

COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE



1 OCTOBER 2024

Unveiling of the new Te Marukaa Plaque



Mayor, Kaumātua, councillors and guests gather around the new Te Marukaa Plaque, after the unveiling.

On Wednesday, 25 September Council unveiled the new Te Marukaa Plaque. The plaque has been relocated near the Pumphouse Station on River Road; the move means it is in a more public area so the community can enjoy it.

Council's cultural advisor Te Haukakawa Boycie Te Rire opened the ceremony with a karakia | prayer and gave a speech about the history of the plaque. Mayor Faylene Tunui and councillor Sela Kingi then unveiled the plaque, after the unveiling Mayor Tunui and kaumātua Amorangi Graham Kahu Te Rire and Te Waraki Te Ruki gave a speech. The ceremony ended with a closing karakia and a hymn.

Fluoridation directive takes effect

Effective from October 1, Council has started adding fluoride to the water as per the mandatory directive from the Director-General of Health in 2022. Council had been granted an extension to 30 September 2024, but had received further instruction from the Ministry of Health that we must commence fluoridation by 1 October 2024.

Council appreciates that there are different views in the community about fluoridation. However, Council cannot risk burdening the community with the \$200,000 fine that will be imposed and subsequent \$10,000 per day fine if we go against this directive.

The Ministry of Health states the reasons for fluoridation of drinking water are to significantly reduce the prevalence and severity of dental decay in the populations serviced by this water supply.

Kawerau's water sources (like most surface waters) already contain about 0.07 - 0.14 ppm (parts per million) of fluoride and the Council must add fluoride to meet the standards set by the Ministry of Health of 0.7 – 1.0 ppm. The fluoride is on telemetry (which is the process of recording and transmitting the readings of an instrument) and is monitored continuously at the Water Treatment Plant. Council will also take daily samples at three different sample sites across the town which Council must report to Taumata Arowai (the drinking water regulator) monthly. Council will be audited annually by an independent auditor (Wai Comply) for our water quality to ensure we are compliant with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules and Water Services (DWSNZ) Regulations 2022.

Please note, that the filters at the New World tap have been replaced with filters that take out both, chlorine and fluoride. The River Road taps will remain chlorine and fluoride-free. Council plans to maintain these taps as chlorine-free and fluoride-free for the community.

For more information, please contact the

Ministry of Health

☎ phone on 0800 400 569,

✉ info@health.govt.nz or

💻 www.health.govt.nz/

Representation Review, Final Proposal

Council is working through the third and final step of the electoral processes in advance of the 2025 triennial elections.

Earlier this year, we sought views from the community on how council could best represent the district. The early engagement took place from March to May and that feedback was used to put together the Initial Proposal. On 17 July 2024, Council adopted the Initial Proposal of the Mayor plus eight councillors and the mixed system and no community board. The formal Initial Proposal consultation period was carried out from 22 July to 26 August 2024.

On 11 September 2024, the Mayor and elected members heard and deliberated about the 104 submissions received during the formal consultation period. The majority of the 104 submitters agreed with the Initial Proposal, therefore, Council unanimously decided to proceed with the Initial Proposal as the Final Proposal on 11 September. The public notification and appeal period commenced for the Final Proposal on Friday, 20 September and runs until 5:00pm, Monday 4 November 2024.

Who can appeal?

Any person or organisation that has made a submission on the Representation Review 2024 –Initial Proposal may lodge a written appeal that:

- a) must identify the matters to which the appeal relates; and
- b) may raise only those matters that were raised in the original submission.

What is the basis for an appeal?

You can make an appeal, if there is something you disagree with in the final proposal, that you raised in your original submission for the Representation Review, Initial Proposal.

Can I use the appeal process to have my say on whether I want Māori wards?

The decision to introduce Māori wards was made in November 2023, and was reaffirmed on 14 August 2024. The Representation Review is taking place to work out how Council can be structured with the introduction of Māori ward councillors.

As per the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act, a poll will be held at the 2025 triennial elections for those people enrolled to vote, to have their say on Māori wards.

Have submitters been notified of the Final Proposal?

Council has contacted submitters who provided contact details, by phone, email, or post. Please check all your inboxes if you made a submission to the Representation Review, Initial Proposal.

If you made a submission but did not provide your name and would like to more information, please contact Council by email submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz or phone 07 306 9009.

Thank you, Submitters

Thank you to everyone who took part in the submission process for the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw and Proposed Naming Policy.

Thank you, to the people who attended one of the public meetings or came to a 'drop-in' session. Council received 21 submissions for the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw and four submissions for the Proposed Naming Policy.

The hearing for submitters to speak supporting their submission was held on Wednesday, 25 September 2024. Three submitters indicated that they wanted to speak in support of their submission, albeit one gave their apologies.

Council will now deliberate all the submissions before adopting the Freedom Camping Bylaw and Naming Policy at upcoming meetings.



Applications Open for Community Grant Scheme

If you are a non-profit group or organisation seeking funding to deliver a service to benefit the Kawerau District – the Kawerau Community Grant Scheme could assist.

The Community Grant Scheme funding applications for the 2024-2025 financial year is open.

Further details about the Community Grant Scheme, Application Forms and Accountability Forms are available on our website at www.kaweraudc.govt.nz or from the Council Office.

Applications for funding must be submitted in writing and received by 5.00pm on Friday 25 October 2024.

Out on the roads? So are Police



We know alcohol is a major contributor to crashes on New Zealand roads, yet people in the Bay of Plenty are still getting behind the wheel after drinking, hurting our communities with unnecessary harm. Last year, 23 people were seriously injured or killed on roads in the Bay of Plenty.

This is 23 too many. In response, NZ Police, NZTA and partners are coming together to target people in the Bay of Plenty who continue to think it's ok to drink and then drive. Mayor Faylene Tunui says, as a community we must not tolerate drink driving. "When people drink and drive, they're putting not only themselves, but their passengers and other people on the road at risk". Bay of Plenty Road Policing Manager, Logan Marsh says people should expect to see more Police on the roads throughout October and November. "We will be out on the roads keeping you and everyone else safe through checkpoints and targeted enforcement. There's no excuse for drink driving. If you've been drinking and get behind the wheel, expect to face the consequences." If you're over the limit, not only can you face fines, demerit points, or loss of licence – you put others at risk of death or serious injury. Make choices that keep yourself and others safe, because there's more to lose than your licence.

nzta.govt.nz/drinking-don't-drive

CAUTION

when emptying fireplaces

As it is warming up and people are starting to clean out their fireplaces, it is important to remember hot ash cannot go into your rubbish bin.

Recently during a rubbish collection by our providers Waste Management Services, hot ash was put into a rubbish bin which was then tipped into a rubbish truck, causing all the rubbish in the truck to catch on fire. Fortunately, the rubbish truck driver noticed smoke coming from the back of the truck and thanks to their quick thinking drove back to the transfer station and dumped all the rubbish onto the concrete away from the pit. This allowed the Transfer Station team to get out the hoses and wet the rubbish pile until the fire went out and it was no longer a risk.

This is a good reminder of things that cannot go into your rubbish bins such as batteries, light bulbs, household chemicals and hot ash.

Kawerau District Library Spring Holiday Programme

Friday 4 October: Outdoor painting & games stations

Join us and Sport BOP while we chalk out stencils and play some outdoor games.

Monday 7 October: Paper Planes

Build a paper plane, score some points, get a treat! It is that simple

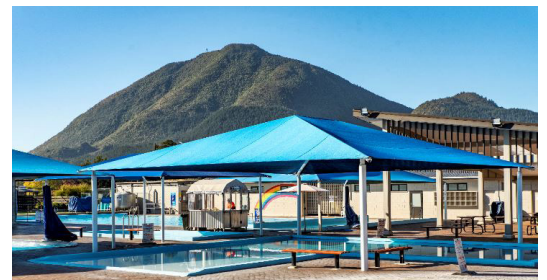
Wednesday 9 October: Board Games, Cards & Puzzles

Let's go offline and spend some time chatting, puzzling and playing cards. If you manage to beat the librarian at SPEED, you may get a treat.

Friday 11 October: Outdoor Play

Come down and enjoy the outdoors with us. Try out some Gutter Board/ Target, Hula Hoops and other games.

Annual Pool Shut



A reminder to patrons that the annual maintenance shut at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre will take place from Friday 11 October at 3pm - Monday 4 November (main pool) or Friday, 8 November (spa pool). The closure will enable the following work to be carried out:

- New fibre glass on the spa pool
- New gel coats on the spa pool
- Replacing a main circulation pipe
- Replacing some steam pipes
- Installing automated steam valves (to regulate the pool temperatures better)

Please note, the spa pool is opening later due to the paint needing adequate time to dry before filling up with and heating the water.

NEW STAFF



ROADING AND FACILITIES MANAGER

Janitha Karunarathne

We recently caught up with our new roading and facilities manager, Janitha Karunarathne.

Janitha moved to New Plymouth from Sri Lankan in 2023, where he studied at the Western Institute of Technology and completed his graduate diploma in highway engineering. After completing his studies, in August 2024, Janitha moved him and his family to Kawerau, to take on his new position.

Janitha has a love for studying, having earlier completed his Bachelor of Science, and Civil and Environmental Engineering degree. Janitha has 13 years' experience in highway engineering and project management. He is excited to learn more about the New Zealand roading industry and share knowledge and experience he has learnt from previous roles. In his spare time, Janitha loves watching movies, singing, and learning. Currently, Janitha is learning better techniques to improve his swimming, which he is enjoying thanks to the magnificent Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre.

Welcome to the team, Janitha



WASTE SERVICES MANAGER

Johnathon Hannon

Our new waste services manager, Johnathon Hannon has always been passionate about addressing waste

issues and understanding what the most effective and user-friendly solutions are for people.

For the past 20 years Johnathon has been teaching and researching at Massey University where he was the coordinator for the zero-waste academy. In that role he focused on the transition from conventional waste management to zero waste management creating a circular economy.

Johnathon is already living in the area and is looking forward to his family moving up from Palmerston North once their youngest child (of three) finishes the year at school. This is a big move for the family who are excited about the new opportunities and experiences on offer.

Johnathon looks forward to working with and educating the community on rubbish and recycling processes. "There are no environmental issues, there are people issues. The problem with the environment is all social." says Johnathon who wants to inspire people to make a difference "get the waka moving forward."

One of Johnathon's goals is to support Kawerau being excellent when it comes to waste management.

Welcome to the team, Johnathon!



Hato Hone St John EVENT

Join Hato Hone St John on 12 October for a day dedicated to health, community, and fun!

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at 33/35 River Rd

Hato Hone St John is hosting

back-to-back 3 Steps 4 Life sessions

showcasing our MIST Vehicle

offering free blood pressure checks

enjoying a sausage sizzle fundraiser

Human Bingo prize draw!

Bring your whānau and friends to learn, engage, and support a great cause. We can't wait to see you there!

Parking available at Boyce Park, please do not park on the station grounds or blocking driveways.

Contact heather.murphy@stjohn.org.nz for queries

Important dates and meetings

Wednesday 7 October, 1:00pm

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Friday 11 October, 3:00pm

Pools shut for annual pool closure

Saturday 12 October, 11:00am – 4:00pm

Hato Hone St John event

Wednesday 16 October, 9:00am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday 30 October, 9:00am

Ordinary Council Meeting

Monday 4 November, 8:00am

Main pool re-opens

Friday 8 November, 8:00am

Spa pool re-open

Wednesday 13 November, 9:00am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday 27 November, 9:00am

Ordinary Council Meeting