

COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE



5 DECEMBER 2023

Kawerau District Council establishes Māori wards

Council voted yes to establishing one or more Māori wards for the 2025 and 2028 triennial elections at an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday, 22 November.

With 61.7% of Kawerau's population identifying as Māori (2018 Census), Council invited the views and preferences of Tangata Whenua, Iwi, and the community at the public forum. Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora Trust were among the submitters who presented via zoom along with members of the community who presented in person to the Mayor and councillors at the extraordinary meeting.

The decision followed an engagement process carried out by the Council from late September to November 2023 that included meetings with Tangata Whenua Iwi and the community.

Mayor Faylene Tunui wished to thank the community and submitters for sharing their views and for presenting their feedback to the elected members at the meeting with great respect.

"We are governed by systems that determine these electoral processes, but it is people who look after people, and we have seen that honoured today by the community and our team of elected members. We make the decisions today, to lay the foundations for tomorrow."

To support the process Council engaged Election Services' Electoral Officer Dale Ofsoske to provide independent oversight, information, and guidance on the three elements of the electoral decision process comprising:

1. Review of the electoral voting system: Council retained the first past the post (FPP) voting system on Friday 6 September 2023;
2. Review of the establishment of Māori ward/s, by 23/11/2023
3. Review the representation arrangements by 31/07/2024

Council received some 165 submissions via an online survey and the Council newsletter and thanks everyone for sharing their views in this process.

Based on the current structure of Kawerau District Council with the Mayor and eight councillors, the vote to establish one or more Māori wards may mean:

- four general councillors elected from 1-4 general wards
- four Māori councillors elected from 1-4 Māori wards

However, the 2024 review of the representation arrangements will determine this and requires further informal engagement and two formal submission processes, with a decision to be made in relation to representation arrangements for Kawerau District Council for the 2025 and 2028 elections by 31 July 2024.



**NEW WORLD
KAWERAU**



Christmas is rapidly approaching and so is this year's Santa Parade. If you would like to register to be a part of this fun and amazing community event, all it costs is your imagination and a smile.

If you wish to take part, the last day to enter your float is Friday 8 December.

This year all floats will be judged equally (no individual categories) but the prizes are bigger and there is more to be had.

This year's theme is THE HISTORY OF KAWERAU

When you think of the history of Kawerau what do you see and think of? Bring your great ideas to life and display them in the float parade.

If you have questions or wish to register, pop in and see our friendly Kawerau isite team or call them on **07 323 6300**.



Changes to Bus Route 135

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is introducing some changes to the Kawerau Route 135 bus route and timetable to enhance access within and around Kawerau.

The change started on Monday 27 November 2023 and means when the bus returns to Kawerau from Whakatāne, it will take a new route so that passengers on the town centre loop are more often able to alight closer to their initial boarding points.

Please note;

- The bus will no longer service the bus stop outside Tarawera High School on River Road, this stop has been decommissioned,
- The Route 135a service at 12.45 pm is replaced by the new Route 135

These modifications have impacted on some bus timings so please refer to the bus schedule online or at the Kawerau isite which shows the new schedule and map.

Fares remain the same price. If you are a Community Services Card holder, you may be eligible for a 50% discount on fares with the Community Connect Concession. This concession needs to be loaded onto your Bee Card. You can purchase a Bee Card from the Kawerau isite.

More information and feedback around route changes about routes and fares is on the BayBus website at baybus.co.nz

Fire Safety courtesy of the Kawerau Fire & Emergency Services

The Kawerau Fire Station comprises of both Career and Volunteer staff who work together to provide a 24/7 service to the community. In addition to emergency response, the brigade provides a number of other functions free of charge to the community, including;

- Home Fire Safety Visits and Advice
- Firewise materials for Schools and Kōhanga Reo
- Assistance siting and installing smoke alarms
- Advice to Community Groups
- Support to Community Events

Wildfire Prevention courtesy of the Kawerau Fire and Emergency Services

As we head into summer, the current national weather modelling confirms we will experience El Niño climatic conditions across the region. As these conditions intensify over the next few months we can expect above average temperatures, below average rainfall, and slightly stronger winds through the season. This weather system will no doubt increase our wildfire risk and as a community largely surrounded by forest, it is important that we are aware of safe practices when it comes to managing sparks and heat generating activities.

In New Zealand, 98% of wildfires are started by people. Your actions will make all the difference.

- Can I light a fire? – Before you light any fire, go to checkitsalright.nz to check the conditions to make sure it is all right to light. If we are in a restricted fire season you may need to apply for a permit.

* Note there is a Regional Bylaw which prevents open air burn piles at properties within 100m of a neighboring dwelling house.

Lighting a hāngī, umu, lovo or braai? Let the fire brigade know in advance 09 4867948

To enquiry about a free Home Fire Safety visit you can phone or go to the website.

Phone: 0800 693 473

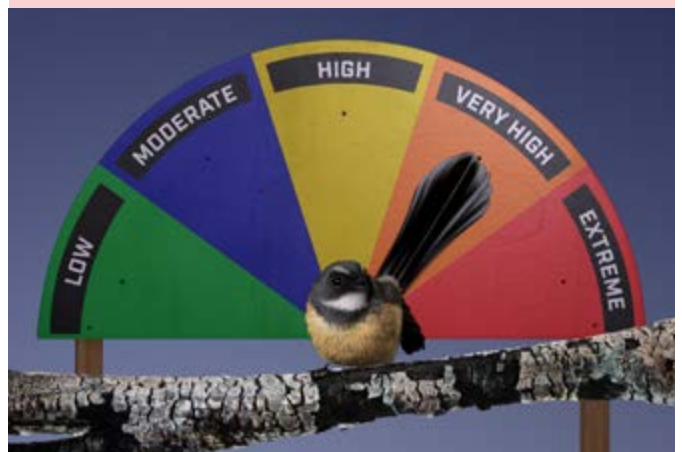
Website: www.fireandemergency.nz/hfsv/

Parks & Reserves Team Update

The Parks and Reserves team have a significant impact on Kawerau. Planting flower-bedding displays, they are making the town look and feel beautiful. This summer is no different. Over the last couple of weeks, the Parks and Reserves team have been busy. The team are planting a wide range of flowers, including marigolds, wildflowers, dahlias, and salvias, which attract butterflies.

The flowerbeds are a vivid, appreciated pop of colour coming into the New Year. When entering the town, they are a real eye-catcher on either side of Islington Street and Tamarangi Drive.

In the long-term plan survey, the community told us that you love the gardens and view them as an objective point of difference for our town.



Kawerau Neighbourhood Support **Needs your Support**



Call to Action for a new committee

Kia ora Kawerau Neighbourhood Support members

This is the Regional Coordinator for Neighbourhood Support BOP, stepping in temporarily to put out a big call to the Kawerau community for interested community members to re-form the Kawerau committee. Unfortunately, the previous Kawerau coordinator and committee have moved on.

What this means is there is no committee for Neighbourhood Support in Kawerau and with over 900 households registered, there is clearly a need for a new committee to be formed and an injection of energy into the great work Neighbourhood Support does.

We are seeking interest from the Kawerau community to form a new Kawerau Neighbourhood Support committee. This would be a voluntary role and you can be an individual or representing an organisation from Kawerau and all you need to bring to a new committee is:

- You would like to become part of a team to make a difference in our community
- You want to give back to the community and make our neighbourhood safer
- Appoint and Support a Kawerau Neighbourhood Support Area Coordinator

Neighbourhood Support is a nationwide community-led movement that brings people and neighbourhoods together to create safe, resilient, and connected communities. We believe that a well-connected community helps to improve safety, resilience, and wellbeing for all.

If you are passionate about the Kawerau community and have spare time to lead and/or become part of a new committee, please contact the Regional Coordinator to express your interest.

Email Richard: nsrotorua@gmail.com

For more information on what Neighbourhood Support is all about, visit the national website www.neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz

LIBRARY SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

December Timetable

Monday 4 December From 10am

Launch Day: Come down and grab your summer reading bags from the library

Wednesday 6 December 3:30pm-4:30pm

Christmas Creations: Help us design and decorate craft Santas, reindeer and more.

Monday 11 December 3:30pm-4:30pm

Lego Creations: Build your Christmas Lego scene for us to display in the library

Wednesday 13 December 3:30pm-4:30pm

Christmas Stars: Decorate a star for your Christmas tree or give it as a gift.

Monday 18 December 10:30am- 12pm

Christmas Parcels: Learn how to make a small parcel for those special little gifts

Wednesday 20 December 10:30am- 12 pm

Christmas Trees: Join us as we create our last Christmas decoration you can hang on the tree or somewhere around your whare

Thursday 28 December 10:30am-12pm

New Year Celebration Glasses 2024: Join us in creating your very own New Years celebration glasses to welcome in the year 2024

Upcoming Events And Meetings

Friday 8 December

Last day for float entries to the Kawerau New World Santa Parade

Wednesday 13 December 9am

Regulatory and Services meeting

Wednesday 13 December

Council Meeting (following Regulatory and Services Meeting)

Saturday 16 December

Kawerau Christmas in the Park

Friday 22 December 12pm (Midday)

Council Office Closes

Wednesday 3 January 8:30am

Council Office Re-opens

Kerbside Refuse Changes due to Public Holidays

If your kerbside refuse is usually collected on a Monday, it will be collected the Saturday prior on 23 December 2023 due to Christmas Day being a Monday. The same will happen the following week. If you expect collection on Monday, 1 January 2024, it will be picked up on Saturday, 30 December 2023.

Kawerau District Council Christmas and New Year 2023–2024 closure times

KAWERAU DISTRICT OFFICE AND AA SERVICES

CLOSED District Office 12 noon
Friday 22 December 2023

CLOSED AA New Zealand Services closed 11:00am
Friday 22 December 2023

RE-OPEN 8.30am Wednesday 3 January 2024

TRANSFER STATION

CLOSED 24 December 2023 (Christmas Eve day)

CLOSED 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day)

OPEN all other days during the holiday period.

KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

NOTE: Collections scheduled for Monday 25 December
(Christmas Day) will be brought forward to Saturday 23
December

NOTE: Collections scheduled for Monday 1 January
(New Year's Day) will be brought forward to Saturday 30
December

Usual Monday's kerbside collections resume the following
week.

Other Kerbside collections on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
will be as collected usual.

DISTRICT LIBRARY

OPEN Friday 22 December 2023 10am to 12 noon

CLOSED 23, 24, 25 and 26 December 2023

OPEN 27, 28, and 29 December 2023 10am to 5pm

CLOSED 30 and 31 December 2023 and
1 and 2 January 2024

Usual hours resume Wednesday 3 January 2024

MAURIE KJAR AQUATIC CENTRE

OPEN Friday 22 December 2023, 8am to 6pm

OPEN Saturday 23 December 2023, 8am to 3pm

OPEN Sunday 24 December 2023, 8am to 12 noon

CLOSED Christmas Day (no private hires)

Usual hours resume 26 December 2023
Monday to Sunday 8am – 6pm

KAWERAU ISITE

OPEN Friday 22 December, 10am – 12 noon

OPEN Saturday 23 December 2023, 10am - 2pm

OPEN Sunday 24 December 2023, 10am - 2pm

CLOSED Christmas Day

OPEN 26 December 2023, 10am - 2pm

OPEN 27, 28 and 29 December 2023, 9 am - 4pm

OPEN 30, and 31 December 2023, 10am - 2pm

OPEN 1 and 2 January 2024, 10am - 2pm

OPEN 3, 4, and 5 January 2024, 9 am - 4pm

OPEN 6 and 7 January 2024, 10am – 2pm

For urgent assistance 24/7 outside of opening hours,
please contact Council on 07 306 9009

- Select 1 for Noise and Animal Issues
- Select 2 for Duty Supervisor
(water, refuse, trees etc.)