

## MAYORAL COLUMN

### WAIROA'S TIME IS NOW

Te Wairoa's Ministerial presentation and showcase at Parliament was one of the proudest moments of my political career because of the wonderful Wairoa people involved.

Wairoa had a massive impact on Parliament and we now need to leverage off that excitement so we can reap the gains of the work that has been carried out so far.

The opportunity to present was extended by Ikaroa-Rawhiti MP Meka Whaitiri and gave Wairoa community leaders the forum to showcase its point of difference



Mayor Craig Little

with all its uniqueness and ingenuity.

Can I acknowledge the great effort by Naomi Wilson and Hine Flood in coordinating our Wairoa Showcase and everyone who contributed and participated.

Our aim is to uplift whānau wellbeing by improving economic and social development through business and social enterprise.

We are not looking to replace any of the existing services in Wairoa. This is additional to what is already going on.

More than 80% of our whānau are in the 4th and 5th deprivation quintile. We need to focus on community economic development to shift whānau into the 1,2,3 quintiles.



One of the highlights of Wairoa Showcase - Matangirau kapa haka group  
Photo credit: Esta Wainohu

We were able to show the Ministers what Wairoa does well independently of Government funding, and how the Government can engage in Wairoa's new environment.

Influential Ministers like David Parker and Shane Jones were totally engaged in our presentation. We were given a timeslot of 20-minutes, but this ran into 50-minutes because there were so many questions being asked.

Wairoa talked it, Wairoa walked it and demonstrated a community that works together

Wairoa's time is now. We have been listened to and it is now up to our community to make this happen.



Part of the Wairoa delegation before the Parliament presentation. From left NKII Chairman Ngahiwi Tomoana, Dr Catherine Savage, Mayor Craig Little, Hine Flood, youngest delegate Anatipa, Te Reo campaigner Liz Hunkin and Mayoress Jan Little.

This is about building on our strengths to create a foundation of community-led social innovation and enterprise to bring about sustained change.

The answer to our challenges lies in our people, investing in our community, and building our own capability to bring about intergenerational sustained change and wellbeing.

The Kakapa Te Wairoa document which we presented to Parliament contains three recommendations:

- Establish and Fund a Community Commissioning Trust
- Provide Funding for Research
- Capability Building and Develop Partnership Solutions.

Our next step is to develop a timeline/strategic mapping to progress our vision.

A lot of the background work to reach where we are today has been made possible through Wairoa's ambitious Community Partnership Group.

I chair the group as the Mayor and have been impressed by the eagerness of everyone to make this group work.

The concept of the group was born out of a need to have representation from local, regional, intersectoral and interagency decision-makers who make decisions that have a bearing on the people of the Wairoa district.

The group was formed two years ago to provide the people of the Wairoa district with united leadership that works together to allow for joined-up community planning and a whole of community and government approach to making change.

It's taken a lot to get to where we have, which we knew it would, and we have gained a lot of traction over the past year and are working towards achieving a more united community.

### MĀORI FILM FESTIVAL

The 14th Wairoa Māori Film Festival will roll out over Queen's Birthday weekend.

The festival will run over four days across three venues and this year as well as a broad selection of films the festival will include a Tātau Tātau Pop-Up art gallery, a film-making workshop, weaving wananga and mirimiri and the Gala evening.

There are a vast range of films that will be showing including films featuring filmmakers with local connections, Tessa Williams and Shane Rangī.

All the screenings take place at Kahungunu Marae, Friday to Sunday, with the Gala at the Gaiety on Saturday, and films all day at the Gaiety on Sunday. The Tātau Tātau Pop-Up Gallery will be at Kahungunu Marae all weekend.

I praise the work of festival director Leo Koziol and his team and I encourage as many people as possible to enjoy the opportunity of this national event being held in Wairoa.

For the complete festival line up head to [www.kiaora.tv](http://www.kiaora.tv) and click on programme.

## FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 28 May: 1.30pm

### COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 11 June: 1.30pm



### CONTACT US

Wairoa District Council  
Queen St, Wairoa  
[info@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:info@wairoadc.govt.nz)  
(06) 838 7309

## BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

MAY & JUNE 2019

TUAI, NUHAKA, MAHIA, RAUPUNGA, RUAKITURI, TE REINGA

Do you have whiteware or bulky waste items you no longer need?

WDC is giving the community the chance to get rid of whiteware & other bulky waste items through a free collection service.

For more information visit [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz), search for #rubbishrecycling

CALL US IF YOU WITNESS DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR

