

Mayoral Column

March 2016 (ISSUE 25)



The Hawke's Bay Regional Council Maori Committee held their first meeting of the year here in Wairoa last month and I think given the current issues in Wairoa this was well received by our community. There were some really topical issues that were discussed and I believe

that the HBRC representatives were taking on board, and listening to the frustrations our community have.

We have had a couple of meetings with the CEO and Chair of the HBRC here in Wairoa since January to discuss our concerns, which include the Waihi dam, forestry slash among other things. I believe that if we don't talk to each other and don't work together, then these concerns tend to get bigger, because our community feel like they are not being listened to and continue to be frustrated.

The Wairoa District Council has been fielding a lot of these concerns, not of our making and not within our jurisdiction. But because these issues are affecting our community, we certainly then make it our business to be involved, to advocate for the people of the Wairoa district. We've taken a couple of hits, but we needed to do this to show our community that at least someone is listening to them and we will continue to advocate on behalf of our community.

We also had a meeting with the Chair of the Eastland Group Board, Nelson Cull. We were very clear with him that the situation with the Waihi dam and river is unacceptable. They have taken away a whole summer of enjoyment for Wairoa people. We have told the Eastland Group that the faster we get this issue resolved the better. I would encourage the Eastland Group to meet with us regularly and also with our whole community, actually come to Wairoa and listen to our community, talk to them and give us the assurance that Eastland Group are also concerned and want to be a vital part of the Wairoa community. It is so important that we continue to work together and communicate with each other.

I was really encouraged with the recent HBRC developments and the discussions we've had, we are now up to speed with their progress on a number of these issues, I have to be clear that there is still a lot of work to be done, but this is certainly a good start and a big step forward for our community.

I would welcome more HBRC meetings to be held in Wairoa and invite the HBRC full Council to hold one of their meetings here. I know our community would welcome this and it would demonstrate that Wairoa is a valued part of the HBRC network. To be quite clear for the Wairoa District Council to continue building our region, we need to work in conjunction with the Hawkes Bay Regional Council. I understand also there will be times where we won't agree on everything, but by working more closely, we should be able to achieve the same goals for the betterment of Wairoa, something both organisations want.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS

22 March
26 April

COUNCIL FORUM

08 March
12 April

MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

11 March
08 April

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



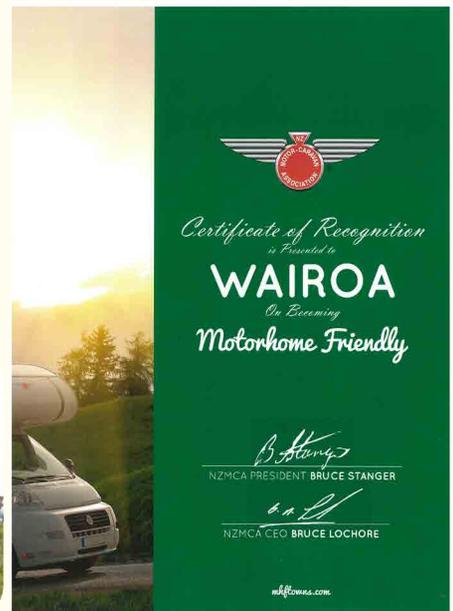
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Motorhome friendly town

Wairoa becomes the 38th Motorhome Friendly Town in NZ.

What does this mean? Wairoa as a destination (and surrounding areas including Lake Waikaremoana and Mahia Peninsula) is now promoted to the 60,000+ members of the NZ Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA), through their member website, the motorhome friendly town website, their app and their facebook page.



Wairoa's newest Kiwis

Wairoa welcomed four new Kiwis at an official citizenship ceremony last week.

Mayor Craig Little presented the recipients with certificates of citizenship giving them a formal welcome to the town and country.

“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 or Affirmation 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”, Mr Little said in his address to Wairoa's newest New Zealand citizens.

Originally from Fiji, Mr Mohammed Yakub said that he was pleased to become a New Zealand citizen.

“Work bought us to Wairoa. I have lived in Wairoa for about 10 years.”

“Wairoa is certainly our home now and a great place to live and to raise a family. The people here are very friendly.”

“There are three generations of our family in Wairoa now, and it's so good to have them here with us.”

“Thank you to everyone who have made us feel welcome.”



Wairoa's newest kiwis with Mayor Craig Little.

Long River Swing Concert

The first of what we hope to be many 'Long River' music events was held on 23 January. The Gaiety proved to be the perfect venue for the Long River Jazz/Swing Concert, with new resident David Paquette making the Steinway's ivories dance with joy. Accompanied by many expert musicians - the evening was a great success, with one commentator saying that she would 'hold the evening in her memory for the rest of her days'.



Interns

Kia Ora - I'm Mathijs (pronounced Maa-tase). I come from the southern part of The Netherlands. I am currently studying at the HAS University of Applied Science in 's-Hertogenbosch. I am completing a 4 year degree in Geo Media & Design. My degree looks at mapping and graphic design.

I am in my third year of the degree and I am really enjoying it. In my free time I like to play badminton, go fishing, being outside hiking or exploring and just enjoying life. All of my interests can be described with one word: Wairoa. The variety of things you can do here in your free time is really amazing. The nature and the people in Wairoa are amazing. I



have felt very welcome from the first moment I arrived in Wairoa. I have been waiting for months to come to New Zealand and especially to Wairoa. Now I am finally here, I am loving it!

I'll be working with the Economic Development team. My work at the council includes mapping tourism trails and graphic design. I'm really looking forward to starting my internship and learning a lot of new skills and knowledge from the council and the community. I'm very grateful that I got the chance to do my internship at the Wairoa District Council.

Kia Ora, I am Sander, a 24 years old Dutch student who will be working at Wairoa DC for the next 5 months. I am studying Building Process Management & Real Estate at Avans University in Tilburg (the southern part of The Netherlands). I really wanted to travel to the other side of the world to do my internship and what could be further away from the Netherlands than Wairoa, New Zealand.

I have studied civil engineering, and as part of that programme I lived in Curacao (The Dutch Caribbean) for 9 months. This



experience helped me realise that I was really keen to explore the world and I always said to myself that I wanted to visit New Zealand. The possibility to explore this beautiful district and county during my internship is definitely a gift!

Besides studying, I am a really driven sportsman and fitness fanatic (a bit too chubby when I was young, getting bullied too much). I like running, hiking and boxing. If you're keen for a run, some gym time or a nice hike? Catch me up.

Kia ora! My name is Rosalin and I come from the Netherlands, near Amsterdam. I am currently studying law at the University of Leiden. I am currently in my third year of a four year degree. Besides studying law, I also do classical singing and am into running and fitness.

I will be based in Wairoa for five months undertaking my internship. Following my internship, I will spend a month and



a half backpacking through New Zealand and Australia. I will be working with the Economic Development team and will mainly be focusing on entertainment law.

I am really excited to spend the next five months in Wairoa. The surrounding areas are rich with natural beauty and the people here are very friendly.

Annual Plan 2016/2017

We will soon look at our 2016/2017 Annual Plan. There are changes to the legislation that will affect this new Annual Plan round.



The changes to the Local Government Act relate to sections 95, 95A and 95B. The information basis and process for consultation on the proposed annual plan have changed. In some circumstances, consultation may now not be necessary. Councils are required to use a specific consultation document to consult on the proposed content of an annual plan. This means consultation will be based on a single document, which will not include a draft plan or any other information that is unnecessary for the purposes of the consultation document. The purpose and content of the consultation document, plus presentation requirements, are described in section 95A of the Act. The focus of the consultation document is quite narrow. It is to identify and explain significant or material differences between the proposed content of the annual plan and the content of the long-term plan for the financial year to which the annual plan relates, and to inform discussions between councils and communities about these matters.

Councils have discretion about what the consultation document contains, based on what they consider will achieve the statutory purpose of the document (in section 95(1)). However, particular matters must be described in the consultation document – as provided in section 95A(2). These matters relate to:

- significant or material variations/departures from the financial statements or funding impact statement in the long-term plan (for that year);
- significant new spending proposals, and the associated costs; and
- substantial delays to, or cancellation of, significant projects, and associated implications.

The consultation document must be presented in a concise and simple manner, and explain matters in a way that can be understood by interested and affected people. A draft of the annual plan must not be contained within, or attached to, the consultation document. The document must state where information it relies on may be obtained. In addition, the special consultative procedure is no longer required when adopting the annual plan. Rather, councils must consult in a manner that gives effect to the requirements of section 82 before adopting an annual plan, and must prepare and adopt a consultation document that complies with section 95A. However, under new section 95(2A), the requirement to consult (and adopt a consultation document) does not apply if the proposed annual plan does not include significant or material differences from the content of the long-term plan for the financial year to which the proposed annual plan relates.

The consultation document for an annual plan is likely to be short. The long-term plan should have set the strategic direction for the next three years in detail and important decisions will have been made in that context. In some circumstances there will be no need for consultation on the proposed plan. If there are no significant or material differences between the proposed annual plan and the content of the long-term plan for the financial year to which the annual plan relates, there would be nothing to put in a consultation document. Where consultation does occur, councils will have flexibility in terms of process and duration. Because the special consultative procedure is no longer required, the approach to consultation can be proportionate to what is in the consultation document. (For example, a month-long consultation period and hearings may not be necessary.)



Basing consultation on a document that is focused on significant differences from the long-term plan, and does not include a draft annual plan, means previous decisions are not up for debate again. Councils would not need to consider public views on matters that have already been decided and are not proposed to change.