

Inner city parking changes

Changes to parking in the inner city are complete and came into effect this week.

This follows a two year trial of different parking options and feedback from inner city stakeholders and the Rotorua community.

The inner city now provides a range of all-day parking, free 60-minute maximum parking and \$1 per hour parking for a maximum of three hours.

The best option for people wishing to park in the inner city for an extended period of time is still the parking building located on Pukuatua St.

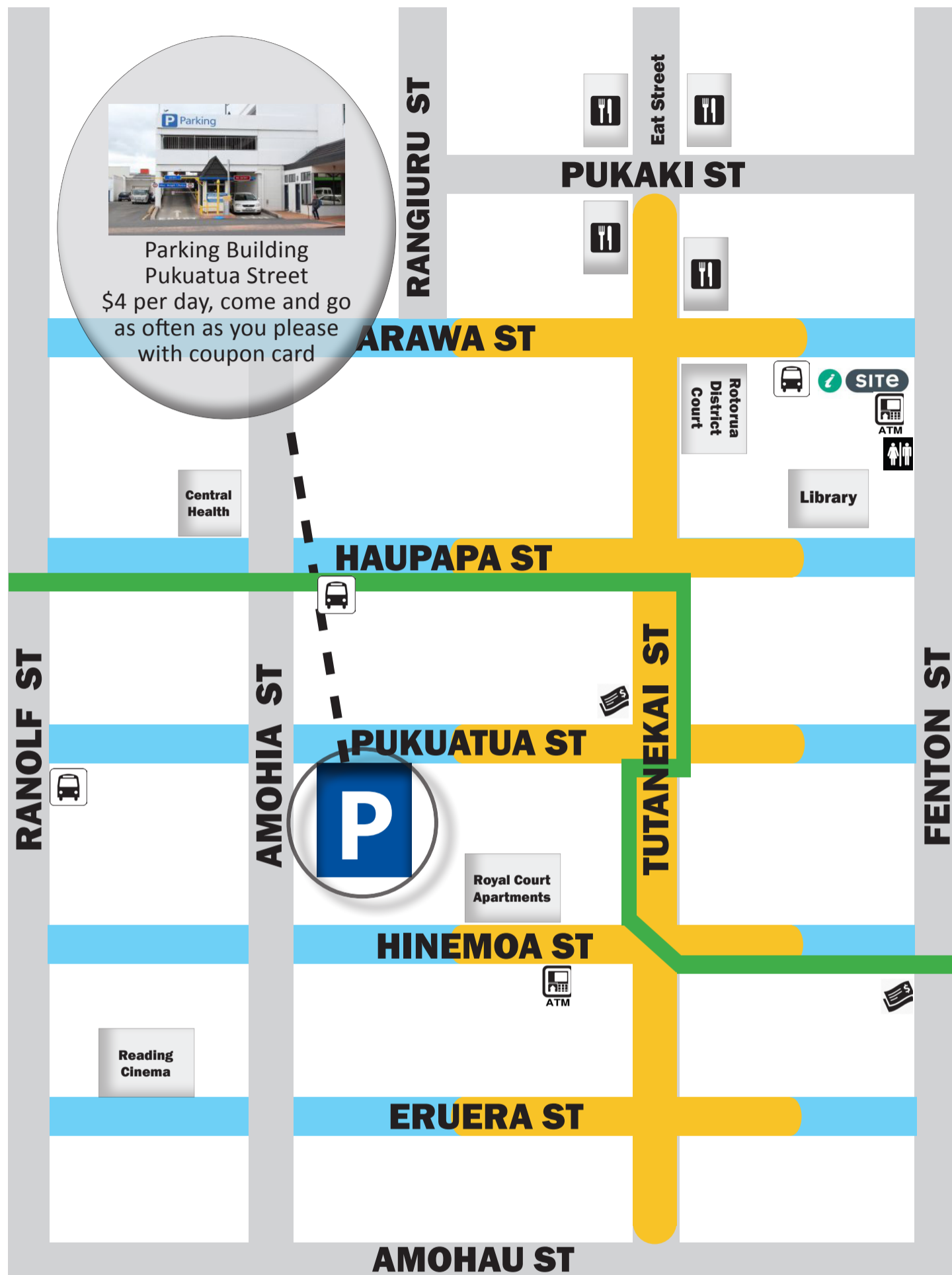
At \$4 per day it is the cheapest paid parking in the inner city and patrons are able to come and go throughout the day at no extra charge.

A similar parking building in Tauranga's inner city costs \$9 per day for an early bird ticket.

Free 60-minute parking is available along most of Tutanekai St and adjoining parts of Arawa, Haupapa, Pukuatua, Hinemoa and Eruera streets. The remaining sections of these cross streets, between Ranolf St in the west and Fenton St in the east, have \$1 per hour parking for up to 3 hours.

Key facts about the parking changes

- Previous free P90 now free P60 – vehicles must move after this time;
- Metered and pay and display spaces \$1 per hour for maximum 3 hours – vehicles must move after 3 hours;
- What were free parking sections – bound by Ranolf (western side of city) and Fenton (eastern) – now paid parking
- Pukuatua St carpark building – no time maximum.



Parking Building Pukuatua Street \$4 per day, come and go as often as you please with coupon card

RANOLF ST

AMOHIA ST

PUKUATUA ST

HINEMOA ST

ERUERA ST

AMOHAU ST

RANGURU ST

PUKAKI ST

TUTANEKAI ST

FENTON ST



Parking Building Pukuatua Street



i-Site Information Centre

P60 - Free for a maximum 60 minutes

\$1 per hour for a maximum 3 hours

Green Corridor

Bus Stop

ATM machine

Bank

Public Toilet

Gardens bring residents together

An increasing number of community gardens are bringing neighbourhoods together in Rotorua and one garden has a sweet link back to the past.

At the Ohinemutu Community Gardens kumara, a once bountiful staple of Maori who settled in the Rotorua area, is flourishing.

Established by the late Tuhipo Kereopa and now maintained by the Ohinemutu Maori Women's Health League, the gardens have been going strong for more than three years. Fruit and vegetables, particularly kumara, have thrived thanks to the area's warm geothermal soil.

One of those involved is Te Rangikaheke Kiripatea, whose father was born and raised on Mokoia Island, known for its kumara crops.

Despite growing up with a five acre garden, Te Rangikaheke never thought he'd one day be a keen gardener himself. However, after returning to Rotorua three years ago, he decided to get involved with community gardening and got in touch with maara kai legend Bernie Hornfeck.

Bernie became involved with community gardening when approached by the Mataikotare Marae runanga committee five years ago. Since then the marae garden has expanded, with funding help from the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust, the council's Neighbourhood Matching Fund and donations from Mainfreight.

"Bernie has taught us about the importance of healthy food and how growing your own food affects the global message of sustainability," Keri-Anne Tane, treasurer of the runanga committee says. "If we can feed ourselves from the land, we can really be sustainable."



Community gardens bring communities together as well as providing food.

The Mataikotare gardens are vigilantly maintained with from the Department of Corrections and Rotokawa School.

Mr Hornfeck says the two essentials of gardening are watering and vigilant weeding.



Mayor Steve Chadwick (second from right) and Cr Janet Wepa (second from left) are impressed with Rotorua's community gardens.

It's a small price to pay when the results of a well-maintained garden can be so plentiful.

"In Rotorua, there is hardly any food grown locally," he says. "I'd like to see everybody with a garden. You can grow a lot on a small piece of land."

Mayor Steve Chadwick and Councillor Janet Wepa, who leads the council's sustainable living portfolio, were impressed with what they saw during a tour of three successful community gardens.

The tour included Rotorua's biggest community gardens, the Cook Islands Community Gardens on Clayton Road, which are looked after by Minister Nio Jim Mareiti.

In 2012 the area was unused and full of rubbish. Now the gardens produce an abundance of food for the wider community.

"Anyone can come to the gardens. Sometimes I'll even take what we've grown up to the roadside and people can help themselves," Mr Mareiti says.

Cr Wepa says community gardens are a great example of local initiative. "A lot of ideas around sustainability come from the community."

Rotorua Lakes Council is working with residents to build stronger communities. If your street, neighbourhood or local group is coming together to hold an activity or improve the neighbourhood you may qualify for funding through council's Neighbourhood Matching Fund.

Examples of projects that could qualify for funding include maara kai or community gardens, tidying up a stream or lake area, cleaning a street or revitalising play and picnic areas. The community must match the funding with volunteer labour, donated materials or professional advice or catch donations.

Funding of up to \$5000 is available throughout the year on a monthly basis. For large projects, funding of up to \$35,000 is available three times a year.

You can find out more about the Rotorua Lakes Council Neighbourhood Matching Fund by visiting the website (rotorualakescouncil.nz), picking up a pamphlet at council's customer centre or phoning Carole Parker on 351-8118.

