

Community

Pānui Update

9 FEBRUARY 2026



Tēnā tatou katoa – warm greetings to you all, to us all, to everyone in our community of Kawerau. Council wishes you all a safe and happy 2026.

Ngā mihi nui, Te Kahika | Her Worship the Mayor Faylene Tunui, Ngā Kaikaunihera | Councillors and Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor
Te Haukakawa Te Rire

Welcome to the Council's first pānui for 2026.

Wishing all our residents and community a safe, happy and fulfilling year ahead.

The New Year, 2026 starts with the focus of delivering the best services to the community - such as solid waste, greenwaste and recycling services, drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services, footpath and roading maintenance, parks and reserve maintenance, facilities, dog registration and services, building control services, and the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre (and all the other venues available).

The big projects are: continuing to replace the drinking water pipes, progressing Stoneham Park residential development (update coming soon), and economic development.

Navigating Central Government Reforms, is a major focus. We will keep you updated via our pānui, website and social media

What's the plan for the coming year? Annual Plan 2026/27

Council is currently working on the upcoming Annual Plan for the year starting 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

The services provided and the costs for their services and facilities sets the rates for the coming year. This is divided between residential ratepayers that pay 48% and commercial/business ratepayers that pay 52% of the total costs.

Council consults with the community and stakeholders about the direction, projects and rates. Members of the public, organisations, businesses and groups are encouraged to participate in the annual planning process by making a submission to the Draft Annual Plan. People are given the opportunity to present their submission in person to the team of elected members at the hearing. All submissions are taken into account.

Engagement for the Annual Plan is expected to take place in April – May 2026.



What would you rate Council?

Triennial Residents Survey

This year we will be completing the Triennial Resident's Survey where we ask residents to rate all the services, and how we compare with other councils across Aotearoa.

Are you involved or interested in sport, recreation or play?

Sport Bay of Plenty in collaboration with local councils around the Bay of Plenty – Kawerau, Tauranga City, Western Bay of Plenty, Rotorua Lakes, Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki District Councils - is developing a regional Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy (PARS Strategy).

The aim of the strategy is encouraging physical activity and sports across all ages in the district, and the wider Bay of Plenty region.

The focus is on informal activities like walking and participation in organised sports such as athletics, rugby, league, netball etc. The strategy will consider equity of access, and innovative approaches to supporting active lifestyles across all communities.

After an initial workshop in Kawerau last November, this is another opportunity for the community to have their say about sport and recreation in Kawerau. We encourage individuals and groups, clubs and organisations to attend the workshop:

Monday 9 March, 4pm to 6pm at the Kawerau Concert Chambers, Ranfurly Court.

If you wish to register or find out more, please contact Council on info@kaweraudc.govt.nz or phone 07 306 9009



Calling our creative community champions

Your Creative Communities Scheme Committee are committed to growing participation, visibility and presence of the Arts for Kawerau whānau | families and warmly welcomes project applications for Round 2 of the 2025/6 scheme, from Monday 2 February to Friday 6 March 2026, closing at 5pm. Your committee has been working closely with the Creative NZ national and regional team to secure resourcing for Kawerau, and we need you.

Be it Matariki, kapa haka, community choirs, hip-hop groups, musical performances or events, poetry recitals, printmaking, script-writing, crafts, clay and/or knitting, photography and/or film, classic, modern or traditional dance, tukutuku, whakairo or kowhaiwhai for marae, weaving, pottery, carving, wearable arts or public artworks through wananga, workshops, performances or exhibitions – Creative Communities Scheme is here for you.



Project applications are invited by groups or individuals to help your Creative Communities Committee support those within our hāpori | community keen to share their gifts and talents with others as a celebration of our creative, artistic, cultural diversity, to capture and convey Kawerau Yesterday, Kawerau Today and Kawerau Tomorrow.

ABOVE: Participants working hard to create their masterpieces at a Matariki jewellery making workshops in Kawerau, funded by the Creative Communities Scheme.

Exciting opportunity alert for Kawerau rangatahi

Kawerau Youth Council is an initiative being driven 'for youth by youth' – and applications are now open for 2026.

Since 2008, Kawerau Youth Council has helped give rangitahi 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 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 2026 Kawerau Youth Council are now open. Apply online by 20 February 2026:

<https://form.jotform.com/260258326728866>

Important dates and meetings

Wednesday 11 February, 9am Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Friday 20 February
Kawerau Youth Council applications close

Wednesday 25 February, 9am
Ordinary Council Meeting

Thursday 5 March, 4pm – 5:30pm
Play, Active Recreation and Sports Strategy workshop, Memorial Park Pavillion, Ōpōtiki

Friday 6 March Applications for Creative Communities Scheme Round Two closes

Monday 9 March, 10am – 12noon
Play, Active Recreation and Sports Strategy workshop, Whakatāne Bowls Club, Whakatāne

Monday 9 March, 4pm – 6pm
Play, Active Recreation and Sports Strategy workshop, Concert Chamber, Kawerau

Tuesday 10 March, 10am – 12noon
Play, Active Recreation and Sports Strategy workshop, Te Puke Memorial Hall, Te Puke

Tuesday 10 March, 4pm – 6pm
Play, Active Recreation and Sports Strategy workshop, Tauranga South Bowls Club – 15 Tutchen Street, Tauranga

Wednesday 11 March, 9am Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting