



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Volunteers needed

If you've ever thought about how you could help others during a major emergency, then now is the time to find out.

Civil Defence and Red Cross invite members of the community to come along to an open day at the Wairoa Community Centre on Saturday, March 31 from 10am to 2pm.

Wairoa District Council Emergency Management Officer Tim Allan said experienced staff and volunteers will be on hand to talk about what is involved in signing up to either organisation.

"Many hands are needed when disaster strikes. We're recruiting everyone from fit, young people to carry out physical work, to others who might have the skills required for welfare co-ordination, support

work or community liaison tasks," he said.



Events such as the Christchurch earthquake have demonstrated what can happen without warning, emphasising the need to make sure communities are prepared for the worst.

"Wairoa is fortunate enough to have committed wardens in most areas of the district, although we could do with some more in town. We're hoping current and past volunteers will also attend the open day to share their knowledge with people who are interested in getting involved."

General information about being prepared will also be available. Anyone who can't attend the open day, but is interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer, can contact Tim on (06) 838 7309.

SH38 upgrade

Establishing closer links between key stakeholders is a vital step in the bid to secure funding to seal the rainforest route through Te Urewera National Park.

WDC has been working with tangata whenua, the Whakatane District Council, and other interested parties to develop a united front in presenting a case for national government, focused on the tourism potential and economic development that would be realised by making State Highway 38 more accessible.

Conservative forecasts estimate growth in visitor numbers could realise an extra \$15.2 million per annum as a result of the road improvements, while more optimistic analysis brings this figure up to \$28.4 million.

It is proposed the \$22-30 million project will be split into four stages, beginning with sealing the rest of the road from Mangapapa Bridge to Tuai, followed by sealing from Tuai to Onepoto, then Onepoto to Aniwanuiwa.

Whiteware Disposal

Old whiteware or large household items will be picked up free of charge around the district over the next two Saturdays. The annual collection is an opportunity to dispose of goods safely. No general rubbish or old vehicles will be taken.

Saturday, March 31

- Nuhaka: 9am-11am (QRS Nuhaka Metal Depot)
- Raupunga: 9am-12pm (Beside toilets)
- Mohaka: 1pm-3pm (Old pub site)
- Ruakituri: 1.30pm-2.30pm (Opposite School)
- Wairoa Landfill: 11am-3pm (Whiteware only, no large household items)

Saturday, April 7

- Mahia: 9am-12pm (376 Kaiwaitau Rd)

The final stage will be upgrading safety of the Special Purpose Road 38 from Aniwanuiwa to the Whakatane boundary.

Whakatane District Council have already begun sealing part of the road from Murupara to the Wairoa boundary.

Check this out

International BMX extraordinaire **Jed Mildon** is in town on Saturday to share his skills with Wairoa youth. YROA YNOT are helping to organise the visit, which takes place at the skatebowl from 12pm.

Mildon was the first in the world to execute a triple backflip on the bike and has since become a global name in BMX riding. He will be joined by a team of top riders and skaters, providing a fantastic opportunity for those wishing to expand their talents in the bowl.

Sounds are courtesy of MC Charlie, with giveaways from Unit and Red Bull.



Artwork enhances i-Site

Knowledge and information are the central themes of a stunning new artwork gracing the wall of the Wairoa i-Site Visitor Information Centre.

The original piece by Chantze Rohe was commissioned by Wairoa District Council to showcase the kind of talent produced in Wairoa, as well as improving the aesthetics of the building that welcomes visitors from around the world.

The overall forms used in the two-panelled work were "kaokao" - at times a dominant design, but in this case a welcoming form mainly used in weaving. Also used are "koru", symbolic of growth and new life, and "patiki" to show a wealth of food, knowledge and culture.

The left hand panel, 'Hau Kainga', shows a feather planted in the koru, depicting that produce from this town comes from deep within the soil. Knowledge is shared and passed down from generation to generation, hence the koru being long and stretched, protecting and nurturing the diamond of knowledge and information in the centre. The koru then stretches to the bottom to two taniko patterns and a manaia, presenting the illusion that knowledge is homegrown. To the left of the panel is "kaokao", a chevron shaped pattern used to show dominance and also hospitality, representing the offering and receiving of knowledge. Centre is the "Manaia", to acknowledge all our knowledge keepers who share and disperse this with the local people. On the left is "Poutama", a stairway pattern used in forms, with many meanings. In this case it has been used to show knowledge coming from the ground, representing Wairoa's wealth of knowledge, history and geneology.

In the left panel, 'Manuhiri', the feather is detached to show the hovering of people coming and going. These are visitors who bring their knowledge and information to share. Once again the koru are outstretched, nurturing the centre



Artist Chantze Rohe with the i-Site panels.

diamond which is a representation of knowledge and information.

Descending down there is an image of a manaia amongst mangopare and koru, depicting the re-entering of knowledge and information back into the town. All forms of information are acknowledged, vast and broad and even all the day-to-day details. Lastly, at the very bottom are the "Poutama", once again showing knowledge and information being shared, and "Patiki" (diamond shaped pattern) depicting the wealth of sources that share with the i-Site staff and friends.

Chantze grew up in Wairoa, but gained his formal artistic training at Toimairangi - School of Maori Visual Arts in Hastings. In the five years Chantze was at Toimairangi, he experienced great opportunities to travel the world, including visits to London and Hawaii. He also sent artwork to Australia for Waitangi Day celebrations. Chantze has been part of exhibitions and gatherings in Hawke's Bay and around New Zealand, with his first solo exhibition taking place at the Wairoa District Council back in 2008.

Book your InterCity travel this month and go into the draw to WIN \$50 worth of travel to go towards your next trip

Book at the i-Site

For the diary:

Council Meetings:

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

Council Forum:

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

For more information phone 838 7309 or visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz