

MAYORAL COLUMN

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Last Friday's Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi leadership hui was aimed at people who are interested in making a positive difference to their community.

The initiative was informative and interesting and provided a foundation for Māori, and those who support kaupapa Māori values, to launch from.

From school boards of trustees and Marae boards to local government, the seminar was about inspiring

working towards creating the healthiest environment we can for our community.

If anyone has a query, suspects they have a non-compliant connection, or thinks they should have received a letter and haven't, please contact the Council.

EAST COAST FARMING EXPO

Last week's farming expo attracted plenty of sunshine and plenty of discussions.

The two-day event provided a stimulus for farming conversations creating opportunities to explore new ideas in a specialised environment.



I commend the organisers Sue Wilson and Dave Martin who had the initiative to launch the first expo four years ago, and have worked tirelessly to keep the event going.

A major drawcard is the calibre of speakers at the seminars and I'm sure the inclusion of these national presenters is one of the reasons participation numbers were up on previous years.

As a farmer, it is fantastic to see an event of this level happening right on our doorstep.

METH HUI

A meth-free future was the focus of a community hui hosted by the Wairoa Safe Communities at the beginning of the month.

The hui involved a range of guest speakers and was about sharing information, finding support within the community and extending support to those in need.

The hui was the catalyst to begin a community-led plan to address meth-related issues.

Well done to the Wairoa Safe Communities for taking the lead on this terrible problem.

Meth is a real issue for families in Wairoa, and the whole of the country, and we need a whole of community response to address it.

Also well done to the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust for organising a P Pledge which is a banner for people to sign to show their support of a meth-free future. The Pledge is currently at the Community Centre and is still available for signing.



Wairoa Mayor Craig Little and his guest, Whakatane Mayor Tony Bonne, sign the P Pledge at the recent Meth Hui.



Mayor Craig Little

Māori leadership.

Ikaroa Rawhiti Labour MP Meka Whitiri also attended, she is a dynamic woman who is a great advocate for Wairoa and always has time to invest in our district.

I would like to thank Ngahiwi Tomoana and Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated for inviting me to the seminar, it was a privilege to attend and see first-hand the potential of our future leaders.



Wairoa Mayor Craig Little with Ikaroa Rawhiti Labour MP Meka Whitiri, Wairoa District Councillor and Ministry appointed representative on the Hawke's Bay District Health Board Hine Flood, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated chairman Ngahiwi Tomoana, Wairoa District Councillor Charlie Lambert and Apiata Tapine who in 2016 was the first Māori elected to the Napier City Council.

NON-COMPLIANT STORMWATER CONNECTIONS

Our town has a major historical problem of stormwater inflow into the sewer pipe work

CURRENTLY DURING RAIN EVENTS, OUR WASTEWATER SYSTEM TAKES IN EXCESS OF TEN TIMES THE AMOUNT OF NORMAL FLOW.

This is mostly due to stormwater connections illegally connected to the sewer network.

Around 500 homeowners whose houses have been identified as having non-compliant stormwater connections should have received a letter from the Council.

The next step is for a Council contractor to visit the identified properties and professionally remove any illegal connections.

There will be no direct cost to property owners for this work.

This is a major issue, and it is one we need to get on top of. The problem is not new, and I commend our staff for taking on the challenge of fixing this historical and nationwide issue.

I know there will be residents who perhaps had no idea their connection was not compliant, and it may have been like that for years, decades even, but it still needs to be remedied.

It's essential we get this right. Not only will it save us thousands of dollars in wasted processing of water, it is also part of our commitment to eliminating unconsented discharges.

I would like to thank the public in anticipation of supporting us in

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 19 March: 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 26 March: 1.30pm

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2 April: 1.30pm

COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, 9 April: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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8am to 2pm**

For more information visit
www.wairoadc.govt.nz
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