

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

10 JUNE 2022



## From the Mayor

Thank you to all our submitters to the Annual Plan 2022-2023 process.

It was particularly good to hear those submitters present to Council at the Hearing. There is nothing like hearing first-hand from our residents, ratepayers and stakeholders.

We continue with the deliberations and decision making over the next two weeks with the aim to adopt the plan on 28 June 2022.

There are no easy decisions when it comes to rates increases. Changing the rating share of one group can have a big impact on other ratepayers.

The shortfall is not due to Norske Skog or any organisation not paying their rates. There is a considerable reduction in the amount of rates Norske Skog legally has to pay this coming year. This is due to a revaluation of their company after they closed their operations in June 2021.

This has coincided with the rising valuations of Kawerau property, particularly, in the mid-range residential properties.

Council has for many years been growing our ratepayer base and supporting economic growth. In addition, the current and future residential developments of Council will continue to grow the number of ratepayers.

During consultation, we talked a lot about the government's Three Waters Reform. The Council's position has not changed since we asked for your feedback in 2021. We agree with the principles of the reform, but not the

government's model that takes ownership and management of the drinking water, storm water and waste water infrastructure and operations away from Councils.

The government is still planning to implement their Three Waters Reform in 2024. This means Kawerau's water assets and operation will be bundled with as part of Entity B with 22 other councils from the greater Waikato, Bay, Taupo and Taranaki regions.

We recommend that as this is a Central Government initiative, it is the voice of the people that MPs need to hear.

On a more positive note, Council and other community groups are looking forward to celebrating and observing the first official Matariki holiday.

Matariki is a time when whānau remember those who have passed on; celebrate the present and plan for the future.

Council plans to hold a community planting day at the urupā (cemetery) and our District Library will be donating Matariki themed-books to our local kura (school). Our i-SITE will have a Matariki Hikoi 'walking tour' brochure available.

Finally, I would like to pass on our condolences and acknowledge the passing of former Deputy Mayor Tony Geor. It was a privilege to serve with Tony and his contribution to Kawerau has been immense.

- Mayor Malcolm Campbell

## IN THIS ISSUE

▶ **RECOGNISING TONY  
GEOR'S PASSING**

▶ **ANNUAL PLAN 2022-2023  
PUBLIC HEARING**

▶ **COUNCIL BRIEFS**

▶ **ELECTIONS 2022**

▶ **MANAWATIA E  
MATARIKI 2022**

# MĀNAWATIA A MATARIKI

Celebrate the rising of the new year  
**21-29 JUNE 2022**

## RECOGNISING TONY GEOR'S PASSING

**Former Deputy Mayor Tony Geor was farewelled at a public service in the Kawerau Town Hall on 30 May 2022. Tony passed away peacefully in hospital and was honoured by his vast family.**

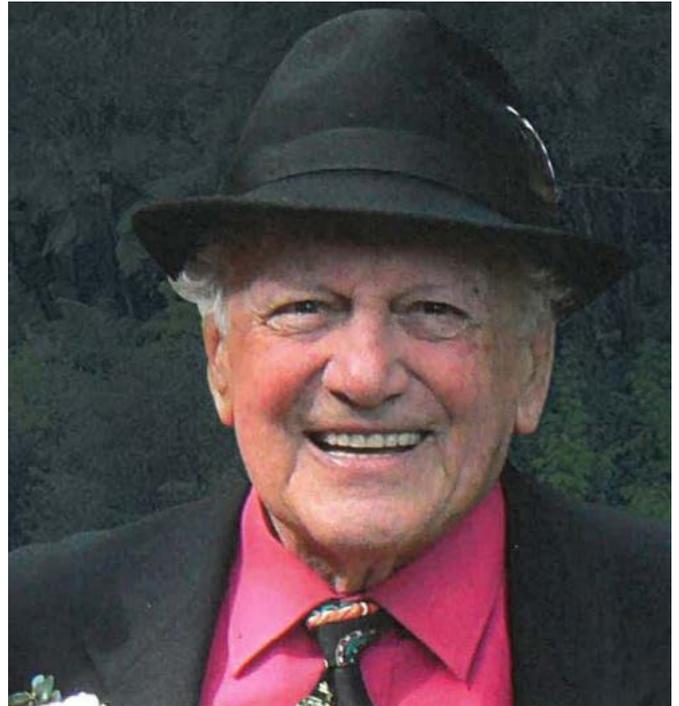
Tony Geor became a District Councillor in 1986 until 1998 and was Deputy Mayor in his last term from 1996 to 1998.

His passion was to support the community and Tony was involved with many community groups and organisations. The time Tony gave to support these groups was acknowledged at his service.

Family was also important to Tony, a trait which he passed on to his children.

Council wishes to acknowledge Tony's wife Kararaina Pirini-Geor, his deceased wives Catherine (Cathy), Rhonda and Margaret and his children and their partners, Carol and Peter Lawrence, Massa and Jocelyn Geor, Sheryl and Denis Cotter, Susan and Frans de Vries, Antoinette and James Pollard, Tina and Ray Geor-Richardson, Aaron and Kor Geor and his 19 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

Our thoughts are with the family and close friends.



## ANNUAL PLAN 2022-2023 PUBLIC HEARING

**After a five-week engagement and submission period, Council received 80 submissions to the Annual Plan 2022-2023.**

On 31 May, the Hearing for Submitters who wished to speak to their submissions was held. This allows people to convey their submission points face-to-face to our Council.

**The submission topics were:**

1. How to spread the \$1m rates shortfall from Norske Skog?  
Option one was to keep the current 45:55 share which gives residential ratepayers the lesser share of rates;  
Option two was to spread the rates share evenly 50:50.
2. Should Council progress a resource consent application for the establishment of a secure asbestos containment site for the disposal of low levels of asbestos contaminated soil and materials in Kawerau and surrounding Eastern Bay district.

**Option one** was yes – progress with a resource consent application;

**Option two** was not progress.

Council is now considering all 80 submissions (which also covered other topics and issues) before making decisions at the Council Meeting on 14 June.

The Annual Plan 2022-2023 is scheduled to be adopted on 28 June 2022.



## COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS / RAT TEST PICKUPS

Covid-19 vaccination clinics are operating twice a week in Kawerau at the Concert Chambers on:

- ▶ Wednesdays 1.00pm - 7.00pm
- ▶ Saturdays 10.00am - 3.00pm

First, second, booster and pediatric vaccines all available. No appointments needed.

Collect your RAT (Rapid Antigen Tests) from the Town Hall from 11am to 2pm daily (except Saturday). The team will assist you with ordering tests, how to take the tests and logging the results.

## RATEPAYER ELECTORAL ROLE

**Do you live in one area and pay rates on a property in another area? You may be eligible to vote in both areas for local government.**

If you pay rates to a different council from where you live, or you pay rates on a property that has a community or local board different from where you live, you may also be eligible to enroll as a 'non-resident ratepayer elector'.

In order to vote in a different election from where you live, you need to get onto the 'ratepayer electoral role'. The Electoral Roll closes on Friday 12 August 2022.

**Find out more at [www.votelocal.co.nz](http://www.votelocal.co.nz)**

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

## Netball Pavilion Rebuild

Through the Annual Plan 2022-2023 consultation and submission period, Council has been asked whether it intends to rebuild the Rangī Delamere Netball Pavilion.

Council is progressing this rebuild; however, the process has been slower than expected.

The Council has received the insurance monies, and has completed plans to rebuild the pavilion, on a like-for-like basis, although it will have additional bathroom and kitchen facilities.

In addition, it will open out onto Prideaux Park for other users of the park (i.e., athletics, events etc.) which Council believes will increase the usage and functionality.

Much of the delay has been a lack of available contractors to rebuild the pavilion (no contractors submitted to the first tender).

More recently, traces of asbestos were found in the site, and had to be safely removed at a cost of \$71,000 and with further delays.

We appreciate that this has been a major issue for all netballers, especially with a lack of bathroom facilities.

Thank you for your patience and we look forward to getting information out to you soon with the starting date and plans.

## Fly Tipping

Council has noticed an increase in rubbish being dumped on roadsides in recent weeks. This is harmful to our environment and our district.

Please put your general rubbish into your smaller 60 litre wheelie bin, your recycling into your kerbside crate and greenwaste into your larger 240 litre wheelie bin.

If you have large amounts of rubbish, recycling and/or greenwaste, please take it to the transfer station where it can be disposed of properly.

If you have an issue with one of your bins and need a replacement, please call the Council offices on 07 306 9009.

## Get Digital

The Kawerau District Library and Museum have just started their latest digital information course. Let's Get Digital will run on Thursdays from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Starting on June 2, the three-week course runs on June 2, 9 and 16

### Harry Potter Anniversary

This year on Monday June 20, it is the Harry Potter 25th Anniversary exhibition and celebration in the library and museum gallery. Check with the Library on how to get involved.

## Matariki Celebrations

This year marks the first official year that Matariki will be a public holiday recognising the significance of Māori New Year. This year Matariki is from 21 to 29 June. New Zealand's first public holiday to recognise Matariki is on Friday, 24 June. Community groups are planning events to celebrate this and Council plans a few of our own for staff and the community - see overleaf for more details.

## Transfer Station Recycling Shed Repaired



The recycling shed roof at the Transfer Station has been repaired (pictured). The old recycling shed roof and sides were damaged after high winds and heavy rain a few years ago. The cost for these repairs was relatively low at \$15,000 as Council staff completed the work.

The repaired building once again keeps the recycling out of the elements and aid the operations of the transfer station team, who utilise the shed to sort recycling.

## ELECTIONS 2022

Every three years elections are held for Local Government to elect the Mayor and eight Councillors. The elections are being held this year, on Saturday 8 October.

ELECTION 2022 TIMETABLE	
<b>Tuesday, 19 July 2022, 6PM</b> Firmin Lodge, Kawerau	Candidate Information Evening Nau mai haere mai - All Welcome
<b>Friday 15 July 2022</b>	Nominations open for Councillor and Mayor's position Roll open for inspection
<b>Friday 12 August 2022</b>	Nominations close (12 noon) Roll closes
<b>Friday 16 September - Wednesday 21 September 2022</b>	Delivery of voting documents
<b>Friday 16 September - Saturday 8 October 2022</b>	Special voting period
<b>Saturday 8 October 2022</b> Close of voting (12 noon)	Election day
<b>Friday 14 October - Wednesday 19 October 2022</b>	Declaration of result

# MĀNAWATIA A MATARIKI

Celebrate the rising of the new year

21-29 JUNE 2022



Kawerau District Council is proud to celebrate and support Matariki 2022.

Council and a number of Kawerau community groups and organisations are collaborating to provide events for our community to recognise Matariki.

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars treasured in Aotearoa.

It is a time when whānau remember those who have passed on; celebrate the present and plan for the future.

For many Māori, it celebrates the start of a New Year.

Other cultures throughout the world also celebrate and recognise Matariki.

## MATARIKI 21 JUNE TO 29 JUNE

Some of the events and activities in the Kawerau rohe to celebrate and recognise Matariki are

**Tuesday, 21 June**

10am to 2pm

Council Community Planting Day at Kawerau Cemetery  
Celebrating our loved ones who have passed  
Note: please bring a spade or trowel if you have one. Plants provided.  
Come for as long or little as you wish

**Wednesday, 22 June**

10am to 12pm

Council Morning Tea for the elderly at Firmin Lodge Celebrating our loved ones who are still with us. Please rsvp to Council on 07 306 9009.

**Thursday, 23 June**

10am to 12pm

Council Matariki 'Walking on Foot Tour' – From Kawerau i-Site.  
Celebrating our significant historical sites  
\*Also available as a 'self-guided' tour from 21 June.  
Call into the i-SITE for more information.

**Friday, 24 June**

Kawerau Arts Society in conjunction with the Kawerau Cossie Club are showcasing an exciting new exhibition showcasing local artists and celebrating Matariki. Email [kawerauartsocietyinc@gmail.com](mailto:kawerauartsocietyinc@gmail.com) for an info pack. Registrations close 5pm, 18 June 2022

### OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS:

**Kawerau Cosmopolitan Club**

The Kawerau Cosmopolitan Club has a drawing competition for tamariki aged 3-12yrs underway. If you have tamariki who would like to participate, copies are available to collect from the main office at the Cossie Club, The Kawerau Library and the District Offices. All entries to be in by Saturday 18th June. The winner will be announced on Friday 24th June at the Kawerau Cosmopolitan Club.

**Kawerau District Library**

The Kawerau District Library will supply our schools and early childhood education community with Matariki-themed books.