

Council Works

Council wish Chris well



Pictured: Mayor Malcolm Campbell, Chris Reynolds holding the Council plaque to commemorate his service, wife Jenny and Information Services manager Andrew Bluett.

Council thanks Chris Reynolds and wishes him all the best for his retirement after nearly 15 years' service to Kawerau District Council.

At his farewell Mayor Malcolm Campbell congratulated Chris on his service and thanked him for his work ethic. Chris was also thanked by Information Services Manager Andrew Bluett and Manager Finance and Corporate Services Peter Christophers on behalf of the staff. Both praised Chris for his broad knowledge of IT and being able to be the 'jack of all trades' that was required at a small Council, all the while with a smile on his face.

Having worked in IT (information technology) most of his career, Chris felt it had been a brilliant time to have seen the technology revolution - and spoke of the huge computers in the early days that took up entire buildings that had less capacity than his smart phone! Nga mihi nui Chris - all the best for a fantastic retirement !

Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village Update



The second phase of building at the Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village is well underway. Six units are being constructed in this phase of which five are sold or under contract.

If you wish to find out more information about the Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village, please contact Council on 07 306 9009.

Bee cards for Bay Hopper

Bee cards are now available at the Kawerau i-SITE for a cost of \$5.

It may take up to 5 working days to activate the cards (via the Bay of Plenty Regional Council).

People can pay cash to the bus driver to top up their Bee card, or top up online.

For more information please call into the Kawerau i-SITE and talk to the team who will assist you to complete the form.

Note; At COVID-19 Alert Level 2 it is mandatory for people aged 12 years and over to wear a face covering on public transport.



COMMUNITY UPDATE

5 MARCH 2021

from the Mayor



We are now back in COVID-19 Alert Level 2.

Please continue to use your preferred contact tracing method (by phone or paper) so we can all keep track of where we have been.

The Bluetooth app keeps track of who we have been near and is another level of security should we come into contact with anyone who later tests positive with the COVID-19 virus.

In Level 2, Council will provide essential services to residents.

Still on the front of safety – the fire risk remains extremely high. We are in a restricted season and everyone needs to be vigilant. Call 111 if you suspect a fire.

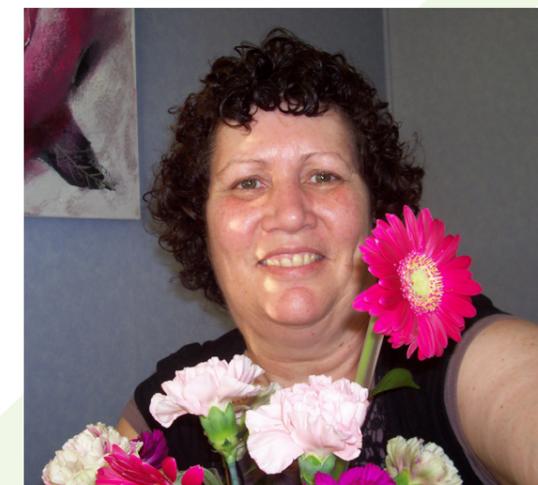
Activities and projects are ramping up and we are working with external contractors to prioritise projects.

One of those is stage two of the River Road Culvert replacement project at the pumphouse area. We appreciate this is an inconvenience for all residents and we acknowledge your ongoing support.

COVID-19 meant the postponement of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee meeting with our neighbours Whakatane, Opotiki and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. This will be rescheduled.

We are also ramping up work on the Long Term Plan. Council has been meeting about some of the major projects and works planned in this 10-year period. We look forward to getting those options out to the community for consultation and feedback shortly.

I recently attended the Memorial Service for Rowena Dowie (pictured) who had worked for the Kawerau



The Late Rowena Dowie

District Council for four decades (1981-2021) as one of our Librarians. Rowena also ran the school holiday programming at one stage and in the last 11 years helped with our Museum as well. She was a lovely multi-talented lady, and will be greatly missed by the Council staff and our community. I was pleased to be able to acknowledge Rowena's dedicated service on behalf of the community at her farewell. Our condolences and thoughts are with her family.

Nga mihi nui
Malcolm Campbell – Mayor

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against
COVID-19**
www.covid19.govt.nz

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Water Issues

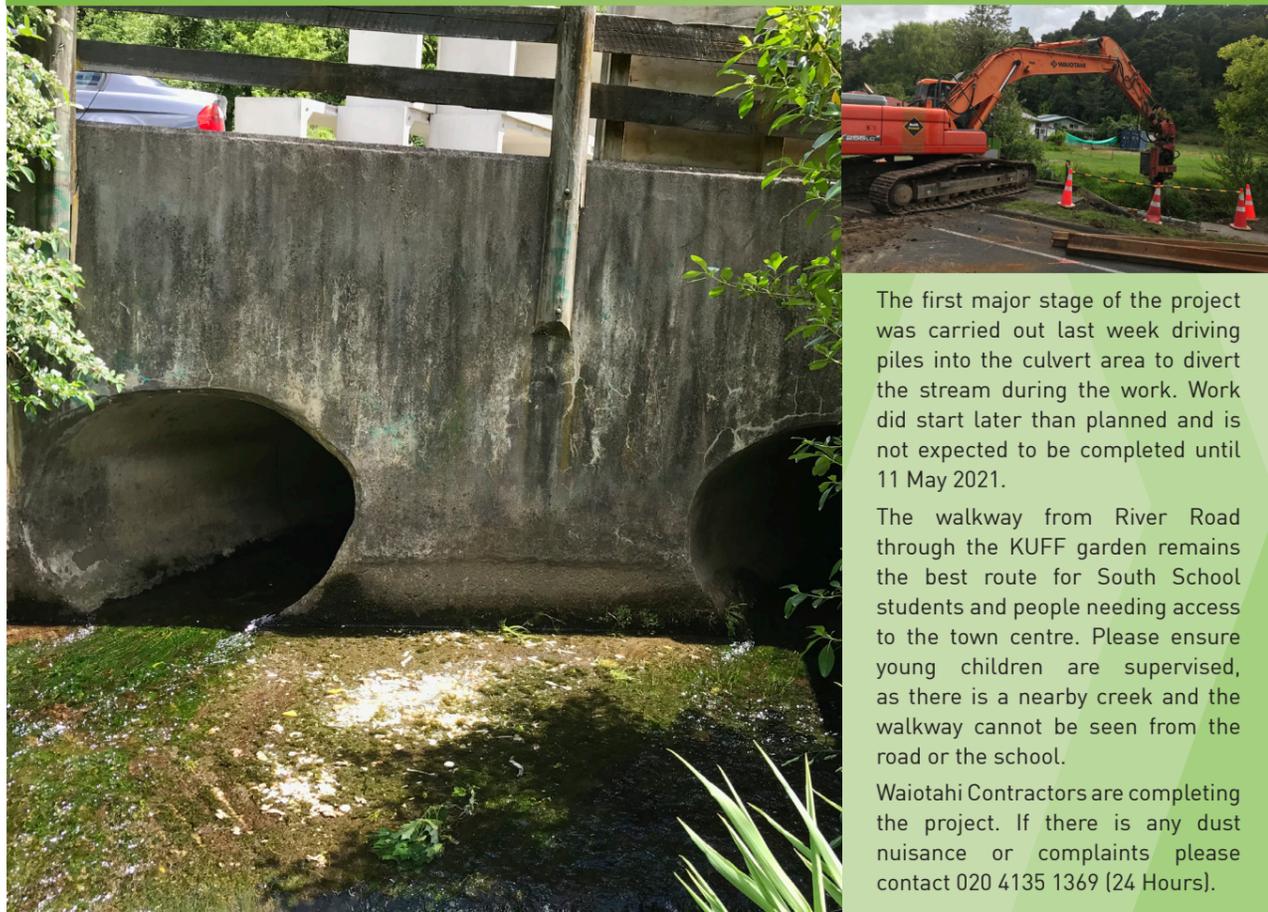
A reminder to all residents that should you have issues with your potable (drinking) water please phone Council on **07 306 9009 anytime 24 hours**. If the issue is dirty water, odour or taste, the Council's Three Water team will flush the lines feeding your home immediately.

In the upcoming Long Term Plan, which will be going out for public feedback as part of the consultation process, the Council will outline options for the replacement of the water reticulation system (pipes).

The installation of new tobies continues with funding from the Three Waters Stimulus Grant.



River Road Culvert Replacement Project Stage 2



The first major stage of the project was carried out last week driving piles into the culvert area to divert the stream during the work. Work did start later than planned and is not expected to be completed until 11 May 2021.

The walkway from River Road through the KUFF garden remains the best route for South School students and people needing access to the town centre. Please ensure young children are supervised, as there is a nearby creek and the walkway cannot be seen from the road or the school.

Waiotahi Contractors are completing the project. If there is any dust nuisance or complaints please contact 020 4135 1369 [24 Hours].



Facilities Fees

Council recently decided to keep facility fees the same as previous years. The options regarding facilities charges will be up for feedback as part of 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan public consultation process.

Short Street and Massey

The road markings on Massey Street have been amended to white "give way" road markings and signage. The stop sign for motorists turning into Massey Street from Short Street remains in place.

Sewer Pipe Repair and Assessment.

Last September the sewer pipe between the Rautahi Marae and the Cosmopolitan Club failed due to geothermal damage to of the asbestos cement pipe (AC) which required an emergency repair. The pipe and the manhole have since been replaced at cost of \$40,686.00. In early February, the next section of the line between the Cosmopolitan Club and Plunket Street failed. Tenders were called for to replace the 108mm line and Council last week approved the work to be undertaken by Opotiki Pumps and irrigation for a total cost of \$36,272.00. After these two failures, Council now plans to assess the rest of the AC-sewer lines in the geothermal areas in March this year. This work will be funded with \$7,000.00 from the Three Waters Stimulus Grant Delivery Plan, in addition to the planned \$14,000.00 already in the budget. It is expected that all sewer lines and manholes will need to be replaced in the geothermal areas between Onslow, Plunket and Glasgow Streets as well as the area around the Maurie Kjar Memorial Swimming Pool Complex.



Failures in the AC (asbestos cement) sewer pipes near geothermal areas has prompted emergency repairs and an evaluation of the entire line

Speed Hump Requested by Residents

Council is currently working with the residents and schools regarding the installation of speed humps in River Road near Tarawera High School and also on Onslow Street beside Kawerau South School. Positive feedback continues from parents of students at Kawerau Pūtauaki School after the raised pedestrian crossing was installed.

A speed hump was installed last week in Valley Road to slow down drivers as requested by nearby residents. The recommended maximum speed of 25 kms to cross.

The reason for temporary speed humps is that they can be moved should noise become an issue for the residents. As well as being a lower cost than asphalt speed humps, the temporary speed humps so a better job of slowing down the traffic.

Council appreciates that not everyone speeds on the districts roads – but these are being installed after requests and consultation with residents.



Housing Developments

The Central Cove housing development is progressing well with continued interest for the house and land packages. The development is being completed in partnership with Generation Homes.

In addition, there are four house and land packages available in the Bell Street/ Te Ariki Avenue subdivision.

For more information, please visit generation.co.nz/view-our-subdivisions

Rate Collection Acknowledged

Council acknowledged the rate collection at the mid-point of the financial year is excellent. Councillors wished to thank and applaud ratepayers for continuing to keep up with their rates given the issues of COVID-19 in 2020.