

COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

22 AUGUST 2024

Representation Review – Consultation

Last week on Wednesday, 14 August, Council reaffirmed the decision to introduce Māori wards which was made on 22 November 2023.

Councillors agreed unanimously to reaffirm their decision for Māori Wards to honour their commitment to this community, and to proceed with the consultation underway with the representation review.

The decision was required after the government's new Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 became law last month.

This Act restores the provisions for a poll or referendum on Māori Wards and will mean that as part of the 2025 election, Council will hold a binding poll (referendum) asking if Māori wards should stay in place for the next two elections (2028 and 2031) or not.

*Submissions close
Monday 26 August*

Thank you to the 55-plus residents who have submitted on the Representation Review Initial Proposal. If you want your say with how the seats are arranged around the Council table, please fill out a submission form by the closing date on Monday, August 26.

You can have your say via an online submission form on our social media, website or Antenna.

Alternatively, pick up a form at the site, library or Council Offices.

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Rangitāiki Kapa Haka Festival 2024

Two days, 22 schools. Thousands attended the Rangitāiki Kapa Haka Festival in early August. The Mayor and Councillors wish to congratulate our Kawerau schools Tarawera High School, Kawerau Pūtauaki School, Kawerau South School and Te Whata Tau o Pūtauaki Kawerau for their performances and for such a well-run event.

The event was proudly held at the Ron Hardie Rec Centre, which was constantly filled with whānau and friends supporting their kura and loved ones. All the performers did an excellent job and showcased the amazing talent and commitment of taura and kaiako (students and teachers) in Kawerau.

The Rangitāiki Kapa Haka Festival 2024 was hosted by Te Whata Tau o Pūtauaki.

Below: Kawerau Pūtauaki School performing at the Rangitāiki Kapa Haka Festival






Proposed Naming Policy

Council is introducing a Proposed Naming Policy. This policy is new to Kawerau and will give a clear and consistent process to how we name new roads, open spaces/features and community facilities. The Proposed Naming Policy will ensure the community knows how to request a name where required and to provide Council with a framework in which to make naming decisions.

Have your say by filling out a submission form

Collect a submission form from:

-  Council office, onsite or library.
-  Make an online submission via our website or social media.
-  Email your submission to submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz

Submissions close Friday, September 6, 2024



Register your business

Friendly reminder that under the Food Act 2014, it is mandatory to register if you are making or selling food. Ensure compliance and protect your customers by registering today. For more info, visit our website. Let's keep our food safe and our businesses thriving!

If you are not registered or would like more information, please contact our Administration Officer at

-  Rahia.Andrew@kaweraudc.govt.nz
-  Council on 07 306 9009 or
-  Council website.

Freedom Camping Bylaw Review – Consultation Open

Council is proposing the reviewed Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw to manage freedom camping within the Kawerau District, while protecting the environment, and addressing concerns around health and safety.




The consultation process is asking the community...

- Whether people support the new proposed restricted and prohibited sites? This would mean:
 - 1** Prideaux Park – continue to be an area for self-contained vehicles; but extend current restricted area to include the grassed area along the northern side of the Kawerau Bowling Club;
 - 2** Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre carpark- reducing the area overall;
 - 3** Firmin Field - reducing the area for freedom camping to provide better parking for hirers of Firmin Lodge and to ensure the public toilet facilities can manage;
 - 4** Ron Hardie Recreation Centre - now prohibited due to health and safety concerns with Sulphur levels;
- Do you agree with prior approval for freedom camping in self-contained vehicles
- Do you agree with 7 nights total being allowed in the Kawerau District in one calendar month?

- Do you agree with the introduction of obtaining prior approval to freedom camp in non-self-contained vehicles and tents, within the restricted area/s of:
 - 1** Waterhouse Street Reserve
 - 2** Firmin Field (on the field itself)
(Would only be permitted in conjunction with the hireage of Firmin Lodge due to the capacity of the infrastructure (public toilets)

Have your say by filling out a submission form, for the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw:

Collect a submission form from:

-  Council office, onsite or library.
-  Make an online submission via our website or social media.
-  Email your submission to submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz

Submissions close Friday 6 September 2024.



Kawerau Neighbourhood Support Group

The Kawerau Neighbourhood Support committee has confirmed key committee positions are filled. This includes the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. New committee members are still welcome to volunteer their time. This is a community-based organisation that relies on volunteers.

Justise Apiata cadet to employee



Justise Apiata has recently completed a cadetship with Council, gaining experience of many roles in Council including three waters, the library, building inspections, isite, information services, finance, and customer services.

It has been a great learning opportunity where Justise has been “able to see how Council works and what role it plays in the community.”

The key takeaways from each role included learning how to interact with many people as a customer services officer and library assistant and, while working in information services, helping to implement

the new CRM (Customer Relations Management) system. He saw firsthand how it helps further relationships with internal and external stakeholders, suppliers, and customers.

Justise’s journey does not end with the completion of his cadetship. Council recognised his potential and offered him a fixed-term role as a customer services officer. Justise’s friendly face will continue to greet the community at the front counter, where he is dedicated to serving and assisting the community.



Rates Rebates Applications

Rate rebate applications are now open for the 2024/25 rating year. The maximum rebate allowed is now \$790. To qualify for a rebate the following criteria apply:

- You must be the legal ratepayer for the property.
- The property is your usual place of residence as of 1 July 2024.
- The property is not used principally for commercial, industrial, business or farming purposes.
- You must apply between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

The Rates Rebate Scheme is a DIA (Department of Internal Affairs) funded scheme designed to benefit homeowners on low incomes.

For more information, please contact Council via

☎ Phone on 07 306 9009

✉ Email info@kaweraudc.govt.nz or visit our website



Applications are now open for the Creative New Zealand Communities’ grants. This is a central government fund that aims to promote arts and culture in our community.

For more information, please visit our website, phone Council on 07 306 9009 or email info@kaweraudc.govt.nz Applications close Friday 27 September 2024.

Dog control

In July, the dog rangers responded to 92 service requests.

- 16 jobs over the last month have been related to kennel checks, microchipping, releasing dogs from the pound and infringement enquiries
- 60 service requests were related to roaming, barking and attacks

During the past month, there have been a few issues involving attacks on people and animals. Handled on a case-by-case basis, these issues have resulted in some dogs being impounded or surrendered, warnings being issued to owners and property inspections being completed. One out of six dogs impounded in July was returned to their owner.



PREPARE, SET, GO!

Winter earthquake preparedness

Earthquakes are not any more likely in cold weather, but if you had to evacuate right now, it would be important to have warm clothes and waterproof gear in your grab-bag. If you were stuck without power, think about how you would keep yourself and the whānau warm. It is a good idea to pull the curtains and put on an extra layer straight away - do not wait until you are freezing. If you use a car, what would you need if you were unable to get home? Warm gear, water and snacks are always good to keep in the boot.



DON'T FORGET RATES
ARE DUE THIS FRIDAY
23 AUGUST

Citizenship Ceremony

On Wednesday, 31 July Kawerau District Council welcomed their newest citizen's Heather Murphy, Tristan Moloney, Gabriele and Ester Meireles da Rosa. A huge congratulations to all of you for completing the final step to becoming a New Zealand citizen.

The public ceremony is a key step in the process of becoming a New Zealand citizen where it is an opportunity for people to publicly declare their allegiance to New Zealand and for the Kawerau Mayor Faylene Tunui to welcome them into the community on behalf of all New Zealanders.

At the ceremony, applicants stand before the Mayor, Faylene Tunui and take the oath or affirmation of allegiance, declaring that they will honour His Majesty King Charles III, obey New Zealand laws and be a good citizen.

Mayor Faylene Tunui standing beside our newest citizens as they read their oath of affirmation of allegiance

Photo 1: Tristan Moloney, Photo 2: Ester Meireles da Rosa

Photo 3: Gabriele Meireles da Rosa, Photo 4: Heather Murphy



Important dates and meetings

Monday 26 August

Representation Review submissions close

5 August to 6 September

Proposed Naming Policy consultation period

5 August to 6 September

Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw consultation period

Friday 23 August, 5:00pm

Rates Due

Monday 26 August, 10:00am-11:00am

'Drop-in' session for the Freedom Camping Bylaw and Proposed Naming Policy in the Town Hall

Wednesday 28 August, 9:00am

Ordinary Council Meeting

Friday 30 August, 3:00pm-4:00pm

'Drop-in' session for the Freedom Camping Bylaw and Proposed Naming Policy in the Rangī Delamere Centre

Friday 6 September, 4:30pm

Kawerau Young Achiever Awards Ceremony, Town Hall

Wednesday 11 September, 9:00am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday 11 September, 11:00am

Extraordinary Meeting – Hearing for Representation Review Submissions

Wednesday 25 September, 9:00am

Ordinary Council Meeting