

Community Pānui Update

23 OCTOBER 2025

Congratulations to those elected to the Kawerau District Council

Kawerau district finished with a 45.3% voter turnout. Congratulations to Mayor-elect Faylene Karen Ngareta Tunui who has been elected Mayor of Kawerau. Congratulations to new Councillors-elect Tracy Hill, Anthony Ross Worsley, Waikite Apiata, Mal Dowie and Gloria Te Paki Leokava-Taani, and returning councillors Berice Joyce Julian, Sela Kingi and Justin Ross.

The poll to keep or remove Māori wards for the Kawerau district resulted in a large majority in favour of keeping Māori wards. 1,557 voters voted to keep and 710 voted to remove Māori Wards. This means that Māori wards will be in place this term 2025 to 2028, and again in 2028 to 2031, and 2031 to 2034. Council will be required to undertake another representation review after the 2031 election, for the 2034 election.

Thank you to everyone who exercised their right to vote, and a big thank you to all the candidates who stood up for their community.

Please note: If you wish to change the electoral roll you are on – from General to Māori (or vice versa), you can now do so. If you want to enrol you can also do this online at vote.nz, text 3676 or phone 0800 36 76 56.



CEO Morgan Godfery invites our whānau and community to the

Pōwhiri and Inauguration 'Swearing In' Ceremony

of the Kawerau District Council Mayor and Councillors

Wednesday 29 October at Rautahi Marae

- 9:00am Assembly
- 9:30am Pōwhiri
- 10:00am Inauguration ('Swearing In') Ceremony
- 12 noon Refreshments in the Wharekai
- 2:00pm Inaugural meeting of the Kawerau District Council in the Wharenuī, Rautahi Marae

*times are indicative

Nau mai, Haere mai, All Welcome

Morgan Godfery

Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive Officer
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau | Kawerau District Council



Congratulations to former Kawerau District Mayor Malcolm Campbell and Sarah Van Der Boom who have been duly elected as the two councillors for the Eastern Bay of Plenty General Constituency and Mawera Karetai who has duly been elected to the Kohi Māori Constituency for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana.

Welcome New and Returning Mayor-Elects

Kawerau District Council – Faylene Karen Ngareta Tunui
Ōpōtiki District Council – David Moore
Whakatāne District Council – Nandor Tanczos
Rotorua Lakes Council – Tania Tapsell
Taupō District Council – John Funnell
Western Bay of Plenty District Council – James Denyer

Tauranga City Council – Mahé Drysdale Note; Tauranga held an election for the Mayor and Councillors in 2024, and this table will remain in office for a four-year term until the 2028 elections.

Thank you to our outgoing councillors for 2022 – 2025

The final Council Meeting of the current Council occurred on Wednesday, 24 September 2025. A special thank you to Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika, Councillors Carolyn Ion, Rex Savage, Rowena Andrews, and Warwick Godfery who stepped down for a variety of reasons including family and other commitments. They all acknowledged their fellow councillors, staff and the community for the support and wished the incoming council all the best.



Christmas songs/carols

The theme of this year's Christmas Float Parade has been decided – It is **Christmas songs/carols**. For more information pop into the isite or give them a call on 07 323 6300

The New World Kawerau Santa Parade will be held on **Saturday 6 December, starting at 11am** in front of the Ron Hardie Rec Centre.

Registration forms are available at the Kawerau isite and New World Kawerau or online

Scan QR code for link ►

Registrations close Friday 14 November 2025.



Important dates and meetings

Wednesday 29 October, 9am
Council inauguration at Rautahi Marae

Monday 3 November, 8am
Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre reopening

Wednesday 12 November, 9am
Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Friday 14 November, 4pm
Registrations close for New World Kawerau, Santa Parade

Friday 14 November
Last day to submit a loved one who has passed for the Christmas in the Park Tribute Video

Wednesday 26 November, 9am
Ordinary Council Meeting

Monday 1 December, 1pm
Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Saturday 6 December
Christmas in the Park 2025

Wednesday 10 December, 9am
Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday 17 December, 9am
Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 23 December 12 noon
Council Christmas Closure

Monday 5 January, 8am
Council Office reopens

** The schedule of meetings will be confirmed following the inauguration of the incoming Council for the 2025-2028 term, and the adoption of the meetings and committees structure*



Memorial Tribute Video

As part of the Kawerau Christmas in the Park Community Show, we will once again create a 'Memorial Tribute Video', to be publicly shared during Christmas in the Park and through Council media channels. This memorial tribute will remember community members who have passed in 2025.

Our aim for the video is to provide a special moment for us to remember our loved ones and honour their legacy.

To submit a loved one for the video, please make sure to email the following information to info@kaweraudc.govt.nz or DM us on Facebook no later than Friday, 14 November 2025

✓ Name ✓ Photo ✓ Date of Passing

We kindly ask that submissions are only for Kawerau residents who have passed since the beginning of this year. Please ensure that the image is high resolution; otherwise, we may not be able to use it on the big screen.