



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Long time employee leaves engineering legacy

Nearly 40 years of taking care of the district's road and services is almost at an end for long serving WDC Operations Manager Bill Lewis. Bill joined the staff in 1973 as a labourer for the Water Works, going on to work his way through the ranks as Foreman, District Overseer, Assistant Engineer and finally his current role.

Originally from England, Bill and his wife Avril intended to stay with family in Wairoa as a stop-gap while considering job offers in Auckland. "We saw that this was a better sort of lifestyle and decided to stay," he said.

Having worked with five engineering managers, witnessed amalgamation, again.

and worked with many mayors and councillors, Bill has a wealth of experience to offer his current colleagues. Amongst his memories,

Cyclone Bola stands out as an interesting time. Water and sewerage lines were lost when the bridge was washed away, presenting a major challenge for Bill and his team to get things up and running



Bill Lewis overseeing construction of the now completed Mahia walkway/cycleway.

"Seeing people pull together in extraordinary circumstances is something I'll always remember," he said. Among his achievements is planning and overseeing the construction of the Wairoa River

Walkway.

"It has been a satisfying job and it is great to see people using it. I won't have to get up at six in the morning to use it myself now," he said. He says that in terms of the physical work that has to be done around

the district, nothing has changed over the years.

"However there have been many improvements to how certain tasks are carried out," he said.

Over the years, Bill has devoted a lot of his own time to the job and as a result has been instrumental in progressing the district's road and service infrastructure.

Having worked since he was 14 years old, Bill is now looking forward to the luxury of operating on his own schedule, with plans to travel, spend time with family and enjoy life in general.

Consultation open

Public consultation is currently open on a proposed amendment to the Public Safety Bylaw that will exempt licensed restaurants and cafes with alfresco dining from the liquor ban area, allowing patrons to have a drink with their meal.

The draft Alfresco Dining for Licensed Restaurants and Cafes Policy is also out for public consultation, and has basically been designed to support the by-law amendment.

It was necessary to create a policy for an amendment to the by-law so that the by-law could not be abused.

The policy makes it clear that the exemption would relate only to establishments in the liquor ban area where the principle business was sale of food, rather than alcohol.

The policy lays out all the detail and supports the by-law amendment. Both the proposed amendment and the draft policy can be viewed online at www.wairoadc.govt.nz, or at council offices on Queen Street, the library and Wairoa i-Site Visitor Information Centre.

Submissions can be made on the official form, and must be received by 5pm on Friday, April 8.

For the diary:

Council meetings:

- April 12
- May 10
- June 14
- July 12
- August 9
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8
- December 13

Forum dates:

- April 26
- May 24
- June 28
- July 26
- August 23
- September 27
- October 25
- November 22

Maori Standing Committee

- April 29
- May 27
- June 1
- July 29
- August 26
- September 30

Check out the Civil Defence Special on page 2.
This features important information about what to do in case of an earthquake or tsunami.
Act now to prepare yourself and your family.