

COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

7 NOVEMBER 2023

Council appoints an Interim Chief Executive.

With Russell George's current term as Kawerau District Council Chief Executive officially ending on 31 October, the Council has appointed Chris Marjoribanks as the Interim CE to bridge the gap until a permanent appointment can be made.

With the permanent recruitment process underway, the Council anticipates that Chris will act as Interim Chief Executive for several months.

Mayor Faylene Tunui says that Mr Marjoribanks brings a depth of leadership experience to the Interim role as he knows the community and the district well having led Tūwharetoa Ki Kawerau Hauora, as Trustee of the Community Rautahi Marae, through his various roles in different Sporting Codes and Industry as well as being a previous Kawerau District Councillor.

"In the meantime, we are committed to finding the best possible permanent candidate to lead the council and community, and we are happy with the progress that has been made to date."

"We are committed to making the best possible appointment to lead our council and community into the future."

The council expects to make an appointment late this year.



Chris Marjoribanks



Russell George

Māori wards for Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Kawerau Kawerau District Council?

Kōrero mai
Let's get
talking

Council has been engaging with the community regarding the establishment of Māori Wards for Kawerau District.



Council has held hui with Tangata Whenua, at Rautahi Marae, and at Tarawera High School where we spoke to taura | students and teachers.

We have received some 150 submissions to date. This feedback, and questions from the hui and process Council undertook with the support of Election Services' Electoral Officer Dale Ofsoske will be compiled into a report for the Extraordinary meeting.

On Wednesday, 22 November at 11:00am, an Extraordinary Meeting will be where Council formally adopt the report of the process of engagement carried out by Council and the submissions received. This will be an opportunity for people who made a submission and wish to present it to the elected members directly.

Following those spoken submissions, the Council (elected members) will make the decision of whether to establish Māori Wards for the district for the upcoming 2025 and 2028 Council elections.

If people wish to come in and speak to their submission please contact Council on 07 3069009 or email submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz

As this is a public forum please arrive by 10.50am to sign in at the Council Offices prior to the meeting starting at 11:00am. After the report is adopted, people will present feedback to the elected members during the Public Forum of the Extraordinary Meeting on 22 November at 11:00am.

Route change



**Monday 27
November**

Route 135 Kawerau – Whakatāne bus service is changing to improve access within and around Kawerau town centre.

Before travelling please check your new timetable visit baybus.co.nz or call 0800 4 BAYBUS

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.

Starting Monday 27 November, 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 close 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. Fares will stay the same. 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 find more information about routes and fares on the BayBus website at baybus.co.nz

Kawerau Superhero Light Party

Tuesday 31 October 2023

Over 500 tamariki (children) packed out the Kawerau Town Hall and Concert Chamber on Tuesday 31 October for the Superhero Light Party – a positive alternate to Halloween.

Tamariki got to participate in various games, exchange their winning tickets at the Tuck Shop for lollies, received a free sausage sizzle and drink, and took home a loot bag at the end of the night, plus there were amazing prizes for the best dressed superheroes.

Feedback from the community has been really positive, which was the aim of the evening.

The event was organised by the Kawerau Ministers Association which was overwhelmed with the support of the community, despite it being 15 years since the last light party event.

The Kawerau Ministers Association acknowledge the Kawerau Youth Council, Kawerau Blue Light, Kawerau Air Training Corps, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora, Heartlands Kawerau, Waiariki Whānau Mentoring Kawerau, Te Puna Ora o Mataatua, and Tarawera High School for joining together to put on this amazing night for our community.

A big thank you also to the funders: Kawerau District Council Event Funding, Kawerau Ministers Association and Have a Heart.

In addition, Kawerau rangatahi were offered a 'safe route' with resident Heather Kuka organising an online Trick or Treat registration process for residents who wished to take part. This was also well received by rangatahi and their whānau, who were aware of which homes were taking part.



Kawerau Geothermal Drilling and Well Testing

Two lots of geothermal well testing have been carried out in the district recently.

Both Mercury Energy and Ngāti Tūwharetoa Geothermal Assets Limited have obtained Resource Consents from Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Mercury Energy commenced drilling activities at the Kawerau Geothermal Power Station, located off the Kawerau Straights, with a drilling rig and team from Iceland. This work is far enough away from any residential areas not to cause any noise disturbance.

Mercury Energy are drilling three new geothermal wells in the next six to nine months to continue to supply renewable energy to the Kawerau community and beyond.

For more information you can head to www.mercury.co.nz/drilling or if you have any questions or concerns, then please contact geothermal@mercury.co.nz.

In addition, on Monday, 30 October 2023 Ngāti Tūwharetoa Geothermal Assets Limited (NTGAL) started geothermal well testing work.

This flow testing work is at a site located off Spencer Avenue and is being undertaken by Western Energy Services Ltd. Work was carried out last week and Council received several noise complaints overnight on the first evening of operations.

After discussions with Council's regulatory team, it was agreed that Ngāti Tūwharetoa Geothermal Assets Limited (NTGAL), would not complete the tests after 7pm or 8pm at the latest to ease the issues and concerns being experienced by nearby residents.

Residents and businesses located close to the site were informed by via letterbox drops by Ngāti Tūwharetoa Geothermal Assets Limited in the weeks prior to the work starting. All work was due to be completed by Friday, 3 November 2023.

For more information, please contact: Dave Lowe | Ngāti Tūwharetoa Geothermal Assets Limited (NTGAL) Site Representative | Phone 02041962926

Spatial Plan

The Our Places – Eastern Bay Spatial Plan will map out future spaces and places for the growth of Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki districts.

The eastern bay project was launched publicly recently with Whakatāne District Council hosting a 'Friends of our Places' event. Hosted by Whakatāne District Council's Chief Executive Steph O'Sullivan, Kawerau was represented by Council Chief Executive Russell George and senior leadership team members, along with representatives from industry and government organisations.

Feedback from attendees at the presentation included:

- Involve industries in the development of the spatial plan so they have the confidence to invest in our district;
- Questions around where to place new housing/towns so it best benefits our communities and industries;
- Concerns around affordability of housing and land;
- Climate change and its implications is a growing concern for our communities and local industries, particularly issues around managed retreat;
- People and relationships are important, importance of getting together and forming strong relationships key to success, then building the spatial plan together.

You can find out more about the spatial plan on the www.ourplacesebop.org.nz/ website.



Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre reopened

Thanks again to the community for your patience while this important mahi was done.

The annual maintenance shut at the Mauri Kjar Aquatic Centre has now been completed, albeit with the reopening date having to be extended slightly. This was due to a leak that was found in the main pool's wet well which affected circulation and filtration of the water to the pools. Thankfully, the aquatic centre team was able to contact a contractor who appreciated the urgency of the situation and was able to fix the problem quickly.



Council Briefs

District Library Adult Summer Holiday Reading

The District Library has kicked off the annual Adult Summer Reading programme themed "Dig Deeper". This reading journey is taking us through the non-fiction section to find cookbooks and advice on how to make our dollars go a bit further this Christmas.

For the next six weeks, the District Library will be running an online recipe swap in conjunction with New World Kawerau. People are encouraged to share some whanau favourites to help everyone put tasty meals on their tables this festive season. Specifically, the team are looking for budget-friendly dishes to grace the Christmas Tables of Kawerau Whare.

You can submit recipes for tasty nibbles, delicious main meal dishes, breakfasts, desserts, lunch, supper and baking.

TO ENTER:

Simply share your favourite recipe under each daily post by the Library and Museum team on their Facebook page to be in to win. One chance per person each day.

The weekly competition will run from Wednesday to Wednesday, with the weekly prize drawn on Thursday.

Recipes can be typed or hand-written or you might like to take a photos from one of your cookbooks, or family scrap/cook book.

PRIZES: There is a weekly prize draw from all the recipes and one is chosen as a winner to receive a \$25 gift card from New World Kawerau. That means that each week for the next six weeks there will be a lucky winner.

Get thinking about which is your family-favourite recipe to share. Good luck to everyone!

River Road Pothole Repairs

The high-water table earlier in the year has significantly affected the subsurface of River Road and this has caused potholes. Staff are currently undertaking a full evaluation and are in discussions with contractors to remediate the affected section of River Road. The weather has (again) not been conducive to getting these repairs done as yet. However, when we get a break in the weather, the mahi will get underway again.

Summer Holiday Liquor Licensing

Plan ahead for liquor licensing applications. Event organisers who want to apply for a special license to sell or supply alcohol are reminded that they need to submit applications at least 20 working days ahead of their planned summer events. Get in early to ensure that your application can be considered. Remember between 20 December and 15 January, there are no 'working days', which means events planned for February 2022 or earlier must have applications lodged by **Monday, 6 December 2021**.

For more information on alcohol licensing, check out the Council web page

www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/services/environmental-health-and-liquor-licensing/liquor-licensing

Weed Spraying

Summer's coming and with it comes the dreaded Onehunga weed. Our Parks and Recreation team has started the annual spraying in some key areas including the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre, Prideaux Park, Tarawera Park and the Cemetery. Other places will be spot sprayed by the team.

The product being used (Conquest) needs 3 days to fully set but can be walked/played on after 2 hours. Watch out for our staff/contractors where there is signage and avoid the areas where you can. Check out our website for more information.

Upcoming Events And Meetings

15 November 9am Regulatory and Services Meeting

22 November 10:50am Extra Ordinary Council Meeting: Decision on Māori Wards

NOTE: If you made a submission and wish to present your feedback in person at the Public Forum you are welcome to do so. Please arrive by 10.45am, for an 11am meeting start.

Please contact Council on 07 306 9009 for enquires or further information.

24 November Rates Payments Due

29 November Council Meeting

13 December Regulatory and Services Meeting

13 December Council Meeting

16 December 11am Santa Float Parade | Community Concert | Evening Variety Show

Kawerau Christmas in the Park

Tribute to Kawerau's loved ones

As part of the Kawerau Christmas in the Park Community Show, we will be doing a Memorial Tribute Video, featuring loved ones from our community who are no longer with us.

The Community Show is about our local talent and those close to home so it's fitting that we close the show with a tribute video to celebrate our whānau (family) we have lost.

If there's anyone you would like to remember, we encourage you to send a photo to us.

To submit a loved one for the video, please make sure to email the following information to kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz no later than 16th November 2023

✓ Name ✓ Photo ✓ Date of Passing

We kindly ask that submissions are only for Kawerau residents who have passed within the last 12 months (or so). Please ensure that the image is high resolution, otherwise, we may not be able to use it on the big screen.