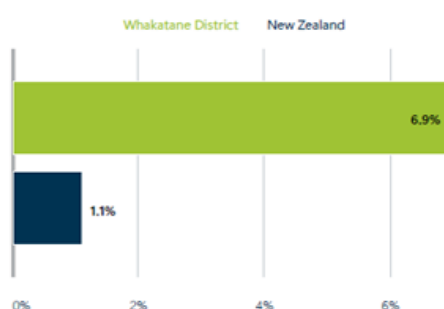
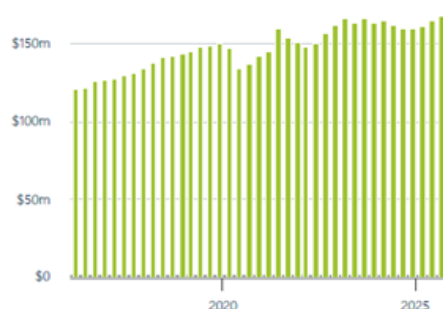


Figure 10. Tourism expenditure

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.

7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

9. Local Waters Done Well

9.0.1. CCO investigations

Following Council’s mid 2025 decision we have been investigating potential benefits of a multi-council CCO for water services. A CCHeads 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 – 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:



7.1 WOCB Activity Report – March 2026(Cont.)

10. Other Updates

10.0.1. Ōpihi Whanaungakore Trustees appeal

The Environment Court sat in Whakatāne to hear the appeal by Ōpihi Whanaungakore Trustees to the Archaeological Authority granted by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga in relation to the residential development at Bunyan Road.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and Ngāi Taiwhakaea had earlier withdrawn from the appeal.

Ōpihi Whanaungakore Trustees argued that the court could remit the decision back to Heritage New Zealand with the recommendation that it go to a full Māori Heritage Council or reverse the granting of the authority.

Judge Jeff Smith commented on the complexity of the case and indicated that a decision may not be reached within the usual three-month timeframe.

Attached to this Report:

- There are no appendices attached to this report.

7.2 Governance Administration – March 2026**7.2 Governance Administration – March 2026**

To: **Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board**

Meeting Date: **Monday, 30 March 2026**

Author: **S Duffy / Senior Governance Support Advisor**

Authoriser **C Viljoen / Manager Governance Services**

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 funds application 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 Administration March 2026 report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$15,000 from their discretionary funds to the Eastern Bay Media Trust to fund broadcasting software to finalise the launch of a community-led radio station; and
3. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$2,600 from their discretionary funds to Dominic Rowland for Training Camp costs, uniform and travel expenses to attend the Asia Pacific Sprint Regatta in Rotorua from 1-3 May 2026; and
4. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$2003.93 from their discretionary funds to the Bay of Plenty Music School for venue hire costs to run their annual music school between 17-19 April 2026; and
5. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$1500 from their discretionary funds to the Eastern bay of Plenty Kayak Fishing Club for costs relating to administration, advertising and prizes, for the Annual Open Competition to be held on 26 April 2026; and
6. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$3,465.00 from their discretionary funds to the Kingsley Scout Group to purchase a gazebo with detachable walls for use by the Scout group; and
7. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$5,663.31 from their discretionary funds to Ōhope International Golf Club Incorporated for costs to replace the tee blocks and distance markers, with the steel versions with Te Reo names reflecting the local environment; and

7.2 Governance Administration – March 2026(Cont.)

8. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$5,129.00 from their discretionary funds to the 'Seven Six Sports Club' to cover costs for sports uniforms for their Men's touch team, their Women's Netball team and for Children JAB kits; and
9. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **considers** allocating the requested amount of \$3,250.00 from their discretionary funds to Tania Masters for costs toward the Muso's Tribute Extravaganza.

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-Ōhope discretionary fund as at 28 February 2026 is approximately \$68,580.

The following table indicates the unallocated grants and subsidies (discretionary) fund and lists the allocations made within the 2026/2027 year to date:

Whakatane-Ohope Community Board - AGENDA

7.2 Governance Administration – March 2026(Cont.)

Unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund) as at 28 February 2026 is		\$68,580.25
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 CONTRACTIN	\$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 SPACE CAMP TRIP, WHAKATANE HIGH SCHOOL	\$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 HILLARY CHALLENGE FINAL 2025, WHAKATANE HIGH SCHOOL	\$2,000.00	Approved & Paid
CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF DRINKING FOUNTAIN AT ŌTARAWAIRERE	\$4,500.00	Approved & Paid
NEW PHOTOCOPIER, WHAKATANE CITIZENS ADVICE	\$5,000.00	Approved & Paid
DIGITAL MARKETING PROMOTIONAL COSTS, EDGE CUMBE CHOIR INC	\$2,000.00	Approved & Paid
TE REO WORKBOOKS AND NEW HAROLD PUPPET, LIFE EDUCATION TRUST EBOP	\$3,000.00	Approved & Paid
VENUE HIRE AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT H2H EXPO 2026, HAVE A HEART CHARITABLE TRUST	\$1,500.00	Approved & Paid
VENUE HIRE DURING PREPERATION AND PERFORMANCES OF THE MUSICAL STAGE SHOW MATILDA, THEATRE WHAKATANE INC	\$5,000.00	Approved & Paid
HIRE A LOCAL ARTIST TO BEAUTIFY COASTLANDS BUS SHELTER, KAY MONTGOMERY	\$1,770.00	Approved & Paid
JAZZ IN THE PARK 2026 PERSONAL AND PERFORMANCE COSTS, WHAKATANE DISTRICT COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL INC.	\$2,500.00	Approved & Paid
SUPPORT ANNUAL TOUCH TOURNAMENT, WHAKATANE TOUCH ASSOCIATION	\$1,500.00	Approved & Paid
COVER COSTS 2026 BOOK FAIR, LIONS CLUB OF OHOPE BEACH CHARITABLE TRUST	\$750.00	Approved & Paid
COSTS TOWARDS LIVE CONCERT RAKAU MARCH 2026, WHAKATANE DISTRICT COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL INC.	\$1,100.00	Approved & Paid
Year to Date allocations	\$	49,343.39
Current unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund)*		\$68,580.25

4. Subjects – *Kaupapa*

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

Tāneatua Community Board

Three Vacancies	Votes Received	Rank
GOSLING, Kerry	239	1
JAHN, Ozgur	39	
JAMES, Elise	142	
MASON, Phillipa Marie	181	3
ROTA, Angie	214	2
TUWAIKUA, MJ	145	
Informal	0	
Blank	0	

7.2 Governance Administration – March 2026(Cont.)

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

Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision)

One Vacancy	Votes Received	Rank
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).

4.0.1. 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.

4.1. 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.

Whakatane-Ohope Community Board - AGENDA

7.2 Governance Administration – March 2026(Cont.)**4.2. 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.

The Community Partnership's team have facilitated one workshop to date to review and update the plan, with a second workshop with the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, 8 April 2026 at 3:30 pm.

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. Funding Applications

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

Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board – SmartyGrants Applications – Round 2 2026

Application ID	Applicant	Project Title	Project Start Date	Project End Date	Total Project Costs	Total Amount Requested
WOCBR206	Eastern Bay Media Trust	Launching a community radio station to promote diverse voices in the EBOP	28/02/2026	28/02/2027	\$17,250.00	\$15,000.00
WOCBR209	Dominic Rowland	Asia Pacific Sprint Regatta	01/05/2026	03/05/2026	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00
WOCBR205	Bay of Plenty Music School	Venue Hire - BOP Music School 2026	17/04/2026	19/04/2026	\$28,271.00	\$2,003.93
WOCBR210	Eastern Bay of Plenty Kayak Fishing Club	2026 - Annual EBOP Kayak Fishing club open kayak fishing competition	26/04/2026	26/04/2026	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
WOCBR211	Kingsley Scout Group	Kingsley Scout Group All-Weather Gazebo for Scouting Activities and Community Events	06/04/2026	08/12/2026	\$3,465.00	\$3,465.00
WOCBR212	Ohope International Golf Club Incorporated	Te Reo Maori Golf Course Tee Block and Distance Markers	20/04/2026	24/04/2026	\$6,163.31	\$5,663.31
WOCBR204	Seven Six Sports Club	Sports Club	18/04/2026	19/09/2026	\$5,129.00	\$5,129.00
WOCBR201	Tania Masters	Muso's Tribute Extravaganza	10/05/2026	30/05/2026	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00

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

8 Chairperson and Sub-Committee Reports

8 Chairperson and Sub-Committee Reports

8.1 WOCB Chairperson's Report – March 2026



To: **Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board**

Meeting Date: **Monday, 30 March, 2026**

Author: **L Bonne / WOCB Chairperson**

Reference: **A3088492**

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

Tēnā koutou katoa. This report is to provide an overview of the activities undertaken and events attended since the last meeting.

2. Recommendations Tohutohu akiaki

1. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Chairperson's Report March 2026 be **received**; and
2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community **accept** that the Rotary Club of Whakatane repurpose the funds allocated to them for the 2025 Christmas Parade.

3. From the Chair

The previous eight weeks have been a steep learning curve for us all as members of the WOCB. Members are passionate, and eager to 'get things done' for and in our community.

We have introduced a mid-WOCB meeting informal catch up as an opportunity to highlight matters of priority for members. The key issues from the March catchup were passed onto our Governance Advisor for follow-up. Several are within the Activity Report of this agenda, but due to the timeframe of receiving the requests the remaining responses will be provided once the information is received back from the relevant departments.

Also, since we were elected in October, we have a platform available for members to discuss and highlight immediate concerns, about issues raised from the community. It is important to note that members of the community should be directed to the Fix It Form on the Council Website or to ring Customer Services to log their complaint. ([Fix It and Report a Problem | Whakatāne District Council](#)) Thank you WOCB members for your enthusiasm and patience as we navigate any issues, projects and passionate events that we each would like to see sorted because of communicating with our local community.

We are a conduit between Whakatane District Council, and our Whakatane Ohope Community. Hence, it is a **priority** that the WOCB Strategic Plan for this triennium is completed, and this will be our reference and also made available for the community to read. I would like to propose we look at completing our strategic plan by the end of April 2026.

8.1 WOCB Chairperson's Report – March 2026(Cont.)

We have a social media training as a Combined Community Boards event scheduled for 14/04/2026 and more information will be disseminated via this platform once this training is completed.

All WOCB members will have completed their KnowB4you training and received their certificate.

Members will have added their input towards the WOCB submission, via Google Meet, for the Whakatane Riverfront Enhancement; the submission is due 27/03/2026. We will complete a submission to the BOPRC Annual Plan 2026/27 and Long-Term Plan Amendment (due 2/04/2026).

4. Community Engagement

20/02 National LGNZ Council Zoom hui

21/02 Wild Food Festival

1/03 Zonta High Tea

7-8/03 Surf Lifesaving Club Nationals two days as a volunteer

16/03 Whakatane Riverfront Enhancement public meeting

17/03 BOPRC Annual Plan 2026/27 and Long-Term Plan Amendment breakfast information meeting

5. Funding

The Rotary Club of Whakatāne requested to repurpose the funding they received from the Board due to receiving an additional grant from Horizon Networks and noting that the portion of funds not spent will be refunded. I emailed members the following request, and also indicated my support, and no contrary viewpoints were received.

In light of Horizon Networks TMP sponsorship, can I fund the other expenses that I haven't had sponsored from the Community Board grant please? The total cost will be less than the \$5000 grant now so Rotary will refund the difference.

6. Events

The Ohope Friendship Group are holding their AGM on 20/04/26. Members Sue Whale and Chris Howard will attend as guest speakers with their topic being our Strategic Plan. In February 2025 we allocated \$3,000 to the Ohope Friendship Club to purchase a laptop, phone and EFTPOS machine.

The Riding for the Disabled has an invite to 'their thank you' morning tea on April 1, 2026, at 10am, at their Riding School. The Whakatāne-Ohope Community Board funded \$7,000 last year to their organisation.

9 Closing Karakia - *He Karakia Whakakapi*

9 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*