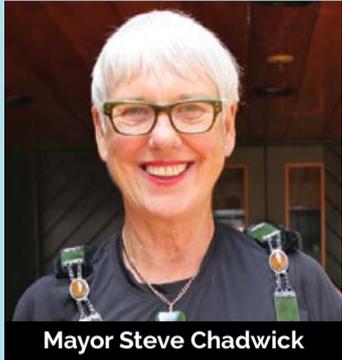


LONG-TERM PLAN GETTING COUNCIL BACK ON COURSE



Mayor Steve Chadwick

Mayor Steve Chadwick says the council's new 2015-2025 Long-term Plan will be about facing reality and getting the council back on course. The council this week concluded a four day council meeting with a series of decisions to be incorporated into the council's new long-term plan. The decisions are

subject to formal adoption of the plan on 30 June. The council has confirmed a one-off seven per cent increase in the total amount of rates to be collected in the coming financial year. The increase has been deemed necessary to get the council back into a balanced budget position, and to enable essential public infrastructure upgrades and renewals to be undertaken. The one-off 2015/16 increase would mean rates rises in subsequent years could then be held closer to annual inflation levels. Average rates increases in the 2015/16 year across key ratepayer categories are now estimated to be 8 per cent for business, residential and rural residential categories and 11

per cent for farming. However, for individual farm properties facing rates rises of more than \$1000, the council has agreed to cap increases to the same percentage level as their most recent capital value increase. Mayor Steve said decision-making for the long-term plan had been the most challenging and complex process faced by Rotorua's council for many years. "The unrealistic mentality of recent years when rates increases were kept as low as 0.9%, while politically expedient, put Council into a financially unsustainable position. "We've acknowledged that we have to take a short-term hit. The new long-term plan will provide an environment that will enable the investment we need to secure Rotorua's future."

OTHER LONG-TERM PLAN DECISIONS IN SUMMARY:

Rural road seals:

Doubling the council's previously signalled funding for rural roading seal extensions.

Waste Strategy:

Developing a new waste management and minimisation plan, with the possibility of fortnightly kerbside wheelie bin collections of household rubbish and recycling.

Wastewater:

Alternative sustainable disposal of treated urban wastewater, currently sprayed in Whakarewarewa Forest. Developing new wastewater disposal solutions for Rotoiti/Rotoma, Rotoehu, Tarawera and Mamaku communities.

Infrastructure:

Developing, strengthening and upgrading key community assets - Library building, i-SITE building, Rotorua Museum, Sir Howard Morrison Performing

Arts Centre, council Civic Centre and Kuirau Park.

Community House:

Demolishing Community House because of unacceptably high upgrade costs. Package of financial assistance to help current community group tenants find alternative premises.

Child Health & Library Hub:

A combined one-stop library and child health hub based on library building and surrounds, in partnership with Lakes District Health Board.

Inner City Revitalisation:

Adoption of Inner City Revitalisation Strategy and funding for inner city upgrade and revitalisation work.

NOTE: Decisions are subject to formal adoption of the Long-term Plan at a council meeting on 30 June.

COUNCIL TO END FINANCIAL YEAR ON DEBT-REDUCTION NOTE

Rotorua Lakes Council is on target to pay down some of its debt at the end of the financial year, for the first time in 10 years. Council is expected to end the year with a cash surplus of about \$3m. Chief Financial Officer Thomas Collé has recommended a portion of the cash surplus be used to reduce debt with sufficient funds retained for council working capital requirements. Mayor Steve Chadwick called it a "great result", providing a timely opportunity. She said it reflected long-term plan discussions about investing in growth while at the same time retiring debt. Mayor Steve acknowledged

the ongoing commitment by management to maintain tight fiscal control and financial sustainability. "This is very reassuring for Council. It really gives us confidence that the organisation is getting on top of things. It feels like we're getting a better business-as-usual consolidated picture." Mr Collé told councillors that, depending on the final figure, he would consider paying down \$1m worth of debt and holding the remainder as cash surplus. He expects to end the year with a debt of about \$167.7m. Council started the current financial year with debt of \$168.7m.

OUTDOOR ICE RINK RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER



The Harcourts Rotorua Outdoor Ice Rink will be back in Rotorua in September.

The Harcourts Rotorua Outdoor Ice Rink will be back in Rotorua this year - and with an added attraction. The rink's time in Rotorua will coincide this year with the September school holidays and will feature a 35m Ice Slide which people will be

able to tackle on a tube or sled. Supplied by Paradise Ice Skating, the outdoor ice rink has been a mid-year attraction at the lakefront for the past three years in July, as part of the Fire and Ice festival organised by Events & Venues. However the festival will not be running this year.

Council Events & Venues events manager Martin Croft said the Fire and Ice Festival was originally created to promote the outdoor ice rink and to add to the mid-winter offer. "We've been very grateful for funding support for the festival in previous years from Rotorua Trust and First Sovereign, and it was popular with locals. However, as a result of the date change for the ice rink, we decided to postpone the festival for a year and take the time to plan for its long-term future," he says. "This year we'll focus on working with Paradise Ice Skating, to make sure the ice rink's stint in Rotorua this year is a success."

NEW DRINKING FOUNTAINS TO REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE



Artist's impression of the new drinking water fountains being installed around the community.

Iconic drinking water fountains are being installed at key community locations around Rotorua to encourage re-use of plastic bottles. Council Sustainable Living Portfolio lead, Cr Janet Wepa, said the aim is to ultimately reduce the amount of plastic waste the city generates. "About 28 per cent of waste collected from households by Council is recyclable. Minimising waste is an important part of Council's waste management plans and the fountains are one way we can contribute, by

promoting the re-use of plastic bottles," she says. "We'll also be providing clean drinking water as a free and healthy option." Thirteen fountains will be installed over the coming month. They will be located at youth spaces in Fordlands, Ngongotaha, Mamaku, Western Heights, and Koutu. They will also be installed at the Ranolf Street skate park, Hannah's Bay, Lakefront, The Redwoods Visitor & Information Centre, Puarenga Park, Government Gardens, Puketawhero Park, and outside the inner city Post Shop.

The fountains will have a bottle filler option, and water meters, so usage and estimated reduced plastic bottle waste can be assessed. Cr Wepa said artwork by award-winning Rotorua artist Kereama Taepa features on the fountains, making them an artistic feature of parks around the city, as well as providing fresh drinking water. Drinking fountains were requested by people contributing feedback at the council's Ideas Store in the inner city late last year.



VIEWS SOUGHT THROUGH 'YOUR CHOICE' SURVEY

A working party reviewing representation arrangements for the 2016 council elections is urging residents to share their views in a short survey.

Over recent weeks the 'Your Choice' working party has been getting around the district, engaging with locals and listening to ideas about the future make-up of Rotorua Lakes Council.

The project aims to find out what people think the optimum number of councillors is, whether councillors should be elected at large or by wards, whether there should be community boards, and other election preferences.

The working party is trying to get a feel of community thinking on these and other related issues before making recommendations to the council for next year's local government elections. They



'Your Choice' working party member, Aroha Bray (seated) getting feedback at the Night Market.

are keen to hear from residents before their recommendations are formulated and passed on.

Anyone interesting in sharing their views via the Your Choice survey, or finding out more about the review, can visit the Rotorua Lakes Council website - rotorualakescouncil.nz - or pick up an information pack

and survey form from the council's customer centre.

The Your Choice working party comprises community representatives Jill Nicholson, Aroha Bray and Brian Eagle, along with councillors Tania Tapsell, Charles Sturt and Merepeka-Raukawa-Tait (chairperson).

DEPUTY MAYOR SLEEPING OUT IN SUPPORT OF HOMELESS

Deputy mayor Dave Donaldson and a group of community leaders will spend a night sleeping rough in the city to show their support for homeless people in Rotorua.

The Lifewise Big Sleepout is a fundraiser aimed at helping the growing issue of homelessness in Auckland and Rotorua.

Dave says that every day in Auckland more than 100 people are sleeping rough in the city, and thousands of vulnerable people are living in unsafe or unsuitable accommodation.

"While numbers are significantly smaller in Rotorua there is a small group of homeless people sleeping rough every night here, and we want to increase awareness of that issue."

He said every dollar raised goes towards turning lives around for vulnerable Kiwis living with homelessness.

The Big Sleepout is at the Pukuatua Street Carpark building on 2 July. To donate to Dave's fundraising effort visit www.bigsleepout.org.nz.

BRIEFLY

POSITIVE AGEING GROUP TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER LOCALS

Rotorua Lakes Council wants to hear from locals aged 50 and over who are keen to be part of the Positive Ageing Rotorua group. The group will work with the council on issues concerning older residents.

Expressions of interest close at 10am on 10 July.

For more details about Positive Ageing Rotorua go to rotorualakescouncil.nz - click on 'Our Council', then 'Consultation and Public Notices' and 'Positive Ageing'.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS HEADING FOR ROTORUA

Around 600 local government mayors, councillors, CEOs and officials from around New Zealand will descend on Rotorua next month for the annual Local Government New Zealand Conference. Key players from the private sector, business, government and non-government agencies are also expected to attend.

The conference takes place from 19 to 21 July at the Energy Events Centre.

MATARIKI EVENTS

Rotorua Matariki celebrations this year feature a range of community events including kite making, family activities, a fashion show, a community walk and a poster competition.

Matariki is the Māori name for a cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades and heralds the start of a new year.

Events organised by Rotorua Lakes Council's museum, library and Sports & Recreation teams and others over the next two months can be found on the council website rotorualakescouncil.nz.

NEW WAIPA FOREST FITNESS TRAIL OPENED



Cr Charles Sturt (centre) with Waiariki Institute of Technology's Amanda Heapy and Red Stag's Paul Laing at the opening of the Waipa Fitness Trail.

The new Waipa Fitness Trail at the Rotorua mountain bike carpark, is now open for the public to use as an extension to their exercise regimes.

A Rotorua Lakes Council and Red Stag Ltd partnership provided materials for the exercise stations and instruction signs, while Waiariki Institute of Technology's Academy of Sport was involved in developing and installing the stations, and creating basic exercise instructions.

Council Sports and Recreation Portfolio lead, Cr Charles Sturt, said there was a need for a fitness trail within

the community, especially for those new to exercise.

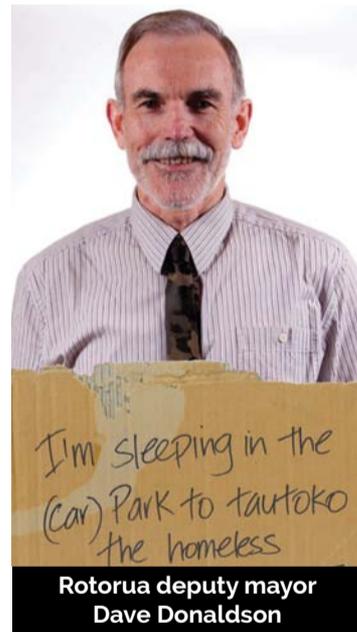
"The forest environment was identified as an ideal location for a fitness trail, as people can start with short walks on flat terrain, and then extend to longer walks or runs on varied terrain as their fitness levels improve. Resistance training could then be incorporated into their regimes if the right equipment was available."

Following feedback from users it is hoped to replicate the fitness trail at other forest sites, with Long Mile Road being identified as potentially the next location.

COMMUNITY AWARDS WINNERS

The five recipients of 2015 Rotorua Lakes Community Awards are Cheryl Campbell, Phil Muldoon, Tony Baker, Diana Adlam and Terry Beckett.

Mayor Steve Chadwick said the recipients have been amongst the city's unsung heroes for many years but somehow managed to quietly slip under the radar. She said it was important to acknowledge their work and let them know their commitment to making the community better had not gone unnoticed.



Rotorua deputy mayor Dave Donaldson

LIZZIE, TOM, HOWIE AND REWA JOIN CELEBRATE 75 CAST

An exciting foursome of popular local entertainers has joined the cast appearing at next month's Celebrate 75 community variety concert.

Lizzie Marvelly and Reverend Tom Poata will MC the Civic Theatre's 75th birthday celebration on 17 July, while Howard Morrison Jnr and Rewa Ututaonga will be part of the line-up performing at the event.

Council performing arts director, Richard Marshall, said the new additions enhanced

the show's already stellar cast, with Rewa Ututaonga opening the event with a stirring rendition of Rotorua's theme song, 'Manaakitanga'.

Howard Morrison Jnr, will take the audience on a trip down Memory Lane, as he performs a selection of nostalgic songs made popular by his father, the late Sir Howard Morrison.

His five-part harmony group, which features former members of local band Cairo, will also perform songs for the event.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 49% of the rubbish in Rotorua council rubbish bags is recyclable
- 10% of the recyclable rubbish is glass
- 40% of waste in Rotorua council rubbish bags is compostable
- Cloth nappies are much better for the environment than disposables
- The average Kiwi household throws out about 79kg of edible food, worth more than \$560, every year.

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

Rotorua Lakes Council, Private Bag 3029
Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046

Phone: 07 348 4199
Hours: 8am - 5pm Mon - Fri

mail@rdc.govt.nz
www.rotorualakescouncil.nz
www.facebook.com/RotoruaDistrictCouncil