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Community Link

Visitors to Whanganui spend up big

Visitor spend data from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment shows that despite the impact of COVID-19, June 2020 was the strongest June on record for Whanganui.

Paul Chaplow of Whanganui & Partners – the economic development arm of Whanganui District Council – welcomed the result.

“Whanganui had a 10.8 percent increase in consumer spend for June 2020 compared to last June. While there was certainly increased activity from locals, we suspect this was also being driven by Kiwis exploring their backyard. It’s great to finally see the evidence of that.”

Visitor numbers collected by the Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Information Centre for this July also showed the number of domestic visitors – New Zealanders from outside Whanganui – engaging with i-SITE staff grew compared to July 2019. The largest increases were in visitors from Auckland and Wellington, which were each up by nearly 175 percent for the school holiday period.



Whanganui i-SITE staff said visitors to the centre had indicated a strong interest in “river activities” and a number had also commented how impressed they were by the city’s heritage buildings and local history in general.

For more information about Whanganui as a visitor destination, please go to: www.visitwhanganui.nz

Feedback on Destination Management Plan wanted

Whanganui & Partners is hosting a public workshop at the Cooks Gardens Event Centre this **Thursday, 13 August 2020 from 5.30pm-7.30pm** to collect ideas from the community that will shape a Destination Management Plan for Whanganui. Attendees must register first at: www.whanganuiandpartners.nz/dmp

Paul Chaplow, Whanganui & Partners’ Strategic Lead – Visitor Industries, says the Destination Management Plan will help the Whanganui visitor industry develop in a way that is driven by what people in Whanganui want.



“Destination management brings together different stakeholders to develop a well-managed, sustainable visitor destination. It’s a way for us to identify the social, economic, cultural and environmental risks and opportunities and plan our future around them.”

Workshops will also be held with iwi, tourism operators and community groups.

Amended Keeping of Animals bylaw adopted

On Monday, 3 August 2020 Whanganui District Council adopted the Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2020 and revoked the existing Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2015 upon the commencement of the new bylaw.



The commencement dates for the Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2020 are:

- Cats – Clause 8 (1), (2) and (3) – 1 July 2021
- All other sections – 31 August 2020.

The bylaw is available to view online at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/animals-bylaw-2020 or on request at Council Customer Services at 101 Guyton Street.

RABBIT CONTROL OPERATIONS

CONTROL OPERATIONS AT ARAMOHO CEMETERY AND WEMBLEY PARK

Rabbit control operations are expected to be held at Aramoho Cemetery and Wembley Park sports grounds between **Monday, 17 August and Friday, 21 August 2020**.

The operations will be held **between 10.00pm and dawn** to minimise any disruption to nearby residents and businesses. Signs will be in place and cemetery gates and sports ground access points will be staffed during the operation times.

The operations, subject to Whanganui Police approval, are necessary because rabbits are burrowing in and around Aramoho Cemetery graves and headstones, causing undermining and damage. Wembley Park’s sports grounds are also being damaged, with burrowing a hazard for users. Non-ballistic pellets will be used and firearms will be fitted with silencers and night vision equipment.

Please note the operations are weather dependent and may be postponed if conditions are unsuitable.

BAITING AT ROTOKAWAU VIRGINIA LAKE

Contractors will place rabbit bait (Pindone) in approved bait stations at Rotokawau Virginia Lake near the Twin Bridges from **Monday, 17 August to Friday, 25 September 2020**. The bait stations will be removed before the start of school holidays.

This operation has been timed to take place during the spring breeding season. Signs will be in place at nearby lake entrances during the work.

WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Whanganui District Council invites you to have your say on the following topic:

- Upokongaro War Memorial Hall Survey

For more information, please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say

August planned works

- Flood damage recovery (2017 storm event):** Whangaehu Valley Road
- Pavement road maintenance:** Mangamahu Road
- Road remetalling:** Kaikokopu Road, Owhakura Road, Burma Hill Road, Mangamahu Road
- Unsealed road grading:** Tokomaru East Road, Mangaone Road
- Safety improvements:** Rapanui Road culvert
- Tree removal:** Harper Street
- Kerb and channel renewal:** Hakeke Street car park area, Kings Avenue, Harper Street
- Footpath renewal:** Kings Avenue, Harper Street
- Pavement reinstatement:** Hakeke Street, Kings Avenue, Harper Street
- Water table/culvert maintenance/high shoulder removal:** Kaiwhaiki Road, Longacre Road, Matatara Road
- Mowing and vegetation treatment:** Kaukatea Valley Road
- Inground services:** Gloucester Street (Glasgow Street to Somme Parade), Wilson Street (lower block)

Road resealing work

Somme Pde rail crossing affected

Following recent repairs made by KiwiRail to the Aramoho rail crossing, Somme Parade between Kaikokopu Road and George Street will be closed to all traffic for road resealing work from **7.00am this Saturday, 15 August until 6.00pm on Sunday, 16 August 2020**. (Please note that if the weather is unsuitable, work may be extended to 6.00pm on Monday, 17 August.)

A temporary unsealed road in the Aramoho railway yard will operate during the closure to allow traffic to bypass the worksite. All vehicles will need to follow the bypass route via Kaikokopu Road, Kelvin Street and George Street or vice versa.

Heritage Grant Fund

Whanganui District Council’s Heritage Grant Fund provides financial assistance to private building owners in the Town Centre to undertake heritage enhancement work. The current Heritage Grant Fund application round runs until the end of September 2020. For more information about the fund, visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/heritage-fund

Council meetings

You are welcome at our meetings

Meetings next week		
Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee	10.45am Tuesday 18 August	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Council Meeting	1.00pm Wednesday 19 August	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street

Agendas are available at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas

Full Council meetings are livestreamed at:

- www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil
- www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings