

MAYORAL COLUMN

ADVENTURE WAIROA

This weekend Adventure Wairoa, as our supreme winner, will go up against other volunteer organisations from throughout the country in the annual Trustpower Community Awards.

This sporting group comprises a bunch of can-do people who have gone above and beyond to establish an organisation that has the community at its heart.

The formation of Adventure Wairoa helped preserve smaller adventure sports groups from going into recess and it also created a strong pathway for new adventure sports to take off in Wairoa.



Mayor Craig Little

The Mountain Bike Park they built nearly a year ago is pumping with around 120 riders per week.

The group has also secured funding for 60 bikes so children, families, everyone, can get active, get cycling, and use the Mountain Bike Park free of charge.

My wife Jan and I will be there to support the Adventure Wairoa crew, their presentation is fantastic, and I wish them all the best.

Last weekend, the Waka Ama adjunct of Adventure Wairoa ran a hugely successful regatta at Mahia.

I COMMEND CHRISTINA STOCKMAN AND SONYA SMITH FOR THEIR VISION AND DRIVE TO PULL OFF THE MOKOTAHİ HOE, A NATIONALLY SANCTIONED WAKA AMA EVENT WHICH DREW COMPETITORS OF ALL AGES.

Seeing the waka out in the Mokotahi Bay was just beautiful, and it is great to see our local natural resources, which have so much potential, being utilised and showcased.



I was blown away by the length of the waka and at 12 metres in length they were clearly visible in the bay.

The sea conditions were amazing, and I think this event marks the start of bigger and better things at Mahia.

I was talking to Richard Allen, the safety officer at the event, and we agreed Mahia as a venue is as good a place as any for future events,



I was appalled to see bags of residential rubbish piled up at the Mahia lookout.

both nationally and internationally.

I watched the racing and the six person crews battling it out from Taylor's Bay, and I hear the view from the top of Mokotahi was spectacular.

From having such a great day, it was really disappointing that people driving into and out of Mahia had to drive past a huge rubbish pile dumped at the Mahia lookout.

As a community we have got to let it be known that fly dumping is unacceptable.

These bins, or any others, are not for residential rubbish, this is appalling and takes the gloss off what was otherwise an amazing event.

LANDFILL & RECYCLING CENTRE

The new operating days and hours for the landfill and recycling centre begin next Monday, April 1.

The landfill and recycling centre will be open from 8am to 2pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

The new services will be delivered by national contractor Smart Environmental and aims to deliver a convenient and cost-effective service for local people.

THE REDUCED HOURS ARE IN LINE WITH PUBLIC FEEDBACK DURING THE LANDFILL CONSULTATION PROCESS HELD AT THE END OF LAST YEAR AND EARLY THIS YEAR.

Like anything, there will be some adjustments as we get used to a new system and I thank everyone for their patience during this transition time.

BALLANCE FARM AWARDS

I would like to congratulate Wairoa hill country sheep and beef farmers Dave Read and Judy Bogaard of Waiiau Station, who won four categories in the East Coast Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

These awards recognise and celebrate good farm practices which promotes sustainable land management.

The categories our local couple won were the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Farm Award, Hill Laboratories Agri-Science Award, Massey University Innovation Award and the East Coast Farming for the Future Award.

My wife Jan and I attended the awards, and we were proud to see Dave and Judy recognised for their input. They are humble stewards of the land, and they deserve every success.

The work they are doing is an absolute credit and demonstrates forestry is not the only option for steep hill country.

WAIROA RACING SUBMISSIONS

The threat of the Wairoa race meeting being closed by the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing and the proposal to merge our meeting with Gisborne is still a very real concern.

In line with the review process, I have personally made a submission opposing closure.

THE RACES ARE A HIGHLIGHT ON OUR DISTRICT'S SOCIAL CALENDAR, AND AS A PROFITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE MEETING THERE IS NO NEED TO CLOSE IT.

I commend the work the racing club president Paul Toothill, the committee, and all the volunteers, put in to keep the races thriving.

Council assisted Paul with a further submission against closure, and we have also been supported by our local MPs Stuart Nash and Meka Whaitiri.

I understand a revised calendar will be released for feedback early next month and I expect the two-day Wairoa meeting for 2020, and beyond, will be on that calendar.

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2 April: 1.30pm

COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, 9 April: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11 April: 12.30pm



CONTACT US

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FROM 1ST APRIL 2019

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8am to 2pm

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