

From the Mayor

Christmas is fast approaching and I just wanted to wish everyone a safe Christmas and New Year's break. I know that many of you will be doing your last minute shopping and organising the kids with schools breaking for the holidays. It's been a busy 2016 and I know we are all eagerly awaiting the holiday season to relax and to spend time with family and friends here at home or in other parts of the country. Our district will see many friends and family return home during the holiday break or will see an influx of visitors to the district and I hope we all have a good break.



Mayor - Craig Little

I also wanted to take this time to acknowledge our staff at Council and all the work they have done for us this year. They are a dedicated group of individuals who work hard for our community and I want to thank each and every one of them for all that they have done this year.

It looks like 2017 will be a busy year for us at Council. We will have a number of crucial projects on the horizon and I know that we will be rolling up our sleeves and working hard to implement some good projects for our district and our community.

There are many community events that will be happening over the coming weeks and I want to thank all the many people who

give their time to organise these events for the benefit of our community. Many of these events are done by volunteers with volunteers being the heart of our community. Thank you for the work that you do and thank you for continuing to give to our community.

This weekend will see Wairoa hosting the East Coast region waka ama sprints. I hope many of you take the time to go down to the river to support this event and show how Wairoa has the awesome capability of hosting events like this.

Because of our natural assets like our river, we know that many people will be flocking to the water to seek respite from the heat. I want to say 'be safe out on the water' over the summer. We have a close relationship with the water and it's important that we ensure that our friends and family are safe too.

One thing we tend to all have in common at this time of year is that feeling that the year has flown by quicker than the last. And what a year it has been! I Hope you all enjoy your Christmas and New year break with family and friends and I look forward to seeing what 2017 will bring us.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Wairoa's newest Kiwis

Wairoa welcomed its newest Kiwis at an official citizenship ceremony last week.

Mayor Craig Little and Deputy Mayor Denise Eaglesome-Karekare presented Sanjesh and Laleshni Kumar, Mark Champion and Donna Soledad-Jaunola with their certificates of New Zealand citizenship by completing the formal citizenship ceremony and welcoming them as New Zealand citizens.

"On behalf of the Government and the people of New Zealand in general, and the citizens of Wairoa District in particular, I welcome you here today for the purpose of taking the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, and completing the necessary formalities to make you a citizen of New Zealand."

"It takes great courage to leave the country of your birth and it takes even greater wisdom to call New Zealand and Wairoa your home", said Mr Little.

Family and friends also gathered at Wairoa District Council's Chambers to share in the ceremony.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Mark Champion has been in New Zealand for 18 years with six of those years here in Wairoa.

"It's great that my citizenship has been confirmed. I feel a greater sense of connection to my family and to New Zealand now."

"My family tell me that I have to support the All Blacks given that I'm a true blue kiwi now", says Mr Champion.

Laleshni Kumar originally from Fiji found the citizenship ceremony quite emotional.

"It was actually quite emotional, because you feel like you really belong and Wairoa has been so good to us and is our home"

"It was great to go through the ceremony and have our citizenship all confirmed", says Mrs Kumar.

Donna Soledad-Juanola who was born in the Philippines, says "it is so special, I get to experience the lifestyle and get to be with awesome people and now I not only get to call New Zealand my home, I also get to call it my country."



(l-r) Sanjesh Kumar, Laleshni Kumar, Deputy Mayor Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, Mark Champion, Donna Soledad-Jaunola and Mayor Craig Little

**WE HOPE YOU ALL
HAVE A WONDERFUL
CHRISTMAS AND SAFE
NEW YEAR.**



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**GREAT THINGS
GROW HERE™**
HAWKE'S BAY NEW ZEALAND

**LUNCH TIME
JAMM**

WAIROA LIBRARY GREEN

FROM 11.30AM TO 2.30PM



**FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER
SUPERB MUSIC BY:**

- ★ Molly Kerr
- ★ One and Half Men
- ★ Teia Kennedy
- ★ David Tipoki



**BYO PICNIC LUNCH | BYO BLANKET |
SIT IN THE SHADE**

Council services during the Christmas closedown period

AFTER HOURS SERVICE (06) 838 7309

Bylaw Enforcement (Animal Control, Noise Control, Fire, Freedom Camping etc) will be on call 24/7 during the Christmas closedown period. Call 06-838-7309 to be put through to Council's AFTER HOURS SERVICE during the Christmas closedown period.

	CLOSED	OPEN
Council Main Office	23 December (at 12 noon) - 6 January	
Wairoa Public Library	24 December - 27 December 31 December - 3 January	28 December - 30 December
Wairoa Information Centre/i-SITE	25 December (Christmas Day)	