

# COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

21 MARCH 2024

## Congratulations to Kawerau Youth Councillors – swearing in ceremony

**This year, the Kawerau Youth Council (KYC) has 19 youth councillors representing Kawerau. On Friday, March 15, the new youth council was sworn in.**

Her Worship the Mayor Faylene Tunui, acknowledged chief executive Morgan Godfery and the councillors who came to show their support for the 2024 Kawerau Youth Council. Councillors Rex Savage, Warwick Godfery, Berice Julian and Justin Ross were in attendance.

Mayor Faylene Tunui said, “In this room, there are many who will go on to be future mayors and councillors of Kawerau.”

Most of the councillors gave a speech encouraging the rangatahi about taking every opportunity and how the KYC makes councillors aware of different issues in the community and facing youth today. But most importantly, Councillor Julian said, “Enjoy the ride.” Councillor Ross, who was a youth councillor when he was at school, said “look forward to building relationships with your fellow youth councillors and even if you do not know everyone sitting around you right now, they will all become family.” He encouraged the 2024 youth councillors to step outside of their comfort zones and take risks and opportunities that may present themselves. “You are the voice of Kawerau”, Councillor Ross said.



*Her Worship the Mayor Faylene Tunui, economic and community development manager Lee Barton, chief executive Morgan Godfery, councillors Rex Savage, Berice Julian and Justin Ross, youth projects officer JJ Rika, Hohia Heurea, and new councillors Paige Warner, Kingi Pakuria-Rehe, Cedar McGarvey, Ianna Kinley, Malachi Paraone, Bridget Moulden, Gianni Tunui, Koopere Taura, Kodean Te Rire, Homer Angelo, Nikau Maurice, Ayla Flavell, Chloe Groshinski, Sidney Waiari, Armani-Manaia Sidney Wihapi, Tyrone Cassidy, Amaia Rangī, Hawaiki Ash Takuira, Te Ahurei Tamihere and Kawerau Youth Council family members group photo after the swearing in.*

## Meetings and important dates

### March 7 – April 5 2024

Representation Review early feedback

### Friday 22 March, 10am - 11.30

Drop-in session for Representation Review at the District Library

### Wednesday March 27, 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting

### Thursday 28 March, 1:30pm - 3pm

Drop-in session for Representation Review at the District Library

### Monday April 8

Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre change to winter hours.

Winter hours: 9am-6pm

(please exit the pool by 5:30pm)

### Monday April 8, 1pm

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

### Wednesday April 10, 9am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting |

Extraordinary Council Meeting

### Friday April 12

Annual Plan 2024-2025 consultation and submission period

### Wednesday April 24, 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting

### Tuesday May 14

Annual Plan 2024-2025 submission period closes

### Wednesday May 15, 9am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

### Wednesday May 22

Annual Plan 2024-2025 Hearing for submitters

## Hottest Summer on record for Kawerau and Whakatāne

It was a warm summer overall for most of Aotearoa New Zealand and in Kawerau, it was the hottest summer on record according to NIWA. Temperatures were above average everywhere in Aotearoa and summer 2023-24 was the ninth-warmest summer ever with an average temperature of 17.6°C.

# Earthquakes

It has been a year since the earthquakes in Kawerau. As we reflect on the swarm of earthquakes and where we were then, it is important to remember to be prepared for them.

## Here are a few simple tips from Civil Defence

- Have an emergency plan for your family and talk it through
- Where is the safe place to be in an earthquake? Practice getting there (it should be nearby within 3 metres) and make sure everyone knows
- Practice Drop Cover Hold
- Stay home, stay safe

## Having a PLAN is important to be prepared, a plan means:

- Have emergency supplies ready (water, food, torches etc.)
- Check your home and fix and secure shelving, bookcases and anything that may topple over and injure one of your whānau in an earthquake
- Remember to check in on loved ones after the shakes
- Check for your own injuries
- Try and stay calm, group together with your family, as if people panic it may create additional hazards (i.e. jumping in a vehicle and driving at speed)
- Check in on whānau and neighbours – ensure they know what to do and they are ok
- Wait and follow instructions from emergency services



If you want to know more, please contact Emergency Management Bay of Plenty advisor Meagan Edhouse via email [Meagan.Edhouse@embop.govt.nz](mailto:Meagan.Edhouse@embop.govt.nz)

## Public Consultation

### – Keen to get things moving

The Draft Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) 2024-2034, Te Mahere tūnuku ā-papa ā-rohe has been prepared by the Bay of Plenty Regional Transport Committee. The plan focuses on critical areas such as traffic congestion, public transport accessibility, community connectivity, road safety, and climate resilience. If you want to have your say about public transport such as the Kawerau bus service, please go to Bay of Plenty Regional Council [www.participate.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.participate.boprc.govt.nz).

**Submissions close on Sunday, 24 March, 2024.**



## Dog control

It has been a busy month for our dog rangers. In February the dog rangers have responded to 71 service requests comprising:

- 20 jobs related to kennel checks, microchipping, releasing dogs from the pound and infringement enquiries
- 65 service requests were related to roaming, barking and attacks

Council received four accounts of a rush and one attack on a person. The dog rangers completed a property inspection with a successful outcome and the property is now secure. One dog was impounded, and prosecution has been initiated. Seven out of ten dogs impounded in February were surrendered by their owners. Two of the dogs were picked up by their owners.

## Drinking Water Pipe Replacements

Work is continuing with the trunk main (the line that connects the Monika Lanham Reserve reservoirs with the drinking water pipes) and areas 2 and 3 in the Ballance and Onslow Street area. Unfortunately, last week there was an unplanned water shutdown in Ballance Street when one of the watermain connections was accidentally hit. Contractors and council staff try to minimise the risk of this happening using the plans, identification of lines and services and using scanners that detect tracer wires (if installed).

As new drinking water pipes are laid, the plans are updated, which will help when repairs are required in the future with more accurate data. We apologise for this interruption.

## Requests for Service

Do you have a complaint or an issue that you want resolved? Whether it is a pothole that needs fixing, a broken streetlight, or something else that needs our attention, there are multiple platforms you can use to contact Council. Contact Council by the Council website, via Facebook direct message, by phone at 07 306 9009, or by the Antenna app.

In February, Council received nine requests for services via the Antenna app! By making Council aware of the issues around the district, we can use our resources to help fix the problem.



## Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre – Manaakitanga | Respect for all

It's been a great summer, and many have enjoyed the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre – so it's a good time to reflect on the individuals who work there to keep us safe: our lifeguards. This team focuses on the safety of you, your whānau and the well-being of all swimmers. There's been two recent occasions where our lifeguards saved children's lives, so please respect them as they are there to protect you.

### How to support our lifeguards to keep the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre safe and fun for all:

- 1 Thank You: a simple "thank you" goes a long way.
- 2 Follow Rules and Guidelines: rules and guidelines help keep everyone safe.

### The most important rules as shown by the recent rescues, are:

- Children in your care five years old or younger must be an arm's distance away (at all times)
  - Children aged between six and eight years old must be within your line of sight (close by)
  - Children aged eight or younger, must not be left in any pool unattended
- 3 Be Patient and Respectful: Lifeguards work hard to ensure the safety of all swimmers.
  - 4 Spread Kindness: as a community let us show our lifeguards the appreciation they deserve.

# Easter TRADING

**If you own or manage a business – you will need to check if you can open during the Easter public holiday.**

To confirm you are eligible to open over Easter Weekend, refer to the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 (Part 1, section 4 and 4a).

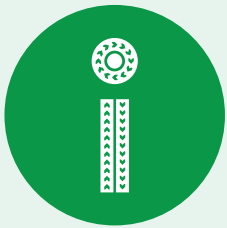
If you are uncertain about your eligibility to open your business, please contact Ministry of Business Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE)

Kawerau District Council does not have a current Easter Trading Policy. In the coming months, Council will talk with the community and business owners about a new policy that determines if we have our settings right.

In the meantime, please check out the policies above and we will be in touch again when we are reviewing the policy for 2025 and beyond.

**If you wish to know more, please contact the MBIE by email [info@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:info@mbie.govt.nz) or phone on +64 4 901 1499**

## Congratulations Kawerau isite



The Kawerau isite is a member of the Visitor Information Network Inc. (VIN Inc.). As many of you will have seen, on the Council Social Media pages and in an earlier pānui the isite has new signs, which have now been installed. VIN Inc paid for the new signage and installation.

Every month VIN Inc has a sales competition between members across New Zealand. The Kawerau site is classified under the location one category (33 sites in total – with annual sales under \$300k). Kawerau ranked first in its category for its January sales, followed by Otorohanga and Foxton isites.



*Karamia Williams (left) and Jacqui Roberts (right) in front of the newly branded isite building after winning the VIN Inc. sales competition for January*



## Kawerau Neighbourhood Support

Members of the community who have offered their support to get Kawerau Neighbourhood Support back up and running are working towards setting up a committee. Kawerau residents are now defining the committee's roles and responsibilities. Another meeting was scheduled for 19 March at Kawerau Life Konnect.

The call to action led by the Whakatāne and Regional coordinators continue to support the reinstatement of the Kawerau Neighbourhood Support group. If you wish to get involved, please contact Richard, email [nsrotorua@gmail.com](mailto:nsrotorua@gmail.com)

# Representation Review 2024- Frequently asked questions

## 1. What decisions have been made?

Our Council has already made two related decisions which are not part of this engagement process:

- 1 The First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system is being retained for the 2025 elections.
  - 2 Māori ward councillors will be established for at least the 2025 and 2028 elections.
- The representation review is the third and final step of the process required before the 2025 elections.

## 2. Where can I give my feedback for this round of early engagement?

Online survey via the Council website [kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://kaweraudc.govt.nz) or [Facebook.com/KawerauDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/KawerauDistrictCouncil)

Hard copy surveys can be handed into the isite, library or Council offices

Email [submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz)

The first round of engagement for early feedback closes on April 5, 2024.

## 3. How many people in Kawerau are on the Māori roll versus the general roll?

- 3,430 people in the Māori electoral population; 43.36% of eligible voters
- 4390 people in the general electoral population; 56.14% of eligible voters

Note: these statistics will be reflected in the number of ward seats.

## 4. Do we need to change the way our councillors are elected?

Yes. The introduction of Māori ward(s)

- means the district will have:

- General ward(s) seats elected by people on the general electoral roll
- Māori ward(s) seats elected by people on the Māori electoral roll
- There is also the option of having some councillors elected by everyone ('at-large')

## 5. What is a ward?

Wards are areas of a city, or a district identified for electoral purposes. They work in the same way as seats in a general election.

We will now have at least two wards: at least one Māori ward and at least one general ward. People can only vote for candidates in their ward, but everyone gets to vote for who they want as Mayor.

Although candidates stand for their ward area, when voted on to Council, Councillors swear an oath to work for the district as a whole.

## 6. What is a community board?

Community boards typically represent a smaller geographic area or 'community of interest' within their council/kaunihera, to ensure smaller communities' voices aren't lost in the big picture conversations | kōrero.

This would entail an extra cost as currently Kawerau district does not have any community boards.

## 7. Will it be cheaper if we have less councillors?

No, the pool of remuneration (cost) stays the same regardless of the number of councillors. The Remuneration Authority sets this budget for the district.

## 8. What do you mean by having a combination of Māori ward(s), general ward(s) and 'at large'?

With the status quo of one mayor and eight councillors this could look like three Māori ward, three general ward and two 'at large' councillors (as an example, however other numbers could be considered). (see diagram below).

## 9. Who can stand for election in a Māori ward?

Anyone can stand for election in a Māori ward, but they cannot stand for both a general and a Māori ward at the same time. Candidates in Māori ward(s) need to be nominated by two people on the Māori electoral roll in the area they are standing.

## 10. What is an 'at large' councillor?

These councillors are elected by all voters within the district – in the same way that everyone can vote for the mayor. In Kawerau, we previously elected all our councillors 'at large,' but the introduction of Māori ward(s) means we will now have both Māori and general wards.

### In a "combination" model with Māori; general and "at large" (district wide) wards who can you vote for?

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Everyone votes for



ONE MAYOR



"AT LARGE"

If you are in the General roll you vote for



GENERAL WARD

If you are in the Māori roll you vote for



MĀORI WARD

.....

**Please note:** the number of councillors in any ward or "at large" can change depending on how many councillors we choose to represent Council. Everyone can vote for one Mayor and the "at large" councillors. People on the Māori Electoral roll can only vote for the Māori ward councillors and vice versa for the general roll.