

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

BUILDING CONSENTS

Our district really seems to be taking off - and not only in a Rocket Lab kind of way.

It is always difficult to measure growth in smaller areas, but a key indicator for us is around the number of building consents being received and the dollar values of those consents.

Already this year for the month of January we have received 11 building consents totalling over \$1.2 million. That includes two new dwellings.

That is a very solid start to the year.

In 2018 a total of 151 building consents were received, including 11 new dwellings.

That was above 2017 which saw 118 consents received including seven new dwellings.

The total dollar value for building consent applications received for 2018 was nearly \$8 million, well above that of 2017 where it was just over \$6 million.

These consents and the dollar value have a huge flow-on effect and are a real boost for our district's economy.

WAKA AMA

I commend the work of Adventure Wairoa, in particular, the enthusiasm from the organisation's waka ama adjunct and Christina Stockman and Sonya Smith. These keen paddlers want to hold a waka ama regatta, the Mokotahi Hoe 2019 at Mahia next month.

THIS IS THE TYPE OF VISION THAT CREATES SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR A DISTRICT LIKE OURS. WE HAVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES, AND IT IS GREAT TO SEE THEM BEING UTILISED.

Christina and Sonya want this to grow into a major event for the Wairoa district with the Mokotahi Bay an amazing venue with its natural protection and the sweeping bay making for ideal viewing.

Waka ama is a growth sport in New Zealand, and Wairoa is right up there. We only need to look back to last month when three Adventure Wairoa junior crews competed in the sprint nationals on Lake Karapiro with the midget crew winning their division in the double hull.

The concept is to make the Mokotahi Hoe a national event sanctioned by Waka Ama NZ. The first event this year will have two races, a 10km course and a 20km course taking in Mokotahi and Waikokopu bays.

Initially, it is hoped 20 crews will compete.

I congratulate Adventure Wairoa for once again getting out and making things happen, just like they did with the Mountain Bike Park.

It is organisations and people like this, and the likes of those behind the Wairoa Races, coming up on February 21 and 24, and the East Coast Farming Expo, March 6 and 7 who are putting our district on the map.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT IS THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE OUR TOWN TICK, AND THIS COUNCIL IS RIGHT BEHIND THESE POSITIVE INITIATIVES AND WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP SUPPORT THEM.

WAITANGI DAY

Wairoa's Waitangi Day celebrations were great and a huge credit to organiser Esta Wainohu and her team.

They overcame the major hurdle of some low life or low lives stealing the marquee that was to be used to provide shelter for the kaumatua during the Waitangi Day festival.

The marquee, which was hired, was seen on site at 11.30pm on February 5, and the next morning it was gone.

This is disgusting behaviour, and while it could have ruined the day, it didn't due to the sheer determination of the organisers to rise above the incident.

I really thought this sort of rubbish had stopped and it is such a shame when a few people try to ruin something for so many.

We are going to need to be more vigilant if we are going to succeed in growing our town.

I urge anyone with any information about the stolen marquee to please contact the police or even give me a call.

DOG ATTACKS

The district has been plagued with dogs attacking livestock recently which is very concerning.

Council staff have been tremendous in their response and are doing everything they can to catch the attacking dogs.

Our staff will continue to crack down on irresponsible dog owners and has the full backing of this Council.

TE MATATINI NATIONALS

A mihi to our two local kapa haka groups Te Rerenga Kōtuku and Mātangirau.

Both groups held their full dress rehearsals last weekend in preparation for the upcoming national Te Matatini Kapa Haka Festival in Wellington.

Good luck to both groups, I know you will make Wairoa proud.

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 26 February: 10.30am
Please note change of time

COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, 26 February: 1.30pm

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 5 March: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14 March: 12.30pm



CONTACT US

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Te Rerenga Kōtuku



Mātangirau