



JULY 2019



Community Update

KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL – WATER UPDATE

Providing safe drinking water is one of the most important services the Kawerau District Council provide to the residents of our town.

Safe drinking water was one of the topics discussed at the annual Local Government New Zealand conference held from 7 to 9 July which the Kawerau Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive attended.

The Government is currently reviewing how to improve the regulation and supply arrangements of drinking, wastewater and stormwater to better support New Zealand's prosperity, health, safety and environment.

This Three Waters Review was prompted by the Havelock North water crisis in 2016 which made up to 5,500 people ill and four people are thought to have died from associated causes.

When the Government inquiry into the Havelock North water crisis was released last year, Kawerau District Council decided to chlorinate the water from 1 July 2018 to prevent any such event occurring here.

Unfortunately, chlorination released minerals into the water supply pipes which discoloured the water. These harmless minerals, manganese and iron oxide, occur naturally in very low concentrations in Kawerau springs' water (sourced from the Pumphouse and Umukaraka springs).

Over decades, these minerals build up inside the water supply pipes, and are rapidly released by chlorine. This led to dozens of complaints of discoloured water every month by members of the public.

In March 2019, Council agreed that the water pipes should be cleaned through a process called air-scouring that removed most of the built-up minerals.

Air-scouring was completed from April to June this year and has greatly reduced the number of complaints.

Occasional complaints of 'milky' or 'white water' have been received and this is due to air still being in the water after the air scouring.

There are still some events that will cause dirty water, for example when a pipe is damaged. During June, there were six water supply breaks due to the thrusting of new fibre lines. The contractor responsible paid for these repairs.

It is important that residents contact the Council when they see dirty water. This will help Council to evaluate how effective the air-scouring process was and what areas still need more work.

The Council has created a new role for a Three Waters Manager who will be responsible for the monitoring, maintenance and operation of the Kawerau district water supply. This position is currently being advertised.

The three water reservoirs will be inspected internally and cleaned during July. During this inspection the roof of each reservoir will be evaluated in detail to ensure the correct roof-sealing treatment is applied.

Residents are asked to please contact the Council on 07 306 9009 should there be any water issues at home.

Welcome to our new staff

Engineering Manager



Council welcomed Andre Erasmus as the new Engineering Manager in July.

Andre brings considerable engineering experience to the role, having worked previously in local government, the Ports of Napier, Ports of Auckland, Opus, Downer Construction and also for a developer managing a utilities company.

A civil engineer with wide ranging experience in infrastructure, Andre has chosen to work for Council again because he enjoys contributing to a community.

“Working for Kawerau Council means the opportunity to focus on purpose as opposed to profit in the private sector.”

Still getting familiar with

the organisation and role, Andre is looking forward to addressing challenges, finding solutions and creating value.

He believes his former experience has culminated for this role which began in his home country of South Africa and continued when he moved to New Zealand 15 years ago. On arrival, Andre spent the first four years in Hawkes Bay before heading to Auckland where he’s been working for nearly a decade.

The role and lure of a better lifestyle meant it was the ideal time for Andre, his wife and two children aged 12 and 4, to make the move to the Eastern Bay.

In his spare time, Andre enjoys spending time with his family and woodwork.

Karamia Williams is our new friendly Visitor Information Officer at the Kawerau i-Site.

Karamia joins the team to make five Visitor Information Officers who man the Kawerau i-Site.

Since beginning the role, Karamia enjoys the connection to the local community that the i-Site provides working with locals, along with domestic and international tourists.

The i-Site offers the public bus bookings, courier services and a range of visitor information for the Kawerau region and also the wider Hawkes Bay, Central and Bay region which it belongs to as part of the i-Site cluster.

Karamia has worked mainly in customer service roles since graduating with a Diploma in Business Administration from the Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTEC).

She enjoys connecting with people and is also enjoying learning more about the community and visitor opportunities within the region.

Originally from Whakatane, Karamia moved to Kawerau with her whanau several years ago. In her spare time, Karamia, whose whakapapa is through Pupuaruhe Marae, likes to work with harakeke with the group called Te Patuwai Weavers.

New i-Site team member



Brought up in Edgecumbe, Charlotte says joining the Council has been rewarding. “The team is really friendly and cheerful and we all enjoy helping people.”

In her spare time Charlotte enjoys fishing on the lakes for trout and also on the ocean for game and smaller fish.

Her best catch is a 25kg kingfish which she caught on a ledger-rig when she was out fishing for gurnard. After 40 minutes of playing the fish, Charlotte reeled in her kingfish and was thankful to have gaffed it just as the line broke at the hook.

New Customer Services Officer



Charlotte Collins joined the Council team recently as a Customer Services Officer.

With a background in retail and customer services, Charlotte has been enjoying her new role with the team of six who provide the customer service to Kawerau residents.

The main responsibilities of the Customer Services Officers is to assist the public with queries, booking facilities, rates payments and rebate requests, dog registration, refuse collection and all other customer-related enquiries.



Tai Mitchell Rugby Event

For the first time in 16 years the Bay of Plenty Tai Mitchell event was held in Kawerau and to top off an amazing event the local team came third.

The annual tournament comprises 10 representative rugby teams of under-13 players from throughout the Bay of Plenty playing for the Tai Mitchell Shield.

The Eastern Bay is represented by Rangitaiki, Whakatane and Opotiki.

Kawerau District Council was proud to support the 2019 event which was organised and hosted by the Rangitaiki Tai Mitchell committee.

The tournament was formally opened by the Rangitaiki committee, kaumatua, kuia and Mayor Malcolm Campbell at the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre.

After four days of rugby the coveted Tai Mitchell Shield was won by Tauranga West who beat defending champions Te Puke.

In another thrilling play-off, Rangitaiki placed third overall beating Tauranga East to claim the Gavin Parkinson Shield. It is Rangitaiki's best result since 2011.

Pictured is Rangitaiki player Jon Tiwha-Smith, who was also named in the tournament team on attack, along with his team during the



pre-match haka.

Photos courtesy of Rahera Fox.

**PŌTI
2019**

NGA PŌTITANGA Ā-ROHE

**VOTE
2019**

LOCAL ELECTIONS

ELECTIONS

This year elections will be held to select the eight Kawerau District Councillors and the Mayor. If you want to vote or stand for Councillor or Mayor you need to be enrolled.

Are you enrolled to vote?

Voting is an important way to have your say on the issues that affect you, your friends and your family. When you vote in local elections you get to choose the people who make decisions about your local area.

People who are 18 years or older, a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of New Zealand can enrol to vote.

Enrolling or updating your details is easy. You can visit www.elections.org.nz or call free on 0800 367656 or free text your name and address to 3676.

Nominations open for Councillors and Mayor

Nominations are opened for people

considering standing as a Councillor and/or the Mayor last Friday, 19 July. Nominations close on Friday, 16 August.

Nomination forms are available at the Council office and online at www.kaweraudc.govt.nz
Candidate Information Evening – Tuesday, 23 July

If you are considering standing for Council or Mayor, you can pick up a Candidate Information Guide from the Council offices or check out an online version on the Kawerau Council website www.kaweraudc.govt.nz

There is an information evening being held Tuesday, 23 July at 5.30pm at the Kawerau Concert Chambers, Ranfurly Court in Kawerau.

This will outline what's involved with the election process and how things work.

Nau mai haere mai. Everyone is welcome.

Stoneham Walk project continues

Projects to further beautify the Stoneham Walk reserve continue with staged approaches by the Council and the Friends of Stoneham Walk group.

The Friends of Stoneham Walk have now completed four working bees removing weeds, trimming existing plants and potting-up plants at the Council depot. The first area the group is focussing on is a three-metre strip of the garden bed along the walkway and an area beside the Bell Street entrance.

In parallel, the Council is completing tree removal of dangerous trees left isolated after the 2018 weather events. The next stage of the remedial works will be to armour the Ruruanga Stream which

was also affected by the 2018 storms.

Areas of the banks along the stream have eroded and a project to carefully 'armour' the banks with boulders to hold the sides and then plant the stream edge to reduce further erosion will be completed this winter.

This week the Friends of Stoneham Walk group will meet at Jive Café on Thursday, 25 July to review the first month and plan ahead.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved with the Friends of Stoneham Walk group please contact co-ordinator Sheryll Marshall on 07 323 6675 or 0274 920 999 or contact the Council on 07 306 9009.

Frequently Asked Questions - Water

- Water for the Kawerau township is supplied from the Pumphouse and Umukaraka springs.
- This spring water contains naturally occurring trace amounts of manganese and iron minerals. These minerals are very colourful, and when concentrated, will discolour water.
- Kawerau water is ultra violet (UV) treated at the source and is safe to drink at that point.
- However, contamination of the UV treated water can occur if the pipes connecting the treatment plant with taps (the reticulation system) get damaged. This is known as secondary contamination.
- Pipes can be damaged by earthquakes, tree roots or someone digging into a pipe.
- Chlorine in the correct concentration, is harmless to humans, however it is deadly to harmful bugs (bacteria and protozoa) in water.
- Since 1 July 2018, chlorine has been added to the reticulation system to protect drinking water from secondary contamination. This is known as residual disinfection.
- Prior to 2018, Kawerau water has from time-to-time been chlorinated to remove harmful bacteria when secondary contamination has occurred.
- Chlorination is recognised worldwide as the most effective and least intrusive way to protect

drinking water supplies from secondary contamination.

- Chlorine stays in the water so that if bugs get in at any point in the pipe network, through a break or contamination, the chlorine will kill them.
- In June 2019, contractors laying the new fibre cabling caused six water supply breaks – where contaminants could potentially enter the reticulation system.
- Air-scouring of the town's water reticulation system was carried out from April to June 2019 in order to remove the build-up of manganese and iron minerals from the insides of pipes.
- There are two unchlorinated outlets available at the Town Centre at the New World area and the Pumphouse which in June supplied 1,250 litres per day.
- The Government's 'Three Waters' Review may change regulations for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater and is expected in the coming months.
- Kawerau District Council will need to make decisions about the best ways to provide safe drinking water.
- As part of this focus, Council is currently advertising for a Three Waters Manager to co-ordinate the monitoring, treatment, maintenance and supply of water to the Kawerau district.

Apply now for Rates Rebate

Rates rebate forms are now available from the Council office.

Rates invoices are now being generated for the new financial year (1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020) and will be posted out shortly.

Ratepayers can apply for a rates rebate, which is a Government funded scheme designed to benefit home owners on low incomes.

Applications can be made at any time in the coming year, but Council recommends ratepayers applying with instalment one of your rates.

The current income threshold for this year is \$25,660.00 and the maximum rebate allowed is \$640.00 for the rating year 2019/20. Although a ratepayer's income might exceed the income threshold, a rates rebate could still be available, depending on the rates amount and number of dependents.

Council staff are available to assist you with

scheme details and forms. Council encourages ratepayers to take advantage of this government initiative.

To qualify for a rebate the following criteria apply:

- You must pay rates on the address at which you live.
- You must have been living at that address at the start of the rating year.
- Your name must be on the rates bill.

When applying for a rebate or checking eligibility, you should have available:

- Proof of your income in the last tax year (1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019).
- Proof of income of your partner or joint homeowner, if he/she lives with you.
- Your rates notice.

Forms can be collected from the Council office in Ranfurly Court or for more information please visit www.kaweraudc.govt.nz

DOG REGISTRATIONS

A reminder that dog registration fees need to be paid by 31 July.

The new annual registration fee is \$35 for de-sexed dogs and \$70 for entire dogs.

There is an option to pay your dog registration online. For more information please visit www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/services/pay-it-online or call Council on 07 3069009.

YOUTH EVENTS

Community Service award for Majeau

On Friday, 12 July, 16-year-old Kawerau youth Majeau Rogers was awarded the Community Service Award at the Tumeke Enterprise Youth Summit Awards.

Hosted in Tokoroa the awards ceremony recognises and celebrates youth living in the regions. Majeau, a student at Tarawera High School and member of the Kawerau Youth Council was shortlisted for the Community Service Award alongside another outstanding youth member from Gisborne Alice Kibble, who is running for Council

in the Gisborne District this year.

There were six awards presented on the night including the Leadership in the Arts Award, Women Leadership Award, Maori/Cultural Award, Leadership in Sports Award and the Supreme Leadership Award.

Previous New Zealander of the Year Lance O'Sullivan and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern were scheduled to be at the awards ceremony unfortunately due to bad weather on the day their flights were delayed and they could not attend.

Hong Kong trip for Majeau and Sian



Majeau was also one of 18 students selected from New Zealand to go to Hong Kong with Bluelight. The trip was aimed at students who are considering a career in the police force. They were also joined by youth from the United States of America and Australia.

The only other student selected from the Eastern Bay was 16-year-old Sian Bluett of Whakatane High School. Sian is the daughter of Andrew Bluett, Councils Information Technology (IT) Manager who was raised in Kawerau.

The trip will enable networking with other students and also an overview of how the police force operates in Hong Kong, along with the many careers available within it.

Bubble Blast 2.0

Bubble Blast 2.0 was a great way to kick off the school holidays.

There were more than 1,000 interactions throughout the day by youth from Kawerau who enjoyed playing laser tag, bubble soccer, the escape room and the wheelchair obstacle course "overcoming obstacles".

To kick the day off we had an official countdown to the 'colour splash' activity designed to highlight the Rainbow Community, we also had

a mural where members of the community could write messages of support to the LGBT Q+ community.

"I'm pleased to see Kawerau Youth Council collaborating more with other local youth agencies to ensure high quality service delivery for rangatahi in Kawerau – they've definitely gone up a level in terms of event planning and delivery, the standard was so high," Kawerau Youth Council Projects Officer John (JJ) Rika said.

Kawerau Mini Hunt - Take a Kid Hunting

More than 100 children and young people took part in the annual Kawerau Mini Hunt event held on July 13 and 14. This was an increase of some 40 entrants from the 2018 event.

There were some great prizes given away for the heaviest possum, wallaby, rabbit, hare and rat. This event prides itself on educating young people of the responsibility to humanely kill pests. As pictured there were plenty of happy children and youth pictured who attended the prizegiving.



KawerauBIG3

9 - 11 AUGUST 2019

FIND US ON 

Weight on my Shoulders

It's back – bigger, better and heavier – Weight on My Shoulders is a 10km walk/run 'military style'.

Organised in honour of fallen soldier Luke Tamatea from Kawerau, the event will run on Saturday, 17 August from 9am until 11am.

Luke's sister Holly Tamatea is the event organiser and says the aim is to gear up with a typical military day pack which weights approximately 25kmg which New Zealand soliders carry while on tour in Afghanistan and walk a 10km distance within Kawerau.

The proceeds of the event will be donated to NO DUFF, a registered charity committed to providing immediate support for veterans in need. On August 19, 2012 Luke Tamatea was travelling in a vehicle that was hit by an IED explosive device

while on deployment in Afghanistan, killing him and two of his fellow soldiers.

Holly says, "Our family continues to have support from so many since Luke's death - Luke's brothers in arms, NZDF, RSA, NO DUFF, Illicit Clothing, Aaron Horrall and South Coast Productions, our strong whanau and so many more."

The difficult years since have given the whanau a focus on giving back to help others who find themselves in need of support.

"Luke has inspired so many to become stronger fitter people so let's put all this to work."

The event organisers have 25kg weights (some lighter) for people to experience what our soldiers experience.

WoodFest - Saturday, September 28 - Sunday, September 29, 2019

Around 12,000 people flock to Kawerau during WoodFest, and the event - New Zealand's premier festival celebrating all things wood - gets better every year.

This year is jam-packed with entertaining activities and demonstrations, including the annual National Woodskills Competition.

There are so many ways to get involved with the annual WoodFest and National Woodskills competition. If you want bragging rights - now is the time to get your team together for the Big Dig World Champs - this is seriously good fun.

For the younger entrants, the Diddy Dig was once again won by Kawerau South School in 2018, with Thornton School second and pictured is one of the hard-working competitors from last year.



Entries are now open for the various individual and team events which include:

- Big Dig World Champs
- The Diddy Dig (for 8 to 10 year olds)
- The WoodFest Truck Pull

- Pro-Logger Chainsaw Races

- And for all the events and more information please check the www.kaweraunz.com website or phone the Council on 07 306 9009.



Be Quick
Limited
Entries



THE CHALLENGE

Race 7 km
up & down Putauaki
Mt. Edgecumbe...

Saturday
2nd Nov

- 2019
- School Relays - 8:30
 - Prince & Princess Race - 11:00
 - Main Race - 12:00

**DISCOUNTED ENTRY
for Kawerau Residents**

CLOSES 31st AUGUST

Entry Forms available at Kawerau District Council reception