

Reflections on another year



I am very proud to be your mayor for another term and look forward to continuing to work with the community to keep our wonderful district moving forward.

Now, as we head into the festive season and our summer holidays, it is a good time to reflect on another year in which Rotorua has continued to thrive.

We have a local economy performing above the national average, unemployment dropping, tourism continuing to boom and retail trade increasing.

We've also had new businesses establishing here, new buildings going up and redevelopment by existing businesses and it's been great to see that activity.

There's more interest in Rotorua as a place to live and invest, reflected in rising house prices and pressure on our housing stock but we know new residential subdivisions are on the horizon which will ease that pressure.

Meanwhile, our population is growing, passing 70,000 this year and reversing a decade long decline pre-2014, so we are thriving and growing.

Recently we also had the announcement that Rotorua has secured the Crankworx festival for another 10 years, which is unprecedented. It's an event that's really captured the whole community as well as providing a huge economic boost that extends well beyond the week-long event itself.

It's important we keep the momentum going while also dealing with challenges that present themselves – like the unforeseen closure of our museum and the need for investment in our roading and other infrastructure.

Council will continue collaborating to deal with these issues.

Since October's election the new council, along with members of the new rural and lakes community boards and Te Tatau o Te Arawa board, have gone through a thorough induction and we're gearing up to start 2017 with renewed energy. Along with Te Tatau representatives, we also now have community board representatives at the committee table and that diversity provides different perspectives which will be extremely valuable in our decision-making.

We will soon be coming out to the community for input into priority-setting for the next three years to build on progress we've made to-date towards the district's 2030 goals. Part of ensuring the district continues to prosper is making sure we focus on the right things, the things that will help us progress further.

The Rotorua 2030 aspirations still apply but we need to be more specific in terms of how we are going to achieve them. We need to define our district's strengths and future opportunities and then consider how we can maximise those to help us identify where our focus needs to be.

Elected members have started this process and we're calling this The Rotorua Way. What we've done to-date will provide the basis for discussion with the wider community. We want to know what you think, we want your ideas and input, to ensure we're on the right track.

The Rotorua Way won't replace Rotorua 2030 but will provide focus across the next three years and I look forward to discussions with you about this.

Something the election has reinforced is how important it is that our community is engaged and residents feel they can have an impact on the things that affect their lives. We'll continue to engage with the community through the work of our portfolios but will also be looking at new ways to engage to try and reach a broader range of people.

Tēnā koutou katoa, ngā mihi nui mō tēnei wāhanga o te tau. Te wā o te kirihimete me te tau e whai ake nei. I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas with family and friends. I look forward to continuing our work together to build a strong and connected community.

Mayor Steve Chadwick

Wanted: Tradies and Contractors

Rotorua Lakes Council is calling for proposals from tradies and service providers for its preferred maintenance trades and services register. The council is looking to provide all interested, suitably qualified contractors with the opportunity to be considered for its register as part of a review process which is undertaken every few years.

The "preferred suppliers" will provide regular and ad hoc maintenance and other services for the various council facilities.

A new Request for Proposals (RFP) for various maintenance trades and services for 2017 – 2020 is now available on the council's Tenderlink e-portal (www.tenderlink.com/rdc/). The reference is RDC-750093.

There will be a workshop next Tuesday, 20 December, at 3.30pm at the council for those needing help with the RFP process and/or wanting more information. Another workshop will be held in January 2017.

The closing date for proposals is Wednesday, 1 February 2017 at 4pm. The successful "preferred suppliers" will start work from 1 March 2017.

Drive safely these holidays



- Be patient and courteous
- Take regular breaks – don't drive tired
- Be a responsible driver
- Drive to the conditions
- Don't text and drive
- Plan ahead – take your time and enjoy the drive



Easter Sunday shop trading policy open for submissions

Rotorua residents are encouraged to have their say about an Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy for the district.

Submissions open on Monday, 19 December, and close on 27 January 2017. Submissions will be heard in February before a final recommendation goes to council. It is proposed the final decision be made in time for retailers to implement the new policy by Easter Sunday 2017.

Earlier this year, the Government amended the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 (Act) to allow territorial authorities to have a policy to permit shops to open on Easter Sundays. The changes do not apply to other holiday dates such as Easter Friday, for which current trading restrictions will remain.

Currently most shops in Rotorua cannot open on Easter Sunday, with the exception of dairies, service stations, takeaway outlets, restaurants and cafes, garden centres and duty free stores. Although some tourist areas have had exemptions to open on Easter Sundays in the past, Rotorua did not.

The direction for the draft policy has been informed by the previous position taken by Rotorua Lakes Council to lobby for change to Easter Trading laws, a position supported by a 2014 Colmar Brunton survey which saw 79% support for allowing Easter Sunday trading.

Councils have the option of not adopting a policy, in which case shops must remain closed on Easter Sunday as they have until now, or adopting a policy allowing businesses to open, either in a defined area or across a district.

The proposed policy for Rotorua is to allow shops in the whole of the district to be open on Easter Sunday.

The Statement of Proposal, proposed policy and information about making submissions will be on council's website – www.rotorualakescouncil.nz – on Monday. Click on 'Have Your Say' on the home page.

Council markets



Rotorua's popular weekly Farmers Market, which is held in the City Focus on Sundays, will be taking a break during the festive season.

There will be no Farmers Market on Sunday December 25 or Sunday January 1 2017 but it will be back on January 8 with the usual array of fresh produce and tasty treats.

The weekly Thursday Night Market in Tutanekei Street will continue as usual during the Christmas and New Year break.



Rotorua Lakes Council Holiday Hours



Core council services, including the main council building in Haupapa Street, will be closed from 12 noon Friday 23 December to Monday 9 January.

Any urgent issues can be phoned through to 07 348 4199 (24 hours, 7 days)

Animal Pound

Closed 4.30pm Thursday 22 December
Reopening Monday 9 January

Rotorua Library

Saturday 24 December – closing 1pm
Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 December
(9.30am – 6pm, 8pm on Thursdays)

Saturday 31 December – closing 1pm
Normal hours from Wednesday 4 January

Closed Sunday 25 to Tuesday 27 December
Sunday 1 to Tuesday 2 January

Visitor Centre and i-Site

Closed Christmas day only
(Normal hours 7.30am – 7pm daily)

Rotorua Museum

Closed until further notice

Rotorua Aquatic Centre

(Normal hours – Monday to Sunday 6am – 9pm)
Saturday 24 December – 6am to 6pm
Closed Christmas day

Monday 26 December – 8am to 9pm
Tuesday 27 December to Friday 20 December – normal hours

Saturday 31 December – 6am to 6pm
Sunday 1 January – 8am to 9pm

From Monday 2 January return to normal hours

Rubbish and recycling collection

Rubbish and recycling days remain the same over Christmas and New Year. Please make sure bins in residential areas are out by 7.30am and by 5am in the CBD. For urgent inquiries phone 07 348 4199.

Transfer stations

Closed Christmas day
Okere and Tarawera Transfer Stations open Tuesday 27 December and Tuesday 3 January (8.30am - 12pm)

See www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/transferstations for opening hours

Recycling Centre

Closed Christmas day
Sunday and Public holidays – 9.30am – 4.30pm (Normal hours – 7.30am – 4.30pm)

Rotorua Landfill

Closed Christmas day
Sunday and Public holidays – 9.30am – 4.30pm (Normal hours – 7.30am – 4.30pm)

