

COMMUNITY UPDATE

07 August 2020

Message from the Mayor

At our July meeting, the Council adopted the 2020/21 Annual Plan after taking into consideration the public submissions. We appreciate the time people take to be involved in the Council's decision-making process. The Council's full 2020/21 Annual Plan is available at the Council Offices or on the website.

The Three Waters area was one raised by submitters. Priorities include the ongoing replacement of the drinking water reticulation and a systems upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant.

In the Three Waters area, the Council has attended workshops and presentations from Government officials about the introduction of new regulations, and a proposed approach to Three Waters investment and service delivery reform.

Council welcomes the introduction of the new regulations on drinking water in New Zealand. As part of this, the Government has offered a funding package to Councils and our Council will make decisions at the end of August about whether to accept this. There are further decisions needed by May 2021 as to whether Kawerau continues to manage our own water assets or what the alternatives may be.

Council is still in the information gathering stage and we plan to continue to be involved in the discussions with Government and keep our community informed about the options and decisions ahead.

Meanwhile, the Council has been progressing stage one of the Town Centre redevelopment which includes the replacement of the cobblestones with concrete surfacing. This is one of many projects in the district including the two residential developments, which are progressing well.

- Mayor Malcolm Campbell



Work is progressing well on the second duplex at Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village which are due for completion by the end of August. Four people have purchased Occupation Right Agreements to four of the first six units under construction.

To arrange a visit or for further information about Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village please contact Council on **07 306 9009** or visit kaweraudc.govt.nz





Parks and Reserves

Trees provide multiple benefits including social, aesthetic, environmental, climatological, ecological and economic.

However, inappropriate street trees (pictured right) can cause harm and be a nuisance to people and damage property and infrastructure. The health and safety of people living close to street trees is a consideration when making decisions about their management.

Our Parks and Reserves team are constantly assessing trees in the Kawerau District in terms of safety, effect on and risk to our community. The team uses an evaluation form to work out the priorities for pruning and tree removal in terms of tree condition, appropriateness for the site/street, public safety, and the risk to Council infrastructure or private property.

On the list to be removed at present are the liquid ambers on Beattie Road which are damaging the berm and infrastructure and roots are also invading private property. These are a case of trees that have grown too large in the wrong place.

In addition, there are large eucalyptus in Stoneham Walk below Fenton Mill Road that constitute a hazard to park users and need to be removed after several localised storms have torn through the stand wrenching trees over and snapping off tops. These trees will be replaced with more suitable native species.

The eucalyptus on the side of Monika Lanham Reserve behind the River Road homes are self-sown and fast growing and although not a priority at present will be a hazard in the future so removal while they are small is desirable.

If you have a concern about a tree being a danger to public safety please contact Council on **07 306 9009** or email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz to make a request for service.



Library News

Digital Banking classes

If you wish to find out more about digital banking, there is a free roadshow coming to Kawerau to offer guidance.

The Digital On-Road Access (DORA as it is being nicknamed) is a mobile training vehicle and will be offering classes on 31 August and 1 September to up to 10 adults at a time.

The classes will help people learn about online banking and assist people to explore alternative ways to paying by cheque. It also aims to help people recognise and avoid online scams. The training is free and is open to anyone, regardless of who they bank with.

DORA will be supporting Digital Banking classes in Kawerau on:

Monday, 31 August

Tuesday, 1 September

To register your interest, contact Kawerau Library on **07 3069041** or email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz.



Chlorine-Free Drinking Water

Chlorine-free drinking water is available at the River Road pumphouse and at the Town Centre (which has been passed through a chlorine removal filter).

Kawerau Trapping and Trap-Building Workshop

This conservation week become a trapper and build your own wooden rat trap tunnel. The Kawerau Library will be holding a free workshop from 1pm to 3.30pm on Wednesday, 19 August. The workshop will cover learning about predators, making rat traps to set in your own backyard and learning how to use the TrapNZ app to record your catches.

For more information, please contact the Kawerau Library on **07 3069041** or email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz or tmccauley@doc.govt.nz



Congratulations John Capener

One of the founders of the Write on Kawerau group which was formed in June 2017, John Capener has recently published his first book 'Omatawihk'. 'Omatawihk' is a book of short stories set in a fictional Canadian town and told through the eyes of the inhabitants. Copies of the book are available via the Write on Kawerau Facebook page.



2020/21 Annual Plan

The Council adopted the 2020/21 Annual Plan on 28 July after taking into consideration the public submissions that covered the following key issues (abridged):

Rates

The rates increase is set at 3.5 percent for the 2020/21 year, but most ratepayers will have lower increases due to an increased number of rateable properties.

Water

Ensuring a safe and adequate supply of potable (drinking) water is an ongoing focus with \$2.171 million allocated to renew water infrastructure including:

- The Bell Street Reticulation replacement project that is in the design phase. Tenders for this project will be called for at the end of August 2020 and work will then commence.
- Toby replacements continue in the Domett Street area. These tobies have back-flow preventers and also a further screen. The reticulation in Domett Street has already been replaced with polyethylene pipes.
- All other reticulation within the Kawerau District are being assessed and the assessment will be completed by the end of 2020. A planned replacement programme will then start.

A total of \$537,000 is allocated for stormwater and wastewater infrastructure replacement.

Maurie Kjar Memorial Swimming Pool Complex Upgrade

Two upgrade options were consulted with slightly more support for Option 2, the \$750,000 upgrade. Council resolved to apply for external funding of \$550,000 and agreed that should this not be available they would reassess the scope of the upgrade.

Parks and Recreation

Council will investigate options for the addition of adult exercise equipment into playground upgrades which has \$40,200 budgeted. The request for a shade sail to be installed at the Robinson Street playground was decided against due to the cost and maintenance issues.

Roading and Footpaths

Almost \$549,000 is budgeted for general roading and footpath maintenance and renewals. Service requests have been logged in response to submitters raising issues. Council would continue to consult and install traffic calming measures.

Residential Developments

Three residential developments are being progressed by Council.

- Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village is built on reserve land which cannot be sold, therefore owners buy an Occupation Right Agreement.
- Central Cove offers 31 house and land packages which can be purchased outright.
- Te Ariki Place and Bell Street offer a further four house and land packages.

Copies of the 2020/21 Annual Plan are available at the Council Offices or on the website.

Outdoor First Aid Course

Twenty people attended the Outdoor First Aid course held recently at Firmin Lodge in Kawerau. The course was organised by the Kawerau District Council's event's team which aims to support and increase capability in the community as part of their strategy. Attendees who completed the course and received a First Aid Outdoor certificate included members of:

- Rafting Adventure New Zealand
- Local Cub/Scout groups
- Kawerau event volunteer individuals
- Whanau Ora Community Health
- Grey Power
- Rotorua Awa Club
- Eastbay REAP
- Kawerau Air Training Corps
- Kawerau Harriers



2020/21 Rates

The first Rates Instalment (due 4 September 2020) have been sent out. If you haven't received yours by **Friday, 14 August** please contact Council on **07 306 9009** or via email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz.

Central Cove development progressing

The Council has issued the first four building consents for the house and land packages at Central Cove. Progress is now well underway with the building of the first house which has the framing being erected. There are 31 house and land packages available at Central Cove starting from \$399,000.

Tuia Rep Tamihana Thompson

Tamihana Thompson (pictured with Mayor Malcolm Campbell) has a passion for helping others and following on the great work of his late father Te Kapua o te Rangi Te Ua. Tamihana is the 2020 Tuia representative and spoke to the elected members at the Kawerau District Council meeting in July.

Born and raised in Te Teko, Tamihana affiliates with Ngāti Awa, Tūhoe and Te Arawa. Tamihana resides in Kawerau and works for Tūwharetoa Ki Kawerau Hauora, supporting Rangatahi (youth) to “find themselves by finding their identity and a link to their culture”. Part of his mahi (work) includes teaching Mau Rākau, as he believes “it’s up to us, the next generation, to revive our culture”. Tamihana is also appreciative of the opportunity to learn from Mayor Malcolm Campbell about local government and to also have his support with the work Tamihana is doing with Rangatahi.



Nominations Open

Kawerau Community Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Kawerau Community Awards which recognise significant contributions of individuals and groups. The 2020 Kawerau Community Award presentations will be held on Tuesday, 29 September following the Council meeting.

Nominations must be made by two people on the official nomination form which is available from the Kawerau District Council reception in Ranfurly Court and online via kaweraudc.govt.nz

Nomination forms must be received by **5.00pm Friday, 28 August 2020**.



Kawerau Young Achiever Awards

Nominations are open until 5pm next Friday, 14 August for the Kawerau Young Achiever Awards (pictured are some of the 100 recipients from 2019). These awards recognise students who have excelled in academic, sporting or cultural endeavours in the previous 12 months. The awards will be held at a ceremony after school at the Town Hall on **Wednesday, 26 August**.

Nominations need to be made online at kaweraudc.govt.nz



IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES

9am	11 August	Council Regulatory and Services Meeting
5pm	14 August	Nominations close for Kawerau Young Achiever Awards
9am	25 August	Council Meeting
3pm	26 August	Kawerau Young Achiever Awards, Town Hall
5pm	28 August	Nominations close for Kawerau Community Awards
1pm	14 September	Council Audit and Risk Meeting
9am	15 September	Council Regulatory and Services Meeting
9am	29 September	Council Meeting
TBC	29 September	Kawerau Community Awards, Council Chambers
9am	13 October	Council Regulatory and Services Meeting
9am	27 October	Council Meeting
9am	10 November	Council Regulatory and Services Meeting
1pm	17 November	Council Audit and Risk Meeting
9am	24 November	Council Meeting
9am	15 December	Council Regulatory and Services Meeting
9am	15 December	Council Meeting



KAWERAU PATHWAYS TO WORK

Since the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, Kawerau Pathways to Work have been working with employers to find out how they got through the lockdown period and how the pandemic is now affecting their business. Initial feedback is that Kawerau businesses are positive and well placed to take advantage of the opportunities arising with the Provincial Growth Funded (PGF) projects planned to take shape over the next few months.

Following the announcements of Government support to encourage employers to take on apprentices in the priority sectors of construction, manufacturing and engineering, wood processing and primary industries, the KPtW team met with Government Agencies to understand the funding parameters and are supporting employers through the process.

The team has also been involved in introducing SME's (Small and Medium Enterprises) in the retail space with the Eastern Bay of Plenty Chamber of Commerce who are able to support business through the Covid-19 Business Advisory fund.