



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community Update - November 2018



## Annual Over-80s morning tea

The annual morning tea for Whakatāne District residents over the age of 80 will again be an end-of-year highlight for many. This year's morning tea will be held at the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 4 December, starting at 10 am, and will be hosted jointly by the Whakatāne District Council and Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board.

Partners and caregivers of 80-years-plus residents are also welcome to attend. Musical entertainment will be provided by talented local artists.

## Museum tours available

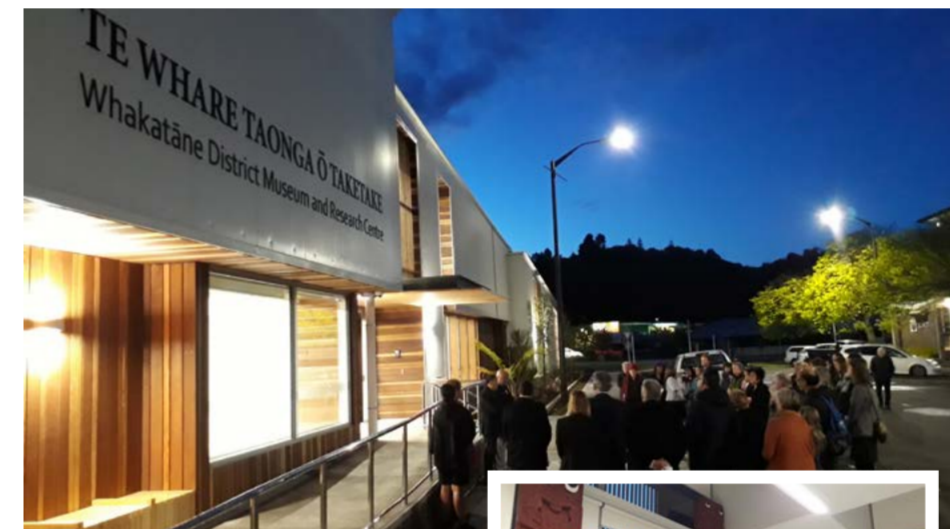
Tours of the new Whakatāne Museum and Research Centre - Te Whare Taonga ō Taketake - will be available to interested community members on weekdays from Monday, 12 November until Friday, 23 November, ahead of the facility's opening for research and community engagement activities.

Whakatāne District Council Community Services General Manager Mike Naude says a civic ceremony to mark the completion of the building was held this week, but the facility is not yet ready to provide full public access.

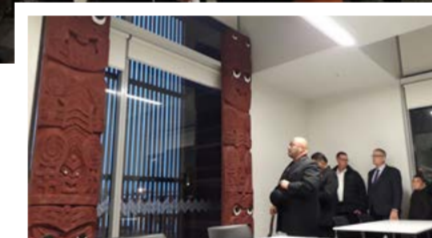
"Staff are still occupied with storing the Museum collections and putting the final touches on the parts of the facility that will be available for public use, but in the meantime, we would like to offer people with an interest in heritage preservation the opportunity to take a one-hour tour of the centre," he says. "We'll have two tours each weekday - at 10 am and 1 pm - and anyone who would like to take part should book their preferred day and time via the museum website."

For practical reasons, tour groups will be limited to a maximum of 20 people. Additional tour days will be provided, if there is sufficient demand.

As from Monday, 26 November, the facility will be open for drop-in research purposes from 10 am till 2 pm, Monday to Friday. All other collection requests and visits can be arranged by appointment, outside of the normal public opening hours by negotiation.



The new Whakatāne Museum and Research Centre - Te Whare Taonga ō Taketake building was blessed during a special ceremony held at dawn on Wednesday, 31 October.



## Positive audit opinion for Council

Audit NZ has confirmed an unqualified opinion in relation to the Whakatāne District Council's 2017/18 financial statements.

Interim Chief Executive David Bewley says the Auditor-General's independent assessment of the Council's financial position, the results of its operations and cashflows, and the funding impact and capital expenditure statements set out in its annual report for the year to 30 June 2018 are "fairly presented" and comply with accepted accounting practices.

However, challenges resulting from the introduction of new electronic systems monitoring the time taken to respond to and resolve water supply and sewerage overflow call-

outs, and the time taken to process building consent applications, have resulted in a qualified audit opinion for seven of the 92 non-financial measures reported.

"Regrettably, new software systems which were introduced to enhance our service provision and reporting accuracy in the Three Waters and building consent areas did not live up to our expectations," Mr Bewley says. "As a result, we were not able to guarantee the accuracy of those measures."

He says a compatibility issue with a new water and wastewater asset management software system meant the reporting data relating to the time taken to deal with water reticulation faults and resolve sewerage overflows

was unreliable. A further reporting measure capturing the average time taken to process building consent applications was similarly affected by a software fault, meaning some records were inaccurate.

"Further analysis of the measures affected does not indicate that the quality of the services involved was significantly impacted, but in the absence of reliable information, we have to accept a qualified audit opinion for those aspects of our annual report."

Mr Bewley says Council staff are working with the software providers involved to resolve the reporting issues.

## Have your say on Draft Parks and Reserves Bylaw

Council staff have reviewed Part 17: Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2008 and consider that while some of the bylaw is relevant and working well, much of it duplicates other bylaws or prohibits activities already covered by legislation.

You are invited to give us feedback on the proposed Bylaw to assist it in the decision-making process. The Bylaw is available for submission until 20 November 2018. Council will hold a hearing in December 2018.



## Active Whakatāne project needs community input

People living throughout the Whakatāne District are being asked to contribute to a new initiative which aims to make it easier and safer to use our roads, pathways, tracks and open spaces, and gain access to services and activities.



The Active Whakatāne transport and recreation strategy project includes a public survey, which will help decision-makers gain a better understanding of how people are travelling on our roads and footpaths, and what their concerns are. The survey can be filled out by individuals, or on behalf of school-aged children and whānau, and can be found on Whakatāne District Council's Facebook page (facebook.com/WhakataneDistrictCouncil) and website (whakatane.govt.nz).

**WIN!** FIND OUR SURVEY POST ON FACEBOOK, FILL IT OUT, TAG A MATE AND YOU COULD EACH WIN A \$250 BIKE BARN VOUCHER!

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

# OPEN DAY

9AM – 2PM • SATURDAY, 3 NOVEMBER

Come and try some of the great services and facilities we have to offer.

- FREE AQUA SESSIONS
- FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE 11AM-2PM
- FREE INFLATABLE 12NOON-1PM
- FREE HYDROSLIDE

If you're keen to find out more about what the Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre has to offer, then head along to the Open Day on Saturday, 3 November from 9 am until 2 pm. Whakatāne District Council is partnering with Sport Bay of Plenty to help the community see what's available at the Aquatic Centre. A free sausage sizzle will also be available from 11 am – 2 pm to keep people fuelled up for the event.

A range of activities will be on offer, including a series of free Aqua sessions, free access to the hydroslide from 11 am – 2 pm, and the large inflatable will be available for free from 12 – 2 pm.

Those attending will also have an opportunity to try the range of pools which include the indoor 25 metre pool, outdoor pool, spa pools and learners pool with beach area.

*Supporting Play in the Bay – a Sport BOP initiative*