

MAYORAL COLUMN



Wairoa showed up and showed out at ANZAC commemorations across the district last week. It was fantastic to see hundreds turn out in force to commemorate the 102nd ANZAC day, despite the rain settling in for a wee bit. What a moving day it was to see our young people in the community paying homage to our military men and women who served for the freedom of our people.

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute and give thanks to our Returned Service Men and Women who fought for our country. Secondly, a huge thanks goes to the people around the Wairoa District who braved the rain to attend services, including a moving dawn ceremony at Kaiuku Marae in Māhia, Kahungunu Marae in Nūhaka, Taihoa Marae, Frasertown and the Wairoa District Council Civic Service at the War Memorial Hall.

Of course, we can't forget a few special mentions. It was an honour hosting Petty Officer Nicholas Tickner from the Australian Navy and Major Sergai Davis from the 5th/7th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. Both officers travelled with the official party and felt the warmth of Wairoa's hospitality at all services and functions they attended. I wish to publicly acknowledge Wairoa's resident bugler Lynette Tipuna, who with her whanau travel alongside the official party to play the Last Post. They have been doing so for the past 14 years. Lynette is a prime example of young talent we have in the Wairoa community, so it goes without saying that she did a wonderful job in delivering pitch-perfect and moving versions of the Last Post. A special thanks also goes to the tangata whenua of Kaiuku Marae and Taihoa Marae for hosting the official ANZAC service party. I would like to take the opportunity to offer some food for thought; as I mentioned in my speech at the civic service last week, Council is open to the possibility of including other services to its official schedule. It's just something

to consider for next year. As usual, the warm hospitality and food filled those who attended quite nicely. I want to take this time to thank the organisers and Wairoa District Council staff members who set up the War Memorial Hall for the civic service ceremony and also Here Nissen and her cadets for being our official flag bearers.

I want to highlight that tomorrow is the last day for the people of the Wairoa district to have their input to help us make decisions around the 2017/18 Annual Plan. This document gives an overview of the impact of our options and projects on rates, debt and levels of service. Council has indicated the options we prefer and this has been included as part of our consultation. You can see what impact these changes will have. Submissions close at 12 noon tomorrow.



Last Thursday, we held our first **Community Partnership Committee workshop**. This is a united Wairoa leadership approach to supporting whānau across our community, and involves a coordinated approach to providing services for them. One of the key points from this meeting is to develop robust terms of reference and objectives. We also need good strategies and business plans to deliver these services for our whānau. I acknowledge all the members from local community organisations, iwi and Government representatives, who attended the workshop last week. We have a lot of passionate community members with us and look forward to seeing more input from our local whānau.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 9 May: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11 May: 12.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 16 May: 1.30pm

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 23 May: 1.30pm

COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, 30 May: 1.30pm



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Wairoa's resident bugler Lynette Tipuna plays the Last Post with grandmother Lynette Snr at her side



Wairoa RSA members at the Wairoa District Council Civic Service



Representatives of the Australian and New Zealand Defence Forces

WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN?

ANNUAL PLAN 2017/18 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Submissions close at 12 noon



Draft Annual Plan Consultation Hearings



Annual Plan adopted

Hard copies of this consultation document can be picked up from the Wairoa District Council Queen Street offices, library and the i-SITE. The consultation document can also be accessed online.

www.wairoadc.govt.nz
keyword: #annualplan2018

The Wairoa District Council is reminding the people of the Wairoa district, who haven't had their input to help us make annual planning decisions, that tomorrow is the last day to have your say. Submissions for the 2017-18 Annual Plan close at noon tomorrow.