



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Busy time for animal control officers

Dogs are in the spotlight this month as Wairoa District Council animal control officers remind people of their responsibilities as owners. Wandering dogs resulted in a full pound over the festive period, which is not good news for the animals concerned.

Team leader Des Jane said animals are held for a week and if they are not claimed or rehomed, the only option is to euthanise.

"The best outcome for all involved is to make sure your dog is not out wandering in the first place," he said.

"We realise that people are on holiday and perhaps aren't being as vigilant as usual. However, if you choose to own animals, it is up to



Wairoa District Council Animal Control Officers Doug Waugh, Michael Walker and Des Jane. (Absent: Harry Te Rangī)

you to look after them and provide them with appropriate care."

The majority of dogs that end up in the pound are not microchipped.

All dogs are now legally required to be microchipped when they are registered for the first time, no matter what the age of the dog. The only dogs exempt from microchipping are farm dogs that are used solely for stock work.

The task can be carried out at a vet clinic and enables proof of ownership to be established.

Owners of new dogs should register the details at the Wairoa District Council offices on Queen Street.

Urban dwellers wanting to own more than two dogs need to call into the council to obtain a free permit.

Officers also responded to several reports of wandering stock during the holiday period.

Depending on the situation, the responding officer's first action is usually to guide the stock into the first available gateway.

If stock are particularly difficult to handle and the situation is creating a danger, the animals may be shot for the sake of safety.

Stock on the road can be deadly, with owners liable for any accident caused.

RESTRICTED FIRE SEASON
A restricted fire season now applies to the entire Wairoa District. Permits are available from WDC offices on Queen Street.

Waitangi Day extravaganza

Wairoa District Council invites you to join us in celebrating Waitangi Day 2012 with a unique storytelling extravaganza and family celebration on February 2, 3 and 4.

Come and hear the stories and legends that bind our community together, told by the people who live here.

From local Maori tales to settler yarns, all the stories reflect how relationships have been built through the Treaty, and how this connects to our community today. Maori Liaison Officer Ropata Ainsley said the purpose of the storytelling was to promote better understanding of how different cultures have intertwined to make Wairoa what it is today, connecting to the overall theme of "Can you see yourself in the Treaty?"

"We will also be hosting storytellers from outside of the district who we hope will add a distinct international flavour to Waitangi Day," he said.

Workshops facilitated by Human Rights Commission representatives will also run on Thursday and Friday. They will begin with some historical scene-setting, followed by a close look at the Treaty itself and where it sits in modern New Zealand, and Wairoa.

School groups and other organisations have been invited to attend the storytelling and workshops at the Wairoa Community Centre from 9am to 7pm on both Thursday and Friday. Celebrations continue on Saturday with a family day at Alexandra Park. Activities include a waka ama competition, skate bowl championships, as well as artistic workshops and free swimming for the kids.

To find out more, or to book in for the storytelling or workshops, contact Ropata Ainsley at Wairoa District Council on (06) 838 7309.

Sort it out - sensible summer recycling

Long summer days have resulted in plenty of work for employees at the Wairoa Recycling Depot over the past few weeks.

Glass bottles in particular have been coming in at a greater rate than usual over the festive season.

Wairoa District Council and recycling contractors QRS thank people for the participation in the scheme, particularly those who take the time to sort their recycling products to make the whole process more efficient.

Cardboard, paper, tins, glass, and plastic products can be separated by placing them inside different shopping bags or tied into bundles - whichever is more appropriate for a particular product - then placing them in the kerbside collection crate. Remember that trays used for

packaging meat are also recyclable - both the hard plastic and polystyrene-look varieties.

Plastic bags used in the supermarket fruit and vegetable department can also go in.

Items such as nappies and food scraps cannot be recycled and should be disposed of separately. Recycling works out to be better for the environment and the pocket - it makes sense to take advantage of the free service instead of putting it all in user pays rubbish bags.

Once at the depot, recycling is further sorted and compacted into large bales, which are stacked ready for loading into containers. Containers are packed and shipped to recycling markets in either New Zealand or Asia, depending on how markets are operating at the time.

Urban kerbside recycling takes place on Wednesday mornings in Wairoa township and Frasertown. Rural recycling is on the first and third Sunday of each month at the following locations and times:

Kotemaori: Kotemaori Hall 10am to 11.30am

Raupunga: Old Fire Station 12pm to 2pm

Mohaka: Old Pub Site 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Ruakituri: (First Sunday only) Opposite School 9am to 11am

Te Reinga: (First Sunday only) Opposite School 11.30am to 12.30pm

Nuhaka: QRS Metal Yard 9am to 11am

Mahia: 376 Kaiwaitau Rd 11.30am to 2pm



And the band played on ...

Bagpipes, vocalists, brass, saxophones, woodwind and drummers will ring out from War Memorial Park when the Central Band of the Royal New Zealand Air Force performs a free concert on Saturday, February 18.

The band is visiting Wairoa as part of its 75th Anniversary tour, offering a superb opportunity to see the 60 piece military band in action.

Supported by the Wairoa District Council, the 'Picnic in the Park' evening will be an opportunity for the whole community to bring their picnics along and enjoy a concert which will be packed with "something for everyone". The music performed will range from classics and traditional to jazz and modern hits, from Bach to Glenn Miller. The concert will also pay a tribute to those who have served in the military

In 1937 the Central Band of the RNZAF first paraded for the Coronation of King George VI, then shortly after for the opening of the Wellington Railway Station. It has performed to thousands of people over the years including as a full time band during World War II when it toured Australia and the Pacific Islands. The band continues to play an important role in Wellington at State ceremonies and military services and occasions, including the formal Opening of Parliament.

Picnic in the Park - RNZAF 75th Anniversary Tour
War Memorial Park, Hunter-Brown Street, Wairoa
5:30pm - 7pm Saturday 18th February 2012
FREE CONCERT

Wairoa District Council acknowledges the passing of Reay Stapleton Paku. Mr Paku was a member of the original Maori Standing Committee and a respected contributor to local government matters.

For the diary:

Council Meetings:

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

Council Forum:

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

Meetings and forums are held in the Council Chambers in the Queen Street offices and are open to the public, unless otherwise specified.