

COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

4 MARCH 2025

Unveiling of QR code signs

Last Wednesday 19 February, Her Worship the Mayor and Elected Members shared a small, yet special occasion with residents of Tiwhatiwha Crescent and Piripiri Crescent.

The residential developments by Council in these areas lead to new street names being required which were gifted by Tangata Whenua via Tūwharetoa Kaumātua and Council's Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa (Boycie) Te Rire.

There were some initial queries about the literal meaning of Tiwhatiwha and Piripiri and so the correct meaning and the small QR code below each of the street naming signs, takes readers to this correct translation captured on the Council website.

Kaumātua Te Haukakawa Te Rire welcomed Her Worship, elected members, residents and council staff and then carried out a karakia (blessing) of each of the codes. They were then unveiled (respectively at each location) and the website information read to all those attending.

It was a memorable occasion in that the whakapapa of both names were shared by Kaumātua Te Haukakawa Te Rire and the connection from the history of Tangata Whenua through to the names of the signs for today's residents was evident.

A shared cup of tea was then enjoyed by guests and residents at Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village.

Tūwharetoa Kaumatua and Council's Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa (Boycie) Te Rire completing the mihi and karakia of the information sign.

The unveiling of the Tiwhatiwha QR information sign and reading was completed by resident Lynn Vowles with support by Her Worship Mayor Tunui.

Piripiri's sign was unveiled by residents Russell Chase and Ben Rickard and followed by Mayor Tunui's reading of the meaning.

Below Left: Council's Cultural Advisor and Iwi Liaison Te Haukakawa Te Rire, Mayor Tunui, councillors, Council staff and Tiwhatiwha Crescent residents at sign unveiling

Below Middle: Mayor Faylene Tunui and Tiwhatiwha Crescent resident Lynn Vowles reading the information of the QR code

Below right: Mayor Faylene Tunui and Piripiri Crescent residents unveiling the QR code



Changes to how you receive your newsletter

To enhance sustainability and reduce costs, Council will distribute only one printed newsletter to residents' homes each month. Thank you to Kadap (Kawerau and Districts Ageing in Place) and Tarawera High School who deliver these newsletters.

The following fortnight, another newsletter will be published online (on our website and via our social media pages). For those who prefer a hard copy newsletter, some printed copies will be available at the District Library, isite and Council Offices.

To keep up to date with what is going on in the community, please check our website, follow us on social media and Antenna.



Welcome New Staff



Bianca Tardecilla

Three Waters Engineer

We recently caught up with our new three waters engineer, Bianca Tardecilla.

Bianca moved from the Philippines to Auckland, in 2024 and earlier this year she relocated to Kawerau, to take on her new position.

Before working at Council, Bianca worked as a senior public utilities' regulations officer in the government sector in the Philippines. Responsibilities included ensuring that drinking and wastewater complied with quality standards. Bianca is enjoying applying what she learnt in her previous job with what she is learning here with regard to Kawerau's water quality and service delivery.

In her spare time, Bianca enjoys road trips up to Auckland to visit her friends and family.

Welcome to the team, Bianca!



Amila Perea

Procurement and Contractor Officer

Amila is from Sri Lanka and moved to New Zealand two and a half years ago. In Sri Lanka Amila worked in supply chain management and procurement for multi national companies. He is excited to bring his wealth of experience to Council and learn more about the government

sector. As this is Amila's first time working in the public sector he is interested in learning about Council's different approaches and structures. Amila's objective is to bring value to the Council by improving procurement processes, documents and methods to improve efficiency and financial spend.

Before working at Council Amila completed his master's in supply chain management at Toi Ohomai. In his spare time Amila loves fishing and travelling.

Welcome to the team, Amila!

Maintenance on the Rec Centre

Last year, Council completed an assessment of the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre foundations which were given a solid green light by engineers.

Now we know the building has a longer-term future, we are completing further maintenance to complete the water tightness of the Rec Centre. This includes work on the flashings, gutterings and repainting another coat on the roof.

Our goal is to get the centre back up to a good standard, so we can increase usage of this multi-functional facility. The Rec Centre is ideal for indoor sporting events, exhibitions and large entertainment functions such as the Rangitaiki Kapa Haka Festival proudly hosted in Kawerau in late 2024.

The building is available for hire on a regular or casual basis. If you would like to find out more information about the Ron Hardie Rec Centre or any other Council owned venue, please contact Council via phone 07 306 9009 or email info@kaweraudc.govt.nz

Steam pipe update

Recently Hutec replaced the steam pipe from the bore to the pump shed, at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre. Hutec installed a new pipe, which they manufactured off-site and coated with a special protective layer against sulphur corrosion.

The steam pipe replacement was part of the ongoing maintenance programme at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre. This replacement should keep the pools warm all winter!

Council wishes to thank the community for their patience while the work was being completed.



Upcoming Gambling Policy consultation

On Wednesday, 26 February, Council discussed the report outlining the proposed review of the Gambling Policy which aims to reduce gambling harm in the community.

Since 2017, Kawerau has had a 'sinking lid' policy on the number of gambling machines permitted in Kawerau. This has reduced the total number of gambling machines from 54 to 36. Also, the number of gambling venues has reduced, halving from four to two venues in the same period. The report included a social impact assessment received by the community on request by the Council in late 2024, which outlines there is a high risk from gambling harm in the district.

Council has resolved to merge the Gambling Venues Policy and Board Venue Policy and ensure the focus remains on reducing gambling machine numbers. At the 26 March Council Meeting, the draft policy will be tabled with Council and then we will be asking the community for your feedback.

Consultation will be carried out from 31 March to 5 May 2025.



Easter Trading Policy consultation open

Submissions for the Draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy are now open. The purpose of the policy is to allow shops in the Kawerau district to open on Easter Sunday.

Kawerau District Council’s previous Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy has been revoked. This consultation asks the community and local businesses if they would like to reinstate the policy.

Council is aware that over the Easter weekend, more people are entering the district, to visit, shop and stay. Currently, Council does not have a policy, that allows shops to open on Easter Sunday. This means only businesses that comply with section 4, of the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990, can open on Easter Sunday. This is a disadvantage for other local businesses, who may wish to trade on the public holiday.

Please note, if this policy is adopted, it will give shop owners the choice of whether they want to open or not. Employees are not obliged to work, as it is a public holiday, it is up to the employee’s discretion.

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: **For more information**, please visit the consultations :
: page on our website Kaweraudc.govt.nz :
: To have your say, please fill out a submission form :
: online or pick up a submission form from the site, :
: District Library or Council Office. :
:

Please make a submission by 5pm Monday 17 March 2025.
A hearing for the Draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy will be held on Wednesday 26 March.

Recycling Update

Summer is always a peak period for kerbside recycling and we wish to thank our community for your patience and our team for their work.



Solid waste is one of the biggest costs to the community and increasing our recycling efforts can significantly decrease the volume of waste sent to landfills.

This reduction leads to lower landfill fees and related solid waste disposal levies imposed by regional/central government, which can result in substantial savings for our community.

In addition, Council is looking to implement effective recycling practices and streamline our waste management processes.

You will have noticed we are trialling changes to our collection process including that our team is now sorting recyclables at the kerbside to increase efficiency.

By sorting recyclables more efficiently, we can reduce the number of man-hours required for waste sorting and other areas of the operation.

What Can I Recycle?

In Kawerau, you can recycle plastics numbered 1, 2, and 5, cans, tins, glass jars and bottles, paper, and cardboard. Remember, you can still sort your recycling separately by squashing down and neatly bundling paper and cardboard. Glass bottles and jars can be placed in the crate in the box they originally came in.

Please ensure that all items are rinsed, and food scraps and lids are removed before recycling.

Only the recyclable items listed below will be picked up from your recycling crate.

What if items are left in the recycling crate?

Our recycling team will only collect what can be recycled.

If items are left, you should also receive a note to advise what can be recycled. The aim is to improve recycling practices in our district and provide a more efficient and effective way to collect and sort recyclables.

Road maintenance ALL GO!



Council has been busy improving roads and footpaths around our district. This is a planned programme of works and we appreciate the patience of the community for the disruptions.

One of the notable jobs that has been completed was the replacement of the speedhump on Onslow Street. Fixing the speedhump allows safer access for children arriving to and from Kawerau South School. Currently, Council is rebuilding the access way into the Water Pumphouse Station along River Road. This work is expected to take two weeks. This road is well used. Rebuilding the road will allow safer access to the drinking water taps.

Other jobs that Council is doing that involve road closures are rebuilding roads, replacing waste water (sewer) pipes, completing road treatment work and installing underground cabling. Council acknowledges the work can take longer than expected and we appreciate the inconvenience for our community. These contracts are tendered with detail and performance conditions to ensure Council and the community are getting the best value for money.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND NOTICES

Repairs on Town Hall Roof

We wish to advise our community that there is likely to be some disruption and access restrictions in the Ranfurly Court, Tarawera Mall entrance area in the coming month from Wednesday 5 March.

We are completing some much-needed roof repairs and replacements on a section of the roof from the Council Office's main entrance along to Town Hall roof. We have engaged a qualified contracting company TyS Asbestos as the roof material may contain asbestos (as was standard for buildings of this age).

The repair work will be carried out between Wednesday 5 March and Friday 4 April.

Notice has been given by the contractor to local shops and businesses in the area and we expect minimal risk to the community. Should there be issues, the contractor will ensure that shops and businesses are made aware and that pedestrian access will be restricted to the Ranfurly Court area which will of course, may include the children's playground.

If you have any questions, please contact TyS Asbestos via email office@tysasbestos.co.nz

Council thanks you for your patience while the work is being done.



Safety at Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre

The Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre is a great place to bring your whānau all year round.

Please remember, children must be supervised by their parents or caregivers at all times, when they are in or around the water at the centre. A child can drown in less than 60 seconds. If you are bringing your child to the pools, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to actively supervise them at all times.

Lifeguards are present to ensure overall safety, however, the primary responsibility for watching over children lies with the parents and caregivers who brought them to the pool.

For your whānau's safety at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre please ensure:

- Children aged five years old or younger are within arm's distance, at all times (you can reach them)
- Children aged between six and eight years old are in your sight, at all times
- Children eight years old or younger must not be left in any pool unattended



Important dates and meetings

Monday 10 March, 1pm

Food Safety Course for Kawerau businesses

Wednesday 12 March, 9am

Regulatory and Service Committee Meeting

Thursday 13 March

NZTA speed consultation and submissions close

Friday 14 March, 4:30pm

Kawerau Youth Council swearing in ceremony

Monday 17 March

Submissions for the Draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy close

Wednesday 26 March, 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday 26 March

Proposed hearing for the Draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy

Friday 4 April

Consultation Period and Submissions Open for the Long Term Plan 2025-2034

31 March to 5 May 2025

Gambling Policy Review Consultation process

Friday 4 April

Consultation Period and Submissions Open for Local Water Done Well

Friday 4 April

April Consultation Period and Submissions Open for the Long Term Plan 2025-2034