

## Opportunity to take a stake in big issues now

Opinions of Wairoa residents on burning issues of the day are very important to keeping the wheels of the Wairoa District Council turning.

At present submissions are being sought on two different proposals – the 'Gateway to Mahia' road options and the Draft Maori Policy – Purongo Maori.

The 'Gateway to Mahia' road options statement of proposal has already been extensively publicised with advertisements and news stories, but it is important that everyone knows what it is all about.

In summary, a section of Ormond Road must be removed by August next year in agreement with the Ruawharawhara Urupa trustees.

Council has developed several options for alternative access to the Peninsula. These options are detailed in the Statement of Proposal, which is available from the Council offices on Queen Street, from the library on Marine Parade, Mahia shops, rural schools, supermarkets or online at [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz).

A submission form is included in the



**Faces of the future - your opinions today will pave the way forward for the community.**

proposal, so if anyone wishes to express an opinion, they can fill in the form and return it to Council. Two public information meetings took place earlier this week – one at Mahia and one at Wairoa. The other important issue currently

requiring public input is the Draft Wairoa District Council Maori Policy – Purongo Maori.

This proposed policy expands on the same material that was contained in the previous policy, but also introduces terms of reference for guidance under a new and revised cluster group structure.

The purpose of consultation with the community is so that Council can assess public support for the proposed policy and can consider additions and alterations from any submissions received.

The Statement of Proposal and submission form can be obtained from Council offices, from the library or online at [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz).

A series of six meetings are being held this week, including today at Raupunga's Ngati Pahauwera rooms from 10am to 12, then at Te Mira from 1pm to 3pm. On Friday, the meetings are at Tuahuru Marae from 10am to 12, then at Kahungunu Marae from 1pm to 3pm.

Submissions for both proposals close at 5pm on Monday, November 17.

## Carbon friendly Wairoa - a New Zealand first

Wairoa residents are breathing easy after hearing their district is the first in the country to have a negative carbon footprint.

Robyn Sinclair from Landcare Research shared her scientific findings at the Wairoa Sustainable Development Summit hosted by the Wairoa District Council this month.

An audit carried out by Ms Sinclair found the district to be in an enviable position in terms of carbon neutrality by removing far more carbon than emitting.

Inventories were taken on greenhouse gas emissions and removals in agriculture, energy, industry, waste and forestry to determine the final figure.

While agriculture was responsible for the largest amount of carbon emission, this was offset by large forestry operations and the lack of large-scale industry in the area.

Advantages of being able to claim such a status were varied, including potential economic savings and benefits for tourism –

an important and growing industry in the district.

Ms Sinclair's presentation was one of many from a variety of key speakers appearing over the two-day Summit, the purpose of which was to inform and inspire community leaders to pave the way forward in sustainable development.

The Summit was well-attended by a range of people representing different sectors of the Wairoa community, including business, agriculture, industry and cultural groups.

Wairoa District Council would like to take the opportunity to thank the other generous sponsors of the event including QRS, Te Puni Kokiri, Endeavour Community Trust, Wairoa Community Development Trust, The Wairoa Star, The Gisborne Herald, Eastland Group, Genesis Energy, Juken New Zealand Ltd, The Greenhouse, Kahungunu Executive, Wairoa Cellars, gen-i, Orb, Wairoa Taiwhenua, and Wairoa Waikaremoana Maori Trust Board.

### For the diary:

**Council meetings:**  
November 11, December 9.

**Councillor workshop meetings:** November 25, (no December meeting due to public holidays).

**Submissions close:**  
'Gateway to Mahia' Roading Options and Draft Wairoa District Council Maori Policy submissions close 5pm, Monday, November 17.

## Broadband switched on at the library

Scores of people have been flocking to take advantage of free broadband access at the Wairoa Public Library. The service was introduced just over two months ago and library manager Sandra Hughes says it has been an incredibly popular addition.

"All of the half-hour spots throughout the day have been full, and it hasn't just been kids using the computers," she said.

A total of five computer terminals are set up for the public to access free broadband, which can be used for anything from video conferencing to online banking.

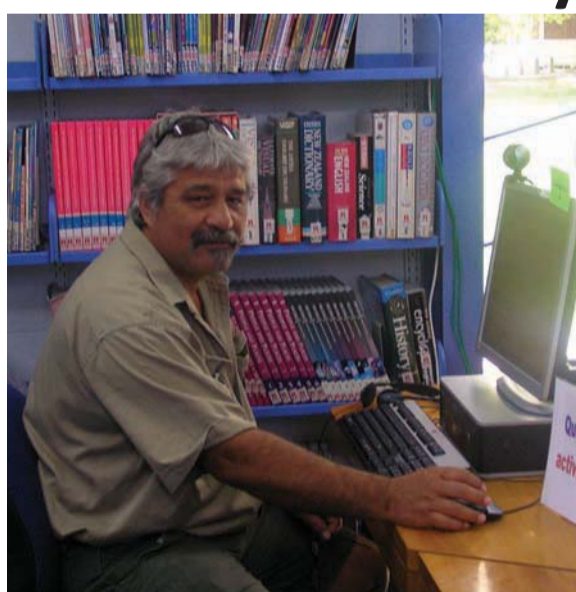
Students researching school projects have all the information they need at their fingertips, with books and the worldwide web all in one location.

Job seekers are able to find jobs, put together CVs and email them out easily, while others can connect to, talk to and see friends and family overseas.

These are just a sample of the many uses of the service. Adults can book in by phoning the library or calling in.

Everyone is encouraged to come along and try the service, no matter what level of experience as a computer user.

"Staff are always available to help out should the need



**Iain McNabb makes use of free broadband.**

arise," Ms Hughes said.

Demonstration sessions were also planned to provide knowledge to those who are not so confident with their computer skills.

Provision of the service is part of a nation-wide government initiative to make technology available to all New Zealanders.

## Update on LTCCP underway

Council staff are currently in the midst of an update of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) - the ten-year plan that must be reviewed every three years to ensure everything is up-to-date.

At the centre of the LTCCP are the nine 'Community Outcomes', which provide a focal point for planning and activities.

They all relate to one of four 'wellbeings' – economic, social, cultural and environmental.

The outcomes:

- A strong, prosperous and thriving economy
- A safe and secure community
- A lifetime of good health and wellbeing
- An environment that is appreciated, protected and sustained for future generations
- Supportive, caring and valued communities
- A safe and integrated transport system
- Strong district leadership and a sense of belonging
- Safe and accessible recreational facilities
- A community that values and promotes its culture and heritage

Each one is explained in the current LTCCP, which can be viewed by calling into the Council offices on Queen Street or by visiting our website [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz).

Public opinion on the updated LTCCP will be sought when it is released in early 2009.