



COMMUNITY UPDATE

2020 CHRISTMAS EDITION



Mayor Malcolm Campbell

Meri Kirihimete from the Mayor

Wednesday, 9 December marked the first anniversary of the eruption of Whakaari.

Ngāti Awa hosted the official Whakaari commemoration - Whakaari He Ra Whakamaumaharatanga that honoured the survivors, their families and the families who lost loved ones.

On behalf of Council, I wish to pay homage to everyone affected and to the many locals who assisted in the recovery, treatment and care of the survivors and their families.

Congratulations to our neighbours Ngāti Rangitahi and Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitahi Trust for signing the Deed of Settlement of Historical Claims with the Crown for Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi.

Work continues on the replacement of the first section of the town's water reticulation system. In addition, the River Road Culvert project continues after delays of heavy rain and further riverbank strengthening required. We apologise for this ongoing inconvenience to residents with the road closure.

The festive and holiday season is nearly here and it is a timely reminder to please take care on the roads.

Talk with your family or neighbours about your holiday plans and ensure that your home is secure and safe if you are away. The festive season can be a stressful time, so check in on your family and friends.

Please keep up with the contact tracing for a COVID-19 free summer period.

Countdown is on to the annual Kawerau Christmas in the Park event next Saturday, 19 December. The line-up has been announced and it is going to be a great day kicking off with the New World Santa Parade at 11am, followed by the Radio 1XX afternoon show and the evening show.

A reminder also that Council closes at midday on Thursday, 24 December (Christmas Eve) and reopens at 8.00am on Tuesday, 5 January 2021. Turn to the back page for the full holiday hours for Council Offices and all Council facilities.

River Road Culverts – Project Delays

Due to bad weather and additional work required to protect the nearby riverbanks, the project is taking extra time to finish. The delays mean River Road (by Cobham Drive) will now re-open on Saturday, 19 December 2020. It will remain open over the holiday period. The road will be closed again from Tuesday, 5 January 2021 to complete the sealing of the road. This closure period will be weather dependent.

Once this is completed and River Road reopened at Cobham Drive, work will begin on the second culvert at the Pumphouse Springs area of River Road. It is planned that this section of River Road (by Pumphouse Springs) will be closed from that Monday, 11 January until Friday, 2 April 2021. Council apologises for the inconvenience.

KAWERAU
CHRISTMAS
IN THE
PARK

SAT 19 DEC PRIDEAUX PARK

COMMUNITY CONCERT 12.30-5.15pm
EVENING SHOW 7PM - 10PM
www.kawerauchristmasinthepark.co.nz

KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE NO DRUGS ALCOHOL BANGS RESALIA
SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Waters team wins IXOM award



Congratulations to the Kawerau District Council Water team who won the annual IXOM Operations Award presented at the Water New Zealand Conference and Expo in Hamilton.

The award was for “The resourceful solutions-oriented focus to improve their processes and operational outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic”.

The team (pictured right) comprises Wayne Brooking, Riaan Nel, Glenn Penny, Brett Cole and John Bremner.

The award recognised the team’s hardworking initiative under difficult conditions and ‘never say no’ work ethic and willingness to learn and develop new skills.

It recognised their innovative approach to the ‘dirty water’ issue that stemmed from the chlorination of the water supply. The team led by Wayne Brooking built an air scouring system in their workshop and after cleaning the district’s water reticulation system the dirty water complaints reduced from 80 to less than two a month.

The small team continued to provide water to the community during the COVID-19 lockdown, while training a new staff member and dealing with record water supply demand.

In addition, during the COVID-19 response, the team completed the Wastewater Treatment Plant’s 10-year maintenance shut. The plant manages both residential and industrial trade waste, the latter which had been causing resource consent exceedances.

Led by new Three Waters Manager Riaan Nel, the team continued with the planned shut to ensure it was bought back to a compliant state which included evaluating each process and performance using plant design and historical data.

This resulted in process changes including installing a polymer mixer that reduced the plant’s chemical usage by 40 percent; and the bio-solids produced now contains 20 percent less water.

Since completion in May 2020, the plant has recorded no resource consent exceedances up to August.

Message from the Kawerau Police



Just like that, Christmas 2020 is upon us, the weather is warming up and there is a noticeable increase in traffic.

As international travel is off the cards, there will be a lot of New Zealanders travelling on the roads to holiday hot spots. The current road toll sits at 304 down 19 from 2019. In the Bay, there has been 28 deaths versus 38 for the same period last year with the majority occurring on the State Highways.

In Kawerau, there were 149 occurrences of crime in November: 45 were flagged as Family Harm related, eight were burglaries and six motor vehicles thefts. Ten people were charged with drink driving, manner of driving, driving without a licence or after being suspended.

Methamphetamine continues to have a hold in the community. In 2020, meth use per capita in Kawerau is higher than the national average. This statistic needs to be addressed as a community in partnership looking for ways to address the demand for a drug which is impacting on whānau and tamariki.

A few driving tips for the holiday season:

- Take some time to plan your road trip
- Remember you are on holiday so take your time,
- Drive to the conditions so you and the family arrive safely

Police will be enforcing the speed limits and watching driver behaviour. We would prefer a wave as you go past rather than having to assist other emergency services to remove you from the wreckage.

Holidays are a great time to relax and unwind. It’s also a good time to make sure your house is secure, so make this part of your planning, think about:

- Redirecting or stopping your mail
- Telling the neighbour and giving them a contact phone number
- Automatic lighting inside and out
- Leave the house looking like it is lived in
- Arrangements to feed the animals

The Police wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



- Let’s get ready to enjoy a fabulous summer holiday that remains COVID-19 free. The way to do that is to keep using the COVID-19 contact tracer app. If you haven’t already, download it from the app store and use it to keep track of where you are going. Or you can keep a written diary of where you go.
- Contact Tracing booklets are available at the Council Office.
- Stay home if you’re sick and keep up the hand washing.

Te Riina joins Parks and Reserves

Joining the Kawerau District Council’s Parks and Reserves team has been a breath of fresh air for Te Riina Brown (pictured). Te Riina whakapapa’s to Ngāti Porou, Te Whanau-a-Apanui and Whakatōhea and also has connections to Tūwharetoa. Te Riina said moving to Kawerau on her return from living in Australia for 17 years, was a logical move. “It meant being able to reconnect with my iwi and I love the people of Kawerau”. Since returning in 2016, Te Riina has worked as a courier driver, New Zealand Postie and in real estate. Despite the weather heating up in Kawerau, it’s nowhere near the scorching heat of Karratha in Western Australia where she worked. With the opportunity to work outdoors and learn new skills, Te Riina is enjoying the challenges and said the “team is awesome”. Plus, the positive feedback from residents about the gardens is encouraging. Te Riina is enjoying the job so much, she trusts this will be her last!



Celebrate summer reading

Children who do not read much over the long summer holidays can lose gains they have made in their reading levels and fluency over the school year. Kawerau Library’s annual summer learning programme aims to bump these reading gains for children with a goody bag full of rewards. Children from pre-school to pre-teen can join the programme. Simply pick up an invitation from the library and when you read books or join summer holiday activities get the invitation clipped. When children have their invitation clipped 10 times, they can collect their goody bag full of rewards - from water shooters and drink bottles to colour pencils and LEGO packs. Children who pick up an invitation before 12 noon on Christmas Eve will also receive a free book. Kawerau Library has been running children’s summer reading programmes for 18 fun-filled years. This year is truly one to celebrate and you are all invited.



Kawerau District Council Meeting Dates 2020 - 2021

Regulatory and Services Committee 9am	Ordinary Council 9am	Audit and Risk Committee 1pm
Tuesday, 15 December	Tuesday, 15 December	
January - No meeting	January - No meeting	January - No meeting
Tuesday, 9 February	Tuesday, 23 February	Tuesday, 2 February
Tuesday, 16 March	Tuesday, 30 March	
Tuesday, 13 April	Tuesday, 27 April	Tuesday, 6 April
Tuesday, 11 May	Tuesday, 25 May	
Tuesday, 15 June	Tuesday, 29 June	Tuesday, 1 June
Tuesday, 13 July	Tuesday, 27 July	
Tuesday, 17 August	Tuesday, 31 August	Tuesday, 3 August
Tuesday, 14 September	Tuesday, 28 September	
Tuesday, 12 October	Tuesday, 26 October	Tuesday, 5 October
Tuesday, 16 November	Tuesday, 30 November	
Tuesday, 14 December	Tuesday, 14 December	



Christmas and New Year Dates 2020 - 2021

COUNCIL OFFICE and NZ AA SERVICES

The Council Office and NZ AA Services will close at 12.00 midday on Thursday 24th December 2020 and re-open 8.00am on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

REFUSE and RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Refuse and recycling collections will NOT be affected during this period.
Please ensure all bins are at the curbside by 7.30am on the day of collection.

TRANSFER STATION

The Transfer Station will only be closed on Christmas Day.
On all other days, normal opening hours of 12.00noon to 4.00pm apply.

THE DISTRICT LIBRARY and MUSEUM

Thursday (Christmas Eve day)	24 December	10.00am – 12 noon
Friday (Christmas Day)	25 December	Closed
Saturday (Boxing Day)	26 December	Closed
Sunday	27 December	Closed
Monday (observed Boxing Day)	28 December	Closed
Tuesday	29 December	10.00am – 5pm
Wednesday	30 December	10.00am – 5pm
Thursday	31 December	10.00am – 5pm
Friday (New Year's Day)	01 January	Closed
Saturday	02 January	Closed
Sunday	03 January	Closed
Monday (observed day after NY's day)	04 January	Closed
Tuesday	05 January	Normal hours 10.00am until 5.00pm

Normal hours resume Tuesday, 5 January 2021

KAWERAU i-SITE

Thursday (Christmas Eve day)	24 December	8.30am – 12 noon
Friday (Christmas Day)	25 December	Closed
Saturday onwards	26 December	9.00am – 4.00pm

DOG, NOISE AND STOCK CONTROL AND COMPLAINTS

For assistance with dog, noise and stock control problems, please phone **306 9009 option 1** (anytime).

DUTY SUPERVISOR

During the office closure period, please phone **306 9009** and choose **option 2** to talk to the duty supervisor.

MAURIE KJAR MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL

Thursday (Christmas Eve)	24 December	8.00am - 12 noon
Friday Christmas Day	25 December	Closed
Saturday and Sunday	26 -27 December	8.00am - 6.00pm
Monday	28 December	Normal hours resume

For Private Hires and BBQ Hires, please contact the pool staff, or telephone **323 6109** during pool hours.
Please note that Private Hires are only available outside pool opening hours.

His Worship the Mayor, Councillors and staff wish the residents of Kawerau a happy and safe festive season.