

COMMUNITY UPDATE

4 April 22



**Don't wait,
vaccinate**



**Unite
against
COVID-19**

CURRENT KAWERAU COVID-19 TRAFFIC LIGHT SETTING: RED



▶ From the Mayor

Challenging times continue with the pandemic taking hold in the district and the country. Families, businesses and organisations continue to be impacted as Covid-19 cases increase.

At Council, we have continued to provide all services up until recently when we had to close the pools for two consecutive weekends and we continue to have short closures during lunchtimes to manage staff shift rotations.

What is noticeable is how well our community has pulled together to provide support.

I would like to applaud the Kawerau Collective and the many organisations and individuals for supporting others during this difficult time.

The Government recent announcement signalled an easing of restrictions and mandates, from 4 April 2022 onwards.

Even in red setting, this easing of restrictions will mean no caps on outdoor events and sports and an increase to 200 people indoors.

Council has since reviewed its requirement for vaccine requirements and in line with the government's direction, has removed the requirement for My Vaccine Passes at all Council facilities (more info inside this newsletter).

We still require people to wear a mask inside our indoor facilities, and we will continue to hold Council meetings via zoom, so there will be no public attendance yet.

Meanwhile, challenging times continue as we plan for the future in the face of government reforms.

These Three Waters, Local Government, Resource Management and Civil Defence Emergency Management reforms entail significant workloads and challenges to our organisation, on top of Covid-19 issues.

Another challenge we are faced with in the 2022-2023 year is how maintain our levels of service to our district without our largest industrial ratepayer.

For many years, Norske Skog and its predecessors contributed greatly to the economic well-being of the district, region and the nation. In addition, it was a huge supporter of the community and organisations in many ways.

The closure leaves a big deficit in rating income for the district.

This comes at a time where Kawerau is on the cusp of further economic development, thanks to the injection of Provincial Growth Funding.

The Kawerau Container Terminal is nearing fruition, the off-highway road construction starts soon and many service and engineering industries are experiencing a boom.

In addition, Pūtauaki Trust land has been developed and opened up by the roundabout and associated roadways. This land, situated opposite the container terminal offers businesses and industry prime opportunity.

In turn, this will offer our district more employment and prosperity. But the pandemic has hit many hard, and business confidence and inflation rates may determine how quickly these wheels turn.

As we prepare the Annual Plan for the 2022-2023 year, we face some hard decisions.

We will keep you informed as we move closer to the consultation process in April and May.

The easing of Covid-19 restrictions means we can meet with our community face-to-face as planned, in addition to information in this newsletter, our website and social media.

**Nga mihi,
Malcolm Campbell**

IN THIS ISSUE

▶ REMEMBERING BARRY LIDDLE

▶ RENAMING STREETS

▶ COVID-19 TESTING AND CLINICS

▶ COUNCIL REVIEWED MVP

▶ BOPRC TO COLLECT OWN RATES

OUR CONDOLENCES

I wish to acknowledge the falling of a mighty totara tree with the passing of Barry Liddle recently.

A family man and long-serving member of the district for many decades, Barry's contribution to many voluntary organisations and events has been immense.

Barry is known as a 'go to man' who could make anything happen and fix anything anywhere. Many organisations and events benefitted from Barry's 'can do attitude' including athletics, show jumping, Tarawera Ultra marathon and more. Those who worked alongside Barry enjoyed his dry wit and humour.

On behalf of Council, I wish to express our sincere and deepest condolences to Yvonne, Jennifer and Matt, Wayne and Stacey, Alison and Mark and Alan and Emily and the extended whānau.

A most appropriate saying that fully represents all that Barry meant to the community of Kawerau.

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people

RIP Barry Liddle

STREET RENAMING FOR TE ARIKI PLACE AND MAWAKE RD

Background:

In 2020, during a scheduled engagement hui with Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Kaumātua and Council Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa (Boycie) Te Rire regarding street names for the district's two new developments, the issue of existing street names was raised.

There was agreement from Council and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Kaumātua that the two street names – Mawake Road and Te Ariki Place – would be corrected to reflect the tipuna (ancestors) that they were named after.

Te Ariki Place was named after Tūwharetoa's grandmother Hine Te Ariki, so the name 'Hine' should be part of the road name to make this clear.

Similarly, the full name of Mawake Road, named after Tūwharetoa's father, should be Mawake Taupō Road.

The existing street names will be renamed to:

- **Te Ariki Place to be renamed: Hine Te Ariki**
- **Mawake Road to be renamed: Mawake Taupō Road**

Although there is no street renaming policy, Council has advised the residents of the two streets via letter in December and again last week. Toitū Te Whenua (Land Information New Zealand) and New Zealand Post have been advised of the impending change.

There will be an ceremony and karakia by Tūwharetoa Kaumātua to unveil the signs on Tuesday, 12 April starting at 12 noon at Mawake Taupō, followed by the unveiling at Hine Te Ariki Place.

Nau mai haere mai – all welcome to attend.

ANNUAL PLAN 2022-2023

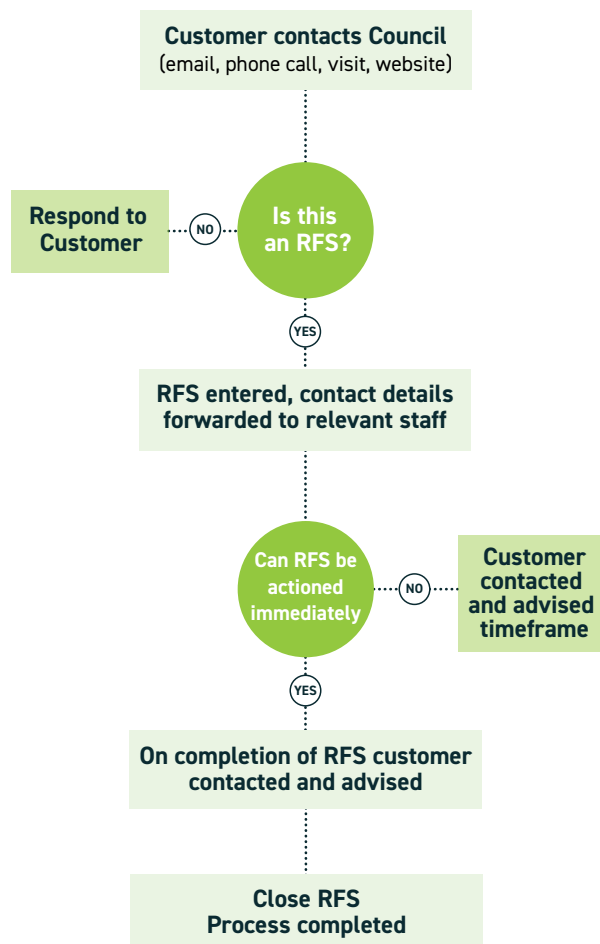
Council is working on the 2022-2023 Annual Plan. This is year two of the Long Term Plan Draft dates:

12 April	Council receive the 2022-23 budget and consultation document
13 April	Engagement commences and Submissions open
17 May	Submissions Close
24 May	Council Hear Submissions
31 May	Council Consider Submissions
28 June	Council adopts Annual Plan



REQUEST FOR SERVICE PROCESS

Council operates a Request for Service process to ensure that issues and problems raised by the public are logged and actioned. The following process is what happens after Council is contacted by the public



COVID-19 VACCINATIONS, TESTING AND RAT COLLECTION



VACCINATIONS AND BOOSTERS

Standard vaccination clinic times are:

Every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday

- Monday - 9.00AM - 4.00PM at the Concert Chambers.
- Wednesday - 1.00PM - 7.00PM at the Concert Chambers.
- Saturday - 10.00AM - 4.00PM Drive-Through at the Rec Centre Carpark



COVID-19 TESTING

Feeling māiuiui / sick?

Need to get a COVID-19 test but don't know where to go?

If you wish to have some help ordering the Rapid Antigen Tests or more information about how to use them, pop down to the collection point weekdays from 11am until 2pm and ask the team.



RAPID ANTIGEN TEST COLLECTIONS

For people who have ordered their RAT kit online, you are able to collect the kit from outside the Town Hall from 11am - 2pm every day this week except Saturday.

You must show proof of your order to the administration team in order to collect. You can do this by showing your online order number.

To order your RAT kit online please visit here - <https://requestrats.covid19.health.nz/> or you can ring 0800 222 478 (select option 3) from 8am to 8pm.

Council will continue to keep you updated on any further updates or changes.

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS EASE

From 11:59pm Friday 25 March:

- Indoors/Hospitality numbers increase to 200
- Outdoor Events – No limit on numbers
- Outdoor mask wearing no longer a requirement
- QR Code scanning no longer needed

Council Reviews

My Vaccine Pass Requirement



At a meeting on Tuesday, 29 March 2022 Kawerau District Council agreed to remove the requirement for My Vaccine Passes on entry to all indoor-staffed areas from 11.59pm on 4 April.

This decision is in line with the government's recent announcement that said, "with Omicron nearing its peak and the number of vaccinated people in the community it's the right time to review the restrictions we have in place."

Council agreed that the focus is to ensure Council can continue to provide all essential services and make them as accessible as possible for everyone in the community.

However, Council will retain the requirement for all customers to wear masks indoors. In addition, indoor capacity limits will remain in Council venues in line with the Red setting of the Covid-19 Protection Framework.

Which Council Facilities are impacted?

From 8.00am on Tuesday, 5 April 2022, the My Vaccine Pass requirements will no longer be required for:

- Council Offices and Neighbouring Council Building
- i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
- Kawerau District Library and Museum
- Maurie Kjar Memorial Swimming Pools Complex

Please remember that our district is yet to experience the peak of Covid-19 cases. Council has put continuity plans in place, to ensure that we can maintain all services, with a focus on essential services like Three Waters and kerbside rubbish removal and recycling.

However, there may still be impacts and short lunchtime closures to ensure that we can continue offer services and we apologise in advance.

What does this mean?

- From 11.59pm on April 4 there will be no requirements for people to use my vaccine pass (even if the country remains in red).
- The reason for the removal of the MVP requirements is the high level of vaccinated New Zealanders and the features of the Omicron variant.
- Council will continue to ask people to wear masks indoors as this protects our staff and other customers.
- Other than the reception area, in red, the public will not be able to enter staffed areas of the Council Offices.
- Council Meetings will continue to be held via zoom, therefore the public are not able to attend.
- The requirement for scanning in becomes optional. QR codes will remain for those who wish to maintain their personal diary.
- Please stay at home in you are unwell, and contact your health provider to organise a test.

BOPRC RATES SCHEME

From 1 July 2022, the rates invoice you receive from us will exclude Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) rates, which will be processed separately by the regional council.

Kawerau District Council will no longer be invoicing and collecting these rates on their behalf. This will mean that the rates invoice that you receive from us in August will be for our rates only.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council will send you their separate rates invoice in September; this will be due for payment on 20 October. They will only send one invoice for the entire rating year.

RATES INSTALMENT 4

Rates instalment notices will be sent later in April.

Rates are due for payment by 5pm Friday, 20 May 2022.

Rates can be paid in a variety of ways, including direct debit, online banking, via phone with a direct debit/credit card, via the Council website kaweraudc.govt.nz/pay-rates or in the office with cash or EFTPOS.

Contact Council on 07 306 9009 to discuss payment options.

UPCOMING ROAD WORKS FOR THE DISTRICT

Council is completing a number of road works in the district including reseals, asphalt and pavement treatment work. This work will be weather dependent. Please take care on the roads, drive to the temporary speed limits and keep the road workers safe.

Reseals

- Manukorihi Drive – intersection SH34
- Fletcher Ave – intersection SH34-first side road
- River Road – intersection SH34-to bypass lane as well as bypass lane

Asphalt

- Valley/Fenton Mill Rd Roundabout

Pavement Treatment

- Glasgow Street



TRUST HORIZON SUPPORTS MARAE AND COMMUNITY HALLS AFFECTED BY COVID-19 WITH



Covid-19 has greatly affected the region's community gathering facilities (such as Marae's and Community Halls) with gathering restrictions. This has caused the facility's funds that go towards energy bills to be impacted.

Eligible applicants need to be located in the Eastern Bay. They must be either iwi authorities (on behalf of their marae) or committees operating community halls whose electricity costs are not funded by the district councils.

Applications will be considered at each monthly Trust meeting, and grants will continue to be available until 1 April 2023, or until the \$150,000 funding pool is fully allocated.

Those who wish to apply can visit <https://www.trusthorizon.org.nz/> for full details.

Or contact the Trust directly at 07 307 0893.



ELECTIONS 2022 - KEY DATES

Every three years elections are held for Local Government to elect the Mayor and eight Councillors. This year, the election will be held on Saturday 8 October.

Wednesday, 13 July

Nominations called for

Friday 15 July 2022

Nominations open for Mayor and Councillors / roll open for inspection

Friday 12 August 2022

Nominations close (12 noon) / roll closes

Saturday 8 October 2022

Election day Voting closes 12 noon

Friday, 14 October –

Wed 19 October 2022

Declaration of results

For the full Election 2022 timetable and further information, please visit our website

kaweraudc.govt.nz/about-council/elections-2022.



Do you live in one area and pay rates on a property in another area? You may qualify to vote in both areas at the local authority elections in October 2022.

If you want further information

Please phone toll free 0800 54 8683 or 0800 LG VOTE