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Sister city celebrations in Nagaizumi-cho

A seven-strong official Council delegation, accompanied by Whanganui people with business, tourism and educational interests, has spent the past week marking the 30th anniversary of Whanganui’s sister city relationship with Nagaizumi-cho in Japan. The Nagaizumi-cho visit included meetings with officials, participating in the annual Waku Waku Festival and visiting schools.

Images (clockwise from top left): Mayor Hamish McDouall with Nagaizumi Mayor Osamu Ikeda, the delegation leaves Whanganui, Mayor Hamish McDouall meets Nagaizumi-cho students, Whanganui guests wave the New Zealand flag at the Waku Waku Festival

Awards for reducing plastic

Whanganui District Council and Plastic Free Whanganui have teamed up to recognise and award businesses committed to reducing plastic waste.

As part of Whanganui’s successful Plastic Free July, the Council provided funding for certificates and stickers for businesses which have eliminated or significantly reduced single-use plastic.

It is also working with Plastic Free Whanganui, the Whanganui Chamber of Commerce and Te Manu Atatu Māori Business Award organisers on a new award category to recognise environmental sustainability and waste minimisation excellence.

Financial assistance for both initiatives has come from the Council’s Waste Minimisation Fund, sourced from a Ministry for the Environment levy on waste disposed at all New Zealand landfills. Fifty percent of the levy is allocated to councils on a pro-rata capita basis, which provides about \$140,000 a year to the Council.

The fund is used for improving resource use, recovery, recycling and reducing waste to landfill.

Plastic Free Whanganui member Elinor Harvey McDouall says it is encouraging that more than 15 Whanganui businesses already qualify for the award.

“We hope the bright green stickers and certificates will easily identify businesses working towards becoming plastic-free, giving customers a choice to go plastic-bag free and also to encourage other businesses to do the same.”

Bunnings Warehouse Whanganui received the first certificate and sticker this week. Bunnings has been committed to being plastic bag free for more than ten years. It offers customers paper bags or recycled cartons if needed and has two recycling bins for cardboard and plastic.

Robin Williamson, from the Sustainable Whanganui Trust and Plastic Free Whanganui, is grateful for the funding.



Bunnings Warehouse Whanganui manager Adam Aldridge accepts a Plastic Bag Free award and sticker from Plastic Free Whanganui members Deirdra McMenamin (left) and Jill Hobbs

It was pleasing that awareness around single-use plastic bags has risen sufficiently that Plastic Free Whanganui can turn its attention to encouraging a reduction in consumption of other plastics.

“Many Whanganui businesses have been using alternatives to plastic bags for a long time. The number of new businesses coming on board to minimise waste is really pleasing.”

Waste Minimisation Working Party chair, Cr Rob Vinsen, says as well as supporting Plastic Free July, the waste levy has funded waste audits of businesses that are keen to reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill and subsequently reduce waste disposal costs.

“Sustainable Whanganui is undertaking the analysis of business waste streams. This advice identifies items in the waste stream that can be diverted and where. Whanganui’s New World supermarket is a real success story in waste diversion. It reduced its waste to landfill by 97 percent with the resultant savings in disposal costs,” says Cr Vinsen.

If you are interested in a waste audit, or for more information on the Waste Minimisation Fund, please contact Council waste minimisation advisor Stuart Hylton at: stuart.hylton@whanganui.govt.nz

If you are a Whanganui business using plastic-bag alternatives or would like to know more, contact Plastic Free Whanganui at: plasticfreewhanganui@gmail.com

Planned works

August 2018

Flood damage recovery June 2015: Whanganui River Road (Kauwaeroa dropout and Jerusalem Bluff Retreat)

Pre-resealed road maintenance: Rangitatau East Road, Rapanui Road, Whanganui River Road, Kowhai Street, Abbot Street, Alma Road, Eastown Road, Harrison Street, Hardy Street, Puriri Street, Nixon Street, Webb Road

Unsealed road grading: Papaiti Road, Kauarapaoa Road, Rangitatau East Road, Tokomaru West Road and Mangamahu area

Traffic light upgrade: St Hill Street (Guyton Street and Taupo Quay intersections)

Kerb and channel renewal, footpath renewal and pavement reinstatement: St Hill Street (Taupo Quay to Ridgway Street), Taupo Quay (Victoria Avenue to St Hill Street)

Stormwater: Mosston Road (Heads Road intersection, Heads Road to Puriri Street), Hinau Street (Mosston Road to Raupo Street)

Water mains works: Anzac Parade (Nile Street to Nixon Street), London Street (Victoria Avenue to Bell Street), Lincoln Road (Oxford Street to Cornwall Street)

Pukenamu Drive

Tree felling

A section of Pukenamu Drive – the road that loops around Queen’s Park – will be closed between 7.00am and 5.00pm on Tuesday, 21 August for the removal of two large pine trees.

The section to be closed runs between the park’s Watt Street entrance and the Sarjeant Gallery. Access will be available to the Davis Central City Library and the Alexander Heritage & Research Library from Campbell Street.

If the weather is unsuitable, the work will go ahead on Wednesday, 22 August.

Thank you for your patience.

Council meetings

You are welcome to our meetings.

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| Council | 2.00pm | Council |
| Note time change | Tuesday 14 August | Chamber |

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| Statutory Management | 9.00am | Council |
| | Wednesday 15 August | Chamber |

Submission hearing and deliberations - Representation Review

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| Statutory Management | 9.00am | Council |
| | Wednesday 22 August | Chamber |

Submission hearing and deliberations - Safer Whanganui Strategic Plan

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| Audit & Risk | 1.00pm | Committee |
| | Monday 27 August | Room 2 |

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| Strategy & Finance | 1.00pm | Council |
| | Tuesday 28 August | Chamber |

Agendas are available at www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas or view hard copies at the Council at 101 Guyton Street or the District Libraries.