

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

24 October 2019

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

NEW LOOK COUNCIL

I am really looking forward to the next three years.

The people of Wairoa have shown tremendous support for what our Council is working to achieve.

Personally, I am grateful to have received such a strong mandate and am appreciative of the people who voted me back in as Mayor for a third term.

Thank you also to those who voted to support the three incumbent councillors who stood for re-election.

I believe our Council has made significant progress over the past few years and this was confirmed by the fact all three incumbent councillors, Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, Hine Flood and Jeremy Harker have been returned to Council.

This demonstrates that the majority of our community believe this Council is on the right track and we really do appreciate that support.

To our new councillors, Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke, Melissa Kaimoana and Danika Goldsack, a big congratulations.

I am excited that each of you will bring a new fresh dimension to council and I look forward to working with you.

We are heading into a new three term phase with an ideal blend of experience, eagerness and enthusiasm and Wairoa is going to be well represented by this group of councillors.

I was originally elected Mayor six years ago and while it has not always been an easy road, we have made some impressive progress.

I acknowledge previous councillors Mike Bird, Min Johansen, and Charlie Lambert, who have all been a big part of the gains that have been made.

These representatives are Wairoa through and through. They are true locals who want only the best for our town and district. I will miss their support, input and knowledge and most of all their loyalty to our town and Council's vision.

I am sure they will be keeping an eye on our new Council's progress and I also look forward to working with Charlie in his new role as Wairoa representative on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution previous Hawke's Bay Regional Council Wairoa representative Fenton Wilson has made.

Wairoa has real momentum at the moment, and I am confident our new Council will continue to achieve the best possible outcomes for our district.

The inaugural meeting of Council is scheduled for Thursday October 31 at 4.30pm.

This will begin with a welcome ceremony at the Wairoa War Memorial Hall.

VOTER TURNOUT

Voting in local body, Central Government and other organisations is a democratic right that enables people to have their say and influence the way they would like things to happen.

While I acknowledge the people who did vote in the Wairoa District Council election it is a shame that our final voter return was down.

The 2019 election saw 51.43% of eligible voters vote which is a significant reduction when compared to the voter turnout in 2016 of 63% and 62% in 2013.

This drop is in line with a nationwide voter decline and perhaps this voting drop off indicates we need to look at other ways of engaging voters.

It is important that people participate in this process and have their say and I look forward to increased voting numbers next time around.

KITCHENER STREET PIPING UNDERWAY

The Kitchener Street stormwater upgrade is underway.

This open drain has been a safety issue and eyesore for decades and I am proud of the work and progress made by our Council and our staff to enable us to finally start addressing this major issue.

Piping this drain has been a hot topic within the community for many years and residents will be as pleased as I am that we are finally making a start.

This work is part of Council's plan to future-proof the town's stormwater network and a major step in the right direction.

Council had already made a commitment to start piping the open drain and then we were fortunate to attract additional funding for the project under the NZTA road safety funding criteria.

The work is expected to take up until around December 20, weather permitting, and will involve a road closure on Kitchener Street.

Members of the public are advised this may affect vehicle access to the hospital.

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING

Fri, 1 November: 9am

COUNCIL FORUM

Tue, 5 November: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thur, 14 November: 12.30pm



CONTACT US

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RUBBISH SERVICES ON LABOUR WEEKEND

There are a couple of changes to the rubbish & recycling collection during Labour Weekend. Please refer to the dates below:

Tuai refuse collection

Wednesday 23rd October 2019

Tuai recycling collection

Thursday 24th October 2019

Wairoa to Kotemaori Settlement Road refuse collection

Thursday 24th October 2019

All other refuse & recycling will be collected as normal.

The Wairoa landfill & recycling centre is operating as usual.



New look Council, Wairoa District Council Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team