

COMMUNITY UPDATE

9 AUGUST 2023



Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive's Message

Tēnā tatou katoa – warm greetings to you all in our community of Kawerau and welcome to the August issue of the Council's Community Update. The ongoing issues of high groundwater levels has continued to be challenging for residents in the Hardie Avenue area. The passive drainage systems have been completed and we are heartened some residents have seen a reduction in water levels on their properties. The external drainage engineers who are working with us on this project are advising the best plans to reinstate drainage on Hilldale Reserve and also on the farmland behind homes.

We are also pleased to complete the drainage for a section of River Road by the Transfer Station Road experiencing similar issues with groundwater levels. The next step is to repair this section of road and footpath areas.

Last year, Council was directed by Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) to fluoridate the drinking water supply to improve oral health. The issues with discoloured water have delayed this project. Council has now awarded the tender and plans to have the work completed later this year.

Congratulations also to two of our longest-serving employees Erika Valk and Susan Harris, both from the District Library team who are celebrating 35 and 30 years of service respectively. Thank you for your commitment and loyalty to our community.

Looking ahead, Council is starting the groundwork on the 10-year plan that Council must complete every three years. This Long Term Plan 2024-2034 outlines Council's activities, services and projects for the district; and how these will be funded: from rates, user pays and other funding sources.

Next week, a survey will be delivered to all residents (also available online). What will Kawerau be like in 10 years? What will Council do to bring about that change?

We look forward to your feedback to help us plan and prioritise what you want for Kawerau.

Ngā mihi nui, Russell George

IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Long Term Plan 2024-2034
- ▶ River Road Drainage Works
- ▶ Congratulations to Erica Valk and Susan Harris for Long Service
- ▶ Council Briefs
- ▶ Upcoming Events and Meetings

Fluoridation



Kawerau District Council had been directed by Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) to fluoridate the drinking water supply by 30 June 2023. Work was delayed due to the

unexpected levels of manganese causing discoloured drinking water from early January to May 2023. Since then, the tender has been awarded to Trility – an Australian-based company specialising in engineering

and water services. Trility has completed several similar projects in New Zealand and internationally.

Funded by the Manatū Hauora, this project should be completed by the end of 2023.

In conjunction with the fluoridation project, Council will also be completing major water pump replacements. The current pumps which were originally donated by the (former) Tasman Pulp and Paper Mill, are around sixty years old. The upgrade will make waterflow more efficient and economical.

Three Waters Reform Update

The re-set in April of the Government's Three Waters' Reform has Kawerau as part of the Bay of Plenty Water Service Entity. This means Kawerau water assets would be managed by an entity covering Kawerau, Rotorua, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki, Tauranga and Western Bay. Discussions are underway between these councils about when the entity would be stood up and also what the entity would look like.

.....

Long Term Plan 2024-2034

Council is starting work on the plan for the next 10 years – which we call the Long Term Plan 2024-2034. This will set the direction for all activities and services we provide; and outlines how Council will pay for them.

It's still early days in the planning process - but we want to hear what's important to you, our community. Look out for links to an online survey to give feedback about the direction and priorities you want Council to deliver for our community.

.....

River Road Drainage Works



The drainage work at River Road beside Transfer Station Road has been completed. This flooding was due to high groundwater levels after the high summer rainfall levels. The passive drainage systems installed will assist with moving the water from these areas. The next stage of this project is repairing the section of road, footpath, kerb and channelling that was badly damaged due to the flooding. Council wishes to thank residents for their patience while this work has been completed. The next stage of rebuilding the road will impact traffic movements and we apologise in advance for the inconvenience.

Civil Defence Group Plan Review – Open for Submissions

The Group Plan is a strategic document about how the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group works with the community before, during and after emergencies. The emergency management plan is for all the councils in the Bay of Plenty region, the joint committee is chaired by Mayor Faylene Tunui. Submission forms are available online at www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/GroupPlan. **Submissions close Sunday 13 August 2023.**

Waterhouse Street Gate Hours Change

The new Waterhouse Street gate hours will be from 7am - 8.30pm as of Monday 31 July 2023

Thanks to Māori Investments Limited for updating us as to the new gate hours.

Some reminders regarding Tarawera Falls access:

- Vehicle access to Tarawera Falls requires an access permit. Tarawera Falls Permits can be obtained in person from the Kawerau site.
- Tarawera Falls access permits are only available during weekends and public holidays at the moment - due to forestry operations taking place during weekdays.

For any further enquiries please call (07) 323 6300 or email infocentre@kaweraudc.govt.nz



Kawerau Employment Expo

**30
AUGUST**

10am-2pm TOWN HALL

We are excited to announce that the Kawerau Employment Expo will be held on Wednesday 30 August after the event was initially postponed in June. The expo will feature a VR (virtual reality) headset to explore different industries, along with numerous information stalls to help students and job seekers to network and learn more about different careers. This event is open to all ages.

The Employment Expo will be held at the Town Hall from 10am – 2pm.

If you are a business that wants to register a stall at the expo – please contact Craig at Craig.Hammond009@msd.govt.nz

Rangi Delamere Pavilion Update



After some delays which meant construction stopped temporarily at the Rangi Delamere Pavilion, the rebuild is underway once again.

Congratulations

Erica Valk and Susan Harris for Your Long Service

Kawerau District Council gives thanks to Erica Valk for serving 35 years at the library, and to Susan Harris for serving 30 years at the library as manager.

About halfway through Erica's sixth form of school, Erica was keen to move on and had her eye on her next step. Erica's mother noticed the job at the library advertised and prompted Erica to apply. What started for Erica as a simple job opportunity at 17 years old, turned into a passion for serving the community through books and knowledge.

Susan, on the other hand, had an unexpected start at the library. Whilst working at Victoria University in Wellington, Susan casually browsed job listings and stumbled upon the Library Manager role. Susan then applied on a whim, and to her surprise, liked the opportunity so much, she ended up taking the job.

Little did Erica and Susan know that their decision would set them on a path to contributing significantly to the library's growth and development.

Changing with the times:

Both Erica and Susan witnessed and were part of the library's evolution, particularly in terms of technology. From video tapes to DVDs and now streaming services, the library has adapted to meet the ever-changing preferences of its patrons.

Erica and Susan recall the time when the library was among the first in New Zealand to offer free internet access to the community.

Today, the library serves as a multifunctional hub, blending the best of technology and the warmth of a traditional reading space.

Community focused:

Throughout the years, the Kawerau District Library has been an essential part of the community. Erica and Susan credit much of the library's uniqueness to the people they serve. Some customers have been visiting the library since Erica's early days and now bring their children and grandchildren.

The communities' support and understanding, even during challenging times such as Covid-19, have kept the library thriving.

Thank you, Erica and Susan, for 35 and 30 years of dedicated service to the Kawerau District Library.



From left: Susan and Erica in their early days together at Kawerau District Library in 1994.



From left: Erica and Susan at the Kawerau District Library today in 2023.

Tarawera Freshwater Management Unit Community Drop-In

Late last month, Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) held a community consultation drop-in session on updating regional freshwater rules in Kawerau, with a specific focus on the Tarawera River.

Around twenty members of the public attended the Freshwater drop-in session at the Kawerau Bowling club. Specialists in science, land management and planning were available to answer questions and hear feedback on the draft policy options to improve waterways in the Tarawera group of catchments or Freshwater Management Unit.

If you missed the community drop-in session but still want to have your say on the upcoming freshwater rule changes, you can make a submission online at www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/Essential-Freshwater

For a more detailed breakdown of the potential rule changes, head to www.boprc.govt.nz/freshwater



Council Briefs



Dog Registrations

Thank you to all residents who have registered and paid for their favourite furry friends.

How's the wai | water at your place?

Our Three Water's testing shows that the issue of higher manganese levels causing the drinking water to discolour earlier this year has been removed due to changing the water source.

We are currently only using water from the Tarawera Bores, after testing showed that the Te Wai o Marukaa Spring (PumpHouse Spring) had increased levels of manganese which were responsible for the browning of the water once it combined with the chlorine used to treat the water quality.

With the ongoing replacement of drinking water pipes in town (now in Fenton Street area) - there may be some temporary discolouration once the new water pipes are connected, but that should only be short-term.

Please keep in touch with us, as always, for any issues about water please contact Council on 07 306 9009; email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz or via the website and our Antenna app.



Antenna Antenna is a free mobile app that sends you notifications and alerts about what is going on in Kawerau – and other areas you care about.

If you notice an issue around the district, you can report it to Council straight away – and even include useful details such as a photo of what you have seen. Council then receives your request and can get onto it fast.

Antenna is available from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. If you need some assistance with downloading and/or using Antenna, please come and see our staff at the library or site where our friendly team can help.

Rates Instalment 1 Due Date

The 2023-2024 rates instalment 1 notices have been sent out.

If you have not received your rates notice yet, or your contact details have changed, please contact our customer services team on 07 306 9009 or visit the Council Office.

If you have set up a direct debit for your rates, the direct debit payment will go out on Wednesday, 23 August 2023.

Rates are due for payment by 5pm Friday, 25 August 2023. Penalties for unpaid rates will be applied from Monday 28 August 2023.

If you currently receive your rates notice via post and want to change to receiving via email, please contact our customer services team on 07 306 9009.

Rates Rebates Applications

Rates rebate applications are now open for the 2023-2024 rating year. The maximum rebate allowed is now \$750.00

You can check your eligibility and apply for a rates rebate online at www.kaweraudc.govt.nz

Exeloo Toilets Out of Order

The Exeloo toilets (located next to the children's playground at the Tarawera Mall) are currently out of order.

The doors of the Exeloo toilets have been repeatedly vandalised to the stage where they no longer lock or function properly.

The Exeloo toilets are expected to be out of order for approximately the next month, as Council completes the repairs.

In the meantime, please use the toilets over at the Kawerau isite or Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre.

Council will be meeting with Kawerau Accessibility Group to discuss ways to make the toilets more accessible for wheelchair users and to make the doors easier to open and close.



Upcoming Events And Meetings

10 August to 2 September Long Term Plan Early Engagement

16 August Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting, Council Chambers, 9am

25 August Young Achievers Award Ceremony, Kawerau Town Hall, 4.30pm

30 August Ordinary Council Meeting
Council Chambers, 9.00am

30 August Kawerau Careers Expo
Kawerau Town Hall, 10am