

# COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

22 SEPTEMBER 2023

## Council retains current voting system - FPP

**The First Past the Post voting system has been retained for the 2025 local elections.**

On September 6, Council made the decision at an Extra Ordinary Meeting, to stick with the current system, due to it being simpler, and because other electoral decisions are still to be made.

The alternative system was the Single Transferrable Voting (STV) which is the system used when the former District Health Boards (DHB) used to elect board members.

There was good robust discussion and questions to Election Services' Electoral Officer Dale Ofoske who presented the report. Dale said, "Only 15 of 78 territorial authorities (local and regional

councils) used the single transferrable voting system at the last local body elections in 2022. In all cases, there had been a marked drop in voter turnout when Single Transferrable Voting was introduced."

Mayor Tunui noted that although the Future for Local Government's Review promoted the Single Transferrable Voting system as better suited for councils, it is more complex and not well understood.

Mayor Tunui raised an objection to the education of this system falling on the shoulders of the local council.



## What other decisions are coming up?

### Māori Wards Engagement

The Council unanimously resolved to consider whether to introduce one or more Māori wards for the Kawerau District Council for the 2025 and 2028 triennial elections and that public/iwi consultation takes place regarding this during September and October 2023.

Councils must make the decision regarding Māori wards in principle for the 2025 and 2028 local body elections by 23 November 2023.

To help inform their decision-making, Council will be engaging with Tangata Whenua and the community in the next few weeks. The meeting schedule is as follows:

### Māori Ward Engagement Hui

Who	Venue	Time
Tangata Whenua Iwi Hui	Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora	Fri, 22 Sept
Community	Rautahi Marae, Kawerau	1:00pm Mon, 25 Sept
Community	Concert Chamber, Kawerau	5:30pm Mon, 25 Sept
Tauira   Students and Staff	Tarawera High School	1:00pm Mon, 9 Oct
Kura Whānau, Community	Tarawera High School	5:15pm Mon, 9 Oct



## IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Māori Ward Engagement begins
- ▶ Annual Shut Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre
- ▶ Kawerau Container Terminal on track
- ▶ Hardie Ave update

## Project on track to boost district's economy

The project is on track – that is the latest from Kawerau Container Terminal Director David Turner.

Queries were raised about the Kawerau Container Terminal at the recent 'meet the candidate's event' for central government elections.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Provincial Growth Fund granted \$9.6 million in 2020 to build the Kawerau Container Terminal. Sequal was awarded a further \$2.8 million to build an off-road highway connecting the industrial zone to the container terminal.

David Turner, a Kawerau Container Terminal (KCT) Director and also Sequal's Managing Director said that although there had been hold-ups work on the off-road highway will start soon with construction planned for October.

He added that the Kawerau Container Terminal opportunity is "still very much a focus for us and the hold-up with the terminal has been with the land ownership transfer of Norske Skog and the new owner which has been going through the overseas investment office approval process".

David confirmed that the Kawerau Container Terminal is still on track, with Kiwirail very keen to see the project succeed. The project will create significant employment opportunities and attract further private sector investment.

## Water Entity C - Three Waters Reform

The government announced recently that the dates that the Three Waters Reform will take effect will be in October 2025 for Entity C.

Kawerau is part of Entity C which encompasses the Bay of Plenty districts Whakatāne, Rotorua, Opotiki, Tauranga and Western Bay.

Council has maintained that the Three Waters Reform is not in the best interests of Kawerau residents. However, the legislation for the Water Services Entity bill has been passed through parliament. What this means is that it is now law that all Councils comply and transition to the new water services entity.

Council's Three Waters' team is working hard to ensure that the infrastructure and assets for our district are replaced and renewed to leave the rohe in the best shape possible for the future.

In addition, our Three Waters' team is working with the water services entities with regards to the transitioning to the new Entity C provider.

## Kōrero Mai – Let's Get Talking Māori wards for Kawerau District Council?

In 2020, Council made a decision not to introduce Māori Wards. Council heard from submitters in 2021, during our Representation Arrangements Review that people wanted to have their say on Māori Wards for our rohe. Council wants to ensure that we carry out a more robust review this time and hear the views of the community.

We are engaging with our community now to build knowledge of what Māori wards will mean for Kawerau District Council so people are in a good position to give their feedback before a decision is made. Council has engaged the services of Election Services' Electoral Officer Dale Ofoske to present the facts about Māori wards at the upcoming community hui (see overleaf).

### What are wards?

Wards are areas of a city or a district identified for electoral purposes. They work in the same way as seats in a general election. In Kawerau, we have one 'at large ward' for the entire district. Everyone who stands for Council represents the 'at large ward'.

### What about Māori wards?

Māori wards sit alongside general wards in a district. They allow voters on the Māori roll to elect a representative or representatives to their local council.

The aim of Māori wards is to make sure Māori are represented in local government decision-making.

### How many Māori wards for us?

If Māori wards are established, the number of Māori ward Councillors is determined by a legislative formula based on the Māori and General electoral populations of the Kawerau district. If Māori wards are established in Kawerau, its likely there would be four Māori ward Councillors; and four general ward Councillors- plus the Mayor (based on this formula and the current representation arrangements).

### When would the change happen?

The decision must be made by 23 November 2023. If Council decide to have Māori wards this will be included in the Representation Review in 2024 and it will be in place for the 2025 and 2028 Local Elections.

NOTE: Come along to a meeting to find out more. Look out for the next Community Update for more info and for the feedback form.





## Rangi Delamere Pavillion Rebuild

Work is progressing well with the rebuild of the Rangi Delamere Pavillion.

Beneath the water-tight cover, Wren Building Company is carrying out the build with the shell now evident. The aim is that this pavillion will provide a multi-purpose centre for multiple users including netball.

Council continues to liaise with the whānau of the name-sake Rangi Delamere with regards to the details of the signage and the long-awaited opening. It is expected the build will be completed before the end of 2023.



## Ka Rawe | Well Done to our Animal Control Team

Councillors thanked our Animal Control team for their work to rehome 48 dogs in the 2022-2023

financial year. The work of the Council's Animal Control team was outlined in the annual Dog Control policy and practices report at the last Regulatory and Services Committee meeting.

During the past year the team, has had a total of 1,050 requests for service from the public. Of these 776 were 'statutory incidents' which are audited and included barking, roaming, general enquiries, fighting, rush incidents, attacks on animals and attacks on people. This compared to 753 statutory incidents for 2021-2022, and 866 for 2020-2021.

Council welcomed our new dog ranger Treivaan Taiapa to the team recently. Treivaan brings a wealth of enthusiasm and energy to the role along with a great customer focus.

## Rangatahi to benefit from Mayors Taskforce for Jobs partnership

Sixty rangatahi | youth will benefit thanks to a partnership between the Council and Eastbay REAP (Rural Education and Activities Programme).

The partnership will see 60 youth obtaining their full driver's licence through the support programme. This has been supported by the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs with \$69,000.

## Annual Shut of Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre



A reminder to patrons that the annual maintenance shut at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre will take place from October 9 to 27.

### The closure will enable the following work to be carried out:

- Fibre glass the spa pool after our temporary fix completed earlier in the year;
- Redoing the bathroom floors, as well as the floor outside of the bathrooms;
- Resurfacing the car park and repainting the car traffic flow and parking lines;
- Refurbishing the heat exchangers for the spa and main pool;
- Maintenance work on the circulation pipes (non-return valve to improve flow) in the pump shed for the main pool;
- Cleaning work, replacing sand in sand filter, scrubbing the overflow channels along the main pool which involves draining all the pools; and giving all the pools a good scrub!

## Unchlorinated Water Sources

The Council has fielded queries about whether the two water sources supplying unchlorinated wai | water will remain. Council confirms that these sources will remain in place.

The operations team maintain these water sources and measure the monthly usage reporting this to the Regulatory and Services committee. In August, an average of 1,750 litres per day were used from the two sources at the River Road Pumphouse and the New World carpark.





**Monday 25 Sept – 10.30am to 12noon**  
**Musical instrument**

Let's staff off Spring in the library by making our own instruments

**Wednesday 27 Sep – 10.30am to 12noon**  
**Spring into nature!**

Challenge yourself (or you and a friend): find outside every item on the adventure list and make it into a piece of upcycled art.

**Friday 29 Sept – 10.30am to 12noon**  
**Zoetropes**

Learn about the illusion of motion and an early form of animation technology

**Monday 2 Oct – 10.30am to 12noon**  
**Lego Gardens**

Help us build some lego gardens here in the library.

**Wednesday 4 Oct – 10.30am to 12noon**  
**Rescued Pencil Pots**

Turn a plastic cup or yoghurt pot into a colourful pencil holder with used fabric, plastic or string.

**Friday, 6 Oct – 10.30am to 12noon**  
**Spring Painting**

Come down and join in with us as we celebrate Spring with painting.

## Hardie Avenue De-Watering Update

Double the annual rainfall during the October 2022 to April 2023 period has impacted on the groundwater levels in the areas of Hardie Avenue, Emme Allan, Julian and Owen Roads. Council has installed passive drainage systems along the length of Hardie Ave to assist with the issues of water damaging roads and footpaths. This has helped in some areas with the excess groundwater in private properties in conjunction with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council giving permission to homeowners to install drainage on their land to move the water into the Council's stormwater system.

Hilldale Reserve- Council had planned to clean out the swale on the border of Hilldale Reserve, but the stormwater engineers advised that will not provide a viable long-term solution. The engineers propose that the better long-term solution is to install underground drainage systems.

As this drainage will go into Council's existing stormwater system, we are not likely to require consent to complete this work. This means we can get on with it in the upcoming summer months. Council will share those plans with residents as soon as they are completed for your feedback.

Canal on Farm Land- The farm owner is supportive of Council plans to reinstall the canals on the farmland. The drainage engineer is working on plans to lengthen the existing canals on the farm. These plans will also be shared with residents as soon as they are completed to ensure any concerns or queries about the impact of these additional canals can be answered and worked through.

A resource consent application is likely to be required for this work. Council will continue to work closely with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council which is aware of the issues and urgency.

## Congratulations Hana Aoake

Congratulations to Council Museum Curator Hana Aoake who was selected as an Emerging Māori Writer by the Michael King Writer's Centre. Hana completed a short-term writing residency with the centre as part of the scholarship.

## Upcoming Events And Meetings

- 24 September** 2.00am- Daylight Savings starts, clocks 'spring' forward 1 hour
- 25 September** 1:00pm – 3:00pm Public Engagement Hui Māori Wards, Rautahi Marae, Kawerau
- 25 September** 5:30pm – 7:00pm- Public Engagement Hui Māori Wards, Concert Chamber
- 27 September** 9:00am- Council Meeting (Public Forum 9:00am)
- 9 October** 1:00pm – 2.30pm- Student Engagement Hui Māori Wards, Tarawera High School

- 9 October** 5.15pm- 7:00pm – All Schools' Whānau Public Engagement Hui, Māori Wards, Tarawera High School
- 9 to 27 October** Annual Pool Maintenance Shut
- 11 October** 9:00am- Regulatory and Services Committee (Public Forum 9:00am)
- 23 October** Closing date for Māori Wards Engagement Survey Responses
- 25 October** Council Meeting (Public Forum 9:00am)