

COMMUNITY UPDATE

6 MAY 2022



TOP: Mawake Taupo karakia by Te Amorangi Te Rire and Te Haukakawa Te Rire and Te Whata Tau o Putauaki Kura

ABOVE: Mawake Taupo sign karakia and blessing.

From the Mayor

We had a great occasion recently in April with a special ceremony and karakia to bless the name changes for two of our streets by Tūwharetoa Kaumātua and Reverend Te Amorangi (Graham) Te Rire and Kaumātua Te Haukakawa (Boycie) Te Rire (pictured).

Council acknowledges the importance of correcting these street names to - Hine Te Ariki Place and Mawake Taupō Road, and the significance of doing so for our Iwi and Mana Whenua Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau.

- Te Ariki Place was named after Tūwharetoa's grandmother Hine Te Ariki, so the street has been rightfully re-named: Hine Te Ariki Place.
- Mawake Road, named after Tūwharetoa's father, has been rightfully amended to: Mawake Taupō Road.

I would like to acknowledge the support of Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Board and Trustees, Te Whata Tau o Pūtauaki Kura staff and tamariki who sung waiata during the ceremony and my fellow Councillors and staff who attended.

We cannot overestimate the importance of correcting things that were overlooked in the past.

Looking to the future, we are now encouraging residents and stakeholders to provide feedback for the Annual Plan 2022-2023. There are some hard decisions to be made with the closure of Norske Skog and a rating shortfall. On top of

the challenges that the pandemic, there are a number of government reforms including Three Waters, Resource Management Act and the Local Government that are going to impact significantly on Councils.

We are holding a number of Iwi and stakeholder hui, including with our industrial and commercial ratepayers, along with public meetings on 12 May (at markets) and 16 May at 2pm (in Town Hall)

There is more information overleaf, and also available in our consultation document online kaweraudc.govt.nz or at the Council Offices. We look forward to your feedback.

- Malcolm Campbell



ABOVE: Tūwharetoa Kaumātua and Reverend Te Amorangi Te Rire and Kaumātua Te Haukakawa Te Rire with Mayor Malcolm Campbell.

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RATES REBATES

Did you know you might be eligible for up to \$665 towards your rates?

If you haven't applied for a Rates Rebate for the current year that ends on 30 June 2022 you can still do so. The Rates Rebates scheme is run by Central Government as a way of assisting low-income ratepayers with meeting their obligations.

For more information contact Council on 07 306 9009 or visit www.govtnz and search "rates rebate".

CREATIVE NZ COMMUNITIES

Applications are now open for the Creative Communities Scheme funded by Creative New Zealand. If you have a project that...

- Has an arts and cultural focus
- Will be completed within 12 months of funding approval
- Will benefit the local community

Then this scheme could be for you. Email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz for more info or visit kaweraudc.govt.nz Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 20 May 2022.

ANNUAL PLAN 2022-2023

- ▶ Year two of the Long Term Plan 2021-2031
- ▶ Purpose is to engage with stakeholders
- ▶ Be accountable and inform community on what Council proposes
- ▶ Encourage discussion, ideas and submissions

CHALLENGES FOR 2022-2023

Rates increases due to the closure of Norske Skog Tasman and due to the three-yearly revaluation of properties.

Closure of Norske Skog was expected and Council strategy has been to increase number of ratepayers through:

- ▶ Residential Developments (Central Cove, Porritt Glade, Hine Te Ariki Place / Bell St and Stoneham Park)
- ▶ Support economic growth and development
Boundary change
- ▶ Working with Iwi and businesses to secure PGF funding



We want to know what you think.

CONSULTATION TOPIC 1

RATES SHORTFALL FUNDING OPTIONS

Norske Skog at present pays for nearly a quarter of the rates (including Mercury Energy). Now they have closed, the reduced valuation of their business means the rates they pay reduce by more than \$1 million.

If Council keeps the current levels of service, this shortfall in rates needs to be funded by other ratepayers.

There are two options for funding the rating shortfall due to Norske Skog's closure:

Option 1:

Keep the district rating share to 45% residential, and 55% commercial/industrial (45:55).

Residential rates will increase by an average of 4.4%

Commercial/industrial rates will increase by an average of 34.6%

Note: the variation in rates increases (or decreases) is a result of the different valuation increases for each property.

Option 2:

Change the rates so it is equally split with 50% residential and 50% commercial/industrial (50:50).

Residential rates will increase by an average of 16.1%.

Commercial/Industrial rates will increase by an average of 22.5%.

CONSULTATION TOPIC 2

PROPOSED SECURE ASBESTOS CONTAINMENT SITE

- ▶ Reduces disposal costs for Council developments (to transport contaminated material out of the district)
- ▶ Provides a facility for the Eastern Bay
- ▶ Potential revenue stream for Council \$100k to \$200k p/a

What?

- ▶ Only licensed operators can use (no public access)
- ▶ Landfill to meet strict resource consent rules
- ▶ Proposed landfill between existing landfill sites.
- ▶ New asbestos containment site to be fully lined; Contaminated material wrapped
- ▶ Existing ground water monitoring in place each quarter to meet consent

Process

- ▶ Formal engagement with Iwi and Tangata Whenua underway
- ▶ Feedback from community via Annual Plan process

More detailed information is available in the Annual Plan 2022-2023 consultation document online kaweraudc.govt.nz or on the Council Facebook page, or hard copies available in the Council Offices. Submissions close 18 May 2022.