

Kawerau District Council newsletter - April 2017



Fun day at FLOWQUEST



New plant to create jobs in Kawerau

A particle board plant planned for Kawerau is expected to bring 100 jobs to the district.

The Chinese-based Guangxi Fenglin Wood Industry Group has announced plans to establish the plant, to be built on Putauaki Trust land adjoining SH34, within two years. It will produce 600,000 cubic metres of panel boards a year for export to China.

Glenn says a number of factors led to the group's decision to invest in Kawerau.

"The district location and proximity to the Port of Tauranga, the rail connections and the available land all played a part. Putauaki Trust had the foresight to rezone 70ha of land as industrial, and it's great to be

working with them on this exciting venture."

The plant will be built next to the intended site for the proposed container terminal, also on Putauaki Trust land, and will be as environmentally friendly as possible.

"The Fenglin Group has a strong sense of social and economic values, and makes every effort to ensure its plants have low environmental impact," Glenn says.

This was important to the Putauaki Trust, in terms of kaitiakitanga and cultural standards. Trust chairman Tiaki Hunia says the trust board was very impressed with the Fenglin Group's commitment to environmental sustainability and looks forward to a positive

long-term partnership.

Overseas Investment Office approval and other consents now need to be obtained, but if everything goes to plan the plant should be fully operational by 2019.

The Fenglin Group is committed to training for its employees, and a dedicated programme will be implemented closer to the project's completion. Malcolm says this will be of huge benefit to the Kawerau district, where there has traditionally been a shortage of training and job opportunities.

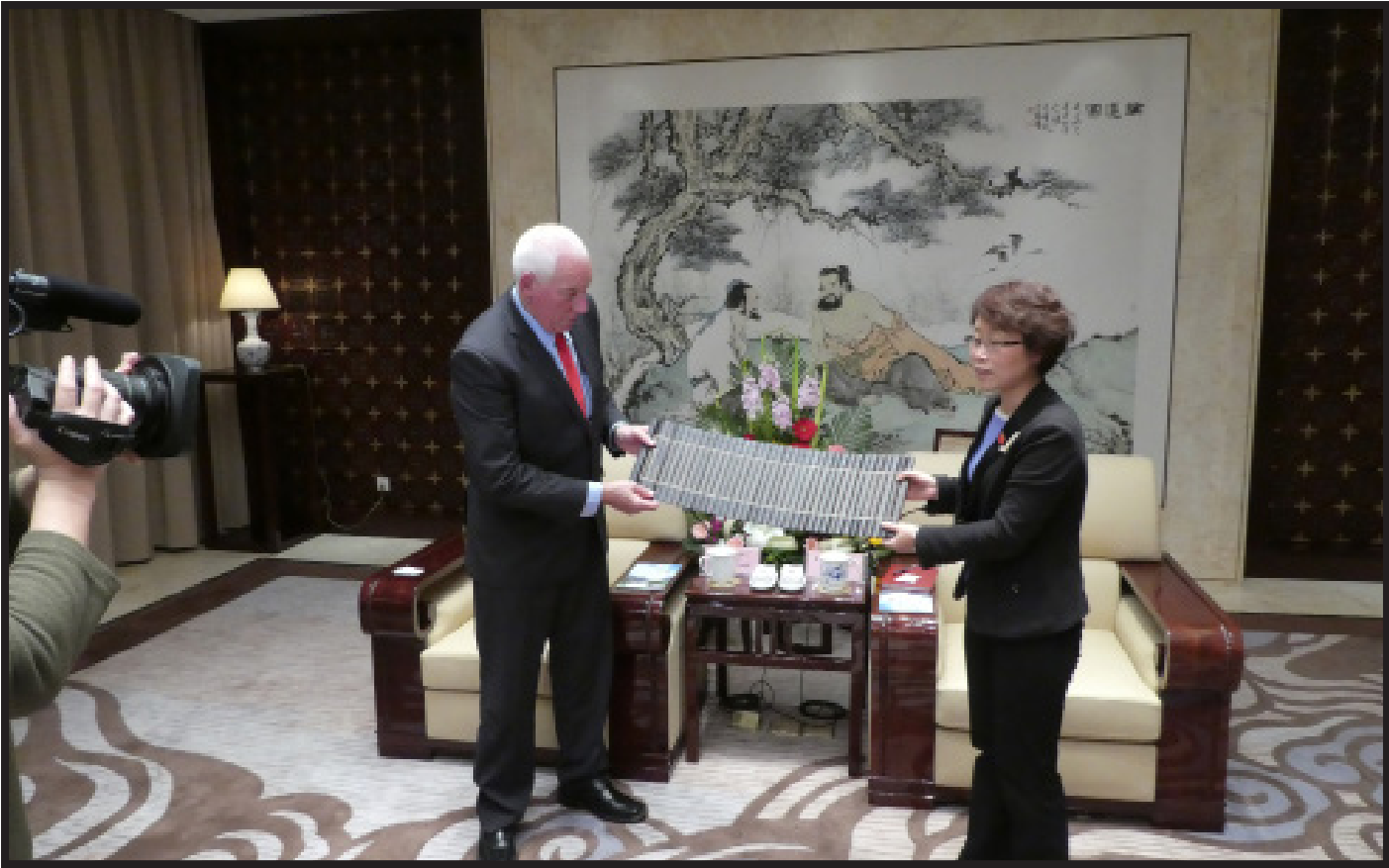
The group is also committed to becoming part of the Kawerau community and will work closely with local representatives into the future.



Above: Kawerau District Council economic and community development manager Glenn Sutton and chief executive Russell George, mayor Malcolm Campbell and councillor Chris Marjoribanks tour the Fenglin Group's Huizhou particle board plant on a recent visit to China.

Right: The New Zealand delegation, comprising representatives from Kawerau District Council, central government and the Putauaki Trust as well as economic development and international relations consultants, was warmly welcomed during its visit to China in March.





China visit paves way for future developments

During a recent visit to Nanning, China to meet with representatives of the Fenglin Group, which plans to build a particle board plant in Kawerau, mayor Malcolm Campbell, councillor Chris Marjoribanks, council chief executive Russell George and economic and community development manager Glenn

Sutton also travelled to the Jiangxi province to meet with its government.

This gave the Kawerau delegation an ideal opportunity to develop a relationship between Chinese government officials and Eastern Bay of Plenty councils.

This relationship could offer

both parties educational, tourism and economic development opportunities.

The mayor of the Jiangxi province was among the officials the group met with.

“The meeting went well and has opened the door to future development opportunities for Kawerau,” Glenn says.

Above: Kawerau mayor Malcolm Campbell and Yingtang Municipal People’s Government secretary/ mayor Cao Shumin meet with a view to developing educational, economic development and tourism opportunities in both places.

Upcoming meetings

**Council: Wednesday, April 26, 9am
(deferred by a day due to Anzac Day on Tuesday, April 25).**

**Regulatory and Services Committee:
Tuesday, May 16, 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/)**

Edgcumbe floods,



Clockwise from top: Civil Defence (welfare) manager Sandy Hohepa worked tirelessly during the response period to ensure flood victims and other volunteers had everything they needed.

An aerial shot of the flooding in Edgcumbe.

Edgcumbe evacuees were housed, fed and watered at Kawerau's Rautahi Marae.

April 2017



People are satisfied, survey shows

A recent survey has shown that the local community is highly satisfied with Kawerau District Council. Conducted by the National Research Bureau, the phone survey asked more than 200 residents to rate council services, facilities and overall performance, and to share their views about local issues.

The three-yearly survey combines positive responses of "fairly" and "very" satisfied into a percentage figure to obtain overall satisfaction scores. It also compares our responses with a peer group of other urban

councils and a national average obtained from a sample of 1000 interviews. Survey findings are shown below. Results are used to measure and improve how the council delivers services to the community. This year's ratings show improvement in more than half of council services and facilities since 2014 and indicate a high level of satisfaction with council performance. The ratings for quality of life, community safety and how much Kawerau has improved over the past three years is probably the most pleasing result of all.

1. Satisfaction with Council Services/Facilities

| | Fairly/very satisfied % | Peer group average % | National average % |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Water supply | 96 | 88 | 81 |
| Wastewater (sewage disposal) | 91 | 88 | 81 |
| Recycling services | 95 | 82 | 81 |
| Rubbish collection | 95 | 84 | 81 |
| Refuse disposal | 81 | 65 | 64 |
| Dog control | 69 | 75 | 73 |
| Roading | 97 | 76 | 25 |
| Public swimming pools | 90 | 68 | 68 |
| Public library | 84 | 87 | 86 |
| Community attractiveness and beautification | 100 | 81 | 82 |
| Parks and reserves | 96 | 94 | 93 |
| Public halls | 75 | 60 | 62 |
| Museum | 63 | 79 | 71 |
| Footpaths | 85 | 76 | 72 |
| Cemetery | 71 | 68 | 71 |
| Public toilets | 54 | 65 | 67 |

2. Satisfaction with Council performance

| | Fairly/very satisfied % | Peer group average % | National average % |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| The way rates are spent | 93 | 69 | 70 |
| Performance of the Mayor and Councillors | 87 | 46 | 49 |
| Performance of Council staff | 86 | 55 | 57 |
| Community involvement in Council decisions | 86 | 44 | 45 |
| Council consultation and community involvement | 67 | 44 | 45 |
| Council has a good reputation | 93 | 53 | 57 |

3. Local Issues

| | Agree % | Peer group average % | National average % |
|---|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| The quality of life in Kawerau is very good | 59 | 37 | 41 |
| Community spirit in Kawerau is very good | 43 | 22 | 25 |
| Kawerau is definitely a safe place to live | 47 | 32 | 36 |
| Kawerau is a better place to live than it was three years ago | 53 | 37 | 38 |

Councillor

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Volunteers enabling a safer community

The Kawerau Community Patrol is a voluntary group of men and women who give some of their time to help the Police make Kawerau safer. The group is looking for new members so that it can provide patrols on more nights each week.

The Community Patrol acts as 'eyes and ears' for the Police by doing patrols around town. Patrol members work in pairs and call in Police as and when needed. The group has its own marked vehicle and uses Police radio and cell phones. Patrols are also carried out on foot at events such as Christmas in the Park, King of the Mountain, Woodfest and kayaking competitions, usually at night.

To join patrols you need a clean driver's licence and a clean vetting by NZ Police. You must be keen to join a happy group and have good eyesight and hearing and a spare 2-3 hours per patrol night.

Full training is given and Community Patrols of NZ shirts and jackets are issued to members for patrolling.

If you want to make a difference in your community or just find out more about us, please contact Russ Torrie on (07) 323 7419 or Wendy Peri on 027 230 5124.

Annual plan - time for feedback is running out

If you want to let Council know your thoughts on our proposed 2017/2018 Annual Plan, you have until 12 noon this Monday (May 1) to do so.

This is your chance to give feedback about our proposed upgrade of Jellicoe and Ranfurly Courts, housing improvement initiatives, residential expansion, tourism development, economic development, organisational development and water supply initiatives.

These are set out, along with our rates proposals, in the consultation document that was delivered to all Kawerau households. It is also available from the council office and at www.kaweraudc.govt.nz.

Submissions can be made by post, email or delivered to Council.

KAWERAU COMMUNITY AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to the Kawerau Community?

If so, please let us know

Nominations are invited for the second annual Kawerau Community Awards. There are four categories of Awards:

- Volunteer Work
- Group Contribution
- Contribution by a Young Person
- Community Impact

Awards criteria and nomination forms are available from the District Office, the District Library and Council's website: <http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz>.

Nominations close at 12 noon on Friday 26 May 2017. Awards will be presented during National Volunteer Week (18 – 24 June 2017).

Malcolm Campbell JP
MAYOR

Advice for staying safe on Eastern Bay roads

School goes back next week, which means now is a good time to remind everyone to watch out for children on the roads. When picking up or dropping off your children please remember to ensure children get in and out on the footpath side of the car.

Walk to the school gate with your children in the mornings. After school, meet them at the gate and walk them to the car.

Park safely, well away from yellow lines,



in intersections and driveways.

Everyone should be careful driving in school zones and adhere to lower speed limits in those areas. Drive slowly outside schools and be prepared for surprises. Never double park outside a school and take extra care on wet days.

Please encourage your children not to ride bikes in the town centre and ensure they are aware of older people, those with disabilities and pedestrians in general when on their bikes.

Kawerau District



Do you or your club have a project that...

- *Has an arts focus*
- *Will benefit the local community*
- *Will not commence before your application has been assessed and approved*
- *Will be completed within 12 months of funding approval*
- *Has not already received funding from Creative New Zealand for the same project*

Then this scheme could be for you!!

Application forms and guidelines are available from Council's website www.kaweraudc.govt.nz, Council Office or the Library.

Please contact the Administration Officer, telephone 307 9009 or email ella.howies@kaweraudc.govt.nz for further details or to answer any queries and/or assist with completing the application form.

Applications close 5.00pm on Friday, 12 May 2017