





Wednesday 19 July 2017

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High marks for council in first ever rating

Matamata-Piako District Council has stood out among 18 councils assessed under the Local Government New Zealand Excellence Programme – the first independent quality rating of councils. Participating councils could be given an overall rating from AAA to C.

“We were rated with a BBB, which under the independent bench marking process indicates areas of strong performance and all round competency and was very high relative to others in the programme,” Mayor Jan Barnes said.

The Council’s strengths were in financial decision-making and transparency, where the assessors commented that it “maintained high standards across this priority area”.

They said the Council also had strong governance procedures, risk assessment and management across the organisation. “We were pleased with the mark but it’s not time to rest on our laurels,” she said.

The Council will be reassessed in three years’ time under the CouncilMARK™ programme. Visit councilmark.co.nz for more information on the Excellence Programme.



Notice of Meetings

The following meetings have been scheduled for the month of August 2017.

Matamata-Piako District Council

Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street, Te Aroha
Wednesday, 9 August 2017 at 9.15am.

Corporate and Operations Committee

Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street, Te Aroha
on Wednesday, 23 August 2017 at 9.15am.

This notice is made in accordance with Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Lessons from the Morrinsville water main break

Last week’s loss of water in Morrinsville brought home once again the importance of being able to support yourself for three days, including having sufficient water and food, in case of natural disaster or other serious interruption to Council services.

The rupture of a main line, which left most of the town short of water or on low pressure for several hours on Sunday 9 July, was a timely reminder for us all to plan for the unexpected, said Matamata-Piako District Mayor Jan Barnes.

She thanked residents for their patience while staff dealt with the problem. “We really appreciate all the good thoughts that were extended on social media and in media comments. People generally realise that some things are not foreseeable.

“There are many things that can happen to interrupt the supply. We have good levels of emergency storage, emergency electrical supply to our treatment plant, different pipes feeding the town and alarms for early warning.

“But there is always going to be things that happen or natural events beyond our control that will mean from time to time we will need to be able to cater for ourselves for possibly several days.”

We received more than 350 phone calls over a couple of hours and more than 100 comments on our Facebook page during the Sunday morning outage.

“While Facebook helped reach a large number of people during the outage, only 23 people in Morrinsville have signed up to our text messaging service. It would be great if more people took advantage of this facility so we can notify them directly in an emergency.”

Sign up at mpdc.govt.nz by clicking on the cellphone icon.

For more details on how to prepare for an emergency, visit <http://happens.nz>.

GOT CREATIVITY MATAMATA-PIAKO?



Applications for grants to fund arts and cultural activities are now open. Applications can be made for activities or events that have an arts focus and meet any one of the following criteria:

Broad community involvement: The project creates opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in arts activities.

Diversity: The project supports the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities, enriching and promoting their uniqueness and cultural diversity.

Young people: The project enables and encourages young people (under 18 years) to engage with and actively participate in the arts.

Applications close on Friday 25 August.

Application forms are available from any Council office or library or at mpdc.govt.nz.

Dog registration ‘Red tag check’

If your dog’s tag isn’t **red** your dog is not registered. Late registration will incur a 50% penalty on top of the normal registration fee.

If caught with an unregistered dog you could be issued with a \$300 infringement, plus registration fees.

Don’t delay, register your dog at your local council office today. Last day for payment is 31 July 2017.

