

## Mayoral Column

December 2015 (ISSUE 24)



The summer season is upon us and it's that time of the year again to think about water safety, restricted fire seasons and just taking care over the summer months.

The Community Centre Pool has reopened after some repairs and it's great that the new Learn To Swim Pool will be ready before Christmas. Water safety education is so crucial for a community like ours which is surrounded by water. Because of our relationship with the river, beaches and lakes in our district, it's so important that our young ones are taught the importance of water safety.

The summer months also mean the possibility of a restricted or prohibited fire season. It's crucial that we all understand what types of fires we can light during these fire seasons. Nothing worse than a fire getting out of control and causing terrible damage. Information about obtaining fire permits and the types of fires that will be restricted or prohibited during these fire seasons are all on Council's website. Getting a fire permit is really easy too – if you need advice, just contact our Rural Fire Officer, Paul Dorrestein at Council and he'll be able to assist. You will need to give at least three days' notice for a fire permit to be processed.

The summer season also means we will be welcoming Freedom Campers to our district. Given that we've just passed our new Freedom Camping bylaw, we will be looking to ensure we monitor Freedom camping more effectively this summer. The Freedom Camping Act allows us to issue fines to anyone who breaches our new bylaw, and our bylaw enforcement officers will be out and about this summer making sure that everyone is paying attention to the rules so that we all enjoy our beautiful district.

The Wairoa Christmas Parade is just around the corner and I know it's a highlight in the annual Wairoa calendar. I hope you have all started to register your floats. It's a great day to be out with family and friends.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
08 December

**COUNCIL FORUM**  
No Forum in December

**MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE**  
11 December

*Meetings and Forums are held at the Queen Street office council chambers, and are open to the public unless otherwise specified.*



### CONTACT

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(06) 838 7309

## BUILDER'S BREAKFAST

**Friday, 4th December, 7.00am**  
**War Memorial Hall**

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Builders  
Associated businesses  
People who lodge Building Consents

Come and enjoy a hearty breakfast with the WDC Building Control Team and learn about AlphaOne, the new online system for lodging building consents.

Trainer: Vanessa Beavon, Selwyn District Council.

Due to limited places, please RSVP to Graeme Johnston on [graeme@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:graeme@wairoadc.govt.nz) or phone 838-7309.



## Wairoa's new freedom camping bylaw in place in time for summer

The Wairoa District Council passed its new Freedom Camping Bylaw earlier this month.

Mayor Craig Little said Wairoa's new bylaw is more in line with the Freedom Camping Act and will support Council in monitoring and regulating freedom camping throughout the district.

"We had some issues last summer and we don't want that to happen again."

"I was impressed that the people of Wairoa took an active interest in helping us to develop a good bylaw for the Wairoa district. We received quite a number of submissions and have taken into account what our community have put forward."

"We've made further amendments, including prohibiting Alexander Park, reducing overnight stays to three nights rather than the proposed seven and

decreased the camping area at Oraka and Mahanga on the Mahia Peninsula."

"Council had some really robust discussions with our community and we think we've got it to a good place that balances our obligations under the Act and making sure that visitors and locals alike are able to experience the awesome places we have here in Wairoa, whilst ensuring the preservation of our environment."

"It's important we start rolling out signage and information about the new bylaw so our community and visitors know what's happening. We're planning to have all this information out as soon as possible so we're ready for the coming summer season," Mr Little said.



Freedom Camping area at Pilot Hill

## Wairoa wastewater - we have too much

Wairoa District Council is looking to the future to manage Wairoa's wastewater. "Currently we produce too much for our small town" says Jamie Cox, Wairoa District Council Engineering Manager.

"This means large expensive treatment systems and bigger pipes may be needed, or alternatively we have to allow less to go down the pipes."

Water leaking through pipes buried under the road and people directing roof down pipes into the sewer are two common reasons wastewater treatment plants can get over loaded. Mr Cox indicated that during heavy rain events the volume can increase up to five times as a result of rain water and flooding getting into the sewer pipes.

The Wairoa District Council is about to start house to house surveys to check wastewater drainage from

properties and identify where storm water is getting into the sewer. The common causes of storm water entry into the wastewater system are downpipes which discharge into gully traps, and gully traps which are set too low allowing flood water to flow in.

The District Council is engaging a QRS employee and a student over the next two months to visit properties and check drains. The team will introduce themselves to anyone that is home and explain what they are doing when they visit the property. They will then complete the inspection and leave a letter at the property which advises that the survey has been completed.

Anybody wishing to discuss the inspection should contact Jamie Cox at Council's Office on 06-838-7309.

## Interns



My name is Kang and I come from Chongqing, China. I am going to graduate from Victoria University of Wellington this December with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Finance and Information Systems. I grew up in Chongqing, which is famous for hot pot and spicy food in China. I have been in New Zealand for two years and have travelled around New Zealand and Australia. Wairoa is a small and

quiet town. It is totally different from other places which I've visited before. I enjoy leisure activities in Wairoa. There is not a lot of stress here and it is relaxing to stay in Wairoa. I aim to gain practical knowledge relating to Finance and Business Analysis from this summer internship. I also want to work for a council where I believe I can make a meaningful contribution. I really love travelling and am keen to visit some of the areas in Wairoa, areas that are undiscovered and are just waiting to be explored. I want to use my skills to support the development of tourism in rural areas.

Kia Ora - I'm Hu Xiao but I prefer to be called Leo. I come from Southeast China, a province that is famous for Szechuan cuisine and giant pandas. I have been studying at the University of Otago since February 2014 and am doing a PhD in Tourism. I'm very passionate about doing my internship at the Wairoa District Council over the summer. I will be working with the Economic Development Team and the Tourism Manager to undertake research and practical work to help promote New Zealand's 'Capital of the Outdoors'. I will be looking at identifying



tourism assets and activities in the Wairoa district and promoting the great natural beauty to potential tourists.

There truly is rich cultural and historical heritage as well as rugged wilderness adventure in the district. I have enjoyed the welcoming and friendly hospitality from the Wairoa community. It's great to be greeted on the street with "Kia Ora". In return, I believe what I have been working on is committed to an economically, environmentally and socio-culturally sustainable Wairoa district.

Kia Ora. I'm Winona and am originally from the Philippines. My family and I immigrated to New Zealand in 2010, based in Wellington. I did a Bachelor of Health Science degree majoring in Human Health and the Environment at Massey University Wellington, which introduced me to the wonders of Water Treatment. So, after I finished my first degree, I decided to do another degree - Bachelor of Engineering (with Honours) majoring in Chemical and Bioprocess at Massey University Palmerston North. The projects that I will work on during my summer internship in Wairoa are related to my two degrees. I'm currently helping Victor Minter, Council's Environmental

Health Officer, in talking to the food premises in the district to sign up to the new Food Control Plan required by the new Food Act 2014. I will then transfer to the Engineering Department, where I will work with Jamie Cox. I will do some research about Wairoa's urban drinking water supply. I think that Wairoa is an undiscovered wonderful place and I'm excited to spend my summer here.



## Summer Cadet

Hi again everyone – I’m back and this year I will be a Wairoa District Council Summer Cadet. Last summer I was a summer intern at the WDC and have decided to come home again to do a summer cadetship in the engineering department. I’m still studying civil engineering at the University of Canterbury and am really enjoying my studies. It has been great applying the experiences and knowledge I gained last summer to my university work this year. During this cadetship, I will be looking



after a couple of projects which will include updating the GIS data base, asset management and hopefully some geotechnical work later on.

I’m looking forward to getting to know the new summer interns and showing them this special place that is my hometown Wairoa. I’m also hoping that they will join me in entering a team in the Wairoa A&P Show Rural Ironman Challenge again this year! It’s great to be back home for summer.



## Christmas Parade

FLOATS WANTED for the Wairoa Christmas Parade Saturday December 12. Come on Wairoa, get behind this year’s Christmas Parade and register a float! The new Whānau category means you can get a group of family and friends together, come up with a great idea for a float and register! There are great prizes up for grabs!

Have a look on the WDC website for the whole information pack.  
[http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/wairoa/our\\_community/christmas-parade](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/wairoa/our_community/christmas-parade)

For more information contact Alex Powdrell.  
 021 856 800, 06 838 6718  
[alex@visionprojects.co.nz](mailto:alex@visionprojects.co.nz)

## 2015 Nga Tohu Reo Māori (Māori Language Awards 2015)

Congratulations to Whaea Liz Hunkin for receiving the award for Māori Language Leadership at the 2015 Nga Tohu Reo Māori (Māori Language Awards).

Whaea Liz Hunkin has dedicated her life to the Māori language and has been a part of Ngāti Kahungunu’s Māori language revival for over 20 years.

Wairoa District Council supports the goal of becoming an official bilingual district by 2040.

