

COMMUNITY UPDATE

28 JULY 2023

Highlights from Our Matariki Events

This year's Matariki Morning Tea with the Mayor was an auspicious occasion for all 120 attendees, sharing kai | food, stories, laughs. Mayor Faylene Tunui gave an address, answered questions from the floor and hosted a game of Matariki themed bingo. It was an opportunity for reconnecting and those who attended said it was a memorable event they thanked Mayor Tunui for providing.

ISK Industrial Open Day

Hosted by Industrial Symbiosis Kawerau (ISK), Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and Kawerau Youth Council, this event was a great opportunity for us (and giveaways), live broadcasting from Radio 1XX, kai | food stalls, craft stalls and live entertainment.

Pictured (bottom right): Bless Maxwell (left) with his band "Mellow" performing at the ISK Industrial Open Day.

Tirotiro Whetū o Matariki Ki Kawerau Hautapu

This event invited the community early in the morning to head to the top of Monika Lanham Reserve to view the stars of Matariki.

(Pictured below)

Followed by a light breakfast at the Concert Chambers and an opportunity for the attendees to have a kōrero | talk about the significance of Matariki. Works of art created by our local tamariki | children were also displayed at the Concert Chambers.



Matariki Morning Tea with the Mayor for Kaumātua and Kuia | Seniors

Pictured (below) attendees sharing kai | food at the Matariki Morning Tea.

Pictured (middle) Maryanne and Sonny Rua with Cr Warwick Godfery, Hori Raerino and Rewiti Tamihere. Obscured Cr Rex Savage and Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Kaumātua Te Haukākawa Te Rire.



New Playground Opening Soon at Hilldale Reserve

Work is almost complete on Hilldale Reserve playground that was requested through the Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031 submission process. Council allocated \$35,000 towards a new playground. Council's Parks and Reserves Team is putting the finishing touches on the playground before an official opening ceremony is to be held. More information soon.



Kawerau Young Achiever Awards 2023

Celebrate the success of our rangatahi | youth with the Kawerau Young Achievers Awards 2023.

Nominations close Friday 11 August 2023. For more information and to make nominations, please visit the District Office or the Council website at www.kaweraudc.govt.nz

The Kawerau Young Achievers Awards will be held on Friday 25 August 2023 at the Kawerau Town Hall.

Food Premises Complaints

If you have a complaint regarding a food premises, you can contact us on 07 306 9009 and we will log your complaint as a service request. Alternatively, you can use one of our online channels:

- Our website- 'Fix it and Report a Problem' page.
- Antenna (download the free app, add 'Kawerau' to 'your places' and go the 'Report It' tab).

Hardie Ave area and River Road /Transfer Station road areas

Work has now been completed on the passive drainage systems in the area to help move the ground water.

In addition, Bay of Plenty Regional Council has given permission for residents to use the stormwater system to drain their properties.

Council is now planning to install a drain on the side of Hilldale Reserve.

Then work will start on the dewatering drains for the area of River Road by Transfer Station Road.

Temporary fixes of the big potholes have been done, but until the drainage is in – it's likely these potholes could resurface due to the water under the road.

We appreciate your patience with this.

**Dog Registrations
Due 31 July 2023**



Final Reminder for Dog Registrations and Due Date for Payment

Dog owners have until 5pm Monday 31 July 2023 to pay the registration fees. After this date, penalties are added.

Please contact Council if you didn't receive your registration notice, or to arrange payment on 07 306 9009 or via the website payment portal.

Changes to Freedom Camping

Changes to the Freedom Camping regulations are coming into force next year on 7 June 2024. The key changes to freedom camping rules are;

- Where you can freedom camp
- Certifying self-contained vehicles
- Infringement fees and fines

Council has a number of dedicated areas where self-contained vehicles can freedom camp. The Kawerau isite team assist with visitors coming into the district.

One of the major changes is the classification of what is a 'self-contained' vehicle and how they're certified. From 7 June 2024, vehicles with a portable toilet are no longer certified as self-contained. There are also changes to infringement fees and fines as of 13 July 2023.

There are no changes to the existing rules of freedom camping in tents, vehicles at commercial campsites or camping in vehicles on private land.

More information available at www.mbie.govt.nz or from the Council Offices.

Council Briefs

Tarawera River Walkway Update

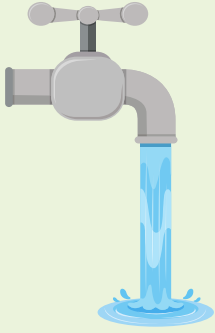
The Tarawera River Walkway is a well-loved walkway by locals, visitors and river users.

Earlier this year, the high rainfall and rising river levels washed away a section of the walkway. The river levels are still higher than usual and need to drop further before repairs of this section of walkway can be fully assessed. Council is investigating whether it can access external funding to assist with long-term repairs.

We appreciate this is annoying for regular users of the area with this part of the walkway blocked off. However, there are safety concerns with the large wash-out underneath.

We will keep you posted.

Council Briefs Continued



Drinking Water Supply Fluoridation Update

In mid-2022, on 27 July, our Council received a directive from the Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) that the Kawerau drinking water supply needed to be flouridated from 2023.

Kawerau was one of 14 Councils around Aotearoa | New Zealand that was instructed by the Director

General of Health that flouridation of the district's water supply would be required from 31 January 2023. The purpose of this directive is to improve the oral health of communities in Aotearoa | New Zealand.

With the support of Lutra, an engineering firm specialising in the design of water treatment systems, a Fluoride Assessment and Concept Design Report was completed along with a concept plan in March 2023. The design was peer reviewed by Warren McKenzie Consulting on 28 April 2023.

Council then submitted the design and cost estimates, which were approved by the Ministry of Health, in principle on 9 May.

A tender has gone out to contractors to install the flouridation system. Once tenders have been received and agreed by Council, work will start to install the system.

Council will keep the community informed on this process and the implementation timeline.

Three Waters Reform Update

We will bring you a further update of the Three Waters Reform next issue.

Earlier this year in April, the Local Government Minister Kieran McNulty announced that there would be 10 water service entities. Minister McNulty said the entities will be owned by local councils on behalf of the public, but will be operationally and financially independent from them.

This means Kawerau would now be part of the Bay of Plenty Three Waters Services Entity. A meeting of all the Mayors and Chief Executives of these councils has been held and further are planned.

Kawerau District Council maintains the position that this transfer of assets and operations is not in the best interests of residents and ratepayers. However, the government legislated this reform in 2022.

Council continues to fast-track our drinking water pipe replacement project, and other Three Waters infrastructure upgrades to ensure our district is in the best shape possible prior to the entities becoming operational from 2025 to 1 July 2026.

For more information, please visit www.waterservicesreform.govt.nz

District Plan Change 4 – Stoneham Park

Earlier this year, Council met with the community and asked for submissions for the proposed Stoneham Park Residential Development. Some 40 submissions were received on:

1. The Intention to Exchange the Reserve status of Stoneham Park to residential via an application to the Department of Conservation. This application seeks to transfer the reserve status to land on Fenton Mill Road (currently operated as the stock pound).
2. Changes to the District Plan – Proposed Plan Change 4 (Stoneham Park residential growth precinct)
3. Options to improve the land on Fenton Mill Road (a concept plan has been developed)

A Hearing for submissions to Proposed Plan Change Number Four to the Operative Kawerau District Plan was held on 15 June as part of the Resource Management Act (1991). Independent commissioner Bill Wasley has now produced the section 42A report following this hearing and review of submissions.

Every person or organisation which submitted on the Proposed Plan Change Number Four can lodge an appeal with the Environment Court. For more information, please check the Council website www.kaweraudc.govt.nz

Appeals must be lodged within 30 days of this notice. The final day for appeals to be lodged is 6 September 2023.



Fraudulent producer statements not affecting Kawerau

Council staff have completed the review of documentation and are pleased to advise there have been no fraudulent producer statements submitted for building consents lodged by the engineering technologist Jonathan (Jon) Beau Hall, director of Kodiak Consulting Limited.

Council believes there may have been one applicant associated with Kodiak Consulting Limited. However, that paperwork was never produced to Council via the building consent process. Council will contact that applicant to advise of the fraudulent proceedings taken by Engineering New Zealand.

Any concerns or enquires regarding work by this person and/or company, can be directed to the Council's Building Control team on 07 306 9009.

Applications Closing Soon for Community Grant Scheme

If you are a non-profit group or organisation seeking funding to deliver a service to benefit the Kawerau District – the Kawerau Community Grant Scheme could assist.

The first round of Community Grant Scheme funding applications for the 2023-2024 financial year is open.

Further details about the Community Grant Scheme, application forms and accountability forms are available on our website at www.kaweraudc.govt.nz or from the Council Office.

Applications for funding must be submitted in writing and received by **5.00pm on Wednesday 2 August 2023**.

Creative NZ Communities

The Creative Communities Scheme supports and encourages local communities to create and present diverse opportunities for accessing and participating in the arts within their rohe | area.

Three applications were received and approved for the first round of funding in 2023 comprising:

- **Kawerau Arts Society**
\$2,587.00 (ex GST) for exhibition and art development sessions
- **Rainbow Tribe Kids Care**
\$4103.72 (ex GST) for Māori Arts and Culture Te Taiao Programme
- **Cheryl Wilson**
\$2150.00 (ex GST) for Te Raranga Ora (educational classes regarding gathering and working with harakeke | flax for weaving).

Completion Celebration for Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village



Almost three years to the day after the first resident Mrs Kathleen Cook moved in, the village residents and Council celebrated the completion ceremony.

Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Kaumātua Te Haukākawa Te Rire completed the karakia and mihi to all the residents with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Also in attendance was Generation Homes' project manager Nigel Mutton and Fiona Connon along with other Council staff and whānau.

Twenty four of the 29 units are occupied with five still available.

An open home was held that afternoon with some 30 people registering interest and a further open home held this Wednesday afternoon.

Top: Porritt Glade Retirement Village Open Day attendees; a mix of Porritt Glade residents, Generation Homes representatives and Council Staff.

Bottom: Mayor Faylene Tunui, BOP Regional Councillor and Former Mayor Malcolm Campbell and Inaugural Resident Kathleen Cook reopening the gates to Porritt Glade.



Upcoming Events And Meetings

7 August Audit and Risk Committee Meeting, 1pm

16 August Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting, 9am

25 August Young Achievers Award Ceremony, 4.30pm

30 August Ordinary Council Meeting, 9am
Kawerau Employment Expo 10am-2pm