



This pool fence will keep Rogan Baty (4) and his family safe this summer.

Commitment to private pool safety in district this summer

Council officers plan to undertake a district-wide look at swimming pools over the next few months to make sure people have covered all bases to avoid a drowning tragedy this summer.

The building control team ask that anyone who has a new pool or is planning to put a pool in, including spa pools, to please contact Council and register the fact, as is required by law.

A first inspection will be carried out at no cost, including advice as to what is required to make the pool compliant.

Each year around five children under the age of six drown in pools. Councils around the country are responsible for ensuring new and existing swimming pools and spa pools are properly fenced in accordance with the Fencing of Swimming Pools (FSP) Act 1987 and the Building Act 2004.

The FSP Act requires swimming pools and spa pools to be fenced, except where an exemption applies (eg public swimming pools, pools less than 400mm deep, indoor residential pools and pools with sides higher than 1.2m.).

Building Control will:

- Inspect fences on existing pools constructed prior to the former Building Act 1991 for compliance.
- Inspect new pools during the building process to ensure compliance with both the FSP Act and the Building Act.
- Make subsequent inspections on all pools to ensure ongoing compliance with the FSP Act and the Building Act. This is important to ensure fences do not fall into disrepair.

If a fence is found to be non-compliant and recommended action is not taken to remedy the situation, Council has a number of enforcement powers, including infringement fines.

Building Control is here to help make your pool safe for your family and for others in the community. Anyone wishing to know more about what is required to meet regulations or to simply check that your pool is safe, contact the Building Control Department at Council on 838 7309.

Friendly reminder keeps district safe and healthy for all

Creating a safe and happy holiday environment for the Wairoa District is the responsibility of the whole community. To help achieve this aim Council would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of a few areas of compliance and general health and safety that often come under pressure during the summer months. Compliance officers will be out and about throughout the holidays to offer assistance where required.

Refuse and Recycling

Wairoa Landfill and Recycling Centre is open daily from 11am to 5pm except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. No collections will take place on those days, or on January 2. Additional collections to cope with the summer influx are scheduled for Mahia on December 19 and 27, as well as January 3, 9 and 16. A trial of public recycling will take place at Mahia over the holiday period, with bins provided on Pohutukawa Reserve for small quantities of recyclables from beach goers and picnickers. They are not intended as a replacement or alternative for domestic recycling, which should be taken to the Kaiwhaitau Road site every Sunday over the holidays.

Illegal dumping of rubbish continues to be a problem in the district, so residents and visitors alike are urged to clean up after themselves and make use of the services provided. If you see anyone dumping rubbish in a public area, please contact Council or the police with details.

Fire

A restricted fire season is in place throughout the Wairoa Rural Fire District, which means no open fires are to be lit without a permit. This includes everything from barbeques and hangis, to large burn-offs. There is no cost attached to getting a permit, just contact the Council offices on Queen Street (closed from 12 noon, Dec 24 to Jan 5). The restriction doesn't apply to the Wairoa and Nuhaka urban areas.

Alcohol

Festivities usually involve sharing a few drinks with family and friends. The Wairoa Liquor Licensing Agency, run through Council, is urging people to think about their drinking to make sure it doesn't get in the way of what could have been a great time for everyone. Here are a few steps to ensure the holiday season is a good one. Make sure there are plenty of non-alcohol and low-alcohol options at get-togethers so people have a choice about what they drink and can take a break from alcohol. Provide substantial food – asking people to bring a plate is a great option. Watch the size of the drinks you're having. Remember a standard drink is one small wine glass (100ml) and not a bucket!

Plan how to get home safely if you're drinking – or if you're the host make sure your guests do the same.

Animals – pets and stock

Providing shelter, food and water are the basic requirements for responsible pet ownership. People are reminded to consider these needs, paying particular care not to leave pets in cars in the

summer heat. Those going on holiday need to make sure arrangements are in place to care for pets that are left behind.

Farmers are reminded that in the interests of public safety, permits are required to graze stock on the roadside, or if stock is to be on public roads for more than a 24 hour period (eg droving). Permits are available from Council offices.

Camping

Holidaymakers come from far and wide to take advantage of the many attractions on offer in the district. In order to preserve the beauty of our area for all to enjoy, there is a district-wide ban on freedom camping in place. Campers have the option of setting up in a choice of camping grounds around the district – details of which are available at the Wairoa i-site Visitor Information Centre.



An example of illegal dumping.

Water

Households relying on tank water need to be vigilant about avoiding contaminated water in the summer months. A simple way to ensure water is clean is to add a small quantity of Janola (common household bleach) to destroy harmful bacteria.

The following quantities are recommended:

| Tank Size | Quantity of Bleach |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1,000 litre | 60ml |
| 5,000 litre | 330ml |
| 10,000 litre | 660ml |
| 20,00 litre | 1330ml |

This form of chlorine treatment is unlikely to kill Giardia and Cryptosporidium, which require a filter capable of filtering down to 1 micron. Boiling water for 10 minutes will kill all harmful micro-organisms. Households on both private and public water supplies need to be aware that some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in fittings for several hours. Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health advice is to flush a mug full of water from the drinking water tap each morning before use.

Farewell to Councillor

Wairoa District Council would like to acknowledge the passing of Councillor John Edward Petersen this month.

Councillor Petersen's strong voice will be missed in Council Chambers, where he was serving the interests of the district for a third term.

As co-holder of the assets portfolio, he was a champion for ratepayers' concerns and the wellbeing of the district.

The 72-year-old's previous two terms spanned from 1998 through to 2004.



Manager heads south

Council bids farewell to Administration Manager Te Aroha Cook (pictured), who leaves to take up a job with the Central Hawke's Bay District Council next month.

Big challenges await Ms Cook, who is taking on the responsibility of Regulatory Services Manager, as well as transferring her role as Principal Rural Fire Officer to Central Hawke's Bay.

Her career with Council began fourteen years ago as manager/curator of the Wairoa Museum, before moving into the Emergency Management Officer position.

"I will miss the team, and Wairoa, greatly, but life is about taking on new challenges and opportunities as they arise," she said.

Wairoa District Council wishes everyone a healthy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Please note, office will be closed from 12noon, Wednesday, December 24 until 9am, Monday, January 5.

For urgent matters, phone 838 7309.