

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL IN FOCUS

14 January 2021

LAUNCHING 2021

As we head into a new year the Wairoa District Council's longer-term councillors are asked about their thoughts and aspirations for the Wairoa District.



Councillor
Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

Councillor
Hine Flood

Councillor
Jeremy Harker

Why did you want to be a councillor?

Denise: I have been a Councillor for five-terms and am appreciative of the voting support I have received from the community over this time. I stood because I wanted to make a difference and be a voice for the whole community, especially women and youth.

Hine: This is my third term as a councillor. I stood because I felt I had something extra to offer. I did stand with trepidation because no-one likes to fail, but work needed to be done and I was up for it. Initially, there was an emotional interest to get involved and utilise my governance experience. It was essential to have the skill, time and drive to understand the Local Government Act and system that legislatively binds us to standardised Central Govt obligations with a localised lens to put a stake in the ground on behalf of the community we serve and the ratepayer base that underpins this critical function.

Jeremy: This is my third term and I have been a Wairoa District Councillor for six-years. I wanted to be councillor to have a positive impact within the Wairoa community and ensure good decisions are made for the district.

What would you like to see 2021 bring to Wairoa?

Hine: I would really like to see a Council that has its internal systems at a premium to serve our residents and leadership that continues to be bold to make the difficult decisions. A growing economy that lifts wellbeing and we must continue to develop infrastructure that preserves the benefits to those who live here and be attractive to those who want to return home or shift from metropolitan NZ to the provinces. We want to be a place of choice for ours and newcomers.

Jeremy: A continuation of the great things that have been happening, whether it be through the Council staff securing funding to enable us to future proof the Wairoa District, the development of smart plans and ideas to make the Wairoa District an attractive place to live in, run a business and grow your family.

Denise: I want to see 2021 bring economic prosperity to Wairoa. New business, new jobs, housing development and a flourishing community. Last year saw some great gains around Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) funding and Council developing great partnerships with iwi, government and non-government organisations.

What has been the most significant highlight during your time as a councillor?

Jeremy: The progress that has been made. I also really like the fact that Wairoa continues to prove the doubters wrong.

Denise: There have been many highlights, the river walkway, the partnership development of the Sir James Carroll Memorial Walkway, signing of the Treaty Settlement for Kahungunu ki Wairoa, hosting the Kahungunu Regional Kapa Haka, Korou Digital, Rocket Lab, Reorua, Wairoa Maori Film Festival, Destination Playground, the success of Mua Digital (Andrew and Alma Hume), QRS at the Pan Pac Chamber of Commerce Business Awards in November 2019 and November 2020 and the millions of dollars in PGF funding Wairoa has received.

Hine: One of the great achievements in my earlier time was Council's functional review which brought us face to face with imminent changes, and while this took time, I am proud to say we have achieved these with some outstanding results. Māori Wards has been another highlight. I believe this democratic process brings benefit to Wairoa through our newest capable, sassy, and intelligent elected members, broadening outreach in our community matched with intel that is important at this level of leadership. A personal highlight is the faith demonstrated by my peers who elected me as Wairoa's Deputy Mayor. I have an additional expectation of my contribution of leadership on behalf of the community and people.

What is your greatest aspiration for the Wairoa district?

Denise: To see Wairoa return to the thriving town and farming community it once was. In my youth, the Queen Street and North Clyde shopping districts were buzzing. Sports fields were teeming with upcoming sports stars and we felt safe and secure. I want our people to believe that Wairoa is the "Centre of the Universe" where we embrace our strong Māori roots and partner with iwi, where we embrace all that is good about this district. I want Wairoa to have opportunities for our youth, where Kiwi ingenuity is alive and where we have the resources needed to care for our sick and not be seen as an add on to the Hawke's Bay District Health Board but have education and resources to prevent illness.

Hine: Meaningful employment that brings an income to every home, reduction in the need for social services and increase in business innovation providing business and product in a niche market. Reducing deprivation. Taking advantage of Rocket Lab, we should have some of the savviest rangatahi advancing into the world of sciences. A rates model that is truly responsive and fair across all sectors of our population, I believe this is a high priority.

Jeremy: That we continue to grow and take advantage of what we have, so that the Wairoa district and all those who live in it can enjoy living here.

How would you like to see Wairoa positioned in the next two years?

Hine: A population base of 12,000, small family enterprise that provides an income to the most vulnerable, farming and horticulture to be the pinnacle of land development. With the inevitable aging population a retirement village that brings in a wealthy income to Wairoa and education centres of excellence that grow our own in fundamental service provision for Wairoa first.

Jeremy: A fair and appropriate rating system, a diverse and productive economy, with a strong and confident community, that is well led and supported by the Wairoa District Council.

Denise: As a partner with iwi and leaders in the fight against climate change – we have an amazing natural environment and an advantage in being off the beaten track. But we must look after and awhi our whenua, our awa, our moana and our maunga. This is our legacy.

What is/are Wairoa's greatest assets/enablers?

Jeremy: The people, our natural beauty, and the natural resources we have. Of these I think the skill and ability of the people in our community is key, whether it is in commercial business, education, health, local government, community leadership or the rural sector. People are the greatest enabler the Wairoa District has.

Denise: The people, the land, our rivers and lakes.

Hine: Our greatest asset is without a doubt our people, regardless of their background, income, or status the wealth is our difference. Build on this premise and the people become the enablers.

What are Wairoa's greatest challenges?

Denise: Breaking the cycles of abuse, of thinking/believing we are not good enough and of apathy and resignation. Breaking down the external perception that our town and our people are not remarkable – we need to remind ourselves that we can be and that we are. Breaking down barriers to social, economic and cultural prosperity.

Hine: Our greatest challenge is perception and underrating ourselves. Our isolation provides opportunity and the skill we have in the people who reside here needs to be unlocked.

Jeremy: Lack of confidence in who we are and succumbing to negative attitudes and whingers who don't offer a viable solution. The challenge for the Wairoa District Council is about making good decisions that benefit future generations regarding infrastructure, encouraging the right mix and scale of business that works for the district, and staying ahead of the challenges that arise from central government legislation.

What is your favourite thing about living in Wairoa?

Hine: It is the people, access to natural resources we call our gateways all within 45mins. The cornerstone of paradise.

Jeremy: The culture and history; the opportunities and access to amazing places, people and experiences; the weather; and the unique attitude that we have to life.

Denise: I am Wairoa born and bred. Living on my great grandmothers, grandmothers and mother's whenua. This connects me to a community that I am part of and passionate about. My favourite thing? Everything.

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

COUNCIL MEETING

Tue, 9 February: 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tue, 16 February: 1.30pm

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Tue, 23 February: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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2021-2031 LONG TERM PLAN PRE-ENGAGEMENT

The focus of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan pre-engagement is Levels of Service. Pre-engagement will take place throughout January with the following community meetings scheduled:

Monday 18 January 2021 | 10am to 2pm
Raupunga Hauora Building, Raupunga

Thursday 21 January 2021 | 10am to 2pm
Craft Shop, Main Road, Tuai

Friday 22 January 2021 | 10am to 2pm
Osler's Bakery, Wairoa

Monday 25 January 2021 | 10am to 2pm
Outside Nuhaka Shop, Nuhaka

Thursday 28 January 2021 | 6pm – 7pm
Community meeting at Memorial Hall, Wairoa

Friday 29 January 2021 | 9am
Meeting with Iwi | Chambers, Wairoa

Friday 29 January 2021 | 10am – 2pm
Fishing & Boating Club, Mahia

Visit our Consultations website to find out more about the Long Term Plan pre-engagement.

www.consultations.nz

