



April 2013

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Children study water testing at the Hands on Water Expo

Regional Council releases Draft Annual Plan

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has adopted its Draft Annual Plan for public submissions.

The [Draft Annual Plan](#) sets out the Council's key programmes and projects for the coming year, how much they will cost and where the funding will come from. [Read more](#)

The Draft Annual Plan



Kaituna River and estuary to be surveyed

The lower Kaituna River and Ongatoro/Maketū Estuary could be a hive of activity this month when it is surveyed to collect data on the area.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council staff and contractors will survey the lower Kaituna River and all of Ongatoro/Maketū Estuary to collect data that will help improve what's known about the area, including depth, salinity and currents. [Read more](#)

NIWA hydrologist Julie Proud operates a radio controlled boat at the Houpoto site



Children get hands-on with water

About 200 children from 17 schools throughout the Bay of Plenty got happily wet in March at a two-day Hands On Water expo at a Paengaroa farm park.

An extra day had to be added to accommodate the numbers wanting to attend the expo, hosted by Bay of Plenty Regional Council, with support from the Enviroschools Foundation, Tauranga City Council, Rotorua District Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Landcare and the Department of Conservation.

Regional Council Environmental Management General Manager Eddie Grogan said the aim of the expo was to raise awareness with students and their teachers about water issues and give them some practical skills they could use in their own community. [Read more](#)

Children get a closer look under water with Regional Council lab technician Richard Harris



Working together to 'future-proof' our land

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has launched a new campaign, called 'Futureproof Your Land', aimed at rural land owners in the Tauranga Harbour Catchment.

The campaign, launched at the Tauranga Harbour Symposium, provides information toolkits to help land owners future proof their land to ensure it remains productive and profitable, while ensuring water quality and biodiversity are protected or improved and erosion is controlled.

Land Management Manager Robyn Skelton said landowners face a range of challenges that, if left unmanaged, could affect future production and the value of their land. [Read more](#)

The new Futureproof Your Land information



Regional Council signs on to water Accord

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has signed on as a 'friend' to the newly released Sustainable Dairying Water Accord.

The new Accord is a revamp of the original 2003 Dairying and Clean Stream Accord signed between Fonterra, Minister for the Environment, Minister of Agriculture and Regional Councils to promote sustainable dairy farming in New Zealand. The parties had agreed to work together to achieve clean, healthy streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater and wetlands in dairying areas.

That Accord expired last year, and while progress has been made against all targets, more work was necessary to reduce the impact of dairying on water quality in the Bay of Plenty, Regional Council Chairman John Cronin said. [Read more](#)

Drought declared for Bay of Plenty

The drought declared throughout the Bay of Plenty last month meant official recognition of the very dry conditions and gave farmers access to more support, the Bay of Plenty Rural Support Trust says.

Chairman Derek Spratt said weeks of fine weather had left pastures parched and farmers anxious, and continuing dry conditions had potential repercussions for the region's economic outlook. [Read more](#)



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Tsunami study focuses on Pāpāmoa, Wairakei and Te Tumu

New research on the tsunami threat to Tauranga City's coastal urban growth areas of Pāpāmoa, Wairakei and Te Tumu has given fresh insight into managing and reducing potential risk.

As part of the SmartGrowth Strategy Update, Bay of Plenty Regional Council commissioned the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) to examine the tsunami risk to these three coastal growth areas. GNS completed two reports; the first was an assessment of the size and scale of the tsunami hazard to the study area and the second – specific to Te Tumu – considered how the risk could be mitigated to an acceptable level. [Read more](#)

First Tauranga Harbour Symposium a success

The first Tauranga Harbour symposium has been hailed a success.

Tauranga Moana Te Papa – Our Harbour Our Place, was held earlier this month to update, showcase and celebrate some of work going on to better understand Tauranga Harbour and its catchment.

Regional Council Chief Executive Mary-Anne Macleod said there was some great information provided and there was a real Bay feeling to the day.

Tauranga Harbour Programme Coordinator Bruce Gardner said the most common theme, across all presenters and reflected by participants, was the desire to develop relationships and work together for the betterment of the harbour.

“Both keynote addresses highlighted the importance of partnerships and strong relationships. They set the scene for everything that followed and were the highlight of the day for me,” he said. Presentations from the symposium can be found on our [website](#)

A bit of comedy with a serious message at the symposium



Rena Exclusion Zone still in effect

The two nautical mile exclusion zone that exists for all vessels around the *Rena* wreck, situated on the Astrolabe Reef in the Bay of Plenty, is still in effect.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Maritime Operations Manager Reuben Fraser said salvage work to reduce the wreck and debris field was progressing well, but the exclusion zone was still in place to ensure operations could continue as safely as possible and without hindrance from other vessels. [Read more](#)

Facelift and new website for Rotorua lakes programme

The programme that protects and restores the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes has a fresh look, a revised name and a brand new website.

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme, previously called the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Action Programme, is a partnership of Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Rotorua District Council and Te Arawa Lakes Trust. Working together the three organisations have been tasked to meet the communities' expectations for water quality in 12 Rotorua lakes.

The new website www.rotorualakes.co.nz provides a one-stop shop for all information about Rotorua's iconic lakes. It includes everything from facts about each lake, to what actions are being taken for each lake for water quality and achievements made to date. [Read more](#)



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Interest in Māori economic strategy

An interest in Maori economic development has seen 200 people attend four hui across the wider Bay of Plenty to contribute to a regional economic development strategy for the Bay of Connections region.



The four hui, held over recent weeks in Whakatāne, Western Bay of Plenty, Taupo and Rotorua, were designed to gain specific input into the strategy, particularly in relation to potential areas of immediate action. The strategy is being guided by an advisory group consisting of representatives of Māori business interests across the wider Bay of Plenty, and a development team that includes BERL, the University of Waikato and Tahana Limited. [Read more](#)

Council calendar for April

Mon. 1 April		EASTER MONDAY
Tues. 9 April	9.30 am	Finance and Corporate Committee Meeting, CR2, Rotorua District Council Civic Administration Building (<i>Members: Councillor Thompson (Chairperson), Councillor Sherry (Deputy Chairperson) and Councillors Bennett, Eru, Mansell, Nees, Noble, Owens, Thurston, Whitaker and Chairman Cronin ex-Officio</i>)
Wed. 10 April	10 am	SmartGrowth Implementation Committee Meeting and Partner Forums' Workshop, TCC Chambers, (<i>Members: Chairman Cronin and Councillors Nees, Thompson – Raewyn Bennett (Tangata Whenua Representative)</i>)
Thurs. 11 April	9.30 am	Strategy Policy and Planning Committee Meeting, Sigma Room, Rotorua Energy Events Centre (<i>Members: Councillor Bennett (Chair), Councillor Sherry (Deputy Chairman), Councillors Eru, Marr, Nees, Noble, Oppatt, Thompson, Thurston, Whitaker and Chairman Cronin ex-Officio</i>)
	1.30 pm	RPS Appeals Subcommittee Meeting, Sigma Room, Rotorua Energy Events Centre at the conclusion of SPP. (<i>Members: Councillors Bennett, Oppatt, Thompson, Nees and Chairman Cronin</i>)
Fri. 12 April	10 am	Rangitāiki River Forum Meeting, BOPRC Whakatāne offices (<i>Members: Councillors Marr, Mansell and Whitaker</i>)
Tues. 16 April and Wed. 17 April		Council Tour – Connecting with the Community Eastern Region
Fri. 19 April	10 am	Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Meeting, CR2, Rotorua District Council Civic Administration Building (<i>Members: Chairman Cronin and Councillor Oppatt (Councillor Thurston alternate)</i>)
Wed. 24 April	9.30 am	Council Meeting at BOPRC Whakatāne offices (<i>All Councillors</i>)
Thurs. 25 April		ANZAC DAY
Fri. 26 April		Council Meetings to adopt the Draft Updated SmartGrowth Strategy to be held at TECT Arena, Truman Lane, Mount Maunganui (<i>All Councillors</i>). The day will comprise four meetings – SmartGrowth Implementation Committee to endorse the Draft Updated SmartGrowth Strategy for adoption, then Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council meet to adopt the Strategy.