

Kawerau District Council newsletter - July 2017



Urban food forest progress

More than 50 people were involved with building the Kawerau Urban Food Forest glass house over the past couple of months. This is complete and ready to host seed sewing workshops.

On June 29 five people built two frames for the community garden boxes. These will be filled and ready for the plants at the beginning of August.

On July 6 the KUFF team held a workshop at the site. People were given a tree tag with a brief about their tree. They then needed to read the brief and find the ideal spot for planting.

This meant thinking about where the sun rose and set, what trees would be nearby, whether their tree needed moist or dry soil and so on. Once all the trees had a place they were marked on the KUFF map.

On July 24 the KUFF team celebrated Matariki with a site blessing and the planting the first layer of trees. This was followed by a free sausage sizzle.

“It was great to see so many people take part,” project co-ordinator Hannah Edmondson says.

“This is a forest for our community.”



High-speed internet to come to town

We've had a great response following the water concerns featured in our June newsletter. Most respondents are more concerned with district councils possibly losing control of the water rather than the idea of chlorination.

There's been a lot of community feedback. Council will work closely alongside people who want further discussion and will keep the community in touch with progress.

It's been great to see the community getting involved with cleaning up trees around the district. There were more than 100 trees toppled during Cyclones Cook and Debbie in April and the clean-up has been ongoing.

If anyone wants firewood please call Council on (07) 306 9009.

High-speed broadband is coming to Kawerau, following the council's decision to go ahead with wireless set-up. This is not in opposition to anything our schools have established but will complement it, and will benefit our industry and businesses.

The high-speed broadband will cover 80 percent of the community initially.



We are working with the service provider to identify black-spot areas and will connect the remaining 20 percent of the district as soon as practicable.

A date for the new service to be up and running will be advised shortly.

The Kawerau Urban Food Forest team has made fantastic progress, with a glass-house now built and the first fruit and nut trees planted.

It's great to see this going ahead and the positive reactions from the Kawerau community.

We look forward to working with the KUFF team as the project progresses.

Councillor

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Local people recognised for community contribution

The 2017 Community Awards recipients were presented with their awards last month.

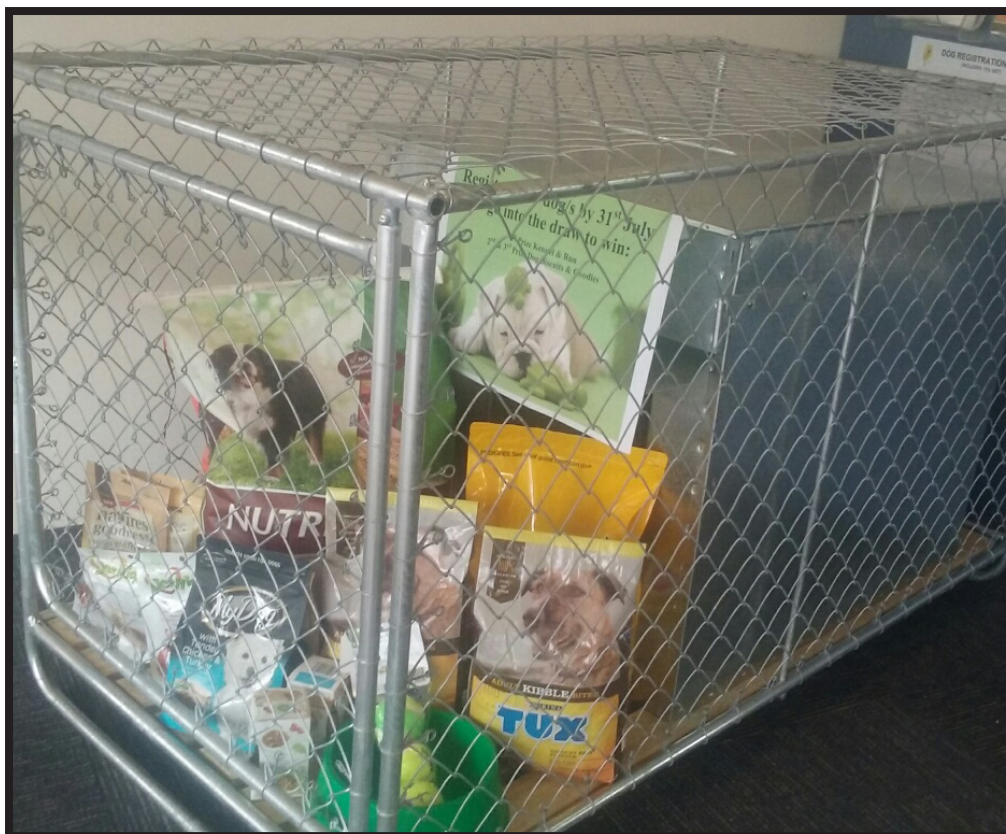
In a special presentation at the council on June 27, awards were given to:

- Annette Reece: swimming coach and technical advisor who has taught many top swimmers (volunteer work)
- Kawerau Amateur Swimming Club (group contribution).
- Kawerau Proud: marketing and promotion of Kawerau, focusing on attracting motorhomers (group contribution)
- Te Waraki (Chick) Te Ruki: Rautahi Community Marae chair (volunteer work).



Kawerau mayor Malcolm Campbell presents awards to, clockwise from top: Kawerau Proud, Te Waraki (Chick) Te Ruki, Annette Reece and the Kawerau Amateur Swimming Club).





Dogs must be registered this week

Register your dog/s by the due date on July 31 and you'll automatically go into the draw to win a Kennel & Run.

Plus there are heaps of other prizes up for grabs.

Visit the council office to register your dog. Registrations not paid by July 31 will incur a 50 percent penalty. Phone (07) 306 9009 for more information.

Library hosts writers' group

Kawerau Library hosts a writers' group every Wednesday morning at 11 in the treehouse. From novices to more experienced authors, they help each other with feedback and shared skills and knowledge, but most of all, the group motivate each other to write.

Come and join us, have a cuppa and flex your writing muscles in a friendly and supportive environment. Just turn up, you will be welcome or if you want more information, phone or email Wendy at the library. Phone (07) 306 9041 or email Wendy.Montrorse@kaweraudc.govt.nz

Container terminal project generates interest

Registrations of interest are open for the container terminal and there's been a good response, with 10 received so far.. Some interested parties were shown around the site earlier this month.

Council is working to identify the employment and training needs associated with the container terminal project and other potential developments.



Sarge's resting place

Sarge, the late, much-loved pound guard dog, now has a permanent place at council. His ashes take pride of place in the animal control team office.

Sarge was the pound dog for nine years. He was put down in May after he was diagnosed with heart disease.

Fun and food to honour book release

Local children were treated to a hangi in the school holidays in honour of Ohiwa author-illustrator Nikki Slade Robinson's latest book.

Nikki recently released Ruru's Hangi, featuring much-loved characters from her award-winning book The Little Kiwi's Matari-ki. She visited Kawerau Library on July 19 to read the new book and help children decorate paper rurus to glue on a mural of a tree.

In Ruru's Hangi, the title character has eggs and, when they hatch, Little Kiwi and friends put down a hāngi to celebrate.

While in the library Nikki also shared writing tips with the Kawerau Writers' Group, which meets on Wednesdays.

Top: Nikki Slade Robinson helps kids decorate paper rurus.

Below: Colouring-in keeps the kids busy ahead of Nikki's visit.



Coming soon at Kawerau Library - PechaKucha

Kawerau Library will host its first PechaKucha night on September 26.

PechaKucha nights are informal, fun gatherings with drinks and nibbles where passionate people share their ideas, works, thoughts, holiday snaps - just about anything, really - in the PechaKucha 20x20 simple presentation format.

Anyone can present. This is the beauty of PechaKucha Nights, and it's easy. Some PechaKucha presenters tell great stories about a project or a trip. Some are incredibly personal, some are incredibly funny, but all are very different, and they turn each PechaKucha Night into "a box of chocolates."

Do you have a passion you want to share with others? A special talent, interest or idea? Then you're welcome to present. The library needs 10 presenters for this inaugural event.

Tickets go on sale in September.

For more information or to register as a presenter, contact Wendy at the Kawerau Library, phone (07) 306 9041 or email Wendy. Montrose@kaweraudc.govt.nz, or visit www.pechakucha.org/cities/kawerau

Right and above right: Attendees and a speaker at a PechaKucha night held in Opotiki in June.



Maurie Kjar pool winter hours

Monday to Friday 9am – 7pm
Saturday/Sunday 10am – 7pm

All pools are cleared 30 minutes before closing times.

Aqua classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10am
Mondays and Thursdays, 5.30pm

Zumba

Wednesdays, 5.45pm

Admission to these classes is free.

Barbeques

These are available for hire during public time, and after hours for private hire. Phone the council office on (07) 306 9009 to enquire or to book.

Annual plan now adopted

Council recently adopted its Annual Plan for 2017/18. During the upcoming year we plan to:

- Undertake more repairs and upgrades to the town's footpaths to make them safer
- Complete the upgrade of the street lights to LEDs
- Start upgrading the CBD
- Continue renewing the water, wastewater and roading assets
- Investigate and undertake improvement to the stormwater system to help prevent future flooding.

The overall rating increase for 2017/18 is 4.4 percent. Most rate-payers will have increases less than this.

Significant projects undertaken in the past year include:

- New changing rooms, splashpad and barbeque at the swimming pool
- Upgrading the information centre to help promote our district
- Acquiring land next to Mountain View retirement complex to enable the development of more aged care facilities
- Installing new public toilets adjacent to Tarawera Mall
- Upgrading the Islington St museum building into a museum storage and archives building
- Developing the former rugby clubrooms on Firmin Field into a multi-use accommodation and conference centre.

These projects have helped improve Kawerau's look and facilities and, along with other improvements, make it a town we can be proud of.

Special race relationship continues

The Pomona King of the Mountain race was held on July 23 and continues the long and special relationship between the Pomona race and our own King of the Mountain event (to be held on October 28).

As always, a Kiwi contingency headed across the ditch to compete. This year the group included Ruby Muir, Daniel Jones, junior runner Regan Wilson and veteran Dennis de Monchy.

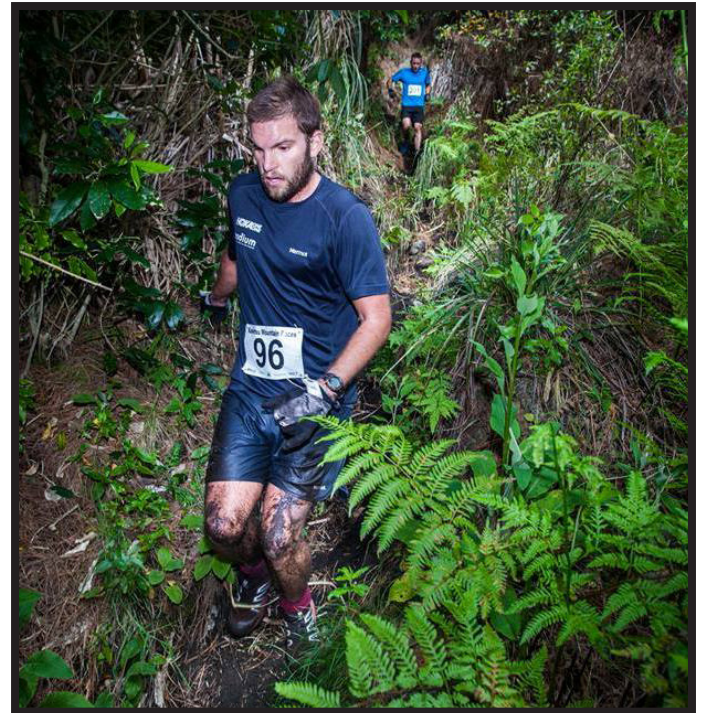
The top four Australians in certain classes will earn the right to compete in the 2017 Kawerau's King of the Mountain race.

The relationship between the two events has its origins in 1985, when Kawerau couple Howard and Rose Hyland headed across the ditch for a mid-winter break and stumbled upon the hinterland town of Pomona (just inland of Noosa, on the Sunshine Coast). They discovered Pomona was similar to Kawerau. Both towns even shared a common theme – a mountain.

Kawerau's King of the Mountain race had been run since 1955, and Pomona had been holding a similar event since 1958. Each town and its people had a special love affair with their respective mountain races.

Rose entered the 1985 Pomona race and was crowned queen. After her success, husband and Kawerau race director Howard spoke to the Pomona race director Stan Topper about the possibility of a trans-Tasman international mountain race challenge. Stan agreed and the deal was sealed, and a unique relationship was born.

Since then many directors have come and gone and many outstanding athletes have pitted their strength against each other, in what are often described two of the toughest mountain races around. Putauaki (Mt Edgecumbe) in Kawerau is double the height of Cooroora (Mt Pomona), so is arguably tougher. Fortunes have been mixed over the years but New Zealand can probably boast the



Runners compete in a past Kawerau King of the Mountain race.

lion's share of titles in Kawerau and Pomona.

While the rivalry is fierce on the slopes, once the dust is settled the feelings of friendships and respect are magical. The two towns are connected through the spirit of adventure.

Both events have developed amazing youth programmes over recent years and organisers hope the overall challenge will be extended to see princes and princesses head across the Tasman and compete in junior versions of the races.

Entries are open for Kawerau King of the Mountain. For more details or to enter visit www.kaweraukingofthemountain.co.nz.

Suite of alerting tools put to the test

Text alerts, vehicle-mounted sirens, social media platforms and the Red Cross hazard app were some of the alerting tools Civil Defence put to the test in Kawerau on Monday morning.

These twice-yearly tests enable them to check the systems used to alert people about natural and man-made emergencies are working as they should.

Overall the test was a success, but the BOP CDEM Group is aware some people experienced a delay in receiving text alerts. Group members know the text



was successfully deployed at their end at 10am, and they are now working with telco providers and the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management to improve this system.

There was also some concern around the volume of the sirens. This was a test, so the stingers were only deployed on short routes and alarms sounded for

short stints.

There is no 100 percent fail-safe alerting system and that is why multiple alerting platforms are used.

It is critical residents understand the natural warning signs.

For example if you're at the coast and there is an earthquake that lasts longer than a minute or is strong enough to knock you off your feet, head immediately inland or to higher ground.

Don't wait for an official warning.



August events

Kawerau community markets, August 3, 8am-2pm, Ranfurly Court

Kawerau's monthly day-time market (pictured right) features plenty of stalls selling hot foods, snack foods, clothing, plants, fresh produce, homemade goods, crafts and homewares and much more. The market has a great atmosphere and lots of friendly people. Phone Marie

Moncur on 021 077 7789 for more details.

Ballroom dancing classes, August 4, 10-11am, Kawerau Cosmopolitan Club

Join fellow enthusiasts and dance the morning away at the Kawerau Cossie Club with these free classes. Phone Allan on (07) 3232 8052 for more information.

Upcoming meetings

Regulatory and Services Committee:

Tuesday, August 15, 9am

Council: Tuesday, August 29, 9am



Kawerau District Council is on Facebook. Check out our page for news and event updates.

[www.facebook.com/
KawerauDistrictCouncil/](http://www.facebook.com/KawerauDistrictCouncil/)