

Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future



Aussie grinder on the level

Footpaths will be safer and dollars will be saved as a unique machine takes on Wairoa's pavements. Uneven paths can be a treacherous hazard for the unsuspecting pedestrian, but with the help of the specialist grinder imported from Australia, the streets will be safer for all. Rather than ripping out a section of footpath and resealing it at a significant cost, the much cheaper and more time efficient option is to hire the custom-built grinder to carry out the work. Operations manager Bill Lewis said the machine was a great find, with a significant impact on the amount of ratepayer money spent on making footpaths safer. "Uneven footpaths are hazardous, but it is always a juggle to make sure costs of fixing paths can be covered. By using this machine, that balancing act will be much easier," he said. The grinder has a half-tonne head with 15 steel carbide grinding teeth that rub away ridges and raised rough spots, smoothing bumps up to 30mm high. All the concrete dust is swept up, while the operator takes away any rubble left over, leaving footpaths much safer and smoother.



Driver John Hindle takes the concrete grinder through its paces. Photo courtesy of Manawatu Standard Ltd.

Smoke risks health

Seasonal changes often bring about the desire for a clean-up of house and garden, but before you set the fire alight in the backyard it pays to spare a thought for what harm you might be doing to others and the environment.

'Backyard burning' is a common occurrence in Wairoa, both in urban and rural areas, and it is important to be aware of the by-laws related to it.

Below is a list of items that cannot be burnt, encompassing mainly man-made or refined products. These items should be recycled or sent in to the Wairoa Landfill.

Vegetation is fine to set fire to as long as the resulting smoke doesn't cause a nuisance to anyone. If you have a pile of cuttings to dispose of, it can be tempting to throw on other rubbish such as old paint cans, tyres or plastic odds and ends. The result of burning such items is a toxic plume that could cause serious health affects to anyone breathing it.

The general rule of thumb is that if the smoke is grey or white, it is non-toxic, but black smoke is an indication that the fire should be put out immediately to avoid toxic fumes.

It is the responsibility of everyone to consider the health of others in the community, particularly those most vulnerable to breathing disorders, such as the elderly and children.

Some good practices to prevent your fire

from affecting others include burning only well-dried material, as green or wet vegetation will produce much more smoke. Check the weather before lighting your fire to see how wind speed and direction might affect your fire, avoid burning on still winter mornings when smoke can become trapped by the inversion layer, and be considerate to your neighbours.

Wairoa District Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council work together on 'backyard burning' compliance – fines have to be imposed should people choose to ignore the law. Details of the by-law are available at the Council offices on Queen Street. Let common sense be your guide, and if in doubt, call the Council.



Example of toxic, black smoke.

Prohibited from burning:

- Animal waste
- Tyres or other rubber
- Waste oil, or any waste containing hydrocarbons
- Wood treated with chemicals or painted
- Chipboard
- Plastic
- Metals
- Asbestos
- Medical or chemical waste
- Any combination of metals and combustible materials, including coated or covered cables

Compost concept catches on

The Bokashi phenomenon is growing at a great pace, so keen composters need to be in quick to secure a starter kit.

Council took delivery of 200 bins recently and over half of them have been bought as people catch on to the benefits of the revolutionary composting system.

A subsidised rate of \$20 will get a starter Bokashi kit, which includes the bin and 'zing' powder, specially formulated to create an odour-free compost.

Everything except for liquids can be thrown into the Bokashi bin, which uses a unique method of fermenting, rather than putrefying. This cuts out unpleasant smells completely and results in super rich liquid compost after only two weeks.

As part of Council's commitment to zero waste a trial of 20 households was undertaken last year to establish whether the Bokashi system could work here as a method of reducing the amount of food waste going into the landfill.

Those involved reported vast improvements in their gardens, as well as savings in the household budget thanks to homegrown vegetables and reduced landfill costs. The fact that all households taking part in the trial stuck with it throughout is testament to how easily the Bokashi system can be incorporated into daily life.

If you are interested in making the most of this great system, contact Council on 838 7309 or call in to the Queen Street offices to find out more.



Bokashi is the secret behind this bumper crop.

Lively debate on serious issues

Submissions are now flowing in as people put forward their opinions on the draft Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

With just over a week to go before the consultation process moves on, many written submissions have been received, which is a great indication that members of the community are keen to be involved in how the district will shape up over the next 10 years.

Everyone should have received a summary of the plan in the mail. This highlights the main issues and includes a submission form.

Public meetings have been held throughout the district to varying response, in most instances sparking lively debate about serious issues.

There is still time to get involved in the consultation process. Summary documents and the full plan are available from Council offices, the library, information centre and at various other community organisations.

Another option is to view the information on the web at www.wairoadc.govt.nz, then make an online submission.

Submissions will be received up until 5pm on Monday, June 8.

Random phone survey

Phone calls will be received by people randomly selected to take part in the annual Wairoa District Council survey next month.

An independent market research company will be talking to a cross section of the community to get an idea of how well Council efforts are carrying through to residents.

Financial planning manager Sharyn Staley says people will be asked their opinions on a wide-ranging list of services and issues relating to Council.

"We have a responsibility to track how our efforts are perceived by residents. We have found the best way to do this is to have an independent firm carry out interviews with randomly selected participants," she said.

The annual survey has been used by Council for years as a guide to maintaining a proactive stance in understanding and meeting residents' wishes.

Interviewing for the survey begins on Friday, June 12, and is expected to be completed on Sunday, June 21.

For the diary:

Council meetings (second Tuesday of every month):

June 9
July 14
August 11
September 8
October 13
November 10
December 8

Forum dates (fourth Tuesday of every month):

June 30
July 28
August 25
September 22
October 27
November 24

Full Council meetings and Forums are held in the Council Chambers in the Queen Street offices and are open to the public, unless otherwise specified. Meetings and Forums start at 10am.