

Kawerau District Council newsletter - March 2017



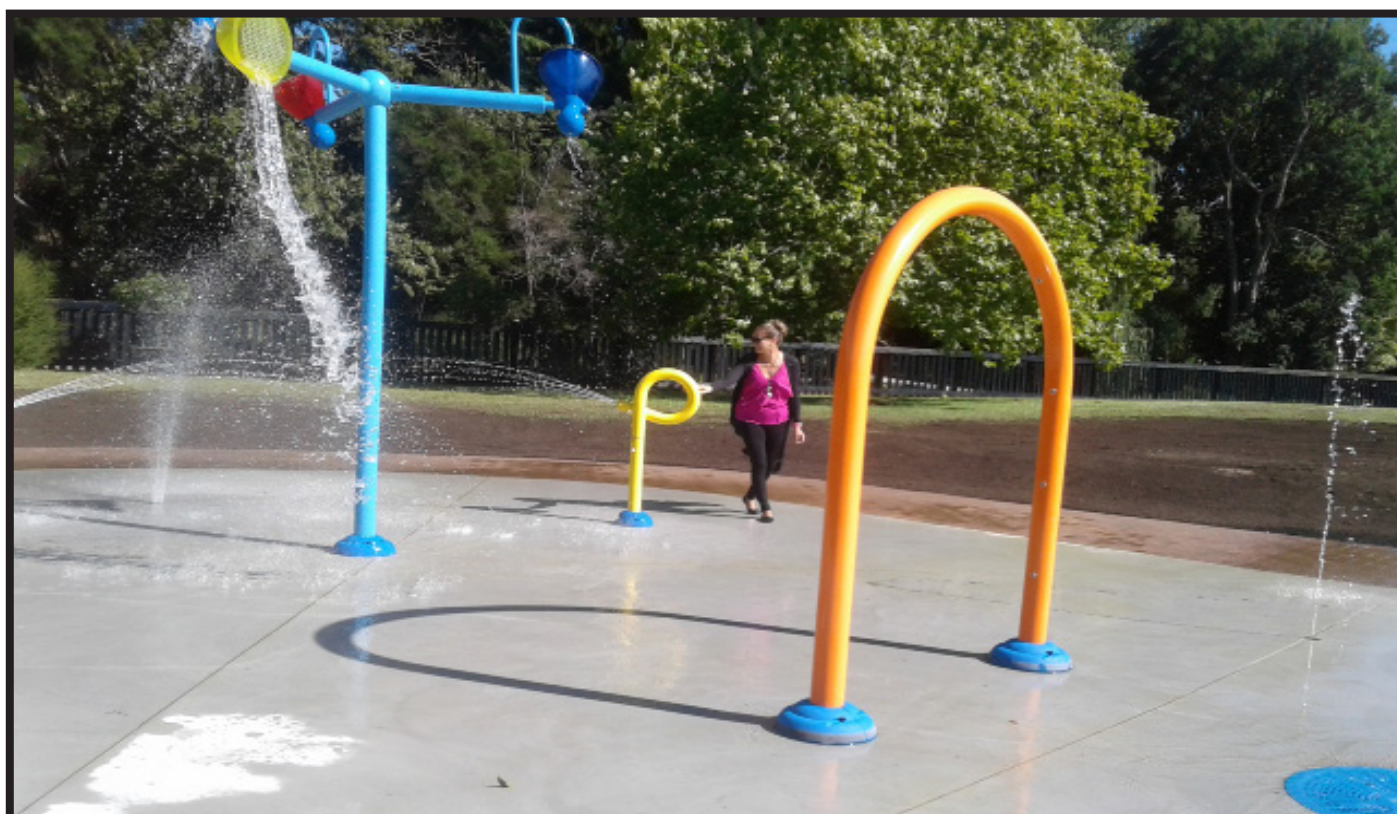
Children's splash pad now open

The children's splash pad is now open at the Maurie Kjar pool complex.

It opened on March 15 following a blessing by local kaumatua George Rairino.

Council parks and reserves officer Bernie Tientjes says it's fantastic to have the new facility up and running and he looks forward to seeing the many younger members of the community putting it to good use.

Pictured right and below: Council parks and reserves officer Bernie Tientjes and Kawerau deputy mayor Faylene Tunui explore the new children's splash pad.



Positive projects to benefit town

It's been a busy month for council and the community with plenty of positive things happening.

The children's splash pad is now open at the pools, and we look forward to seeing kids from Kawerau and outside the district making the most of it. Well done to everyone involved with this project.

As with any new facility there may be teething problems, so please bear with us as we resolve any issues that may occur.

Our new youth council was sworn in on March 14. Welcome to these new councillors. It's great to have them all on board and we look forward to working with them.

Plenty of progress is being made on the joint container



terminal project and things are looking positive.

Consultation for our annual plan starts this Friday (March 31) and we encourage everyone to have a say. There will be opportunities to discuss any concerns with councillors during the consultation pro-

cess. We'll keep you updated on the process as things progress.

Lastly, a big thanks to the Kawerau Fire Service and everyone else involved in the clean-up following the weather event that hit Kawerau in February. Everyone worked hard to limit damage to properties and infrastructure and it was a sterling effort.

Our engineering staff is now working with residents, farm owners and consultants to mitigate risk of damage as much as we can should any future events occur.

Our apologies to everyone whose properties were damaged. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we worked to clean things up.



Ceremony to welcome new youth councillors

Congratulations to the 2017 Kawerau Youth Council, which was sworn in earlier this month at a special ceremony.

This year's youth councillors are: Majejan Rogers,

Dylan Edwardson, Iraia Nuku, Rhea Richardson, Paris Wright, Akeylah Wade, Niamh O'Brien, Stormy Rameka, Dannielle Hammond, Jor'el Rangitakatu, Courtney Cox, Timoti Rogers, Taylor

van Gulick, Preet Kaur, Kaja Smith Nu'u, Destiny Maxwell and Hohia Heurea.

The youth councillors will soon attend a training camp that aims to further develop their leadership skills.

Local i-SITE management stays in-house

Kawerau's i-SITE is now permanently under in-house council management.

It has been run in-house since October 2016, when council took over the management from an external contractor. This arrangement was to be reviewed in October this year.

The decision to review the operation was brought forward due to the fact significant progress had been achieved with the centre since council brought it in-house in October 2016. This progress included achieving i-SITE membership very quickly and a considerable refurbishment of the building, which is almost complete.

"The i-SITE and its staff have received numerous positive comments from the community and visitors and continue to develop close relationships with other i-Sites," council economic

and community development manager Glenn Sutton says.

"The centre is increasingly pivotal in promoting Kawerau and has an important role in delivering Council's strategies for marketing and growing the district. It was therefore appropriate the review was brought forward so we could build on this early success."

The review was also brought forward due to the fact all centre staff were on fixed-term employment agreements, most of which were due to expire at the end of March.

"To ensure the continuity of quality service that the i-SITE's team currently provides, it was of huge advantage to council that we give staff a degree of long-term job security and confidence by establishing their roles as permanent positions." Council approved the recom-

mendation at a meeting earlier this week, and the move cements the organisation's approach for utilising the i-SITE as a key tool for encouraging growth in Kawerau.

"Councillors were very complimentary of the i-SITE, particularly the quality of service the team are providing the public," Glenn says.

The i-SITE and its staff have also received numerous positive comments from the community and visitors.

Another benefit of the i-SITE is its growing contribution to supporting community activities and events, for example the Kawerau community wall inside the centre. This wall displays a stunning picture of the Ruranga Stream, and features brochures on local businesses, groups and activities as well as cards for local businesses.

Info centre revamp work progresses

There has been a lot of work going on outside the Kawerau i-SITE this month.

Workers are extending the concrete step at the front of the building so buses can pull in closer to the centre without hitting the building.

Painters are currently putting on the first coat of the new exterior i-SITE colour.

Builders have put the new outdoor tables and chairs together and this furni-

ture will be erected once the paint is dry.

Info centre team leader Hannah Edmondson says this should be by the end of this week or next week.





Kawerau roads were drenched last month when the town was hit with more than 400mm of rain in 24 hours.

Weather brings challenges for fire service

Kawerau Fire crews were kept busy in February, with the district experiencing one of its wettest weeks in months when Mother Nature delivered a whopping 409mm of rain in 24 hours.

One man needed rescuing after becoming trapped; he was found clinging to the bridge near River Road in a torrent of water.

The brigade attended numerous properties that were affected by the flooding and needed to be pumped out.

In early February fire brigade members also attended a concerning number of intentionally lit fires in the parks and reserves around

Kawerau.

Stoneham Walk, Boyce Park and the Blundell Avenue reserve were targeted in a five-day spell of nuisance fires from February 27 - March 3.

Fires such as these tie up valuable resources including the duty fire crew and police officer, and these people are then unavailable to attend other emergencies.

Please report any suspicious activity to 0800 CRIMESTOPPERS or call 111. Calls are anonymous.

The Fire Service also offers an initiative called the Fire Awareness and Intervention Programme (FAIP), which

is designed to stop people aged 5-17 lighting fires. It aims to do this by raising people's awareness of the dangers and consequences of lighting fires.

If you suspect your child or young person has an unhealthy interest in fire or you are aware of dangerous fire behaviour, phone the programme on 0800 FIRE INFO.

Local police officers have increased their patrolling in local park and recreation areas, but members of the public can also help by reporting any suspicious activity to the phone numbers listed above.



Firmin Lodge is one of Council's recently completed major projects.

Annual plan consultation period starts this week

The consultation period for the 2017/18 Annual Plan starts this Friday (March 31) and runs until May 1.

People will have plenty of opportunities to have a say on the plan during this time. There'll also be opportunities to meet with councillors at dedicated sessions. Dates and times for these will be announced once confirmed.

Included in the plan are proposals to increase rates by 4.4 percent and the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) from \$700 to \$750.

The latter is proposed to spread the overall rate increase more evenly across all properties in the district.

The proposed rates increase helps fund major projects the council has undertaken recently or that will begin shortly.

These major projects include:

- Children's splash pad at the Maurie Kjar pool complex
- Firmin Lodge accommodation and adventure hub
- New toilets in the town centre
- The new museum storage and archives building
- Town centre upgrade

The council adopted the draft consultation document at a meeting on March 28, and it is now being delivered to Kawerau households.

Consultation closes at 12 noon on Monday, May 1.

For more information read the Annual Plan consultation document, which will be delivered to your letterbox shortly, and is available at www.kaweraudc.govt.nz, or contact the Council on (07) 306 9009.

Helping improve animals' lives

The SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is an animal welfare charity that aims to prevent animal cruelty and alleviate suffering. It has the power to prosecute cases of animal cruelty, abandonment and mistreatment under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

The Animal Welfare Act is underpinned by five internationally recognised animal welfare standards commonly known as the Five Freedoms. All owners are responsible for giving their animals freedom from hunger and thirst (food and water), freedom from discomfort (shelter), freedom from pain, suffering, injury or disease (medical care), freedom to express normal behaviour (exercise, space, company of its own kind) and freedom from fear and distress (love and understanding).

Kawerau SPCA can operate only thanks to donations, grants and fundraising. It needs town and council support to make the community a better place for animals.

Registration of all dogs aged over three months is essential to manage welfare issues, and is a legal requirement. It causes Kawerau SPCA great concern that so many dogs arrive at the centre without micro-chips and no legally identifiable owners.

Anyone can make a complaint to the SPCA about an animal they suspect is being mistreated or abused, and it will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please speak up

about animal abuse. In an emergency situation, such as when someone witnesses an animal being beaten, they should call the Police immediately.

Kawerau SPCA encourages anyone with an animal welfare concern to contact us for advice. We also encourage all pet owners to have their cats and dogs desexed, to stop the cycle of unwanted, homeless animals in the town. Pet owners suffering financial hardship can contact us to see what help might be available.

Having an SPCA in Kawerau is a wonderful asset for the town. Our centre is run entirely by volunteers. Without them we couldn't do what we do for animals. Thanks to all the responsible animal owners in Kawerau and the council, for their ongoing help with our operation.

- Kawerau SPCA
Phone (07) 323 4032

Upcoming meetings

Council, Tuesday, March

28, 9am.

Regulatory and Services
Committee

Tuesday, April 11, 9am

Councillor

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**FLOWQUEST
KAWERAU**

**FUN DAY!
SATURDAY
15TH APRIL
WATERHOUSE ST RESERVE**



Safety tips from the experts

We currently have a person(s) intentionally lighting fires in the Stoneham Walkway area and by the river on River Road. If you see anything suspicious please call 111.

Parking is a concern for Police in the Kawerau area, with many vehicles parked illegally, such as in disability spaces and on yellow lines, especially around school areas. We want the Kawerau community to feel safe, be safe.

Let us know if you have any concerns. If you wish to remain anonymous

you can use the Crimestoppers phone number 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-nz.org

Ensure you are safe on the internet. Safeguard yourself in terms of scams. Never give out your pin. Your bank will never ask for it. If it seems too good to be true, it usually is.

For more information on staying safe online visit www.netsafe.org.nz.

- Acting Sergeant Megan Te Aho
Kawerau Police Station



Kawerau District Library

School Holiday Activities

Tues 18 April to Fri 28 April 2017, 10.30am to 12pm

Unleash creativity with stories and more!

[@kaweraulibraryandmuseum](https://twitter.com/kaweraulibraryandmuseum)





Coming up on the events calendar

Kaitiakitanga Festival – caring for our environment.

Thursday, March 30, 2017, 10am-3pm in the Kawerau town centre.

Sell, swap your harvest of organic foods, up-cycled arts and crafts, Maori medicines and remedies, kids' wearable arts, music and inspiration speakers on sustainability.

For more information email sheryl@pouwhakaaro.co.nz



Kawerau Community Markets

Thursday, April 6, 2017, 8am-2pm in the Kawerau town centre.

Kawerau's monthly daytime market is packed with stalls selling hot foods, clothing, plants, fresh produce, homemade goods, crafts and homewares. There's always a great atmosphere with lots of friendly people, and everyone's welcome.

Championship Agility Event

April 15-16, 2017, 9am-2pm at Prideaux Park.

The Championship Agility event is the last dog event for this summer season.

New Zealand's best agility dogs show off some of their incredible abilities and intelligence. Don't miss the action at Prideaux Park.

Seriously Social Rafting Comp

April 1, 2017, from 10am.

This rafting competition offers plenty of water fun, with sprint time trials followed by a full afternoon of knock-out slalom races on the Tarawera River.

Get a team of six paddlers together and experience the Tarawera grade two rapids like never before. No experience or rafting gear necessary.

Prizes are up for grabs for the top teams, and there'll be spot prizes. The action starts at 10am, with the prizegiving at 3pm.