

COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

22 FEBRUARY 2024



Lifeguards presented with hero awards

Lifeguards Keelyn Wikotu (left) and Patrick Frewen's (right) watchfulness and quick reactions saved two young swimmers recently at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre.

These incidents happened on separate occasions. Both times, these men jumped into action and did what was necessary to save lives. Council has awarded Keelyn and Patrick with Lifeguard Hero Awards.

They showed the true essence of a lifeguard – dedication, courage, and commitment to ensuring the safety of all. Keelyn has been a lifeguard for five months, and Patrick for six months. Throughout their time at the pools, they have always prioritised safety.

Thank you both for your service. Their actions are a reminder to us all that lifeguards are there to ensure the safety of all pool users. We kindly request that all our whānau who use the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre, also show our lifeguards that same respect and courtesy.



For your whānau's safety at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre please ensure:

- Children five years and younger are within arm's distance at all times (you can reach them)
- Children aged between six and eight years old, must always be in your sight at all times
- Children eight and younger, must not be left in any pool unattended

MTFJ

MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

Bush Truck Train Forestry Tour

Hosted by Jacob Kajavala, Kajavala Forestry Limited (KFL) Logging.

The tour was organised by Industrial Symbiosis Kawerau (ISK) whose kaupapa is to connect industry with industry in Kawerau.

The Mayor's Task Force for Jobs (MTFJ) coordinator, Amy Hayes, accompanied local industries to watch a Pro Level Forestry Company.

Kajavala spoke of the opportunities available for rangatahi. The trip allowed the rangatahi to ask questions about the forestry industry whilst seeing the whole log supply chain.

A student from To Ara Mahi had never thought of working in the forestry industry. She had heard it was a hard, back-breaking job. After the tour, she said it was a possible career choice.

Amy Hayes thanks ISK and KFL for giving local industry and rangatahi this opportunity.

**If you would like to know more about MTFJ, please contact Amy Hayes, Phone 0274 040 550
Email Amy.Hayes@kaweraudc.govt.nz**



Rangatahi experience industry first-hand with the Mayor's Task Force for Jobs coordinator Amy Hayes.

Drinking water pipe replacement update

The next stage of our drinking water pipe renewal project is now underway.

Draintech Contractors will complete the work in the Ballance and Onslow Street area (zones 2 and 3) by late July this year.

In the lead-up to the pipe replacement, our three waters team will exercise the valves to confirm that the wai | water can be shut off. This may unfortunately, cause some temporary discolouration but the team will do their best to flush out the water after carrying out this work.

PLEASE NOTE: residents will receive 48 hours' notice via letterbox drop of any planned water shutdowns.

Drinking water pipe background:

There are approximately 77km of pipes carrying drinking water to homes in Kawerau. Work initially began to replace this network of pipes in 2010. Support from the community was received in 2021 for council to fast-track the project and replace the entire network by 2027.

Some 20 per cent or 15km of pipe has now been replaced, including along River Road, which was completed for \$1.3m last year. River Road's \$700,000 surplus funds are being used to renew the reservoir trunk main (the line connecting the Monika Lanham Reserve reservoirs with the reticulation).

This contract was awarded in October, and they are about halfway through the work.

Drinking water supply



Council is pleased to confirm we have been given approval by Māori Investment Limited to recommence the water-take from Umukaraka Spring in the near future. Council wishes to thank and acknowledge the landowners for their support.

Currently Council is completing a number of upgrades of the headworks, valves and telemetry at Umukaraka Spring. This will ensure that all resource consent conditions will be met with real-time data about the water-take flow, volume and usage. The upgrades also ensure we collect the right data to act as responsible environmental stewards. When these upgrades have been completed and the consent issued by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, the district will again have the surety of two drinking water sources from the Tarawera Bores and Umukaraka Spring.

Also this year, there will be major upgrades of the River Road pumpstation that will be rebuilt with new modern pumps and controls, linking to the new telemetry and controls of the boreholes and springs.

In addition, the water fluoridation system is being installed as directed by the Ministry of Health, along with the process change of replacing lime with sodium hydroxide for pH correction. The Ministry of Health is funding the fluoridation upgrade planned for completion by 30 June 2024.

Currently, the Tarawera Bores are providing sufficient water for the district and there are no water restrictions in place. However, in January the district's water usage increased by 6,000m³ from December to 132,760m³. With the hot weather likely to continue and only one water source currently available, we ask that residents manage their water usage responsibly. Again, there are no restrictions in place, but everyone taking care about how they use water at home makes a positive difference.

Kawerau tops real estate charts five years running

According to Real Estate NZ, Kawerau has seen the most significant growth, increasing by 261.2% during the past decade.

Kawerau remains one of New Zealand's lowest-priced districts, with an average asking price of \$443,093 in 2023, despite values quadrupling from \$122,665 in 2014.

Real Estate NZ said Kawerau was the only district that had doubled in 10 years, up by 112% in 2010.

Enabling new housing options in the area has been a council priority over the past seven-plus years, spurring demand.

Council's housing strategy is committed to its vision of creating vibrant, sustainable communities that cater to diverse needs.

Kawerau has a valuable housing market, offering an incentive for people to return home to purchase homes, to buy their first or forever homes or to embrace more flexible working arrangements and move away from more populated nearby areas such as Tauranga.



Above: Central Cove, a 31 section subdivision on the former Central School grounds.

Restricted Fire Season

The Bay of Plenty has moved to a restricted fire season from 6am on Thursday 15 February, until further notice.

A restricted season means no open-air fires can be legally lit unless a fire permit has been applied for and approved by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

The restricted fire season covers the Fire and Emergency Bay of Plenty region which includes Tokoroa, Rotorua, Central Lakes, North Central and South Plateau, Urewera, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki, Tauranga and Kawerau, as well as Tongariro and Taupō in South Waikato.

“We ask anyone considering lighting a fire to please visit www.checkitsalright.nz This tool enables you to check what fire season your area is in, provides safety tips if you are able to light a fire, and access to apply for a fire permit.”

isite Rebrand and New Signage



A gateway for those who seek. A place through which our manuhiri | visitors travel to discover the magic of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and beyond.

The isite's logo is changing across Aotearoa New Zealand. By changing the logo, they hope to capture their brand values better. From when manuhiri | visitors arrive till when they leave, the isite team wants to welcome them into our district as if they were guests in our home. Walk in a visitor. Leave an explorer. The new logo symbolises the movement of people through our spaces. The invitation into our place. Our place, where you journey – Aotearoa, New Zealand. Then, finally, as you leave, both yourself and our place are greatly enriched.

Tarawera Falls visits rise

So far, Kawerau has had a great summer. Over the last two months, Kawerau has had 404 hours and 12 minutes of sun. The highest temperature was 32.8 degrees. Compared to the previous year, the hot days and clear skies have been a welcomed change and enjoyed by most.

The isite has witnessed a surge in visitors seeking access permits for Tarawera Falls, with an impressive 529 permits issued in recent months. The increase in activity shows a growing love for our district's natural beauty and walks.

Due to health and safety concerns with logging in the Tarawera Forest, from Monday, 31 October 2022, Māori Investments Limited (MIL) has made the decision not to issue any visitor permits for the Tarawera Falls during the weekdays (Monday - Friday). Permits will only be issued for weekends and public holidays. Tarawera access permits can only be purchased in-store at the isite.

It's important to remember access to the Tarawera Falls is a privilege, not a right. The landowners responsibly control access timeframes. For more information, please refer to our website.

Dog control

Our dog rangers have been putting in the hard mahi | work recently. Over December and January, the dog rangers have responded to 152 service requests.

- 42 jobs over the past two months have been related to kennel checks, microchipping, releasing dogs from the pound and infringement enquiries
- 111 service requests were related to roaming, barking and attacks

During the past two months, there have been a few issues involving attacks on people and animals. Handled on a case-by-case basis, these issues have resulted in some dogs being impounded or surrendered, warnings being issued to owners and property inspections being completed.

Five of the seven dogs impounded in December were surrendered by their owners. In January, a further 21 dogs were impounded (11 surrendered by their owners) and 10 dogs were rehomed/fostered.



Kawerau Neighbourhood Support



Late last year, Council put the call out for people interested to help get the Kawerau Neighbourhood Support committee back up and running. There have been several indications of interest, and the plan is now that a new committee will be formed. In Kawerau, some 900 households are already signed up to be part of the Neighbourhood Support Network. If you wish to get involved please contact Richard, email nsrotorua@gmail.com

Library summer reading programme

The library has recently finished its summer reading programme that focused on science, technology, and research. The popularity of the library's reading programmes continue with 145 reading bags picked up within days of the launch. During December, there were a lot of Christmas and New Year themed activities for the rangatahi to enjoy. Also in December, a recipe-swapping contest was held via the District Library Facebook page. This was also popular and eight lucky winners received prizes donated by Kawerau New World. The most popular activities in January were scent detection, LEGO and digging for dinosaur fossils.



Parks and reserve team

Council has resumed the tree maintenance programme. The parks and reserves team are getting trained by contracted arborists and learning skills such as maintaining or cutting trees. The programme means that the parks and reserves team can assist in removing trees at the waste transfer station and other reserve areas.

The team has also supported waste management in processing green waste materials and developing processing methods.



Above: The parks and reserves team has been working hard to ensure the summer flower bedding is maintained and looks beautiful for the community.

Vandalism

Vandalism and graffiti continue to be an ongoing issue and an increasing cost for Council. There were five incidences of graffiti covering an area of 9 m². The graffiti was on Council owned walls and properties. The total cost was \$362 to remove. There has also been an increase in bollards at the reserves, broken or damaged.



Applications closed on Friday 16 February for the Kawerau Youth Council 2024. Thank you to everyone who put their name forward. With the support of the Council youth projects officer JJ Rika, the process of interviewing and selection will now take place. Watch this space for announcements in the coming issues.



Recycling made easy

Recycling in Aotearoa has become easier with the same recycling rules in place wherever you are in New Zealand.

We **can now** recycle plastics numbered **1, 2 and 5**, glass bottles and jars, Cardboard, paper, tins, and cans.

What does Kawerau District Council no longer accept:

1. Aluminum foil or trays
2. Aerosols (like fly spray or spray deodorant)
3. Lids
4. Small plastics or papers (nothing smaller than a Hummus pot or Post-it notes)
5. Large plastic or metal cans (nothing over 4 litres)

Please ensure all items are rinsed and food scraps and lids are removed before recycling.

To learn more about what you can recycle, please visit our Council website.

KADAP Co-ordinator

Flexible hours per week. Salary commensurate with hours.

Kawerau and Districts Ageing in Place Incorporated (KADAP) is looking for a new coordinator. This person should be community-focused with excellent life, organisational, collaborative, computing and promotional skills to take on this busy, exciting role working with our team of volunteers.

A community health or similar qualification and background in the Not-for-Profit sector are advantageous but optional. Ideally, the person resides in the Kawerau area and has their own transport.

The successful applicant must undergo Police Vetting and hold a full current driver's licence.

Please email a cover letter and CV to helen.stewart54@me.com. A Position Description is available on request. The closing date is **4pm on Friday 8th March**.

For more information, please contact KADAP Board Members.

Meetings and Important Dates

February 7 to March 1 Breast Screening in the Kawerau Medical Centre Carpark by BreastScreen Midlands. Please call their freephone, 0800 270 200 or for more information please visit, www.timetoscreen.nz

February 23 Rates due for payment by 5pm

February 28 Ordinary Council Meeting at 9am

February 29 Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre and the Transfer Station are closing at 3pm

March 13 Regulatory and Services Committee

March 27 Ordinary Council Meeting Committee

2 April to 2 May Long Term Plan special consultation period