

COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

8 FEBRUARY 2024

Pōwhiri to welcome new chief executive

Council announced in December 2023 that Morgan Godfery had been appointed as the chief executive. A pōwhiri to officially welcome Morgan to the role was held on Thursday, 25 January.

Hosted by Rautahi Marae. Her Worship the Mayor Faylene Tunui, former Kawerau Mayor Malcolm Campbell, Councillors, council kaimahi | staff and community members attended.

In her address, Mayor Faylene Tunui acknowledged the Pakeke of Rautahi Marae, former Mayors and chief executives. "We are thankful to those who have served before us, and we will harness the wisdom of that work."

"Our team of elected members took the opportunity for Morgan Godfery to join us as chief executive, to lead and to serve our hapori | community. We look forward to supporting him to grow and mentor others to reach their full potential, for Kawerau."

Morgan Godfery acknowledged the welcome from the whānau of Rautahi Marae, Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau and Te Pahipoto whānau (Ngāti Awa) as incredibly humbling. Morgan shared his thanks for the opportunity to return home with his partner and daughter and bring what he has learned to benefit the community and iwi Māori.

Morgan was a senior lecturer at Victoria University with the Faculty of Law. He has experience in public policy, journalism, and communications, working across central government, trade union and education sectors.

Our sincere appreciation to our Kaumātua and Kuia, Tangata Whenua, Mana Whenua, Rautahi Marae Committee, our kaimahi, rangatahi and supporters for your mahi to honour the Kawerau rohe and Morgan Godfery in his new role.



Photos from top: Kaikaranga |female caller of Rautahi Marae Kuia Ruby Te Ruki and Kaumātua Te Waraki Te Ruki addressing the manuhiri | visitors.

Morgan Godfery (centre) supported by his whānau and Te Pahipoto / Ngāti Awa whānau.

Te Waraki Te Ruki, Te Haukakawa Te Rire, Interim chief executive Chris Marjoribanks and new chief executive Morgan Godfery, Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika and Cr Warwick Godfery. Obscured Andrew Bluett.

Left. Chief executive Morgan Godfery with Mayor Faylene Tunui, former Mayor Malcolm Campbell, Councillors, Youth Council members and staff.

Exciting opportunity alert for Kawerau rangatahi



Kawerau Youth Council is an initiative being driven ‘for youth by youth’ – and applications are now open for 2024.

Since 2008, Kawerau Youth Council has helped give rangatahi skills, knowledge, and opportunities to better themselves and develop the community through the lens of a younger generation.

Kawerau Youth Council provides pathways for youth to learn and grow environmentally, socially, and culturally. With the support and guidance of Kawerau District Council’s Youth Projects Officer JJ Rika, youth can expand their thinking and explore new opportunities.

If you or someone you know is 12- 24 years old and wants to give back to their community, build meaningful friendships and learn/enhance their skills of working with others and advocating for youth in the Kawerau District- the Kawerau Youth Council might be for them.

Applications to become part of the 2024 Kawerau Youth Council are now open. Apply online by 16 February 2024 via www.kaweraudc.govt.nz

Below: 2023 Kawerau Youth Council members at a team building activity.



Mā te wā former chief executive Russell George

Mā te wā Russell George, we are excited to see what the next chapter holds for you.

On Tuesday 23 January, our Mayor, Elected Members and staff joined together to acknowledge and thank Russell George for his service as chief executive and achievements with Council.

Thank you to Bay of Plenty Regional Council Tumu Whakarae Fiona McTavish, Whakatāne District Council Tumu Whakarae Steph O’Sullivan and former Kawerau Mayor and current Bay of Plenty Regional Council Eastern Bay Councillor Malcolm Campbell who came and spoke at the farewell.

The respect and admiration for Russell was evident. Although some could not be there, the kind words written and spoken on their behalf were lovely.

Thank you to former Mayor Malcolm Campbell, who was Mayor for 17 of the 18 years Russell served as chief executive. Malcolm attributed the many achievements within the district to Russell’s strategic vision and financial expertise.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana Tumu Whakarae Fiona McTavish shared her journey with Russell and noted his patience, courage, and ability to listen and seek out all

views. “He was the neutral leader on many occasions and demonstrated his dedication, knowledge, and experience with emergency management.”

Fiona shared Tauranga City Council’s chief executive Marty Grenfell’s message that highlighted “Russell has always worked in the best interests of Kawerau and, while playing a key role in the sub-regional and regional affairs”.

Whakatāne District Council Tumu Whakarae Steph O’Sullivan acknowledged Russell for his strategic vision, management ability and support of the greater Eastern Bay regional activities and economic development. Steph shared Ōpōtiki District Council chief executive Stace Lewer’s message of Russell’s counsel, steadfast voice, and careful approach to the many complex local government issues.

Thank you for all the heartfelt comments and memories from the staff and the community about Russell. Everyone acknowledged the many achievements during his 23 years at Council, albeit Russell said he achieved them with the support of a wonderful team of staff.

Below: Former chief executive Russell George with current and former Mayor Faylene Tunui and Malcolm Campbell, Councillors and staff.



Fire Station Column

Take care charging devices

There has been an increase in fires caused by vapes and other lithium-ion-powered devices.

To reduce the risk of fires in your home:

- Do not charge smaller devices under a pillow, bed, or couch.
- Only use chargers and batteries supplied with the device or certified third-party charging equipment compatible with the battery specifications (same voltage and current).
- When your item is fully charged, disconnect it from the charger.

If a small battery or a device begins overheating

- Unplug it from the power outlet if it is charging.
- If your device starts to smoke or release fumes, evacuate immediately and call 111. Lithium-ion batteries can burn violently.

Rising temperatures and fire danger

The prevalent dry wind and hot temperatures are drying out vegetation. Kawerau is now in an open fire season which means fires may be lit in the open air without restriction. However, this can change anytime, depending on weather conditions, including rainfall, wind and temperature factors.

Check before you light with our simple 3-step tool that tells you whether you can burn your fire or do your outdoor work safely. www.checkitsalright.nz

Long-Term Plan Re-consultation

Council is working on the 10-year plan for Kawerau which will be adopted following community consultation on 26 June 2024. Thank you to residents who completed the early engagement survey in 2023. This has helped inform some areas of the plan which we are working on along with the budget that sets the rates.

Council will engage with the community during the formal consultation and submission period that will run from 2 April to 2 May.

Hardie Ave Hui | Meeting Overview and Consultation

Last month on 18 January, Council met with residents from Hardie Avenue and nearby areas to discuss the long-term engineering solutions proposed.

The persistent rainfall during the 2022-23 summer, saw the ground water table rise in these areas causing damage to Council infrastructure and issues for residents with ground water flooding.

Council installed a passive drainage system along Hardie Avenue (and Transfer Station Road where there is also groundwater flooding issue). This drained some of the water away from the sealed roads. However, there are still areas of flooding for residents and potential damage to council infrastructure.

The engineered solutions include swales, novaflow drainage and concrete u-channels.

Council has requested funding from Waka Kōtahi (New Zealand Transport Agency) for funding subsidies of 75% of the project cost.

If the funding application is successful, Council will budget the remaining \$250,000 towards the project so work can be completed in the next financial year starting 1 July 2024. If funding is not successful, Council will spread the work out over the coming years to ease the financial burden on ratepayers. Either way, we will talk with residents of the area more as we heard requests for the engineering solutions to be increased.

This will be an item we also talk about in the upcoming Long Term Plan consultation.

Let's talk about water usage

Due to higher manganese levels in Te Wai o Marukaa Spring (Pumphouse Spring) that caused the discolouration of water in 2023, council is only sourcing water from the Tarawera Bores at present.

With only one water source and this hot and dry summer weather, the amount of water used by the district can rise rapidly.

Currently, we are tracking okay and do not need any water restrictions, but the rate of usage is going up and it's a good time to review how we can all reduce the amount of water we use. Council also has a responsibility to preserve this precious resource and encourage water reduction where we can.

Ways we can all reduce our water usage include:

- Where possible please only use handheld hoses for watering lawns and gardens
- Checking your tank, taps, hoses etc. for leaks and drips
- Reserving toilet flushing as much as possible
- Reducing shower time/frequency where possible
- Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth and shaving
- Limiting use of appliances such as dishwasher, washing machine
- Not using town supply for stock

Thank you for your 21 years' service Lisa Singfield

Thank you and all the best from our council team to Lisa Singfield who leaves after 21 years' service with Kawerau District Council.

Lisa joined council in June 2003 and has worked in several different departments including finance. Lisa became the Animal and Compliance Team Leader almost a decade ago and has done some excellent work, including training team members to microchip dogs, and implementing ozone, a software system now widely used throughout council.

Thank you for your efforts and dedication. We wish you well for your future endeavours.

Mā te wā Lisa, thank you for your service and time in the community and Kawerau District Council.

PICTURED: Dog rangers Braydon Hakeagaiki and Treivaan Taiapa farewell Lisa Singfield (centre).



Changes to Kerbside Recycling

There have been some changes to kerbside recycling across Aotearoa, which means some changes to how we do things in Kawerau.

Standardised recycling rules will make it easier for people to use our kerbside services and recycle correctly. It will also increase the quality of the materials collected by reducing contamination.

Kawerau recycles plastics 1,2 and 5, cans, glass jars and bottles, paper, and cardboard.

Remember, you can still sort your recycling separately, having paper and cardboard squashed down and neatly bundled. Glass bottles and jars can be placed on the side in the box they originally came in.

Please ensure that all items are rinsed, and food scraps and lids are removed before recycling.

You can find out more on our website: www.kaweraudc.govt.nz

Or on the Ministry for the Environment website:

www.environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/campaigns/recycle/

Materials for Kerbside collection



Glass bottles and jars



Paper and cardboard



Plastic bottles, trays and containers 1, 2 and 5



Aluminium steel tins and cans

Meetings and Important Dates

February 7 to March 1

Breast Screening in the Kawerau Medical Centre Carpark by BreastScreen Midlands. Please call their freephone, 0800 270 200 or for more information please visit, www.timetoscreen.nz

February 12

Audit and Risk Committee

February 14

Regulatory and Services Committee

February 23

Rates due for payment by 5pm

February 28

Ordinary Council Meeting

March 13

Regulatory and Services Committee

March 27

Ordinary Council Meeting Committee

2 April to 2 May

Long Term Plan special consultation period

Public Forum

Prior to all formal council meetings, a Public Forum is available for people who wish to raise issues directly with the team of Elected Members. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the meeting to ensure you are signed in, the issue you are raising is logged and that you can be seated in the Council Chambers. Usual meeting protocols apply.

Meetings are recorded and uploaded to the website and social media. By attending you give your consent to filming. People are asked to adhere to the Council Code of Conduct.

Audit and Risk Committee meetings start at 1 pm please arrive by 12:45 pm

Regulatory and Services Committee and Ordinary Council Meetings start at 9 am please arrive by 8:45 am.