

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

Happy New Year, may 2020 be filled with health and happiness for you and your whānau.

COMMUNITY EFFORTS REWARDED

Congratulations to Joe Hedley on receiving a QSM in recognition of services to the community

Joe is a great guy and has given more than 35-years of service to our community, particularly Mahia.

Joe is the perfect example of someone who doesn't moan and complain- instead he just gets on with the job.

He is the type of guy who looks for solutions, not problems. Through his various roles he has worked with Council and always contacts the appropriate person and deals with any issues in a positive way.

He is a man who has moved mountains through his involvement with the Mahia Boating and Fishing Club, St John Ambulance, Mahia Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Mokotahi Hall Committee, the Mahia Golf Club and Mokotahi Hill restoration planting.

Behind every good man is a good woman and Joe has been well supported by his wife Yvonne who has been with him every step of the way.

Joe is a humble man and I am thrilled he has been acknowledged for decades of selfless community contribution.

If anyone has an issue, please bring it to Council's attention so we can address it in a professional and appropriate manner.

To book a time to make a presentation, or to meet with me, please contact the Council offices.

RATEPAYER GROUP

One of the first initiatives I would like to see up and running this year is the development of a local group made up of ratepayers to assist with our review of rates.

THIS YEAR COUNCIL WILL REVIEW ITS RATES STRATEGY. SETTING RATES IS A HUGE COMPLICATED SYSTEM. OUR AIM IS ALWAYS TO KEEP RATES AS AFFORDABLE AS POSSIBLE AND THAT CAN CREATE SOME HUGE CHALLENGES.

Reviewing the rating structure is not new but involving the community on this journey is, to my knowledge, a first for the Wairoa District Council.

By establishing a ratepayer group, we hope to gain extra input and thoughts from members of our community in the hope that we can develop the fairest rateable system possible.

Council's aim is the same as the ratepayer aim, to keep the rates as low as possible while still providing the best services we can.

It's a major balancing act and we look forward to extra input and suggestions.

IT'S SHOWTIME

The annual A&P Society Show begins today and will continue tomorrow and Saturday.

The show is a major event on Wairoa's calendar and features a range of activities from rodeo, competition shearing, show jumping and equestrian events, dog trials, exhibitions plus a selection of great family entertainment.

THE SHOW IS A DISPLAY OF TRUE COMMUNITY SPIRIT. THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO KEEP THE EVENT RUNNING SO STRONGLY AND SMOOTHLY. ALL THE BEST FOR A GREAT SHOW.

GROWING OUR DISTRICT

Wairoa has been fortunate to have attracted a number of Central Government subsidies which have helped us to increase services around roading, tourism, connectivity and rail.

This month is an exciting time for Wairoa with hopefully more significant announcements set to be made.

Attracting Central Government funding means ratepayers are not paying for the improved services.

OUR COUNCIL IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE CAPABLE AND SPECIALISED STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY TO BRING AS MUCH EXTRA INVESTMENT INTO OUR TOWN AS POSSIBLE.

Without professional staff of the calibre we have we could have missed out on many transformative opportunities.

I take my hat off to the Council's CEO, staff and contractors who are helping to create a Wairoa that is the best it can be.

It should be remembered also; all Council staff are paid in line with the Local Government strategic pay policy. All Council employees throughout New Zealand are paid using the same system.

NEW YEAR

2020 marks the beginning of a new decade and a chance to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

The first full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

The agendas and minutes for all Council meetings are available on the Wairoa District Council website.

● www.wairoadc.govt.nz, search for #meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings and have the opportunity to make a presentation to Council at the monthly Council forums.

I'm always happy for people to ask questions, to query Council decisions and to put their opinions forward. However, I do encourage this to happen in a transparent manner rather than keyboard warriors hiding behind anonymity.

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

COUNCIL MEETING

Tue, 11 February: 1.30pm

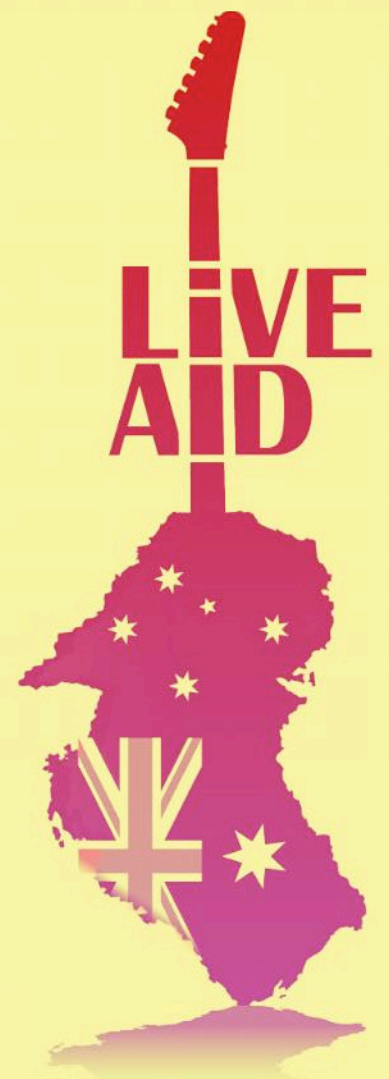
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tue, 18 February: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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



SUPPORT AUSTRALIA
LOCAL MUSICIANS PERFORMING AT THE
A&P SHOW.

17th January, 6pm

**A&P Showgrounds,
Ruataniwha Road**

Farmlands Rural Ironman Challenge
Saturday 18 January 2020

Enter in store | Spot Prizes

Kids Section Start 8.30am
Team of three - 12 years & under
\$20 Entry Fee per team
1st: \$30, 2nd: \$20, 3rd \$10
for each event Plus Spot Prizes

Adult Section Start 1pm - 4 Events
1st: \$40, 2nd: \$30, 3rd \$20 for each event
Points accumulated for the overall places:
1st: \$300 2nd: \$200, 3rd: \$150,
4th: \$120, 5th: \$100

Kids Section 12&Under | All events against the clock | Late Entries on day

\$50 per team

Team of 5

Entry forms at Farmlands Wairoa store or download from the website www.wairoashow.co.nz

Farmlands
Barry Everest Contracting | The Tyre General | Wairoa Pharmacy | New World Wairoa
Colliers International