

# COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

2 JULY 2024

## Congratulations to our Matariki Community Award Recipients 2024

**Congratulations and thank you to the 2024 Community Awards recipients who have been recognised for their exceptional voluntary work, passion, outstanding contribution and dedication in making a difference to the Kawerau community.**

The date for this year's Community Awards was chosen as it coincided with the celebration of Matariki; a special occasion in Aotearoa | New Zealand that welcomes in the Māori New Year.

The Community Awards Ceremony began with a karakia and welcome from Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Kaumātua and Council Cultural Advisor Te Haukākawa Te Rire.

After the karakia and blessing and an address by Mayor Faylene Tunui the recipients were announced.

Congratulations to all our community award recipients for 2024;

The Award Ceremony finished off with some waiata | songs and afternoon tea.

### Volunteer Work

- ★ Crystal Burnett
- ★ Marion Vermeulens
- ★ Sharon Heke
- ★ Noel Rogers

### Group Contribution

- ★ Kawerau Justices of the Peace
- ★ Community Impact
- ★ Janet White

### Contribution by a Young Person

- ★ Sidney Waiari



*Caption: Standing: Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika, John Capener, councillor Justin Ross, Mayor Faylene Tunui, Kawerau community representative Bill Gibson, Pastor Mark Kingi*

*Sitting: Matiu Campbell, Noel Rogers, Paul Heke, Sharon Heke, Marion Vermeulens, Crystal Burnett and Sidney Waiari*

# Mahere ā Tau Proposed Annual Plan 2023–2024 **Adopted**

The Mahere ā Tau | Annual Plan 2024-25 was adopted by Council on Wednesday 26 June 2024 for 2024/25 year, the Annual Plan will come into effect 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025.

## Key areas were:

### Average rates increase of 12.2%

The 12.2% average rates increase includes a \$50 increase of the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) of \$900 per property. Council considered various options for the amount of the UAGC, one was to leave UAGC unchanged. However, this meant that the higher valued properties got the largest rate increases because all additional rates required for 2024/25 were charged as a portion of each property's capital value. By increasing the UAGC to \$900.00, meant the increase in rates was spread more evenly over both higher and lower valued properties.

Following feedback from the community during the submission process, Council made the following decisions which helped to lower the rates increase:

- 1 Lowering the levels of depreciation funding back to 65%  
*Rates reduction - \$114,500 (0.8%)*
- 2 Not proceeding with additional staffing positions and maintaining a small number of vacancies  
*Rates reduction - \$213,000 (1.6%)*
- 3 Reviewing financing options and timing of loan drawdowns for water reticulation renewals  
*Rates reduction - \$45,000 (0.3%)*
- 4 Not proceeding with the asbestos site (albeit mainly funded from depreciation this does have a small positive financing impact)  
*Rates reduction - \$3000 (0.08%)*

These measures reduce the overall rates increase to 12.2% for 2024-2025.

Please note, the whole Annual Plan 2024-25 is available on the Council website, along with the new fees and charges

## Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre

Thank you, everyone, for your patience and understanding while the steam bore that supplies the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre with heating was repaired.

The well drillers diagnosed the issue and found a build-up of silica and limescale, causing the steam bore to stop working.

The drilling supervisor explained the steps they took when trying to prevent the build-up in the future; the base of the bore at 79 metres is soft clay, and the well drillers plugged the last two metres or so and then sleeved the bore to prevent silica build-up.

The pools are back to their usual temperatures, and the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre kaimahi | staff look forward to seeing everyone swimming again.



## Fees and charges 2024–2025

The adoption of the Annual Plan for 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 means Council adopts the new fees and charges for that period. Most of Council's fees and charges have risen by the rate of inflation (around 4.7%). The new fees and charges are available on the Council website.

Reviews showed that ratepayers were subsidising the use of some services and facilities and these fees and charges were increased as follows:

### Private hire of the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre

Fees to privately hire the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre and/or the barbeque have been increased to assist with cost recovery of this valuable facility. The cost to privately hire the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre has increased from \$30 to \$50 per hour.

The cost to hire the barbeques is increasing: The small (portable) barbeque is increasing from \$6 to \$10 for two hours. The large barbeque (fixed) is increasing from \$12 to \$20 for two hours.

### Replacement Bins

The cost of all replacement bins (including recycling crates) is increasing from \$12 to \$18. While the actual cost of a new bin is substantially higher (\$71.35 for an 80/120L bin) Council will gradually increase this charge overtime to recover costs.

### Firmin Lodge Fees

The hireage fees for Firmin Lodge Adventure Hub have also risen by more than the rate of inflation. This is due to short-term hireage not covering the cleaning and booking costs. Council has set minimum hireage fees to ensure that all users of Firmin Lodge cover the full costs of hireage. The casual occupancy rate now starts at \$325.

In raising these fees, Council noted that there are other facilities in the district available for short-term hire at lower costs including Bert Hamilton Hall, Concert Chamber, Town Hall and the Rangī Delamere Centre.

# Kawerau Kaumātua and seniors enjoy Matariki Lunch with the Mayor

More than 120 kaumātua and seniors attended the Matariki Mayoral lunch. The kaumātua and kuia shared kai | food, stories, and laughs. Mayor Faylene Tunui gave an address, answered questions from the floor and hosted a quiz about Kawerau. After the quiz, Mayor Faylene sang a song that brought back some memories for all the attendees- the Kawerau Central School waiata.

During lunch, there were lovely waiatas from Howie Morrison Jr. and Takerei Hikuroa-Peck. They performed several songs, such as 'Where Have All the Flowers Gone?' and 'If I Could Change.'

Between songs, Howie spoke about his time working in Kawerau, reminiscing about how family-oriented the town was. "Everything has changed," Howie said, "but Kawerau will always be a family-oriented town."

Thank you to everyone who attended and our fantastic performers who made the lunch even more special.



1. Diane Metcalfe and Katarina Delamere, 2. Jenny Smith, Georgia Te Rire, Mayor Faylene Tunui and Maylene Manuel  
3. Huia MacDonald and Mayor Faylene Tunui 4. Takerei Hikuroa-Peck (left) and Howie Morrison Jnr (right) performing  
5. Kaumātua and seniors of Kawerau enjoy the Matariki Mayoral lunch, 6. The seniors of Kawerau participating in the quiz  
7. Naomi Maui, Mayor Faylene Tunui, Dinal McMillian and Councillor Rex Savage

# Community Tree Planting Ceremony

**Council's first Matariki event held on Monday, June 24 was a tree planting ceremony to pay tribute to loved ones who have passed.**

Council's Cultural Advisor and Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau kaumātua Te Haukākawa Te Rire started the ceremony with a karakia | prayer and a waiata | song. Then, Mayor Faylene Tunui spoke about what Matariki represents and gave recognition to tangata whenua and acknowledged those who were present at the start of the 2023 Māori New Year but are no longer with us.

Kawakawa leaves were handed out to everyone to lay at the feet of the Pōhutukawa tree in memory of loved ones who have passed. The tree will grow with the kawakawa leaves beside it and can be used as a memorial for those who have passed away. Kawakawa is an important plant in Māori culture, used for both its medicinal purposes and as a sign of mourning.

Council's Cultural Advisor Te Haukākawa Te Rire finished the ceremony by blessing the Pōhutukawa tree as it was planted. The event finished with refreshments in the Concert Chamber.



*Council's Cultural Advisor Te Haukākawa Te Rire opening the ceremony with a karakia*



*Community members placing kawakawa leaves around the base of the tree*

## Important dates and meetings

### Wednesday 26 June , 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting- Adoption of Annual Plan for 2024/25

### Wednesday 26 June, 1pm - 2pm

Matariki Kawerau Community Awards, Concert Chamber

### Saturday 6 July, 11am

St John 3 steps for life class, Kawerau St John Hall, River Rd

### Wednesday 17 July, 9am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

### Wednesday 31 July, 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting

### Monday 5 August, 1pm

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

### Wednesday 14, 9am

August Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

### Wednesday 28 August, 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting

## Adoption of the Rates Remission Policy

Thank you to the two people and organisation that submitted on the Proposed Rates Remission Policy for Sport, Recreation, and Community Organisations Leasing Council Land.

The policy was adopted by Council on Wednesday, 26 June. Council believes the policy retains equity between council and community providers.

## MTFJ | ISK Industry Open Day

ISK and MTFJ are hosting an industry open day

**Saturday, 13 July 2024**

**10am – 2pm**

**Manukorihi Drive, Kawerau**

Join MTFJ and ISK for a day filled with excitement and discovery as we celebrate Kawerau's outstanding productivity and innovation. The whānau-friendly event will be a blend of industry and community.

There will be live music and performances for all ages, food and craft stalls, industry site tours, emergency services, training, and recruitment providers.

**For more information, please contact [Maxine@isk.nz](mailto:Maxine@isk.nz)**