

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

REPATRIATION SERVICE

It was an honour to attend the repatriation ceremony for Wairoa war veteran Donald Campbell Frith.

Last Thursday's ceremony has been in the planning since April last year following a change in the Government's repatriation policy.

Private Frith, who would be 71 if he was alive today, died on July 11, 1969, and was buried in a cemetery in Malaysia. He was the twin brother of local woman Dot Daniel and was just 22 when he died as a result of an illness while serving as a soldier

Her accomplishments in her 14-year life span were amazing.

She was a very promising athlete who had competed as a member of the New Zealand children's athletics squad, in shot put, javelin and discus as well as being an accomplished basketball player.

Her passing is a huge loss to the Wairoa community and I extend my condolences to her family and friends.



in the Vietnam War.

The ceremony was very moving and was attended by a lot of the V4 Company who Private Frith served with. I have never seen such a turnout of veterans in Wairoa, it was most humbling.

The ceremony marked a sad but wonderful day where Private Frith's sacrifice and memory were honoured, and he was returned home and laid to rest.

He will no longer lie in a foreign field, and instead is back home to be mourned by the people who cared for him the most and in the country he called home.

THANK YOU DOT FOR INCLUDING ME IN THE DAY. IT WAS DOT WHO CAME TO ME MANY YEARS AGO TO SEE IF I CAN HELP IN BRINGING HER BROTHER HOME AND I AM THRILLED THAT HAS FINALLY BEEN ACHIEVED.

Sergeant George Nepia was also repatriated to New Zealand. He was the oldest son of Nuhaka rugby icon George Nepia and was 24 when he died as a result of an accident in 1954.

I commend the Government's change of heart which has ended a decades-long battle by families to have their loved ones returned and buried in New Zealand.

New Zealand had an inconsistent policy of repatriation between 1955 and 1971. Families could opt to meet repatriation costs themselves, but not all could afford to do so. This repatriation policy has restored fairness for the families affected.

It is also important to acknowledge the New Zealand Defence Force for fulfilling the promise they made to the family and the people of Malaysia who looked after Private Frith, and others, and supported their return home.

FIBRE ROLL OUT

I am thrilled to see Wairoa people now having the benefit of fibre connectivity with the first of the fibre rollout now live.

Locals will have noticed machinery and contractors in town working to install the fibre with the completion date of February 2019 on track to be met.

The speed at which technology advances is incredible and I am really excited by the opportunities this rollout will create for Wairoa.

I lobbied central government to bring Wairoa's fibre rollout forward as it is so important that our district has the ability to compete with the same level of connectivity and broadband speeds as big cities.

Wairoa was one of the most disconnected communities in the country and this new infrastructure will certainly allow us to compete and do business better.

We will continue to put pressure on, and work with government officials to ensure Wairoa is part of the next phase of connectivity.

JAYDA AKUHATA-BROWN

I would also like to pay tribute to Jayda Akuhata-Brown who passed away suddenly at her Wairoa home earlier this month.

I attended Jayda's funeral service and the huge crowd who attended the service is testimony to the respect people had for her.

MATANGIRAU FUNDRAISER

I want to offer my thanks to Te Roopu Kapa Haka o Matangirau for a wonderful evening on Saturday. Matangirau had a full day of fundraising which culminated in a quiz night at the Tapuae Clubrooms and I must say it was one of the best nights I've had in ages.

Matangirau are raising money for their participation in the national Matatini festival to be hosted in Wellington early next year.



The Matangirau quiz night was such a great evening, filled with laughter and just good energy and I want to congratulate the organisers and also acknowledge the MC for the night, Matua Rangitearere Hepi, it shows how important it is to have a great MC.

It was great to see whanau across generations supporting a great kaupapa and to even have guests from Hastings come through to support the evening.

And on a final note – it was an absolute bonus that the team I was in won the quiz night, my other team members were certainly very bright. Such a great night and its great when you see our community come together to support a worthy kaupapa.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 4 September: 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 11 September: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13 September: 12.30pm

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 18 September: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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HAWKE'S BAY NEW ZEALAND

DOG REGISTRATIONS

Council would like to thank those dog owners who have paid their dog registrations early.

Dog owners had until 31 July 2018 to register their dogs at a discounted price.

Owners will still have until the end of this month (31 August 2018) to register their dogs.

After this date, Council will be following up with anyone who hasn't paid the registration for their dog.

We would also like to remind people of Council's selected dog owner policy.

By simply filling out a form, having your property inspected and having a good clean dog owner record, you could be a suitable candidate for this policy, which offers a 12.5% discount.

This policy only applies to owners of standard dogs.

To complete the selected dog owner application form please visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz and search for #dogregistration.

