

COMMUNITY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2020

from the Mayor

Welcome to the February issue.

Water continues to be topical for our district and we have been asking residents to conserve water over the last few weeks. I would like to thank and acknowledge those who have done this and helped get our reservoirs back up to 80%.

Our water supply system is designed to provide drinking water for a population of 10,000 residents. This allows for a peak use of 1000 liters per person per day plus an emergency reserve so 12 million litres of drinking water can be delivered every day. However, on 3 February this year, we were on our way to consume a whopping 13 million litres of water in one day in Kawerau which is among the highest usage rate in New Zealand per person. Our staff regretfully had to request the public to turn down their sprinklers as our water reserves was running low.

The high usage of water causes low water pressure and some areas experience dirty water as a result. We advise people to call Council on 07 306 9009 if they are experiencing dirty water so staff can flush the pipes and remove the problem.

With the dry hot weather likely to continue, we ask that residents continue to be mindful of non-urgent water usage. Things like hand-watering your garden or lawn, rather than unattended sprinklers, every alternate day in the cooler evenings helps keep our reservoirs at good capacity for residents and ensures we have sufficient fire-fighting capacity.

With the Extreme Fire Danger risk level there is a total fire ban across the entire Kawerau district and the North Island. Therefore, extreme caution needs to be taken with machinery and vehicles – even mowing your lawn. The two recent fire incidents show how easy it is for the dry grass to catch alight.

I am pleased to announce the Council's

Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village has been officially registered as a retirement village. This was an essential legal process to complete before we could proceed further. In addition, the foundations are being laid for the first six units.

This is exciting for Kawerau and the 54-plus people who have registered their interest in purchasing the right to occupy a unit in the Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village. Staff will be contacting those people shortly with all the necessary information.

In the Central Cove subdivision there are seven conditional sales, with others likely as soon as the legal status is finalised regarding two redundant alleyways.

Council is also looking to meet the longer-term needs of the town by proposing to make more land available for future residential developments. The recent submission process for the Stoneham Park land exchange highlighted the concerns of residents and the need for more details. The process has been deferred so Council staff can get out into the community, listen to your concerns, answer questions and provide more detailed information.

The new school year signals the selection and swearing in of the Kawerau Youth Council. I look forward to working with and supporting the development and leadership opportunities for this talented group.

Finally, the Council newsletter will be a stand-alone publication, but we will continue to support The Echo, which is produced independently by residents for residents.

The Echo will undertake the printing and distribution of the Council newsletter for each monthly issue.

Remember to keep fire wise and call 111 in the event of an emergency.

Malcolm Campbell
Kawerau District Mayor



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Infrastructure Upgrades

As signalled in the Council's January community update, there will be significant spending on the water reticulation infrastructure in the next five years.

Backflow preventers are currently being installed on all toby* repairs and replacements. The timeline of this project is being reviewed following the water contamination event.

(*A toby is the connection from a property to the mains water supply).

Council Welcomes Three Waters Manager

Kawerau District Council's Three Waters Manager, Riaan Nel, started in late 2019.

With any new job there's a learning curve and Riaan has had his share since starting with both the water contamination event and now the water conservation issues. However with 12 years' experience in large industrial solid and waste water plant operation, maintenance management, Riaan has the background, experience and qualifications to manage these challenges.

Riaan has a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical), a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Technology Management and a National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

Having grown up in rural parts of South Africa, mostly in Secunda in a province called Mpumalanga, Riaan and his wife Karin and their two sons aged 15 and 10, have embraced the opportunity to come to New Zealand.

The family of four love sports, outdoor activities and home renovations. Already Riaan has competed in the annual Toi's

Challenge event and the family is happily settling into the Kiwi outdoors lifestyle.

On a professional front, Riaan strives towards continuous improvement and successfully employing best personal and business practices.

"Overcoming challenges, achieving success and developing and supporting my team members to be successful is what gives me joy in life both professionally and on a personal level."

The Three Waters Manager is responsible for:

- Asset Management
- Maintenance Management
- Plant Operation and Control
- People Management
- Project Management

The infrastructure upgrades planned for the Kawerau water system signal to a busy and challenging time for Riaan in the next few years.

Three Waters Manager: Riaan Nel takes a moment in his training on the Toi's Challenge Track recently.



Water Conservation Request Continues

The Council requests that residents continue water conservation measures due to the ongoing dry weather conditions. Hand-watering your garden or lawn rather than unattended sprinklers or watering your garden every alternate day in the cooler evenings makes a big difference. This will help keep our reservoirs at good capacity for residents and ensure we have sufficient fire-fighting capacity with the current Extreme Fire Danger risk level.

The amount of potable (drinking) water used jumped from 149,151m³ in December to 234,538m³ in January. The daily consumption continued to increase in February and the daily usage exceeded the 12 million litres that the water supply system can distribute.

This put a huge load on the water supply system and on 3 February the water supply reserves had dropped to only 53%.

Since the Council has asked residents to conserve non-urgent water usage, the water supply has been back to around 80%.

The Council would like to thank residents for doing their part to conserve water and asks that people continue to conserve non-urgent water use.

These voluntary conservation measures, such as watering your garden every alternate day and watering at night – which uses less water due to no reduced evaporation; and also uses watering during off-peak times helps greatly to reduce the daily load.

Water Conservation Measures

- Limit water usage for lawn and garden sprinkling (for instance, water your garden every alternate night)
- Check your tank, taps, hoses etc. for leaks and drips
- Reserve toilet flushing as much as possible
- Reduce shower time/frequency where possible
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth and shaving
- Limit use of appliances such as dishwasher, washing machine

What The Council Is Doing To Conserve Water

The water that the Council is using to water the reserves and sports fields does not come from the potable water supply. Therefore, it does not affect the amount of water available to residents.

The Council is reducing the watering programme as follows:

- ▶ Water from Ruruanga Stream will be used to sprinkler Prideaux Park for up to a maximum of four hours each day with the aim to reduce any possible fire risk.
- ▶ Water from Tarawera River will be used to sprinkler Firmin Field, Boyce Park and Tarawera Park, for reduced periods, again to lower any fire risk.
- ▶ Annual garden beds will be watered every second day at off-peak periods (during the night) for 30 minutes maximum.

The Council thanks the community for their support in conserving water.

Water Quality

The New Year started with the Boil Water Notice after a positive result for E Coli at a routine sampling point on 2 January. Taken from the Upper Valley reticulation the very high result high result meant a Boil Water Notice was put in place for the district from Saturday, 4 January until Tuesday 7 January. All subsequent testing was clear of any contamination.



A water tanker with potable drinking water was brought in during the Boil Water Notice period which was well utilised by residents.

An in-depth investigation ruled out any contamination in the reticulation. The most likely cause of the single positive test was contamination during sampling.

The investigation has resulted in changes to the water supply testing. Any further changes required will be identified during the development of the next Water Safety Plan.

There were no dirty water complaints in December.

However, the water use increased significantly from 149,151m³ in December to 234,538m³ in January 2020 and the excessive draw down, together with low reservoir levels, lead to six incidences of dirty water.

Council Briefs

Community Satisfaction Survey

On Friday, 14 February 2020 the National Research Bureau (NRB) began conducting the three-yearly community satisfaction survey.

On behalf of the Kawerau District Council the NRB will be phoning residents in the Kawerau district for a short community survey.

As a national organisation NRB completes research for many councils in New Zealand which enables a comparison of results.

The 2018 Census figures found that 63% of NZ households still have a landline. For the 2020 survey, the National Research Bureau will survey 200 residents (aged 18 or over) mainly by landline telephone, but some will be by mobile and also face-to-face interviews.

The survey aims to interview a minimum of 60 residents aged from 18 to 44 to ensure a younger demographic and at least 60 interviews with residents who identify as Maori.

There is also a 50/50 gender quota that will be used. This means 100 interviews will be with men and 100 with women to ensure a relatively even gender balance.

The 2018 Census figures show that 48% of the Kawerau District population aged over 18 is male, and 52% is female.

The Council thanks you in advance if you receive a phone call and are able to assist with the 2020 Community Survey.

TOTAL FIRE BAN – caution required with machinery

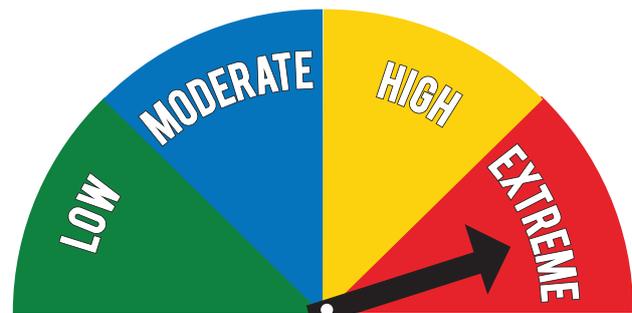
There is a total fire ban in place for the Kawerau district.

The total fire ban was put in place after Fire and Emergency NZ put the fire risk level to Extreme which means there is a real danger of fires escaping and becoming larger and harder to extinguish.

The Tarawera Forest is closed due to the Extreme Fire Risk. The scope of the closure is Putauaki, the Tarawera Falls and the Outlet.

Caution is advised with people using machinery as fires can start from the smallest spark when using machinery in the dry conditions we are experiencing.

- Check the fire weather in your area before using machinery. Avoid operating equipment during times of very high or extreme fire danger.
- Be very careful when using machinery during dry conditions. Fires can start from the smallest spark.



- Wet down the area you're working in and have firefighting equipment handy if the conditions are dry.

For more information on using machinery, farm maintenance, hot work and transport in extreme fire conditions please visit: www.fireandemergency.nz

Phone 111 in the event of a fire or emergency.

Roading Projects

There have been several speed control measures or speed humps installed in River Road, Tuwharetoa Road and Massey Street last week. The aim is to slow the traffic in these areas and increase the safety for pedestrians, cyclists and other users of the road and footpath.

A new pedestrian crossing will also be installed at the Te Whata Tau o Putauaki School in Galway Street this month.

Kerb and Channel Work:

In other roading projects, kerb and channel work was completed in Bledisloe Street. Work is continuing in River Road and Galway Street and significant works are about to start in Beattie Avenue and Islington Street.

Parking design is underway for Liverpool Street, Spencer Avenue, Manukorihi Drive and Paroa Street.



Police Update from Shane Tailby - Officer in Charge Kawerau

Do you know your neighbours?

Knowing the person who lives over the fence could help prevent your home becoming a target. It could be sharing with your neighbour that you are going away and having them clear your letterbox and keep an eye on your place while you are gone.

Any type of prevention that you can do to make criminals think twice about targeting your property will help. Things such as cutting back some trees, closing the gate when you go out or leaving a light on when you go out at night. Photograph your valuables and the serial numbers into your mobile phone and store them in a cloud-based app.

For more tips visit <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-community/protect-property-vehicles>

Kawerau continues to experience a high level of reporting for assaults and family harm, burglary and theft from cars.

All of these are preventable offences. A lot of Policing is about putting the jigsaw puzzle together where Police don't have all the pieces and need the eyes and ears of the community to provide the missing pieces. Don't

think what you know is too small or insignificant. Your sighting of a suspicious person or vehicle in your area could be exactly the piece we are looking for to solve a crime.

Call Police using 111 or the new non-urgent number of 105.

There is now also a NZ Police app: with online services, news and information available to download to your mobile phone.

Feel free to call into the station if you have any questions, the front door is generally open between 7:30am and 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

Until next time, stay safe.



Creative Community Fund

The Council is calling for applications from community groups and individuals for funding via the Creatives Communities Scheme.

Creative New Zealand funds the scheme that Kawerau District Council administers. The Council receives approximately \$11,500 per year from Creative New Zealand and holds two funding round meetings during the year. You can apply for funding through Creative New Zealand if your project:

- Has an arts or cultural focus
- Takes place within the Kawerau district
- Benefits local community
- Has not started before an application or funding is assessed
- Is completed within 12 months of funding being approved
- Has not been funded by Creative New Zealand's other arts funding programmes for the same purpose
- Meets at least one of the three following Creative Communities Scheme funding criteria:
 1. Participation - create opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in arts activities
 2. Diversity - support the diverse artistic cultural traditions of local communities
 3. Young people - enable young people (under 18 years) to engage with, and participate in the arts.

Types of projects or activities that could be funded include exhibitions, productions, concerts, festivals, workshops and presentations that offer opportunities for community involvement in the arts.

Applications for the first funding round have been extended to 18 March 2020.

For more information on eligibility and for the application forms please visit www.kaweraudc.govt.nz Information is also available at the Council offices in Ranfurly Court.

Library Summer Holiday Programme

The summer reading programme 'The Great Reading Carnival' was the main focus for the Library in December and January.

By the end of January, some 250 youth and their families had participated in the various 'Great Reading Carnival' activities on offer. In total, 68 youth collected a carnival ticket and 45 youth read enough books to earn a goodies bag.



Sir James Fletcher Kawerau Museum

Looking back to the end of the 2019 year, a highlight was the reopening of the Sir James Fletcher Kawerau Museum, which was done with a 'Queen's Carnival' theme for the event and the exhibition.

For Kawerau Council Museum Curator Anastazja Harding who joined Kawerau District Council mid-2019, it was the culmination of a "transformation of the gallery from a space filled with boxes to a platform for communicating Kawerau's past and present."

Anastazja acknowledged Irene Sandle's instigation of the Queen Carnival exhibition and all the Library and Museum Staff for all their efforts in helping achieve the reopening.

"Every item within the Museum collection has a story, and it is only through the continued telling of these narratives, the continued sharing of the cultural, traditional and creative practices from which these items came, can the Museum do justice to its goals of protecting and presenting Kawerau's heritage in a meaningful and sustainable way."

"The reopening was a perfect example, with members of

the Kawerau community sharing their memories of the 1966 Queen Carnival."

The 1966 Queen Carnival was held over six weeks from the 18 March until the 30 April in order to raise money for building what is now the Recreation Centre. Six chosen Queens from the Kawerau community had to put on all kinds of events to raise the £10,000.00 shortfall for building the Rec Centre. The queen who raised the most was crowned Carnival Queen.

The event had pre-opening games for children and youth based on games played in the 1960s and the competitions played at Queen Carnival in 1966 including the 'Rolling Pin Derby'.

Reverend Graeme Te Rire opened the event with a beautiful karakia and blessed the gallery before Malcom Campbell cut the ribbon.



Card making popular at Library

Lots of lucky people will have received a hand-crafted masterpiece for Valentine's Day.

The Library held a card making session before Valentine's Day with Julie Collins (pictured front) demonstrating. Many people went home happy with their finished product for upcoming birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions.

The Library also has locally made reusable library bags for sale at only \$5 each.



Council Briefs Continued

Museum Internship

Kawerau Museum is proud to offer up to four secondary school students in Year 10 to Year 13 the opportunity to learn about the basics of museum practice, including: handling and rehousing artefacts, exhibition planning, installing and presenting researched information. Those who were keen had to write a 300-word essay

The internship comprises two after-school sessions each week for five weeks. Participants who attend all 10 sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

Applications closed recently last Friday but if youth are interested they are welcome to contact the Museum about future internship opportunities.

Successful applications will be informed by Friday, 28 February 2020.



Tarawera Swimming Hole

Thanks to feedback from Kawerau residents the Council Parks and Reserves team will ensure the gates are open at Tarawera Park during the day and into the evening during daylight hours so families can enjoy the swimming hole.

Vehicles can be driven through the main Tarawera Park gateway so people of all ages to enjoy the beautiful Tarawera River. The gates will be locked overnight.



Health Shuttle Survey Closed

Thanks to everyone who filled out the Kawerau District Community Health Shuttle survey.

The online survey closed on Sunday 16 February 2020 and paper copies of the survey were able to be dropped back the following week.

The working group will then analyse the survey results regarding the proposed Health Shuttle services for the Kawerau District.

Kawerau Neighbourhood Support

Kawerau Neighbourhood Support (KNS) is working alongside Meagan Edhouse from Civil Defence in order to offer members of the community training workshops to make us more aware and prepared for any environmental or industrial disaster. We have Zone Coordinators in each area of our district to convey information to the community and provide support where needed.

KNS will continue to host Pop up BBQ's throughout the district to connect and create a safe network of neighbours. New members are given a goodie bag with crime prevention resources and relevant information about KNS. We will be also attending the Heart to Heart open day on the 29 February. Community events are another avenue for KNS to educate and promote our services.

KNS will be hosting a Newbies luncheon to invite new members of our community to meet and develop contacts and friendships. They will also be provided with

information on services and community events. We have had great results with two

new members becoming a part of our volunteer pool as well as active members on our committee.

KNS community database is pivotal in collecting and collating information from members. The information gathered will assist Civil Defense with regards to individual community needs ie: medical and mobility issues, plus a list of available resources and expertise to assist where necessary.

If members of the Kawerau community would like more information, or would like to register with our service please contact Angie on 021 2021303 or knscoordinator@gmail.com



Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village

The Council is pleased to announce that there has been significant progress with the Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village.

Recently the Council received confirmation that it has now been officially registered as a retirement village which was an important and necessary legal process to complete.

The other important development has been that the concrete foundations are now being completed for the first four units, with the foundations for the next two units soon to be started. The infrastructure services were connected and completed in the subdivision last year.

To date the Council has received considerable interest from people within Kawerau and nearby areas for the lifestyle

village units. The next step is that the Council will work with Generation Homes to complete the construction of the first six units.

People who have already registered their interest in purchasing the right to occupy a unit at the Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village will be advised that the next stage is for those who wish to secure a unit is to make a deposit.

Further information will be available soon from the Council offices in Ranfurly Court, and the Council website.

In addition, Central Cove (pictured below right) has had seven conditional offers by people who wish to build in this subdivision.



Kawerau District Council Meeting Dates 2020

Regulatory and Services 9:00am	Council Meeting Dates 9:00am	Audit and Risk Meeting Dates
<p>Tuesday, 17 March</p> <p>Tuesday, 14 April</p> <p>Tuesday, 12 May</p> <p>Tuesday, 16 June</p> <p>Tuesday, 14 July</p> <p>Tuesday, 11 August</p> <p>Tuesday, 15 September</p> <p>Tuesday, 13 October</p> <p>Tuesday, 10 November</p> <p>Tuesday, 15 December</p>	<p>Tuesday, 25 February</p> <p>Tuesday, 31 March</p> <p>Tuesday, 28 April</p> <p>Tuesday, 26 May</p> <p>Tuesday, 30 June</p> <p>Tuesday, 28 July</p> <p>Tuesday, 25 August</p> <p>Tuesday, 29 September</p> <p>Tuesday, 27 October</p> <p>Tuesday, 24 November</p> <p>Tuesday, 15 December</p>	<p>Further Meeting dates throughout the year to be determined</p>