

# WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

17 January 2019

## MAYORAL COLUMN

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope you all had a great Christmas and holiday break, and I wish you all the best for 2019.

It was great to hear how well locals and visitors celebrated the new year, mostly without issue.

I spent new year's eve at Mahia where there was an active Police presence and well-behaved groups of people.

I know the Police struggle with staffing and are often under resourced, so it was commendable they were able to have a strong



Mayor Craig Little

presence in town and at Mahia.

I would also like to acknowledge the people who worked over the holiday break to provide the services that are so essential to us. In particular thank you to health staff, emergency services, Council staff and all those other people who are on call and are part of keeping our district ticking. Your efforts are appreciated

### ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

Environmental issues and protecting our beautiful district will certainly be at the forefront for Council this year.

We have now lodged our wastewater discharge consent with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

The project is one of the most significant infrastructure projects Wairoa has seen in 30-years.

The application seeks to replace the existing consent for the discharge to the river with a series of milestones over the next 30 years that transition to an irrigation system.

The ultimate goal is to stop discharging to the river, but this will take a lot of time and investment.

We are also seeking feedback from the community on the preferred opening times at the Wairoa landfill.

It has been difficult to attract solid waste management contractors to Wairoa due to the risks involved, cost restraints and our isolation. Prospective tenderers indicated they were not able to operate the landfill and recycling centre at the current level of service within the Council's budget of \$759,500 per annum.

We are seeking feedback from the public on the following two options.

Option one is to maintain the current level of service as per the 2018-2028 LTP at six days per week to operate the Wairoa Landfill (including weekends). The proposed net cost is \$1,152,400 per annum. This will exceed the budget and will involve a rates increase.

Option two is to reduce the level of service to four days per week to operate the Wairoa Landfill (including weekends). The net cost is \$753,000 per annum and fits within the Council's current budget. I encourage everyone to please submit their preference on this very important issue.

No decisions have been made. It is up to the community to decide, same hours at a greater cost, or reduced hours at the current cost.

Please either make your submission online, [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz) or call into the Council offices. Submissions close on January 30.

### IT'S SHOWTIME

There will be entertainment galore at this week's Wairoa A&P Society Show.

Action begins tomorrow with dog trial and equestrian events throughout the day and rodeo action and speed shearing in the evening.

Saturday will feature the rural ironman competition, more dog trials, equestrian and rodeo events, shearing, wool room and sheep judging, home industries, along with the scarecrow and scotch thistle competitions.

There will be loads of trade exhibitors displaying their wares, and of course lots of fun for the kids with rides and bouncy castles, the children's zoo, Lulu the clown and Bubbles in the Bay plus loads more.

Council is a keen supporter of the Show, and I look forward to seeing you there, once myself and the deputy mayor Denise Eaglesome-Karekare have finished our parking duties at the members' carpark.

### GAIETY THE PLACE TO GO

It is great to see the Wairoa community embracing and supporting their local cinema and theatre, The Gaiety.

The movie Aquaman has been a hit with locals and out of town visitors with a crowd of around 200 people attending the Boxing Day premiere.

Bohemian Rhapsody has also been a crowd pleaser consistently drawing good numbers many weeks after its original release.

I have been told there are also exciting films coming up including Spiderman: Into the Spider-verse and the magic of Mary Poppins Returns.

It's great to see former local man Mikel O'Connell back in town as the Gaiety's new operation officer. He is supported by a group of devoted local volunteers who help keep the films rolling and popcorn popping.

The Gaiety is a multipurpose facility, and we are particularly keen to see the venue being used by the community for public and private events.

We are also keen to hear ideas and suggestions as to how the Gaiety can be best used.

I know Mikel wants to ensure the Gaiety experience is an amazing one for everyone who visits.

New concepts are already being developed such as poster giveaways and a kids' colouring station.

There are also other exciting prospects on the horizon, including next month's performance from two well-known New Zealand stand-up comedians.

As well as the usual movie schedule special screenings will also be introduced such as 'Mums and Bubs' and films themed to holidays.

I encourage anyone who hasn't checked out the Gaiety for a while to head down, chat with Mikel and feel free to leave any suggestions or ideas.

### SAFETY IN THE WATER

I would also like to remind people to be extra cautious when swimming or taking part in water based activities. Our district boasts beautiful lakes, rivers and coastal destinations which are huge summertime attractions for locals and visitors, particularly when the temperatures are soaring. Please take care when swimming, playing or carrying out any water activities.

The Wairoa River mouth is not a safe place to swim. The ever-changing bar is notoriously dangerous and I urge people not to swim in that area. Instead choose another one of our beautiful water spots and practice water safety and enjoy our natural assets.

## FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

### COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 5 February: 1.30pm

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 12 February: 1.30pm

### MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14 February: 12.30pm

### FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 26 February: 1.30pm



### CONTACT US

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The  
**GAIETY**  
Cinema & Theatre

VISIT US AT THE GAIETY!

WHERE THERE IS

A MOVIE FOR EVERYBODY.

Find the movie schedule in the Wairoa Star, visit the Gaiety Theatre on Facebook or [www.gaietytheatre.co.nz](http://www.gaietytheatre.co.nz)



## LANDFILL CONSULTATION

Make your submission online or call into the Council offices.  
[www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)

Submissions close  
30th January 2019.

