

Community

Pānui Update

6 MAY 2025

Boundary reorganisation

On 1 April 2025, Council hosted a mihi whakatau to recognise the landowners impacted by the boundary reorganisation that involved some 548 hectares coming into the Kawerau District. This date was chosen, as it is the same day (1 April 1954) that Kawerau was officially recognised as its own district.

The event was an opportunity for the landowners to be acknowledged by Kawerau and Whakatāne District Councils, and Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Settlement Trust for their patience and input over a long period of 12 or so years. The boundary reorganisation involved some 548 hectares of land from Whakatāne coming into the Kawerau district. The reorganisation was approved by the Local Government Commission on 1 April 2024 and became effective on 1 September 2024.

Held at Kawerau's Firmin Lodge, the April 2025 event was opened by Kawerau District Council Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire who recognised the long process and acknowledged those present and who had passed.

Kawerau District Mayor Faylene Tunui said the event was important to acknowledge people now and into the future. "This is more than an email to say that it has been approved. It has been a journey, and not just about who collects the rates, although of course that is part of it, this is about people sharing the journey and acknowledging their involvement.

"The system isn't designed to look after people; we are here to look after people. This event and the reorganisation acknowledges those who left us, to continue to remember their words and dreams for the next generation and leave beautiful footsteps for others to follow."

Putauaki Trust Chief Executive John O'Brien was one of several to pay tribute to the late Waaka Vercoe and Charles Elliott "both great men with great business acumen who kept driving the kaupapa for the Trust to create more opportunity for shareholders".

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Eastern Bay Councillor and former Kawerau Mayor Malcolm Campbell spoke of the journey beginning some 12 to 15 years ago and how it had taken considerable input from many people along the way.



TOP: Tangata Whenua and Council staff standing to welcome the landowners and representatives from Whakatāne

MIDDLE: Mayor Tunui acknowledges the journey has been about people

BOTTOM: Whakatāne Mayor Victor Luka

Whakatāne Mayor Victor Luka, Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Settlement Trust Chair Karilyn Te Riini and John O'Brien acknowledged the people who were a big part in driving this kaupapa and talked about how this boundary reorganisation will help create more jobs and unlock growth for the industrial area of Kawerau.

Cemetery naming shelter

Last month, a small ceremony was held, to bless the newly installed cemetery information board and shelter.

Council's Cultural Advisor and Iwi Liaison Te Haukawa Te Rire started the blessing with a karakia | prayer and shared a few words about the cemetery being an important place for the community.

Mayor Faylene Tunui, shared the request had come from the community and thanked Dawn Hill and Kaumātua Te Haukawa Te Rire and Tomai Fox for their input and patience for council to come up with an appropriate way for the community to locate where their loved ones were laid to rest.

The new cemetery naming shelter is located at the entranceway, beside the newly revamped ablution block.



(left to right) Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services Lee-Anne Butler, Economic and Community Development Manager Lee Barton, Group Manager, Operations and Services Riaan Nel, Chief Executive Morgan Godfery, Council's Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor Te Haukawa Te Rire, Mayor Faylene Tunui, Tūwharetoa Kaumātua Tomai Fox and resident Dawn Hill



ANZAC Day 2025

On 25 April, Council, in conjunction with the Returned Servicemen's Association (RSA), Veteran's Affairs and Rautahi Marae held the annual ANZAC 2025 remembrance ceremony.

The dawn ceremony began with residents and distinguished guests gathering outside the Kawerau ex-Navalmen's Club and marching to Rautahi Marae for the memorial service.

Guest speaker Commander Keith Wisneski acknowledged the unsung heroes and the courage it takes to defend our country. Wisneski also noted the part animals had in the war and the number of horses and cats that were sent from New Zealand to help aid the soldiers, whether that

be by carrying their packs or detecting bombs.

The ceremony closed with the Ode of Remembrance, the laying of wreaths and poppies, and breakfast at Rautahi Marae.

Council and the organisers would like to extend their appreciation and thanks to all the parties and individuals who helped plan and deliver the ANZAC Dawn Parade and Ceremony, and the community members who took the time to attend.

*TOP LEFT: Commander Keith Wisneski and Mayor Faylene Tunui laying wreaths
TOP RIGHT: Commander Keith Wisneski speaking at the ANZAC ceremony*



Citizenship Ceremony

On Wednesday, 26 February Kawerau Mayor Faylene Tunui welcomed the newest citizens Jordan Conn, Morne De Lange, Arlene De Lange, Shelby De Lange and Cassidy De Lange to the district.

Eastern Bay of Plenty MP, Dana Kirkpatrick attended the citizenship ceremony and read out a letter from the former Minister of Internal Affairs saying, “you share a bond with all New Zealanders no matter your background” and “you may have called New Zealand your home but now you can call it your country.”

The public ceremony is a key step in the process of becoming a New Zealand citizen where people must publicly declare their allegiance to New Zealand and for Kawerau Mayor Faylene Tunui to welcome them into the community on behalf of all New Zealanders.

Congratulations to our newest citizens.



(left to right) Eastern Bay of Plenty MP Dana Kirkpatrick, Mayor Faylene Tunui, Morne De Lange, Arlene De Lange, Jordan Conn, Cassidy De Lange and Shelby De Lange

Dog Fees

Dog registration fees are increasing from July 1, 2025, by 2.5%. The decision to increase the fees by 2.5% (the rate of inflation) was made at a Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 30, 2025. Dog registration fees contribute 13% of the total dog control activity costs which total \$553,945.

The new fees will be:

- Neutered (de-sexed) dog \$43 (\$1 increase)
- Entire (unneutered) dog \$86 (\$2 increase)

Dog registration fees are due for payment by 5pm, 31 July 2025.



Check the Council website for a full list of 2025-2026 dog fees.

Sport Bay of Plenty

MEET THE FUNDERS NIGHT!

Join the Sports Bay of Plenty team as they bring you this great opportunity to network and connect with key funders in Kawerau and discover how different funds can support your local hauora initiatives.

WEDNESDAY 14 MAY

5:30pm - 8pm

FIRMIN LODGE

Nau mai haere mai – everyone welcome including individuals and representatives from clubs or organisations. Come and hear first-hand from the following funders: Four Winds, Sport New Zealand, Trust Horizon, The Lion Foundation, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Kawerau District Council, Eastern Bay Community Foundation, Ministry of Internal Affairs.

To register for the event please

- scan the QR code

- or email shannonp@sportbop.co.nz



Amended Freedom Camping Bylaw

The amended Freedom Camping Bylaw is now available on our website and came into effect on Tuesday 1 April 2025.

KEY CHANGES:

- Maximum Stay: Up to 7 nights per calendar month, and no more than 7 nights when crossing two months.
- Firmin Lodge Carpark: Camping is now restricted to the eastern edge of the carpark.
- Prideaux Park: Extended to include the grassed area in front of the bowling club.
- Recreation Centre Carpark: Now a prohibited site for camping.
- Extension of Prior Consent: Tents and non-self-contained vehicles are allowed only where approved by the Council.

For more details, please refer to the amended bylaw on our website, Kaweraudc.govt.nz



Local Water Done Well

submissions closing 23 May

Local Water Done Well is the Coalition Government’s plan to address New Zealand’s long-standing water infrastructure challenges. Local Water Done Well covers drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

This legislation requires all councils to establish a corporate structure to deliver water services that must be financially sustainable, which includes having enough debt room to renew infrastructure.

In February, Council resolved to consult with our community about retaining water services delivery via an internal (in-house) business unit. The alternative option we are consulting on is delivery water services via a multi council-controlled organisation comprising Kawerau, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Rotorua Lakes Districts. Under the Government’s Local Water Done Well legislation we must consult on our “preferred option” and an “alternative” option.

To find out more or make a submission please visit our

website Kaweraudc.govt.nz

Submissions close Friday 23 May 2025

and a hearing for submitters will be held on Wednesday 18 June 2025.



Pros and cons for internal vs multi-CCO

Here’s how our internal business unit stacks up against the multi-council controlled organisation...

	In-house business unit	Multi Council company (CCO)
Upgrade new drinking water infrastructure faster and cheaper	✓	–
Complete an \$11.5 million upgrade of wastewater network using depreciation reserves over coming nine years	✓	–
Maintain better value for ratepayers	✓	✓
Maintain excellent service response	✓	–
Meet the demand for growth in the district	✓	✓
Independent organisations monitor water quality and charges	✓	✓
Ability to sell off water assets (privatise)	✗	✗
Elected Members keep decision-making authority of water services delivery	✓	✗
Requires targeted rates for waters in 2025-2026 and beyond	✓	✓

✓ YES – SOMEWHAT ✗ NO



Important dates and meetings

Thursday 8 May, 9am – 1pm

Drop-in session at the Kawerau Markets

Monday 12 May

Submissions close for Mahere Iwa Tau | Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034

Wednesday 14 May, 9am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Friday 16 May

Submissions close for the Draft Gambling Venues Policy

Friday 23 May, 5pm

Rates are due

Friday 23 May

Submissions close for Local Water Done Well

Wednesday 28 May, 9am

Long Term Plan hearing for submitters to talk to the Mayor and Elected Members

Wednesday 28 May, 5:30pm

Elects 2025 Candidate Info Evening Concert Chambers

Wednesday 28 May, 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday 9 June, 1pm

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Wednesday 11 June, 9am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday 18 June, 9am

Local Water Done Well hearing for submitters to talk to the Mayor and Elected Members

Rates Payments Due
23 MAY 2025

The 2024-2025 rates instalment four notices have been sent out.

Rates are due for payment by 5pm Friday 23 May 2025. Penalties for unpaid rates will be applied from Monday 24 May 2025.

If you have not received your rates notice yet, your contact details have changed, or you are struggling to pay your rates, please contact our customer services team on 07 306 9009 or visit the Council Office.