

OUR PLACE Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - December 2023

Merry Kirihimete

Have a safe and happy holiday
Kia haumaru, kia hari ngā hararei



Do you put your bins out on a Monday?

Christmas Day and New Year's Day kerbside collections will be picked up two days earlier.

Collection will now take place on:

- Saturday, 23 December
- Saturday, 30 December



Rauhīmati in the Rohe

YOUR GUIDE TO A FABULOUS SUMMER IN THE WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT



whakatane.govt.nz/summer

OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

COUNCIL SERVICE CENTRES *Whakatāne and Murupara*

Closing at midday Friday, 22 December and resuming normal opening hours from Monday, 8 January 2024.

CONTACT US, ANYTIME

Even when our offices are closed, you can still call us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We're here to help!
Phone: 07 306 0500 Email: info@whakatane.govt.nz

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Long Term Plan 2024-34

Council has been grappling with the reality of significant cost increases and what these will mean for the cost of Council services and facilities in the coming years – a challenge not unique to us here in the Whakatāne District.

Earlier this month, Elected Members were presented with some early funding scenarios for Council's budget and work programme for the next 10 years.

The financial landscape is now vastly different from what we were facing three years ago, and anything we've seen in recent history.

Council needs to address the funding gap left by several factors including record-high cost escalations on multiple fronts, high interest rates and rising compliance and insurance costs. Alongside these

Council grapples with funding reality

factors, Council has worked in previous years to keep rates at an affordable level and annual rates increases to a minimum which has put us into a deficit that we now need to balance.

We know it's imperative that this is done in a way that is financially prudent, while recognising rates affordability is also a crucial factor for many members of our community.

Council's strategy to address these financial challenges will become clearer when the first draft of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan budget is developed in the new year.

Council will continue to work on the draft proposed Long Term Plan 2024-34 and will ask for your feedback on this through a formal consultation process beginning in March 2024.

Our people's success is the region's success

In a move towards economic empowerment, Toi EDA in partnership with Whakatāne District Council, Pacific Growth and Ministry for Social Development have enabled another successful Rebel Business School Aotearoa initiative in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Designed to unlock the entrepreneurial potential within the community, the business programme equips locals, who might otherwise miss the chance, with the tools and knowledge to transform their ideas into thriving businesses.

The 10-day programme drew 37 attendees, with an overwhelming 84 percent coming from Māori businesses. Participants delved into various aspects, from business structures to sales and compliance.

The programme's success included a road show-style event in Whakatāne, where graduates showcased their business ideas and products, marking the end of another transformative chapter in the business school initiative.

For more visit whakatane.govt.nz/news



Extra security wrapped up for Christmas

The community safety camera (CCTV) project is now complete, just in time for Christmas. The project, made possible with Department of Internal Affairs Better Off Funding, includes the installation of 33 new cameras and the upgrade of 11 existing cameras. It also means there is now 24/7 live monitoring in place throughout the Whakatāne District.

Whakatāne District Council General Manager Strategy and Transformation, Steven Perdia, says there is much to celebrate with the project coming in on time and under budget.

"Whakatāne District residents can feel confident that there is a comprehensive camera network located throughout the rohe as we head into the busy summer holiday period," Mr Perdia explains.

Visit whakatane.govt.nz/community-safety-camera-project for more information.



For further information, visit whakatane.govt.nz or phone 07 306 0500