

Community Link

Whanganui District Council

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Local government elections are back

Local government elections are back this year, with Election Day taking place on **Saturday, 8 October 2022**.



Preparation is already underway at Whanganui District Council and democracy manager, Kate Barnes, says the council is making a few changes for 2022. "This year we have engaged an external provider to deliver the election for Whanganui and appointed Warwick Lampp of electionz.com as Electoral Officer. Moving to a specialist provider ensures the council can deliver a secure and efficient election, even with COVID-19 potentially in the mix."

The council's new chief executive, David Langford, is excited by the upcoming election campaign. "This is an opportunity for Whanganui residents with a vision for the future of our community to get involved and run for council."

Kate Barnes says, "We want to make engaging with this election easy for everyone. Keep an eye out for election news and events later this year to learn about running and voting for council."

Now is a great time to make sure your enrolment details are up to date. You can check your enrolment status online at www.vote.nz or call the Electoral Commission on 0800 36 76 56. Ensure you are fully enrolled by 12 August to ensure you get your voting papers in the post.

Voting in local government elections throughout New Zealand will continue to be by post in 2022 and the council will have additional voting boxes at busy spots around town so voters will have plenty of chances to get their papers in on time. Candidates for election will however be able to submit their nomination forms online this year, providing greater convenience and accessibility.

• To read more, please visit the council's website at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/Your-Council/News-Events/News

Dog registrations

Time to update your contact details

Dog registration time is approaching so now's the perfect opportunity to update your contact details with Whanganui District Council. Tell us if your pooch has moved kennel by visiting: www.whanganui.govt.nz/dog-rego-details or email: yourcouncil@whanganui.govt.nz

AgriTech 2022 event

Presentations from leading companies

Register now to attend AgriTech 2022 at the Whanganui War Memorial Centre on **Friday, 20 May 2022 from 10.00am-4.00pm**. Supported by Whanganui District Council and Whanganui & Partners, this event will feature presentations from leading New Zealand agriculture technology companies and offer new innovations that can help grow your business, increase your productivity and maximise profitability. For more information and to register your attendance at AgriTech 2022, please visit: www.whanganui.tech/home

Call for open spaces input



Whanganui District Council's draft Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy is now out for community consultation. The new strategy is about creating vibrant open spaces that support health and wellbeing. This means promoting physical activity and play, as well as protecting our district's unique natural environment.

Whanganui Mayor, Hamish McDouall, says open spaces bring people and whānau together, creating a sense of community and belonging and enhancing our appreciation and connections to place.

"We have an abundance of much-loved spaces and sporting facilities that contribute to our unique identity. These places belong to all of us and we want to hear from voices across Whanganui," he says. "I encourage everyone to submit feedback on the strategy to ensure we continue to improve our quality of life, our connections to each other, as well as our sense of pride and place."

To make an online submission, please visit:

www.whanganui.govt.nz/open-spaces

or email: policysubmissions@whanganui.govt.nz

Submissions close at **5.00pm on Friday, 10 June 2022**.

Techweek at our libraries

Techweek 2022 runs from **16-22 May 2022**. Whanganui District Library is hosting a series of events as part of this year's Techweek (please follow the links – you'll need to either book or RSVP for each of these events):

- **Library Online @ Gonville** – bit.ly/3kAF1mY
- **From Settlement to City: Whanganui's Historical Rate Records Database** – bit.ly/39virKt
- **Library Online** – bit.ly/3KQ52tf
- **Discover LinkedIn Learning** – bit.ly/3ONL3yF

For a full listing of this year's Techweek events in Whanganui, please visit: www.techweek.co.nz/whats-on/programme



Pōpokotea set to flock back



IMAGE: FOREST & BIRD

Whanganui's Bushy Park Tarapurui sanctuary will be home once again to a flock of long-lost residents, the treasured pōpokotea whitehead (shown above being leg banded).

The predator-free sanctuary – a partnership between Forest & Bird, Bushy Park Trust and local iwi members of Ngāa Rauru Kīitahi – is set to welcome up to 60 pōpokotea whiteheads, an ancient species only found in New Zealand.

Forest & Bird's sanctuary manager, Mandy Brooke, says, "This is an incredible opportunity to re-establish a species at Bushy Park Tarapurui that would once have been found in their hundreds in this area."

The tiny birds are being moved in small groups over the next fortnight from Whanganui District Council's Waitahinga Reserve and released into their new home at Bushy Park Tarapurui. Council senior parks manager, Wendy Bainbridge, says the council is "pleased to be supporting the project which will help to provide a breeding population of pōpokotea at Bushy Park Tarapurui".

For more information, please read Forest & Bird's media release at: bit.ly/3kPSMhM

WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Whanganui District Council invites you to have your say on these topics:

- 2022 Whanganui Public Transport Survey
- Draft for Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy
- Review of Dangerous and Insanitary Building Policy

More details at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say

HAVE YOUR SAY
KŌRERO MAI

Youth council surveys

Be in to win a \$50 voucher!

Whanganui District Council's Youth Council wants to hear everyone's views on the types of spaces and/or places we need for young people in our city. Complete one of their Whanganui Youth Places and Spaces surveys and you could be in to win one of five \$50.00 vouchers! Take the five-minute Youth Survey (11-24 years) at: bit.ly/3FmnRn1 – if you're a parent, youth worker, coach or teacher, please go to: bit.ly/3K0t4oC

Healthy Streams project

Call for volunteers for planting day

A community volunteer riparian planting day is happening at the Castlecliff Domain (meet at the end of Seafront Road below Karaka Street – this area is known locally as Port Bowen Reserve) on **Monday, 23 May 2022 starting at 9.30am**. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be provided. These plantings are part of the Healthy Streams initiative, a community project led by Whanganui District Council in collaboration with iwi, Horizons Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and community groups to enhance the quality of local stormwater runoff to our natural watercourses.

Council meetings

Upcoming meetings

Council hearings for Annual Plan 2022-23	9.30am Thursday 12 May	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Strategy and Finance Committee	1.00pm Tuesday 24 May	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street

Agendas: www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas
Livestreamed council meetings: www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil
www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings
PLEASE NOTE: Masks must be worn in all council buildings and social distancing is required. If you are unwell, please stay at home.