

MAYORAL COLUMN

TE REO

I am endeavoring to learn te reo Māori.

Every week, along with my wife Jan, we attend a four-hour learning session, Te Ata Raukura, at Te Ataarangi. I have to admit it is challenging, but I am enjoying improving my te reo knowledge, understanding and pronunciation.

Our Kaiako (tutor) is Ollie Kaimoana, and we are a group of 10, with five of us, including deputy mayor Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, Vicki Smith and Sara Bird affiliated



Mayor Craig Little

to Te Waihirere Kohanga Reo.

Our course is free and is part of a national shared initiative between kohanga reo and Te Ataarangi with others in our group working towards becoming kohanga reo kaiako. Last week we visited Te Waihirere Kohanga Reo.

IT WAS MIND-BOGGLING TO SEE AND HEAR HOW FLUENT THE TAMARIKI ARE.

The children start by learning songs in te reo, and they begin to pick up words and add that to basic phrases and numbers, and it just brings it all together at such an early age. It was great to experience how the teaching of te reo begins.

Our year-long course will see us visiting three other kohanga, Te Rakato, Taihoa and Ruataniwha and in June we have a wananga in Gisborne where only te reo will be spoken.

Wairoa has set the goal of being one of the first bi-lingual towns in New Zealand. In 2017 the Council adopted the Te Kaupapa Here mo Te Reo Maori ke Te Kaunihera o Te Wairoa (the Wairoa District Council Te Reo Māori policy). The adoption of that policy follows the Council's commitment (in 2012) to Wairoa becoming bi-lingual by 2040 under the joint agency Te Wairoa Reorua initiative. It is great to be part of achieving that goal.

LEST WE FORGET

Thursday, April 25, is ANZAC Day when we commemorate New Zealanders who were killed in battle, and honour returned servicemen and women.

It is our national day of remembrance and a reminder of the sacrifices made before us so we can enjoy the life we do today.

The Mahia Dawn service at 5.45am is poignant and watching the sunrise at Kaiuku Marae is always very moving.

Services will also be held at 6.00am at Waipapa-a-Iwi Marae, Mohaka, 9am at Taihoa Marae, Frasertown, Kahungunu Marae at Nuhaka, and at 11am in town at the War Memorial Hall and Whakaki Marae will be holding a service at 11am as well.

ANZAC Day Services

5.45am	Wairoa District Dawn Service, Kaiuku Marae, Mahia
6.00am	Dawn Service, Waipapa-a-Iwi Marae, Mohaka
9.00am	Taihoa Marae ANZAC Day Service
9.00am	Frasertown ANZAC Day Service
9.00am	Nuhaka ANZAC Day Service, Kahungunu Marae, Nuhaka
11.00am	Whakaki Marae ANZAC Day Service, Whakaki
11.00am	Wairoa District Civic Service, War Memorial Hall, Wairoa

RISING COSTS

A challenge for the Council is meeting the costs of our contracts. Every year we budget for fixed costs around roading, water, refuse, cleaning etc, but we are finding the costs to carry out this work have been significantly increasing.

AS AN EXAMPLE, THE ANNUAL CONTRACT COSTS FOR UNSEALED ROAD MAINTENANCE HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY RESULTING IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS THAT THE COUNCIL HAS TO FIND.

The cost of compliance and levels of service have been a significant driver in cost increases.

The increasing costs of these contracts have a significant impact on the Council even though the increases are out of our control. It places a lot of pressure on our staff and makes it difficult to operate our budgets within our Long-Term Plan.

We are continuously reviewing costings and looking for efficiencies and synergies to keep our overall spend as low as possible. I am confident that despite these increases this Council will stay within its projected Long-Term Plan boundaries.

FREEDOM CAMPING

We are currently reviewing Freedom Camping in our district. Council held a workshop to discuss changes in the Freedom Camping Bylaw, and these proposals will go out to the public for consultation.



WE WANT FREEDOM CAMPING TO BECOME A MORE ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR VISITORS AND LOCALS WITH SOME PROPOSED SITE CHANGES AND SIGNAGE. WE NEED TO MAKE IT CLEAR WHICH AREAS OF THE DISTRICT CAMPING IS ALLOWED AND WHERE IT IS NOT PERMITTED.

It will be important to hear from the community about how they feel about Freedom Camping and the good and bad points.

Unfortunately, Freedom Camping is another example of Central Government making a decision and leaving it up to local councils to manage it the best way they can.

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 30 April: 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 7 May: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9 May: 12.30pm

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 14 May: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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GREAT THINGS
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HAWKE'S BAY NEW ZEALAND

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Visit Wairoa District Council's website and have your say on current consultations.

At the moment we are consulting on the following topics:

- Amendments to the public safety bylaw - closes 26th April 2019
- Amendments to the introductory bylaw - closes 26th April 2019
- New Rates Remission Policy for Māori Freehold Land Used for Papa Kāinga Housing - closes 18th April 2019

www.wairoadc.govt.nz,
search for #consultation

Lest we forget
25th April 2019

