

From the Mayor

July 2015 (ISSUE 21)



The Amalgamation debate is certainly front and centre and I'm so glad the people of Wairoa are wanting to get involved, wanting to engage, wanting more information. I had a lot of enquiries about when Wairoa will start a petition to demand a poll. A petition had already been done and the three validated affected electors in Rangitikei have triggered a region-wide referendum, so Wairoa does not have to do a petition. Many of you have been surprised by this and have questioned how only three people from Rangitikei can be a true reflection of local government democracy in action. Well that is the law and although I am disappointed that the people of the Wairoa district were denied the opportunity to make a statement through the

petition process, it does save us a lot of time and energy and now we can all focus on the poll (region-wide referendum).

The Local Government Commission have announced the date for the poll as September 15. The poll will be by postal ballot, the voting period will be August 24 and go through to September 15. Copies of the preliminary electoral rolls for the poll can be inspected at the following locations during normal office hours;

- Wairoa District Council administration office, Queen Street
- Wairoa Public Library, Marine Parade
- Wairoa Information Centre, Corner SH2 and Queen St.

It is really important that you update your details or check that they are correct on the electoral roll by July 20, or else you won't be able to participate.

Now it is time to mobilise, now it is time to make sure you are enrolled to vote and now it is time for Wairoa to make a statement.

The result of the poll will be binding. If the proposal is supported by more than 50% of electors then the proposal for amalgamation will proceed. If the proposal is rejected by 50% or more then amalgamation will not proceed. This is such an important issue and it is so important that if you are eligible to vote, then please make sure your details on the electoral roll are correct or up-to-date and that you do actually vote in the referendum. Encourage your friends and whanau to vote and make sure that the people of Wairoa make their voices heard. The decision for local government in our district and region now rests in the hands of our community and the people of Hawke's Bay.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS

28 July
25 August

COUNCIL FORUM

14 July
11 August

MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

10 July
14 August

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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HAWKE'S BAY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Final proposal

Searching for Wairoa's Local Heroes

Entries for the Trustpower Wairoa Community Awards are now open!!

This awards programme is run in partnership with the Wairoa District Council, and set up as an opportunity to recognise local voluntary groups' contributions to their communities. Anyone can enter a voluntary group or organisation into the running, including volunteers themselves.

Since the Trustpower Wairoa Community Awards began in 2000 more than \$74,000 has been given away to deserving voluntary groups in the region, and this year more than \$5000 is up for grabs.

Last year a record 31 entries were received for the Trustpower Wairoa Community Awards. Trustpower Community Relations Representative Jess Somerville is on the hunt to top that number, and will be turning over every community and neighbourhood to find the local good sorts next month.

"I'm looking forward to visiting the district in July to find some of those groups and people myself; we all know how humble and unassuming volunteers can be.

"But it's actually really important that, despite their humility, we do remember to say 'thank you' for all their hard work. Volunteers make our communities better places to live, work and raise kids, and that should never be taken for granted. These awards are just one small way we can say 'cheers for that', and make these local heroes feel a bit special," Somerville said.

Wairoa District Mayor Craig Little says that he is blown away every week by new volunteer achievements that are strengthening the Wairoa community.

"It humbles and inspires me to see the breadth and variety of projects volunteers are supporting. I want to really encourage people to get behind these volunteers and enter them for the Trustpower Community Awards," says Mayor Little.

One of the best ways to demonstrate the importance of volunteering to the Wairoa communities is to ensure volunteers' contributions are recognised, valued and accounted for. Locals have until 5pm on Friday, August 7 to get entries in for this year's awards.

Entry Forms are available from Council offices or service centres, like the libraries or info centres, or can be completed online at www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards, and on our Facebook page.

The awards cover five categories; Heritage and Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Arts and Culture, Sport and Leisure, and Education and Child/Youth Development. Category winners receive \$500, runners-up receive \$250 and the Supreme Winner will take home \$1,500 and an all-expenses paid trip for two representatives to the 2015 Trustpower National Community Awards. Last year's Trustpower Wairoa Community Awards Supreme Winner was the Wairoa Athletics Club - a group behind the resurgence of Athletics in the community.



Wairoa District Council - Enrolment Form for Ratepayer Electors

Enrolments for ratepayer electors can be made by or on behalf of:

- parliamentary electors who are ratepayers within the region, district, or community but whose addresses as parliamentary electors are outside that region, district or community;
- legal entities such as companies, banks or bodies corporate who are ratepayers in the region, district or community;
- persons such as joint tenants and tenants in common who are ratepayers in the region, district or community.

Applications for registration as a ratepayer elector are to be made on the non- resident ratepayer elector enrolment form.

The ratepayer elector and property information will be published in the electoral roll and other information provided may be included on that roll. You may apply to the local authority at any time for the correction of that information.

Drive to the Conditions - Unsealed Roads

Given that we are moving into the height of winter, Council thought it prudent to remind our community of driving on our unsealed road network across the district. Following the first heavy rains of winter, this type of weather and traffic movements impact on the condition of unsealed roads. After a prolonged dry summer period the road can become slushy or slippery following heavy grading in wet weather and vehicles should travel slower and drive to the prevailing conditions. The average speed on the network's unsealed roads is typically modest and this can be even lower following maintenance activity or following the first heavy rains for the season. After the summer fines have had sufficient rains to wash through the unsealed road aggregates, the result should be suitably stable and an evenly compacted surface.



New District Planner



Wairoa District Council's new district planner is 'stoked' that she has managed to secure a job back home in Wairoa in the area she studied in.

Sarah Johansen, daughter of Leslie and Alan, studied a Bachelor of Resource and Environmental Planning at Massey University and was keen to return to Wairoa to work in resource planning.

"There would have only been one option for me for work back home and that is with Council, so when this job came up, I applied hoping that I'd be successful."

"I'm born and bred in Wairoa and have a deep affection for our community and the people, I'm so stoked I was able to get a job with the Wairoa District Council."

"Sometimes resource planning can be perceived as complex and overly bureaucratic, but I want to be the type of district planner that supports the community, looks for solutions and innovative ways of working with people so that it is an easier process to work through."

"Although I've only been here a couple of weeks, I've had the opportunity to work on a lot of different projects, from land use consents, building consents and subdivision consents. I'm still learning a whole lot of other stuff as well and that's really exciting too."

"I have a friend who studied with me and their job is to just look at signage. I'm so pleased I got this role with Council, I'm really lucky actually when I consider what some of my other friends are doing. I get the opportunity to work on some really interesting projects, and that is just too cool."

"I also get to work really closely with our Building Control team and I'll also have the opportunity to look at shaping our new district plan. I think the best thing about this role will be that I get to work with so many people from across the district. I'm looking forward to making my contribution to taking Wairoa forward", Miss Johansen said.

Wairoa District Council Regulatory Manager, Helen Montgomery said she was pleased that we were able to engage local talent and expertise.

"Having a young woman from Wairoa, with the right qualifications and who has so much potential and enthusiasm to learn new things is great. Sarah will be an excellent addition to our team and I know she will help us at Council to bring about real positive change for our community", said Miss Montgomery.

2015 Communitrak Survey results

It's official – Wairoa is a great place to live.

At the May meeting of the Wairoa District Council, Chief Financial Officer, Andrew Morton presented the latest results of the annual Communitrak survey to Councillors.

Results show 97 percent of Wairoa residents take a positive view on their quality of life here in the district. 94 percent said that the Wairoa District is generally a safe place to live, while 85 percent rated the community spirit here to be good or very good. 67 percent were positive about how our natural environment is being preserved and sustained for future generations.

A total of 202 residents were interviewed over the phone by Communitrak, an independent firm specialising in local government surveys.

Quota sampling ensured an even balance of male and female, as well as proportional ethnic group quotas, in order to obtain an indication of typical resident perceptions.

As well as general attitudes towards Wairoa, the survey covered different aspects of Council operations and governance to provide a picture of strengths and weaknesses.

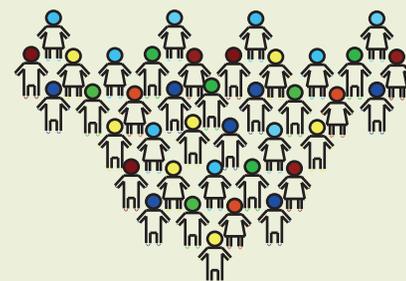
Councillor Mike Bird asked if comments were provided by those who were unsatisfied with a Council service. Mr Morton responded by saying the survey allowed for comments, these would then be analysed by management to contextualise specific ratings.

Councillor Jeremy Harker was encouraging of the data being made available to those managing community facilities. Corporate Services Manager, James Baty replied by saying that the full report would be made available publically and feedback would be forwarded onto relevant areas.

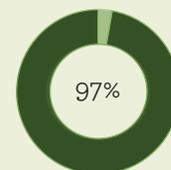
Councillor Hine Flood said that it would be good to understand the demographic make-up of those who responded to see how certain sections of the community responded to certain questions. This could be quite revealing, for example, it would be interesting to see how Maori responded, or if there were any major differences between age groups or gender.

Mayor Craig Little said that this survey could be the responsibility of the newly established Community Partnerships Committee, they would look at ways of making it even more purposeful and meaningful.

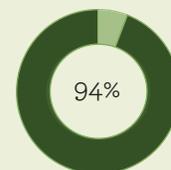
Results from the 2015 Communitrak survey will be analysed and added to ongoing work to improve and build on the work of Council.



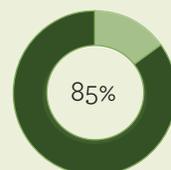
202 interviewed residents



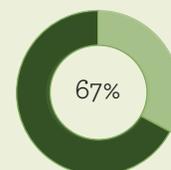
Positive view on quality of life



Safe place to live



Good or very good community spirit



Positive about preservation of natural environment

Winter Warmers Reading Programme

We are thrilled that the Wairoa Public Library Winter Warmers Reading Programme is full to capacity with 125 children registered.

The programme is a family orientated reading, incentive based programme sponsored by the Eastern & Central Community Trust.

Over the next 6 weeks the Library will also be hosting activities to encourage children to read and help make the cold winter days more fun. Kids remember to check your calendar for times.

Remember you can visit the library to report-in and share how you enjoyed your book. The programme finishes on the 31st of July.