

# WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

27 August 2020

## MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

### SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Our local businesses are a vital part of our community and it is essential we support them.

Feedback I have had from retailers is they had great trading post-COVID but that is starting to taper off.

Now is the time we need to step up as a local community and to help get these businesses pumping.

I know there are times when buying locally might cost a bit more or there might be a delay in getting what you ordered. But if we don't

support our businesses now then they won't be there for us when we need them.

Business people also need to ensure their pricing is as sharp as possible and because they are competing with out of town and internet shopping they need to ensure they can get their products to their customers as quickly as possible.

The Council-initiated Tautoko Wairoa Buy Local and Win campaign was a great incentive with more than \$100,000 in receipts entered into the competition and 10 lucky winners each receiving \$100.

It was great to see that The Wairoa Star (\$500) and Bradbury Jewellers (\$200) have taken up the Council challenge to sponsor the continuation of the buy local campaign for another five weeks.

It is awesome that these businesses can recognise the benefits of supporting such an important campaign and are supporting their fellow business colleagues.

Campaign Rua will be launched next week, on Tuesday September 2 and will run for five weeks with the first and last week of the campaign having two draws of \$100.



Participating businesses have told us the campaign incentivised people to shop and buy locally and they would also like Council staff to be able to participate. The new campaign will be drawn by the Police each week to allow Council staff to be involved.

To enter, just spend \$30 or more at a participating store, and write your name and phone number on the back of your receipt and drop it in the entry box

Each week one lucky shopper will have a chance to win a \$100 credit to spend at a participating store.

### HOUSING CONSENTS UP

News that the number of residential building consents processed by the Wairoa District Council increased in the past financial year is further indication of our growing district.

A total of 137 residential consents were issued, with 25 of those for new or relocated dwellings with a value of \$5.1 million.

For the 2018/19 financial year 133 residential consents were issued, including 15 new or relocated buildings, with a value of around \$3.6 million.

In the 10 years that I have been on Council I have not seen growth like this before.

Housing is a nationwide issue and new homes can only be good for our growing population.

**WE HAVE HAD SOME CHALLENGES IN THE PAST, AND IT HAS TAKEN TIME TO TURN OUR DISTRICT AROUND, BUT WE REALLY DO SEEM TO BE MOVING FORWARD IN A VERY POSITIVE WAY.**

### MAYOR'S TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

During my time as mayor I have pushed to ensure Wairoa has a voice at a regional and national level.

Having our presence felt when it is necessary has been very beneficial for our district.

A recent success is the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Community Recovery Funding which will see Wairoa receive up to \$500,000 to be invested into a post-COVID recovery programme to support employment outcomes.

I am a member of the Core Group for the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs and I know this group works hard to reach its goal of zero youth unemployment.

The success of a pilot programme featuring rural mayors connecting youth in their regions with local small businesses is what led to the programme being scaled up around the country across 23 more councils.

The funding is a post-COVID-19 strategy involving a partnership with the Ministry of Social Development to support NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) and small and medium enterprise.

The Wairoa Young Achievers Trust delivers the NEET programmes in Wairoa and they will take on this contract to create a minimum of 50 sustainable employment positions.

Wairoa's funding will also support larger industries and land-based employment. This funding will complement programmes that are already existing in the community such as apprenticeship schemes and work placement programmes etc.

We know there has been a significant amount of Government funding into infrastructural and renovation work and through this partnership we will be able to train people to carry out some of the work we have been funded to complete.

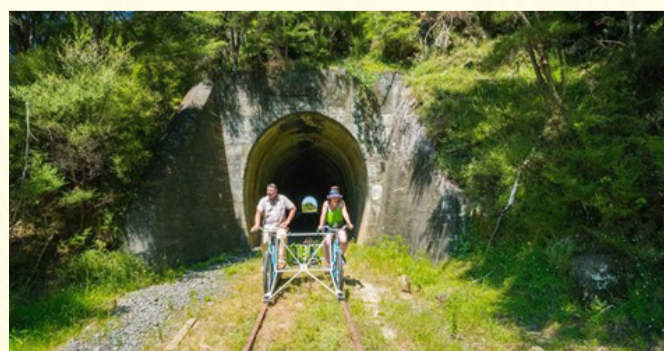
### GROWTH AT MAHIA

I would like to congratulate all those people in the Mahia area who are making such great things happen.

It's groups like the Whangawehi Catchment Group, Rongomaiwahine and Geoff Main's rail bikes and others that will grow tourism in our district.

The Whangawehi Catchment Management Group is a true Wairoa success story and through hard work and dedication has secured \$450,000 for a walk and cycleway on the Mahia Peninsula.

This is great news and will provide employment while the project is being worked on, and then once it is complete will offer yet another reason that makes the Wairoa district a great destination to visit.



## FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

### MATANGIRAU RESERVES BOARD

Mon, 31 August: 2pm

### COUNCIL MEETING

Tue, 8 September: 1.30pm

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tue, 15 September: 1.30pm

### FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

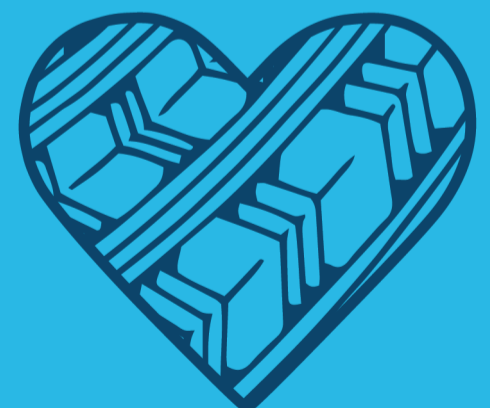
Tue, 29 September: 1.30pm



### CONTACT US

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## TAUTOKO WAIROA BUY LOCAL



Spend \$30 or more at a local shop and be in for a chance to win one of seven \$100 vouchers.

The draw will run for 5 weeks. Winners are announced each Friday.

Sponsored by

**The Wairoa Star**  
Bradbury Jewellers