

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

15 June 2017

MAYORAL COLUMN



Having close relations with local whānau, hapu and iwi is an important cornerstone in Council's operations. So, when it came to selecting a suitable candidate to fill Council's Māori Relationships Manager (MRM) position, we needed to consider someone who had a vision going forward with local Māori. The candidates who applied for the position were of a very high calibre. Those who were shortlisted set the bar quite high

in their interviews and it was a tough decision choosing the right person for the role.



Duane Culshaw (Ngāti Pāhauwera and Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangī) was Council's acting MRM during the recruitment process for a permanent candidate. It is now

my pleasure to welcome Duane to the fold as Council's Māori Relationships Manager.

Duane brings to the position a wealth of knowledge in tikanga, te reo Māori and understanding in council policies and procedures. What is evident to Council is the strengthening network base that Duane has formed during his time as interim manager. He has worked well with several local marae, hapū and iwi, and we look forward to seeing his developments in this portfolio. No reira, Duane, nau mai, haere mai.

Next week is Matariki; so, I encourage you all to check out what's happening as part of this year's celebrations. The week kicks off with a Kohanga Reo Day on Monday, a kaumātua/Age Concern Day on Tuesday, Ki-o-Rahi and Poi Whenu on Wednesday, Wairoa College's Matariki House Tournament on Thursday and then a whānau concert and fireworks display on Friday night. This event is an important one in Wairoa's social calendar, so brave the bite of winter and check out the festivities.

This is also a timely reminder for locals who want to make submissions on four of Council's policies: the Dog Control Bylaw, the Te Reo Māori Policy, the Class Four Gaming Venue Policy and the TAB Venue Policy. Submissions for all four close on Friday, June 30, 2017. Hearing submissions will be on July 11, 2017. Please note that those who wish to make a submission on the Te Reo Māori Policy can do so now that the correct document has been uploaded to Council's website. Please ensure you read these documents properly so you have an informed understanding of the policies. For more information please visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz.

E TŪ WAIROA! STANDING UP AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE IN OUR TOWN

Taking a stand against family violence and child abuse is the aim of E Tū Wairoa – an important aim that the Wairoa District Council is proud to support.

We have a new display in our foyer area that encourages people to sign the E Tū Charter of Commitment.

The charter considers family violence as a transgression that breaches the mana of individuals, their whānau, and their whakapapa, and by signing the charter people are able to publicly declare that they too agree that family violence and child abuse is unacceptable.

E Tū Wairoa is the local branch of the national anti-violence body E Tū Whānau; chaired by Te Pare Meihana and coordinated by Ngaire Sparkes.

The aim of E Tū Wairoa is to provide a strength-based, tikanga Māori approach to encourage and support our whānau to live happy, violence-free lives.

E Tū Wairoa currently drives a range of prevention, early

intervention, and post-intervention initiatives and services for the Wairoa area.

For more information please contact Ngaire Sparkes on 027 814 2249.



TIAHO SCHOOL VISIT

Our Wairoa kids have a unique zest for life; one that I hope our local parents can nurture. It's that sort of enthusiasm I saw when a group of young children, from Tiaho Primary School's special reading unit, came to chat with me last week.

They enjoyed their brief meeting with me and outlined their aspirations for their school and the community. I would like to thank Oviea Hunia-Tuahine, Ngakaunui Mitchell, Jayde Smith-Hook-Burton, Nivay Samuels-Maniapoto, Ford Paul and teacher Megan Brooks-Hider for coming along.



FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 20 June: 1.30pm

COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, 11 July: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13 July: 12.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 27 June: 1.30pm

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 4 July: 1.30pm



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RATES REBATE

Do you qualify for a rates rebate?

You might be eligible for a rates rebate of up to \$610.

Applications close on the 30th of June 2017, so make sure you get your application in now.

For more information and rates rebate forms search '#ratesrebate' on the Wairoa District Council website - www.wairoadc.govt.nz or call (06) 838 7309 to talk to one of our rates staff.