Closing the year in a good economic position, with exciting prospects for the region in 2018

As we look back on 2017, it’s obvious that this year has been a great one for our regional economy. Businesses in Tauranga and the Western Bay have been thriving on the back of favourable economic conditions and in a local environment that is very much growth oriented.

Some of the key economic highlights for the region this year are as follows:

- 2017 has been a record year for building consents. As at the end of November, the sub-region is 14% ahead of the same time last year for the value of consents issued, with 2016 being a record year for building consents itself. Pleasingly, building consents are strong across both commercial and residential developments.
- Regional business units have grown by 4% and jobs have grown by 4.1%, well above the national average of 1.6% and continuing the strong business confidence experienced over the last three years.
- GDP growth is strong at 4.8% per year, compared to the New Zealand average of 2.7%.
- A recent survey we undertook of businesses showed that 92% of respondents are confident of the future of their business, with the same proportion feeling positive about the future of the local economy.

Looking ahead, we are very excited about some initiatives that are underway that will create a step change in our local economy and provide confidence about our future growth projections. Some of the key projects include:

- PlantTech, the new research institute based in Tauranga and founded by a consortium of 10 organisations, which will focus on technology and innovation in horticulture and other premium plant-based value chains.
- The government is contributing $8.5 million towards this initiative over five years, with the first projects expected to be underway in early 2018.
- There are some exciting city centre developments underway or planned, such as the $100 million redevelopment of the Farmers retail site, the $50 million rebuild on the site of the Westpac building, a number of high quality office and apartment developments, major upgrades to streetscapes in the CBD, and the civic amenities that will be created as part of Tauranga City Council’s ‘Heart of the City’ project.
- Elsewhere there are considerable commercial developments taking place across the city, demonstrating the confidence of investors in our future. These include the $115 million extension of Bayfair and the extensive retail development at Tauranga Crossing, Tauriko.
- The $55 million University of Waikato-led Tauranga tertiary and research campus is currently under construction in Durham Street and due to open to the first students in early 2019.
- The region will also host one of three headline Techweek’18 events next May, which will showcase world-leading agritech solutions being developed in New Zealand to international guests and industry thought leaders.

Here at Priority One we’re very proud to be part of a successful and positive economy. We thank you for your support this year and wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year break.

Nigel Tutt
Chief Executive
PRIORITY ONE
10 Billion Mouths is the first headline event announced for the national Techweek’18 festival, and it will be hosted in Tauranga on 23 May 2018.

The event will showcase world-leading agritech solutions being developed in New Zealand to international guests, industry thought leaders and curious Kiwis. It has been created by Techweek in partnership with Wharf42, with support from principal sponsor Yamaha motors.

The one-day event will see around 500 people head to the Bay of Plenty to explore the ways in which New Zealand innovators are finding high-tech solutions to the biggest challenges facing global agriculture.

Sessions of interest include:

- **AgriTech Around the World** will look at some of the ways NZ is responding to the challenges of a predicted global population of 10 billion by 2050.
- **PlantTech** is the new research institute based in Tauranga founded by 10 organisations focused on technology and innovation in horticulture and other premium plant-based value chains.
- **Many Minds, Light Work** will shed light on the Bay of Plenty's unique collaborative spirit and reputation for innovation in the agritech space in a panel discussion format.
- **The Power of Place** will explore the benefits and urgency of sophisticated traceability technologies, which are becoming increasingly important for consumers.
- **Dinner in 2050** will look at the possibilities of food in the near- and far-future, from animal protein substitutes to robotic farming.

To download the video trailer for this event, visit [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5NeO702bz0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5NeO702bz0) (1.48 m). For further information and to register, visit [https://techweek.co.nz/whats-on/2018/10-billion-mouths-39/](https://techweek.co.nz/whats-on/2018/10-billion-mouths-39/).

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**Would coworking help grow your business?**

Are you missing out on valuable business contacts in the isolation of your home office? Do you want to become part of a community of like-minded professionals? Do you need a space to meet with clients? Would you attract more business in a city centre location?

Priority One’s Ignition coworking space provides a flexible, collaborative work environment for professional and creative people that understand the value of working alongside others. It also acts as a launching pad for people and businesses that are relocating to Tauranga.

Ignition manager, Susanne Irwin, says “Ignition provides a platform for those who want to connect with and be inspired by a community of self-employed, freelancers and start-ups. Extract yourself from your home office, surround yourself with other dynamic professionals and watch your productivity soar.”

Options are very flexible – you can sign up for as much as 24/7 or as little as one day a month. There is also a ‘hot desk’ casual option, and any changes to membership arrangements need just one month's notice.

For further information, contact Susanne on email ignition@priorityone.co.nz or telephone (07) 571 1401.
Independent research institute to drive innovation in horticulture

PlantTech is a new research institute, founded by a consortium of 10 organisations based in Tauranga and focused on technology and innovation in horticulture and other high value plant-based value chains.

Shane Stuart, innovation manager jointly for Priority One and University of Waikato, says PlantTech will initially focus on research to enable digital automation of devices for growers, including robotics and digital sensing, with the aim of becoming a leader in supporting customised, precise and automated production systems accessible for business.

PlantTech will be headquartered in the Western Bay sub-region and will employ a team of experts in data sciences and automation to focus on premium value chains, in collaboration with local industry, research organisations and international partners.

Work is underway to establish an independent company to manage its operations, which will include the appointment of an independent chair and chief executive. It is expected the first projects will start in the first quarter of 2018 summer period.

Summer programmes designed to inspire entrepreneurial spirit in students

Two programmes are running in Tauranga over the summer months to encourage tertiary students to think more innovatively and develop opportunities in areas in which the region has distinctive regional strengths.

The Summer Innovation Lab v2.0 has selected students to work on projects that apply science, design thinking and business disciplines in the areas of marine and horticulture so they can obtain ‘real world’ experience of thinking innovatively.

Joint innovation manager for Priority One and University of Waikato, Shane Stuart, says “The Summer Innovation Lab enables us to test new ways of engaging students and research with local industry, and provides a low-cost exploration of new opportunities for innovation aligned in our region.”

In addition, top students from Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology and the University of Waikato will spend the summer in Priority One’s Ignition coworking space taking part in an innovative entrepreneurship programme. Now in its third year, the Project Ignite summer start-up programme provides participants with a unique, tailored experience and all of the tools they need to validate their ideas and create a sustainable business.

Ignition manager, Susanne Irwin, says the students each have their own mentor to guide them through the steps involved in taking their early-stage concepts through to creating start-up ventures. “Supporting and facilitating young entrepreneurial talent is an important step towards retaining these kinds of skills in the region,” she says.

Project Ignite is jointly funded by University of Waikato, Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology and Priority One, and supported by start-up coaches from the local entrepreneurial community.

Over $2 million to engage young kiwis in science

A fund that was created to support innovative projects that engage young people in science and technology has announced funding of over $2 million in 2018 for 33 projects.

The 2018 Unlocking Curious Minds contestable fund is collaborative and community-led, with projects run by primary schools, tertiary education organisations, Crown Research Institutes, museums, and many others.

Science and innovation minister, Megan Woods, says “Engaging our young people in science, and in particular those who have fewer opportunities to do so, is one of the best ways to ensure we have more New Zealanders choosing to enter STEM fields, and have a highly skilled, innovative workforce fit for the 21st century.”

Japanese tour to highlight entrepreneurial and cultural experiences for young people

A new initiative is underway that will provide an international entrepreneurial and cultural experience for young people in Tauranga’s Japanese sister city, Hitachi.

A tour to Japan is being planned for September next year and will be targeting aspiring entrepreneurs with a ‘Mashup’ digital focus that want to expand their cultural horizons. It is being organised by Venture Centre and Stuart Cundy of Let’s Homestay, and is open to those aged 13-18 years.

Pascale Hyboud-Peron of Venture Centre says “Exporting to other countries with other languages and ways of life is how our country makes its way in the world. The only way to deliver this mindset development is to ‘do’ – to go to other countries with a clear focus on learning.”

The trip will include a visit to Hitachi Technical Senior High School, which is owned by renowned international company, Hitachi Ltd, and where students learn about manufacturing and design. Time will also be spent touring Hitachi’s production factories, which have a focus on ‘lean’ (or Kaizen) business practices.

For further information, contact Venture Centre on email info@venturecentre.co.nz.

‘Pulse of the Nation’ report exposes digital divide

A recently released report shows that, while more people are getting better digital connectivity, more people are also being left behind.

‘Digital New Zealanders: the Pulse of our Nation’ highlights that families on low incomes, older people and those living outside urban areas are becoming increasingly disenfranchised by difficulty accessing the internet, their inability to afford digital services or their lack of skills or motivation to be digitally capable.

The report sets out the need for a single, nationwide policy framework on digital inclusion in New Zealand with input from digitally disadvantaged groups and informed by robust economic data.

Clare McCurrum, Minister for Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media, says “We know not all New Zealanders are participating equally in the digital world – and we need to better understand why that is and what solutions may be effective in changing that. “We don’t have to reinvent the wheel and have only to look at the international examples in this report to see what is in train and working around the world.”

Group’s focus on design thinking inspires hundreds of members

A little over 18 months since it was launched, Design Thinking Meetup BOP has grown well beyond expectations to over 280 members.

It was started by local design and innovation practitioners, led by Karl Stevenson of Trimax Mowers, Blythe Rees-Jones, who is a design coach and consultant, David Bathgate from Comvita, Jodie Tipping of Cucumber, and Shane Stuart and Susanne Irwin from Priority One.

Karl says the group will be of interest to anyone wanting to know more about design thinking, user insight, human centred design, product design, social initiatives or business design. “This group was started to help share knowledge, inspire creativity and provide a forum in which to meet like-minded individuals at any stage of the design thinking journey,” he says.

The group meets monthly to network, hear from design experts and take part in sessions to develop personal capability. Karl encourages anyone who wants to know about design thinking to attend. “We welcome everyone from experts to the curious. Come along, meet some new people and enjoy yourself.”

Some of the more notable meetups have included: Mark Buntzen from The Distillery on how to distil ideas; Ben Hawkins from Rinnai on creating an innovation culture; Peter Harrison from Think Place on how design thinking changed him; as well as brainstorming for various charities and organisations, notably the Gift of Groceries and what has now grown to become PlantTech, the new regional research institute.

Shane Stuart, Priority One’s innovation manager, says “It’s a great example of how companies in our region come together to get on and do something where they see the need. It’s also an example of how we can increase regional innovation through supporting ideas that are emerging from the local business community.”

For further information on Design Thinking Meetup BOP, visit https://www.meetup.com/designthinkingbop/.

What people think of Design Thinking Meetup BOP

I really liked the challenge you set - a good reminder that we need to plan less and prototype more! - Amy

I like the collective, collaborative and social aspects of the meetup. - Josh R

Incredibly inspiring take on hacking and prototyping for behaviour and culture change. Awesome activity on operating in the sweet spot! - James

I wasn’t sure what to expect at my first meetup, but I really enjoyed working with other like-minded design thinkers. Great night. - Mel

Brilliant to source someone of that calibre and to take you on an interactive journey of idea distillation during one of these sessions! - Jo

I thoroughly enjoyed my first Design Thinking BOP Meetup! Great presentation by Pip and was a pleasure to meet everyone. - Dean

Some suggestions for summer reading from Auckland University Business School

If you’re in the market for some summer reading, the executive education facilitators at Auckland University’s Business School have put together their list of top business reads:

Management and leadership:

“Smart Collaboration: How Professionals and their Firms Succeed by Breaking Down Silos” by Heidi Gardner

“The Net and the Butterfly: The Art and Practice of Breakthrough Thinking” by Olivia Fox Cabane

“The Inevitable: Understanding the 12 Technological Forces that Will Shape Our Future” by Kevin Kelly

“Captain Class: The Hidden Force that Creates the World’s Greatest Teams” by Sam Walkers

Personal development and human behaviour:

“Peak Performance: Elevate Your Game, Avoid Burnout, and Thrive with the New Science of Success” by Brad Stulberg & Steve Magness

“Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise” by Anders Ericsson & Robert Pool

“Leonardo Da Vinci” by Walter Isaacson

“Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow” by Yuval Noah Harari

“Slow: Live – Life – Simply” by Brooke McAlary

Business and politics:

“Competing Against Luck: The Story of Innovation and Customer Choice” by Clayton Christensen

“Narrative and Numbers: The Value of Stories in Business” by Aswath Damodaran

“Black Edge” by Sheelah Kolhatkar
Booming primary industries sector ready for new challenges

The growth in New Zealand’s primary industry exports is impressive and provides the sector with a strong base from which to deal with the challenges ahead, says Agriculture Minister, Damien O’Connor.

The latest Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries report shows the sector’s exports will grow by 8.5% in 2018 to $41.4 billion. “This would be the largest annual increase since 2014 when dairy prices rose to very high levels,” says Mr O’Connor. “The growth is spread across all sectors and the gains are expected to be built on a more sustainable foundation.”

Mr O’Connor says New Zealand’s primary industries are evolving. “Our horticulture sectors are leading the charge in producing high-value products tailored to target markets overseas. This isn’t just true for kiwifruit, wine, and apples - there are also emerging opportunities for cherries, avocados, and berries.”

There has also been a huge shift to high-value products in the dairy sector. Infant formula exports are forecast to exceed $1b in 2018 for the first time and UHT milk, yoghurt and other specialty products are also doing very well.


Primary industry forecasts for 2018

- Dairy exports led the way, with a forecast increase of 15% to $16.8b in 2018.
- Meat and wool exports are forecast to grow 4.2% to $8.7b.
- Forestry exports are forecast to reach nearly $5.7b in 2018, with exceptional demand from China.
- Horticulture exports are forecast to grow 5.2% with wine, kiwifruit, and pip fruit all contributing to the growth story.

- Seafood exports are forecast to grow 4.4% to $1.8b, with rising prices for wild capture fisheries products and aquaculture volumes.
- Honey export volumes are forecast to resume growth after a dip in 2017.
- Exports of innovative processed foods, including dietary supplements products, are expected to resume their growth.

Strategic and targeted approach to business attraction in key sectors

Industry sectors that complement the region’s strengths, embrace innovation and demonstrate a high level of sustainability will provide the solid foundations for the region to gain further economic leverage.

Priority One’s business partnership manager, Mark Irving, is taking a targeted approach to the attraction of new businesses to the region, with a specific focus on those that are aligned to our key sectors and have a focus on innovation.

“The targeting of businesses and investment that are aligned and complement the emerging marine biotech, distribution and logistics, horticulture technology, advanced manufacturing and R&D sectors are currently being prioritised. These industries will serve as a solid platform for the Western Bay to set itself as a unique, dynamic and smart region moving forward,” he says.

Priority One receives contact from many businesses on a weekly basis and the volume of general enquiry is trending upwards. “These businesses range from large multi-national companies through to individually owned start-up entities, with some seeking to establish their head office in the region and others expanding existing operations from within New Zealand,” says Mark.
Chinese and New Zealand mayors take the lead in developing ongoing relationships

Strengthening cultural and economic relationships between regional China and regional New Zealand was the focus of the second NZ China Mayoral Forum, held in Wellington in November.

The forum, launched in 2014 by former Prime Minister John Key and Chinese President Xi Jinping, focuses on deepening the relationship between New Zealand and China at a sub-national level, recognising the important role mayors play in encouraging business and cultural exchange between both countries.

Tauranga delegates at the forum included Tauranga Mayor Greg Brownless, Anne Young from international education facilitator Education Tauranga, and Greg Simmonds, Priority One’s chief operating officer.

Greg Simmonds says a series of meetings were held on areas such as tourism, education and primary industries, with businesses such as Alibaba and Bank of China also presenting on the future they see for the New Zealand China relationship.

“With the building of China’s silk road economic belt and 21st century maritime silk road and an agreed focus on tourism between both counties in 2019, the Wellington forum was dedicated to sharing ideas and best practice to balance economic growth with environmental protection,” he says.

SKYCITY Breakers sign up to Tauranga’s DROPIT reverse auction technology

The Tauranga technology company that is helping the NBA’s Phoenix Suns revolutionise the courtside experience is debuting its live drop auction technology in New Zealand, after closing a deal with the SKYCITY Breakers.

Kiwi basketball fans will be able to bid on live drop auctions at the SKYCITY Breakers 2017/18 NBL home games thanks to technology created by DROPIT. The one-year deal comes on the heels of DROPIT’s three-year deal with the NBA’s Phoenix Suns.

DROPIT is an adrenaline-pumping, interactive, fan engagement app connecting sponsors and teams with their fans during exhilarating drop auctions in-stadium. The price of an item drops to zero in the space of 60 seconds.

The technology was created and launched in November 2015 by Mount Maunganui co-founders Peter Howell and Brendan Howell. They have since taken the app to the US market, running live auctions of premium sponsored items to entertain sports fans during game breaks, projecting the auction simultaneously onto scoreboards and users’ phones.

“Being a Kiwi-owned and operated start-up, we are rapt to bring the app back home,” says DROPIT CEO Peter Howell. “Making it in the States proves that this technology is something the sporting landscape had previously been missing.”

DROPIT will run its first live 60-second drop auction at the SKYCITY Breakers home game against the Cairns Taipans at Auckland’s Spark Arena on Sunday 7 January 2018.

New trade deal could bring instant $26 million gain for NZ kiwifruit

When the new Trans Pacific Partnership agreement is signed, it could mean a gain for Zespri and its growers of $26 million from the commencement of the trade deal from the Japanese market alone.

Currently, New Zealand kiwifruit exporters pay a 6.4% tariff in Japan compared with Chile, which pays nothing. If this was reduced down to 0% for New Zealand, it would mean at least $26 million in savings on the first day of the agreement.

Zespri chief executive, Dan Mathieson, says the agreement is a great result for the industry, which is on track to more than double global sales to $4.5 billion by 2025. “Exports are key to New Zealand’s economic prosperity, and agreements like this are vital to securing our ongoing access and competitiveness around the world,” he says.

The countries that remain partners in the CPTPP are: New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, Brunei, Canada, Mexico, Peru and Chile.
A hub for skills and talent

Wish You Were Working Here a magnet for job seekers

The Bay’s lifestyle has always been a magnet for skilled and talented people, and the strong job growth over the last few years means there are now real opportunities for them to grow their careers from the Bay.

Priority One’s Wish You Were Working Here initiative profiles the stories of people that have moved to Tauranga or the Western Bay and found great jobs, inclusive networks and fabulous lifestyles, often making them the envy of their friends based elsewhere.

Annie Hill, Priority One’s communications/projects manager, says they had a huge increase in the number of people contacting them this year that were keen to relocate to the Bay.

“February was our busiest month, with over 70 people eager to make connections with local employers – an increase of nearly 170% on the same month last year. Enquiries came from all over the country, as well as from Kiwi expats planning to return home, however the biggest response was from Aucklanders looking for a better work life balance.”

Annie says it’s heartening that there is a broad range of high calibre people moving here. “They include those with international management experience and skills in financial services, digital marketing, business analysis and software development, as well as experienced PAs, logistics and supply chain managers, HR practitioners and those in the trades.”

Every week or so Priority One sends out the profiles of job seekers to business members to see if there is anyone that has a need for a particular skill set. “Our best month this year was June, when we were able to match seven candidates with local employers,” says Annie.

If you would like to know more about receiving the job seeker emails, email annie@priorityone.co.nz. To read the stories of people’s journeys to the Bay and their experience once they have arrived, visit https://www.facebook.com/pg/TaurangaWelcomesYou/posts/?ref=page_internal.

Osteopath Nicky Smyth finds more business and a lower cost of living in Tauranga

After 11 years in Auckland, Nicky and James Smyth found the cost-of-living so high they were keen to find a better life. So straight after their wedding in April this year, they moved back to Tauranga where they both grew up.

As soon as she got here, Nicky realised how wrong her preconceived notions of working in Tauranga had been. She set up her own osteopathy clinic at the Life Clinic in Fraser St, and two months later her work schedule was busier than when she was in Auckland. Nicky was also surprised by Tauranga’s new vibrancy and was thrilled to have taken the leap of faith she had been contemplating for years.

“It’s been an extremely positive experience. Everyone has been so supportive: even complete strangers genuinely want me to succeed. Tauranga has a warmth that bigger cities tend to lose,” she says.

Nicky says there used to be a sleepiness associated with Tauranga, but that is no longer the case. “There’s a new sense of direction coming through. Tauranga is no longer relying on its beautiful scenery and climate, there is more effort going into making it an exciting place to live.”

Nicky loves how accessible the beach is and how easy it is to catch up with friends and family. “We catch up with our friends regularly, not just on the weekends but even during the week – something we didn’t often do in Auckland because no one wanted to battle the traffic!”

“My advice to anyone considering moving to Tauranga is to take the leap! I am yet to meet anyone who has regretted the decision to move to here. With all this recent growth, there has been a new wave of energy to Tauranga, things are changing for the better and there is more diversity and excitement in the city.”
80,000 people will be eligible for fees-free tertiary education

All New Zealanders who have done less than half a fulltime year of post-school education or training will be eligible to study fees-free next year, as well as those commencing training or tertiary education.

Education Minister, Chris Hipkins, says about 30,000 students are expected to study fees-free at university in the first year and 50,000 in polytechnics, wānanga, private colleges, apprenticeships and other industry training. Apprentices and industry trainees will get two years of fees-free training because their courses are less than full time.

Eligible qualifications are courses that start in 2018, are funded by the Tertiary Education Commission, are recognised by the NZ Qualifications Authority and are at Level 3 or above on the NZQA framework. For industry training programmes, the qualifications must be worth at least 120 credits.

The government has made a commitment to extend the policy to two years of free study by 2021 and three years by 2024. It has also lifted student allowances and student loan living cost limits by $50 a week.

Cabinet papers on the fees-free and student support costs policies are at: http://education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/information-releases/100-days.
Instep programme connects local business and students

Principals’ Day Out provides valuable insights into career pathways

Matching industry needs to student skill sets is the primary focus of Priority One’s Instep programme. Each year Instep hosts a Principals’ Day Out, enabling those leading our secondary schools to engage with local businesses outside the classroom.

This principals from the 11 secondary schools in the sub-region investigated pathways into employment and beyond within the horticulture, construction, engineering and automotive industries. Their day out of school included visits to Priority One members Page Macrae Engineering, Te Awanui Huka Pak, Farmers Auto Village and Aspec Construction.

Instep manager, Lyn Parlane, says it’s the 13th year a day out for principals has been organised, enabling them to visit businesses in key sectors and network with business leaders. “This year they were able to get an overview of businesses in some of our key sectors, learn about their entry skill requirements and training programmes that lead to careers in these organisations. The principals also enjoyed catching up with some of their past students who are now employed in these businesses.”

It was the final Principals’ Day Out for four of the secondary school principals. Instep would like to thank: Dave Randell, Otumoetai College; Pauline Cowens, Tauranga Girls’ College; Ray Scott, Aquinas College; and Koa Douglas, Te Wharekura o Mauao for their support of Instep over the years and their valuable contribution to the region.

Fulton Hogan highlights roading and construction careers

The range of career pathways and employment opportunities for school leavers in the roading and construction sector was highlighted recently at a workshop for secondary school careers teachers, iwi groups and others involved in the youth development space.

Led by Fulton Hogan and facilitated by Priority One’s Instep programme, the breakfast meeting provided attendees with an opportunity to build future networks within the sector. Some of Fulton Hogan’s employees were also on hand to talk about their respective career paths as well as the training and education required to do well in various roles.

Instep manager, Lyn Parlane, says Fulton Hogan’s regional manager for the Bay of Plenty, Gavin Riddle, provided information on a planned two-year cadetship which could lead to permanent employment.

“We really commend local businesses that reach out to our schools and help provide young people with the opportunity to live and work in the Bay.”

Instep is a Priority One initiative that connects secondary school students and teachers with local businesses to highlight career opportunities and pathways.
Businesses need to be better prepared for the ageing workforce

Experts are warning that New Zealand businesses need to be better prepared for an ageing population.

According to Statistics NZ, just under a quarter of people aged 65 or over are currently in the workforce. This is an increase from just 9% in 1986. OECD data shows New Zealanders have the second highest rate of workers aged 55-64 (78%) as at June 2017.

Diversity Works NZ chief executive, Bev Cassidy-Mackenzie, says while technology will help businesses tackle some skill shortages with an ageing workforce, businesses need to have conversations with staff about them working later in life.

“Organisations aren’t really geared to have that conversation … because they’re not sure what the outcome will be, and it can be quite confrontational,” she says.

Areas that are reaching crisis point include the health sector, particularly care of the elderly, and roles that require physical work such as construction, agriculture, nursing, hospitality and tourism services.

Appointment set to invigorate Māori horticultural sector

A respected former commercial lawyer has been appointed to lead an innovative movement in the Māori horticultural sector that will provide a contextualised system of learning, knowledge transfer, and transformation based on collective and collaborative approaches to change.

Of Ngati Ranginui, Ngati Awa, Whakathea and Te Rarawa whakapapa, Stacey Mareroa is the kaiwhakahaere (project manager) of Tūhono Whenua Horticulture Limited and will drive implementation of a strategy called ‘Ka Matau, Ka Ora – living through healthy people’.

“Tūhono Whenua exists to improve on-orchard management capability, Māori governance capability, and ultimately, orchard performance in a way that is innovative and industry attuned, but tempered by our cultural expectations,” says Ms Mareroa. She maintains that learning starts with understanding our land, plants and our relationship with their needs and regionally unique attributes.

One of the roles Ms Mareroa will have is to work with trusts which seek to grow the capacity and capability of their people towards high skilled, high value job opportunities. “We now have a deep understanding of the key strategic, commercial and cultural drivers to achieve sustainable success for our people, but most importantly we will continue to validate and evaluate our understanding as Ka Matau, Ka Ora progresses.”

The Miro Blueberry opportunity promoted by Tūhono Whenua is another exciting prospect for economic diversity for Māori and the region. The initiative involves 26 Māori and iwi trusts and incorporations through a capital raise of circa $11 million.

Ms Mareroa’s appointment is supported by a board of directors comprising Dr Riri Ellis, Traci Haupapa, Steve Saunders and Gerry Gardiner. She is based at the Newham Horticultural Innovation Park at Te Puna, alongside the Plus Group of companies.

Nearly half of employers rely on immigrants

The number of employers across New Zealand relying on immigrant workers has increased significantly, according to a survey of its members by Employers and Manufacturers Association.

The survey found 49% of employers were using the immigration process to recruit staff, compared with 38% last year and just 27% in 2015.

The majority of employers (65%) said there was, or would soon be, a skills shortage in their industry, with a similar number (61%) saying they were finding it difficult or very difficult to recruit staff. Over 420 employers in the upper North Island responded to the survey.

These findings align with a business survey Priority One carried out earlier this year, where 40% of respondents reported they had looked overseas to employ skilled migrants and 54% believed their ability to attract or retain staff was a barrier to growth.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern with Stacey Mareroa at a hui in Rotorua.
How to tell if you’re a bad boss

In the global competition to attract and retain skilled and talented people, a work environment that is enjoyable and motivates staff to succeed is increasingly important. One of the biggest influences on a workplace is the behaviour of the boss and whether they foster positive working relationships and eliminate negative behaviour.

The NZ Herald recently ran an article that outlined the eight common traits of a bad boss, which were developed by recruitment company Robert Half. They have been summarised below.

1. **Inability to communicate** – including giving instructions, sharing praise, setting deadlines or announcing news, one-on-one or to a group.

2. **Hide behind a veil of secrecy** – while some things are confidential, transparency is crucial to building trust and respect.

3. **Make inconsistent decisions** – if you respond differently to the same situation, employees will struggle to take you seriously or predict the next steps.

4. **Take the credit and pass the buck** – the former when things go well, and the latter when they don’t.

5. **Micro manage everything** – there is nothing worse than scrutinising your employees closely and constantly giving them instructions.

6. **Making unreasonable demands** – pushing your staff to their limits will sour relations and make it difficult to maximise productivity.

7. **Pick favourites** – it is important not to treat team members differently.

8. **Shout to get heard** – everything won’t always go your way, but you can’t snap at employees, storm out of the office or shout to ensure you are heard.

The Prime Minister’s Pacific Youth Awards provide an opportunity for high-achieving Pacific youth in New Zealand to be recognised for their contribution to the country.

First held in 2010, the award categories are: leadership and inspiration; top regional Pacific scholar; community star; science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); arts and creativity; commercial and corporate; business and enterprise; and sport and fitness.

Minister for Pacific Peoples, Aupito William Sio, says the Pacific community is one of the fastest growing and youngest populations in New Zealand, so making sure this group thrive is crucial for the country’s economic and social outlook.

“The Prime Minister’s Pacific Youth Awards not only recognise and celebrate Pacific youth success, but they create a network of young emerging Pacific leaders, while showcasing Pacific talent to key stakeholders,” he says.

The awards vary for each category, but include an international diplomatic experience, paid summer internships and grants to support further study and career development. Applications for the 2018 awards are now open until 6 February. For further information and to apply, visit http://www.mpp.govt.nz/young-people/prime-ministers-pacific-youth-awards/apply-now/.
Separate museum and library recommended to council

The development of a separate museum at Cliff Rd and a modern library at Willow St has been recommended to Tauranga City Council elected members for inclusion in the 2018-28 draft long term plan.

The recommendation came from council’s City Transformation Committee, which has estimated the cost of the museum development to be $55.65 million, with a council contribution of $20.65 million. The new library in Willow St is likely to cost around $30 million, of which council will contribute $25 million.

Detailed business cases were developed for both the museum and library, looking at remediation, standalone and integrated options which were built upon robust community engagement. Each option was assessed against its strategic fit, tangata whenua preference, affordability, value for month and achievability.

Larry Baldock, chair of the City Transformation Committee, says elected members had to balance the community’s expectations and aspirations with affordability. “It is important that these cultural facilities happen for our community, we have waited long enough. But we must achieve these with affordability in mind and balance with the wider vision for our growing city,” says Larry.

The committee’s decision will go before the full council on 19 December for inclusion on the draft long term plan for 2018-28, which will go out for public consultation early next year.

Tauranga’s city centre waterfront to light up for New Year’s Eve

Family fun and fireworks will be the focus of New Year’s Eve celebrations on Tauranga’s city centre waterfront this year.

This free community event will include a special countdown at 9.30pm for those too young to stay up until midnight, as well as a spectacular firework display to bring in the New Year.

The celebration starts at 6pm and will include a mayoral barbecue with free sausages, roving performers, samba dancers and games. People are invited to bring along a picnic or to buy something from the food stalls on site.

The Strand will be closed from Devonport Rd to Harington St from 2pm on Sunday 31 December until 2am the following morning. No alcohol will be allowed in the waterfront area and this policy will be strictly enforced. For further information, visit www.mytauranga.co.nz/CBD.
Symphony of colour, light and sound for tidal stairs, pier and pontoon

A permanent artwork has been created on Tauranga’s city centre waterfront, transforming the area into a symphony of colour, light and sound from dusk to dawn each day.

Called ‘Wash’, the installation comes alive at night, bringing the sea and the city together, and is the final stage of the Access to Water project comprising the tidal stairs, a pier and a pontoon. It was created by some of New Zealand’s leading sound and lighting designers and composers and features recordings of tamariki (our young people) from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Otepou in Welcome Bay.

The natural water movement and LED lights combine with sound, so each wave that passes through the installation will trigger the sensor and lights/sound will respond according to the wave size and intensity. Lead artist, Marcus McShane, says “As each wave rolls down the pier, the speakers beneath the pier will locate a pulse of composed sound that travels the pier in sequence with the light. It will create a sense of the movement and space of the sea, allowing it to roll into the city.”

New satellite i-SITE based in Phoenix car park over summer

Tourism Bay of Plenty has launched a satellite i-SITE in Mount Maunganui to help direct the flow of visitors over the summer period. It is situated in the Phoenix car park and will be open every day (apart from Christmas Day) from 10.30am to 4.00pm until 3 April 2018.

Kristin Dunne, CEO of Tourism Bay of Plenty, says “As the busiest time of the year for Mount Maunganui and the region, tourism operators have sought support in the form of a centrally based facility and we are thrilled to be able to provide this temporary option while we attempt to secure an additional $1m funding which will allow a permanent i-SITE build in Coronation Park.”

‘Our Place Tauranga’ – creating a vibrant city centre hub for everyone

‘Our Place Tauranga’ is a vibrant new community hub being created in Tauranga’s city centre by Rachelle and Chris Duffy, the team behind the hugely successful Little Big Markets and Little Big Events.

Based on the site of Tauranga City Council’s recently demolished building, it will provide a venue for entertainment, open air events, workshops, and niche retail and hospitality, as well as a hub for business, start-ups and social enterprises. It will also be home to a pop-up museum experience being curated by Tauranga Moana Museum Trust and a community garden being developed by Good Neighbours.

Little Big Events director, Chris Duffy, says “Our shared aspiration for Tauranga is to be an internationally competitive city. Great cities have vibrant centres, so Our Place Tauranga is partnering with Tauranga City Council’s ‘heart of the city’ programme to create a vibrant, safe and successful city centre.”

‘Our Place Tauranga’ is being supported by Tauranga City Council, Priority One, and key businesses around the city. It is expected to open in January 2018 and will be in place for at least 12 months.
Minister commissions stocktake of New Zealand’s housing crisis

The extent and long-term implications of the housing crisis facing New Zealand are expected to be more evident following an independent stocktake of the housing market.

Commissioned by Housing and Urban Development Minister Phil Twyford, the study will be undertaken by three of New Zealand’s leading experts on housing: Shamubeel Eaqub, Philippa Howden-Chapman and Alan Johnson.

“This report will provide an authoritative picture of the state of housing in New Zealand today, drawing on the best data available. It will put firm figures on homelessness, the state of the rental market, the decline of homeownership, and other factors in the housing crisis,” says Mr Twyford. The report is expected to be completed before Christmas.

Easter Sunday trading: it’s a yes for Tauranga and Western Bay

Trading on Easter Sunday will be allowed across Tauranga city and the Western Bay district after local authorities undertook a comprehensive consultation with the local community.

The policy will take effect on 1 January 2018 and apply to all retail outlets. Employees are entitled by law to refuse to work on Easter Sunday without having to give a reason. If they choose to work, they will receive normal pay as Easter Sunday is not a public holiday.

The policy doesn’t override liquor licensing provisions and alcohol will still only be sold with a meal at restaurants and cafés.

Community collaboration creates a unique Christmas feel in city centre

Tauranga City Council and The Incubator creative hub have joined forces to create a special Christmas exhibition in Tauranga’s city centre.

Twelve Trees of Christmas features 12 cut-out wooden trees situated around Red Square and the waterfront which have been decorated by students from local schools and tertiary organisations, as well as community groups. Three local artists have also been commissioned to decorate a tree each.

The trees take inspiration from New Zealand’s native Christmas tree, the pohutakawa, incorporating a stylistic kowhaiwhai pattern. They were designed by local artist Ashlei Luckman-Taupaki, a recent graduate of the Bachelor of Creative Industries course at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology.
New bus services fast-tracked to support alternative modes of transport

Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Tauranga City Council and the NZ Transport Agency are investigating fast-tracking some proposed changes to public transport at the Mount and Papamoa to encourage more people to use the services.

The improvements include introducing a Papamoa express service and developing park and ride facilities. The changes were planned to start in December 2018, but there is an opportunity to bring some of them forward to March to give commuters a better choice in how they get around the city.

In addition to these initiatives, an extension to the bus lanes between Totara Street and the Tauranga Marina on Hewletts Road is planned which will allow buses to move more easily through the traffic, reducing delays for people who use public transport.

Development of Katikati library and community hub ahead of schedule

The development of the Katikati library and community hub is ahead of schedule, with the floor poured and the library panels ready to go up.

Watts and Hughes is contracted to undertake the development, which is expected to be completed in mid-2018 at a cost of around $4.5 million. The library will be two storeys and includes a service centre building for Western Bay of Plenty District Council and a single storey community centre.

Located at 21 Main Street, the buildings were designed by Tauranga firm, First Principles Architects.

Arts and culture strategy stimulates creativity to support economic growth

Arts and cultural experiences are a vital part of our wellbeing, our identity and the fabric of life in Tauranga and the Western Bay. A new arts and culture strategy has been developed to facilitate the growth of this sector to stimulate creativity and innovation and contribute to economic growth.

Arts & Culture Strategy: Toi Moana has been developed in a partnership between Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and the community to enable the arts and cultural sector to grow in a transformational and sustainable way.

Creative Bay of Plenty will lead implementation of the strategy with key agencies including iwi, The Incubator creative hub, Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, Tourism Bay of Plenty, the sub-region’s local authorities and Priority One.

Michelle Whitmore, chair of Creative Bay of Plenty, says “Over 1000 people contributed to the strategy development, which is the same number as Melbourne’s arts strategy - a significantly larger and truly aspirational cultural city of excellence.”

To download the strategy, visit http://www.creativebop.org.nz/arts-strategy.html.
New parking building provides better biking options for city commuters

The new parking building in Harington St will have a dedicated area for cyclists to make biking into the city easier for commuters. The bike hub on the ground floor of the building will cater for around 240 bicycles and will have secure shower and locker facilities.

Tauranga City Council Transportation Manager, Martin Parkes, says there is growing public appetite for the council to provide better biking facilities for city commuters. “We’ve done a lot of consultation on transport projects this year, notably the recent cycle and transport plans. There’s consistent and strong community support for improved bus and bike offerings.”

The building will also contain 550 car parks, 53 motor cycle parks, and charging points for electric cars and bikes. It will have seven levels above ground and two levels below ground, with vehicle entry and exits on Harington St and bike access on Hamilton St.

The project will cost $27.14 million and construction will commence in January, for completion in early 2019.

Bay Hopper buses to trial free wifi

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is trialling a free WiFi service on Bay Hopper buses. If successful, the free internet access could be offered across all services.

The trial will run for three months on six buses. Those taking part will have a WiFi sticker on the outside of the bus door with log on instructions on board.

Council’s public transport committee chair, Lyall Thurston, says enhancing the on-board experience and convenience is a priority for the council, with free WiFi one of the most requested improvements. “The trial will allow us to gain insights on customer use and the quality and reliability of the WiFi when buses are moving around the city,” he says.

Key components of Tauranga Urban Strategy

- Greater diversity of dwellings within the existing urban area.
- Residential growth and walkability in and near existing town centres.
- More compact forms of housing encouraged and incentivised.
- Increased investment in the public transport.
- Council-led place making through investment in infrastructure, facilities, streetscape and quality urban design in town centres.
- Reduced growth in greenfield areas.

Tauranga urban strategy sets a plan for future development

Tauranga City Council’s urban strategy is an aspirational growth plan that aims to guide the future development of the city.

It will be a change from how council has traditionally planned for growth by putting greater focus on developing existing urban areas. It will emphasise “place-making” in town centres to support and accommodate more compact forms of housing and include retail, community spaces and commercial activities.

Larry Baldock, chair of the City Transformation Committee, says “Traditionally, urban planning has been used to manage and regulate the development of towns and cities. Our urban strategy will be a tool for urban transformation. This is an exciting opportunity for Tauranga as we plan for the growth that will define our future urban form.”

Feedback on the strategy will be sought during council’s consultation process for the 2018-28 Long Term Plan.
Smart technology prevents bins overflowing during peak times

Ten new ‘smart technology’ waste and recycling bins have been installed at Mount Maunganui to help tackle overflowing litter bins during the busy summer period. The bins have been supplied by the Litter Less Recycle More project developed by the Packaging Forum in partnership with Be A Tidy Kiwi.

The bins have sensors in them that send data to the waste contractors when they’re full. This allows the contractors to optimise their collection routes and frequency depending on actual need. This will minimise the impacts of overflowing bins on the environment and maximise transportation and collection efficiencies for the contractors.

The locations for the bins will be those that experience high seasonal foot traffic, including Mount Main Beach, Pilot Bay, Coronation Park and Mount Drury. Recycling ambassadors will also be on hand at peak times from mid-December to educate people on the rubbish and recycling bins and what can be placed in them.

Uber confirms service will commence in Tauranga in February

Uber has confirmed it will launch its ride sharing service in Tauranga on 1 February, making it the fourth city in New Zealand in which it is operating.

Uber New Zealand general manager, Richard Menzies, says over the past few years 23,000 people had opened the Uber phone app while in Tauranga, showing there was demand for the service. The company also sent cars out through the city in June to map out routes and have been advertising for driver partners since September.

All requests for Uber are made through an app. Using the device’s GPS, the app will show the drivers close by based on your location. Once a destination has been logged, different pricing options and wait times are shown. Once a driver is requested, they will arrive in minutes. The driver’s contact information and vehicle details will show up in the app, so you know you’re getting into the right car. The fare will be charged to the credit card on file, so cash is never needed.

Waiata Wednesday on the waterfront

Waiata Wednesday is a great initiative that has been designed to connect and engage people through group singing. It started as an initiative of Tauranga City Council’s Co-Design and Innovation Lab, and has since spread to the wider community.

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm Sam Hema leads a waiata beside the tidal stairs on the waterfront in Tauranga’s city centre. The group has been running since May this year and council staff, local business people and members of the public come along and join in, with the group swelling to up to 40 people.

Sam is a rapid innovator at council’s innovation lab, and passionate about Maori culture and sharing his knowledge. He says Waiata Wednesday encourages people to do something different and also builds awareness and appreciation for tangata whenua and Māori culture.

Image courtesy of Bay of Plenty Times
Speed limit rises on Tauranga Eastern Link and Waikato Motorway

Following an extensive consultation, the speed limit on sections of the Tauranga Eastern Link toll road and the Waikato Expressway have increased to 110 km/hour.

The speed limit on the Tauranga Eastern Link will increase on a 15km stretch of road between the Paengaroa roundabout and the Domain Rd interchange. It will also increase on the Waikato Expressway between the Cambridge Southern and Tamahere interchanges, a 16km stretch of road.

The two sections of road were selected first in the country because they have some of the best safety features in New Zealand, the NZ Transport Agency. Both roads have median-barriers and two lanes of direction which significantly reduces head-on collisions.

NZTA received almost 11,500 submissions from the public and stakeholders with 73% in favour of increasing the speed limit.

Support for illumination of iconic Matapihi Rail Bridge

A proposal to illuminate the historic Matapihi Rail Bridge with a lighting display has been supported by Tauranga City Council’s City Transformation Committee.

The vote was seven-to-one in support of setting aside $200,000 for the project in the draft long term plan, which will go out for public consultation early next year.

There is dissent from some in the Matapihi community, who feel they should have been better consulted over the initiative, as well as concerns over vandalism. The community has a long history with the bridge, including raising funds towards the first footpath.

The Matapihi Rail Bridge was built in 1924 and is one of the oldest structures in central Tauranga. The footbridge was bolted on in the 1950s to stop people hurting themselves by jumping off the bridge to avoid trains. The rail bridge is owned by KiwiRail and the footbridge by Tauranga City Council.
Connecting & collaborating

New economic development minister visits Tauranga to celebrate economic strategy milestone

The new Minister for Regional Economic Development, Shane Jones, visited Tauranga recently as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations for the Bay of Plenty’s economic development strategy.

Led by Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Bay of Connections is an industry led strategy that focuses on growing key sectors such as aquaculture, freight logistics, agribusiness, energy, film, forestry, tourism and horticulture, as well as supporting Māori land utilisation and the growth of rugby sevens, and developing strong educational pathways and a more skilled workforce.

Bay of Connections governance group chair, Doug Leeder, says work over the past decade positions the region to build on its success with a new government keen to focus on regional economic development. “We’re confident our revised strategy is well-placed to be built upon with the support and agreement of both local and central government,” says Doug.

Shane Jones says the government will be investing capital on projects that need assistance to unleash the productivity of the regions. He believes a large part of the $1 billion regional economic development fund will be spent on improving infrastructure, with all regions given a chance to partner through the fund. The government is also willing to enter public private partnerships that bring together the disciplines of commerce and public good capital, he says.

While he was in the Bay of Plenty, Shane Jones also visited the new Tauranga Marine Precinct at Sulphur Point and Newnham Innovation Park at Te Puna.

He Rangatahi, He Anamata - our youth, our future

Supporting Māori youth to achieve their aspirations is the focus of a new strategy under He Mauri Ohooho, the Bay of Plenty Māori economic development strategy group.

‘He Rangatahi, He Anamata – our youth, our future’ is the name of the long-term strategy for Māori youth in the Bay of Plenty. The strategy was developed in partnership with the Bay of Plenty Tertiary Intentions Group to support the futures of Māori youth within the region.

Awhina August, the Bay of Plenty’s Kaihautu Ōhanga Māori (Māori economic development navigator), says “The strategy is in the form of an infographic that considers where our Māori youth currently sit within the region and their opportunities in terms of job growth and the region’s sizeable Māori asset base. It then sets out some targets for the future and how we can work together to achieve this vision.”

A Māori youth summit is planned for February 2018 to connect and inspire young talent and industry experience days are being created for secondary school students. “We also plan to deploy the successful Kiwi Leaders programme across other sectors to bridge the gap between rangatahi and the business community by providing supported pathways from secondary school into high value employment opportunities within the region,” says Awhina.

Kiwi Leaders is a people development strategy that was seeded by Te Awanui Huka Pak in 2016 to create pathways into employment in the kiwifruit industry. However, a strong demand has been identified in the wider region for an integrated people development strategy across multiple sectors.

Awhina says plans are underway to develop a youth hub for students and young people to discover career pathways through workshops, field trips and other facilitated opportunities. “We will also provide them with ways to connect to pathways and networks through scholarships, internships and networking events and help them grow their careers through mentoring and undertaking formal training and education.”

To download the infographic, visit http://www.priorityone.co.nz/vdb/document/1619.
New evening city centre Christmas market with Night Owl Cinema

Downtown Tauranga is hosting an evening Christmas market in the city centre on Thursday 21 December which will run from 5pm until 8pm in Goddard’s Arcade around Santa’s Wonderland.

There will be some special market stalls selling soaps, candles, chocolates, cookies, clothing, home-ware and more – perfect for Christmas shopping after a day at work.

Night Owl Cinema will also be there, showing a special free screening of Home Alone from 6pm.

Sponsorship opportunities at Tattoo & Art Extravaganza

Around 7000 people are expected to attend the Tattoo & Art Extravaganza, being held at ASB Arena over the weekend of 14-15 April.

The event will include a wearable arts competition, hip hop and aerial dance, comedians, live bands, the Waiheke Circus, a children’s entertainment area, and the tattoo competition. It is expected that around 200 local, national and international tattoo artists will be competing in a range of age categories and different themes.

Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology is a key partner in delivering this event, which is also supported by Creative NZ, Tauranga City Council and Young Read Woudberg.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available at various levels of investment. Tattoo & Art Extravaganza has a strong social media following and a range of sponsorship packages.

For further information, visit www.tattooextravaganza.nz.

Social enterprises take up coworking spaces to enhance connections

The new coworking space for social enterprises has received huge interest from the community, with nearly 60% of desk capacity taken up before the doors have even opened.

Situated adjacent to the Historic Village, The Kollective will be the largest coworking space in the country specifically designed to offer an administrative base for charitable, social enterprise and not for profit organisations. It is being developed by Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust as a social investment, with the space managed by SociaLink Tauranga Moana.

The Kollective manager, Gordy Lockhart, says applications have been received from 30 organisations. “The Kollective offers those in the frontline of community service the opportunity to work alongside other devoted coworkers, whenever, wherever they choose and to be at the heart of an environment where complimentary organisations can explore and thrive.”

Liz Davies, general manager of SociaLink Tauranga Moana, says “We’re just stoked that the concepts in The Kollective seem to be really hitting the mark with social and community service agencies.”
Tourism spend increases during October driven by international visitors

Tourism spending in the Bay of Plenty for the month of October increased 11% compared to tourism income in October 2016, according to the latest figures released by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.

The tourism spend for the Bay of Plenty was estimated to be $1.8 billion for the year to October 2017, up 6% compared with the year to October 2016. Over that period, international visitor spend increased by 8% to $615 million and domestic tourists spend was up 6% to $1.2 billion.

MBIE manager of sector trends, Mark Gordon, says “Tourism spend information for the regions helps inform investment and planning in the tourism industry by providing insight into where both domestic and international tourists are spending their money.”


Economic update

Records for building consents smashed with one month left in 2017

November saw records smashed for residential building consents issued across the Western Bay sub-region and a record breaking total of over $1 billion in consents issued so far this year.

Annie Hill, Priority One’s communications/projects manager, says “Last year broke records with $1 billion in consents issued over 12 months, however the construction industry has continued to expand this year, with $1 billion issued by the end of November.”

Tauranga City Council recorded $668 million in consents for the 11-month period, 22% more than in 2016. Growth in the Western Bay district has slowed a little, resulting in an 11-month total of $246 million - 5% less than for the same period last year. However, overall consents in the Western Bay sub-region were 14% ahead of those issued for the same period last year, totalling $1.114 billion.

“During November Tauranga City Council issued the second highest value of consents for new residential developments ever recorded at $75 million. This was largely due to two multi-unit townhouse developments at Owens Place valued at $12 million each,” says Annie.

“The value of building consents issued by Western Bay Council this month was $5 million higher than in October, at $27 million. This included a new two-year record for the value of residential developments, with $20 million in new builds planned.”

Adrian Orr appointed as new Reserve Bank Governor

Adrian Orr has been appointed as Reserve Bank Governor, effective from 27 March 2018.

A graduate of University of Waikato and Leicester University, Mr Orr is currently chief executive of the New Zealand Superannuation Fund, a position he has held since 2007. Previous roles include deputy governor and head of financial stability at the Reserve Bank and chief economist at Westpac in New Zealand.

Finance Minister, Grant Robertson, says “I’m delighted the board has been able to secure a governor with such a strong track record of delivery and public service. Mr Orr has the technical and leadership qualities required to be governor and CEO of the Reserve Bank.”

Looking for more news?

For more news stories relating to the economy, visit our website www.priorityone.co.nz/articles where the latest articles are regularly added.
Zespri wins top award for best growth strategy

Zespri was recognised in the 2017 Deloitte Top 200 Awards for its strong growth strategy, with the kiwifruit marketing company on track to more than double global sales to $4.5 billion by 2025.

Zespri chief executive, Dan Mathieson, says “This award is real testament to the great team we have at Zespri – passionate, dedicated people around the world who bring to life our global grower-to-consumer strategy day in and day out – and the long-term partnerships we have with our customers.”

Innovation is key to driving growth, with the kiwifruit industry investing around $35 million a year in innovation. More than half of this is invested in Zespri’s joint new varieties breeding programme with Plant & Food Research, developing new products to attract new consumers and grow the overall category.

A recent report from the University of Waikato showed the New Zealand kiwifruit industry was on track to create another 29,000 jobs and triple GDP contribution to over $6 billion by 2030, due largely to Zespri’s gold variety SunGold.

New environmental scientist appointed by Stratum Consultants

A local engineering, planning, and surveying firm has recruited an environmental scientist to provide a more integrated process and meet the legislation of environmental awareness.

Alan Woodger has joined the team at Stratum Consultants, whose work includes single house, large subdivision and commercial and industrial developments

Tauranga planning manager, Shae Crossan, says “We can now assess if there are contaminants and what that means for the land and how best to approach them from within our team rather than outsourcing this service, which allows us to provide a more comprehensive suite of land development services for our clients.”

She says not only does this give Stratum Consultants a more comprehensive land development suite of services, but they now have one of the most experienced engineering scientists within their team. “Alan has over 10 years of experience in this field, and that’s pretty hard to come by. What’s more, he has worked in the region for the last four years, so he has a good working local knowledge too.”

Strong growth in kiwifruit industry sees new $11 million cool store open at port

A new $11 million cool store has opened at the Port of Tauranga, ushering in a new era in the storage and containerisation of kiwifruit to overseas markets.

It has replaced a 48-year-old kiwifruit cool store, providing better thermal efficiency and modern refrigeration technology and using 40% less electricity.

Construction of the cool store is the second phase of the long-term plan involving the port company and Tauranga Kiwifruit Logistics, which contracts to deliver kiwifruit to the point of export to international markets.

The cool store and unloading area occupies 7560m² of land behind the port company’s offices on Salisbury Ave. It was built by the port exclusively for TKL Logistics to ensure the infrastructure was in place to manage forecasted growth in kiwifruit volumes and exports.

Kiwifruit export volumes have been increasing by 20% a year since 2014 when exports began to recover from the impact of Psa disease. Zespri plans to double global sales to $4.5 billion by 2025.
New preschool centre at ACG Tauranga nearly complete

Construction of ACG Tauranga’s new preschool is nearing completion, with foundations laid, structural framework erected, the roof on, and works starting in the interior with the installation of underfloor heating.

Once completed, the building will be able to cater for 70 children from the ages of three months to five years and will provide a complete educational pathway from preschool to Year 13 on the Pyes Pa site.

The 353m² building will be a flexible area containing three rooms - one for children from the age of three months to two years, and the other two for children from 2-5 years of age. The building has been designed by Ignite Architects with indoor outdoor flow in mind. It is being constructed by Form Building and Developments Ltd.

Deputy principal selected as new head of Mount College

One of Mount Maunganui College’s deputy principals will step up to lead the school as principal in the New Year. Alastair Sinton has been a deputy principal at the school for three years, where he has focused on developing the assessment capability of students.

Alastair was born in Tauranga and undertook his studies in Auckland, following which he taught at Henderson High School. He moved back to Tauranga in 2014 after securing a role as one of Mount Maunganui College’s deputy principals.

Alastair is replacing Russell Gordon, who has recently been appointed as the new principal of Otumoetai College.

Renewed partnership with government to boost innovation in kiwifruit

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has announced that it will renew its partnership with Zespri to develop new kiwifruit products and breeding technologies.

MBIE will invest $6.7 million together with Zespri’s contribution of $15.7 million over the next seven years. The partnership aims to develop at least one novel fresh fruit product type by 2030 and could increase New Zealand export revenue by $200 million a year by 2045.

Zespri General Manager for Innovation, Carol Ward, says the partnership builds on an incredible track record of value creation with MBIE and Plant & Food Research. This includes the development of the SunGold cultivar which in 2016/17 alone returned an export value of $686 million.

“Our partnership has an outstanding track record in developing new kiwifruit products that consumers love and that create value for our industry and for the broader economy. This extension will apply world-class science with Plant & Food Research to develop new and novel kiwifruit varieties,” she says.
Superior Personnel Ltd

Since 1997, Superior Personnel has been placing staff into temporary and permanent positions across Auckland, Canterbury and the Waikato. Earlier this year they opened an office in Tauranga headed by Mandi Hopwood, who has been with the company since its inception.

Superior Personnel’s motto ‘great people building great businesses’ is at the very essence of everything they do. Their experienced team of consultants has strong networks and connections across New Zealand, so they can cast the net wide in the search for your key staff.

On-call 24/7, Superior Personnel can respond immediately when you need staff in a hurry, whether for temporary or permanent roles. They will do everything from initial screening, first interviews and skills testing to criminal and driver checks, before providing a shortlist of suitable candidates. They are so confident they will find the right person for a role, they offer a three-month guarantee for all permanent placements.

Superior Personnel has proven expertise in commercial and industrial recruitment, particularly in the areas freight transport & logistics, specialist trades such as plumbers, electricians, welders and admin/ customer services, roles in engineering and infrastructure, as well as the manufacturing sector. The Bay of Plenty office also specialises in ex-services recruitment, which is committed to working with the military, police and fire service to help their staff transition into civilian employment.

For further information, visit www.superiorpersonnel.co.nz.

Lawson Williams Consulting Group

Lawson Williams Consulting Group has recently celebrated its 25th year in business. It works with job seekers and organisations, responding to the rapidly changing employment landscape and delivering recruitment processes for executive through to technical specialist and team leader level positions.

New Zealand owned and operating from offices in Auckland, Hamilton and the Bay of Plenty, Lawson Williams has three divisions providing specialist recruitment services across a wide variety of industry sectors.

The specialist recruitment division focuses on procurement and supply chain, operations and manufacturing, engineering

and infrastructure, technology, compliance and health & safety, lean practices and continuous improvement, and technical sales and marketing.

Oxygen Recruitment is a sister company to Lawson Williams and specialises in human resources, accounting, customer service, IT, office support and non-technical sales and marketing roles.

The third division is Lawson Executive, which works with companies looking to employ senior members of staff through a comprehensive search process.

In addition to the comprehensive reach Lawson Williams has through their extensive database and networks, the company also recruits globally through their membership of NPA Worldwide. This network connects them with over 550 recruitment partners across Asia, Europe, Africa, Australasia and the Americas.

For further information, visit www.lawsonwilliams.co.nz or www.oxygenrecruitment.co.nz.
Bay of Plenty / Waikato Business Expo

When: All day, Wednesday 7 March 2018
Where: ASB Arena, 81 Truman Lane, Tauranga

Priority One is supporting inaugural Bay of Plenty / Waikato Business Expo, which will provide local businesses with a prime opportunity to maximise their exposure to the thriving central North Island region of Tauranga, Hamilton and Rotorua. Entry is free to visitors and the organisers are expecting to draw a qualified audience of entrepreneurs and professionals from around New Zealand.

There will be space for around 130 exhibitors, with early bird registrations open until 20 December. There are still opportunities for sponsors to come on board and for those that want to secure a seminar slot. For further information and to book your spot, visit www.businessexpo.biz.

Tattoo & Art Extravaganza

When: 14 & 15 April 2018
Where: ASB Arena, 81 Truman Lane, Tauranga
Cost: $25 (one day) or $40 (both days)

Around 200 international and local tattoo artists will be competing in the Tattoo & Art Extravaganza in Tauranga next year. Taking place over two days, the event will include a wearable arts competition, hip hop and aerial dance, comedians, live bands, the Waiheke Circus and different categories for the tattoo competition. For further information, visit www.tattooextravaganza.nz.

Key events coming up

Waikato Business Summit

When: 2pm-6pm, Thursday 8 February 2018
Where: Pacific Crystal Palace, Hamilton Gardens, Cobham Dr, Hamilton
Cost: $150 per person

After a successful event in February this year, the Hamilton Business Summit is being held again in early 2018. The key theme is ‘from change comes opportunity’, which will be looked at in the context of central and local government, the economy, the retail space as a result of Amazon, and business practices. For further information and to register, visit www.businesssummit.co.nz.

Our business members and local authority support are the lifeblood of Priority One’s ability to operate effectively. It is through these unique partnerships that we are able to stimulate economic growth and drive change. We wish you all the best for the festive season.

Priority One sends best wishes for the festive season

Priority One’s last day of business for 2017 will be Thursday 21 December, with our offices re-opening on Monday 8 January 2018.

The team at Priority One would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their support during 2017. It has been a great year for the local economy, with the region topping the country for economic growth and business growth. There are also some exciting projects underway or about to commence, particularly in Tauranga’s CBD, demonstrating the confidence of investors in our future.
come to the edge...

Come to the edge.
We might fall.
Come to the edge.
It’s too high!
COME TO THE EDGE!
And they came, and we pushed, and they flew.
– Christopher Logue

Priority One’s purpose is to build a vibrant economy that retains and attracts talented, skilled and creative people and the businesses that need them.

Priority One is supported by businesses and the following strategic partners.

Fostering innovation | A compelling destination | A hub for skills & talent | Connecting & collaborating | Investment attraction

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