

MAYORAL COLUMN

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Super Saturday was a great success in Wairoa. I would like to acknowledge the excellent work being carried out by the Queen Street Practice and Kahungunu Executive, and others, in partnership with the Hawke's Bay District Health Board in vaccinating whānau in Wairoa.

Wairoa's Super Saturday was held at the Queen Street Practice at the hospital and New World supermarket with a real buzz in the air.

There was a huge turnout of community leaders and whānau and it was just great to see everyone coming together for the common cause of keeping our community safe.

A lot of the people I have spoken to have already had their second vaccination. If you have not yet received an invitation to have your vaccination, I encourage you to phone the Queen Street practice on 06 838 8333 or text 027 282 2430.

Ms Ardern was very direct in her messaging that being fully vaccinated can lessen your likelihood of getting COVID-19, lessen the severity of any illness and complications, and lessen your chances of spreading the virus.

I am impressed that the Prime Minister has not overlooked small communities like Wairoa. As I said during my welcome speech, I commend the government for its exemplary handling of the COVID outbreak, and in Wairoa we are very aware of the devastating impact the Delta variant could have if it reaches our district.

We have many vulnerable members of our whānau and limited health resources to support them. Our nearest ICU is two hours away and we have no ventilators, so it is important to keep our whānau safe.

TAUTOKO WAIROA - BUY LOCAL AND WIN

Around 25 local businesses are giving you a chance to win - just by shopping and buying locally.

Everyone who spends \$30 or more at participating local retail stores will be in for a chance to win \$100 in local shopping vouchers.

THE TAUTOKO WAIROA - BUY LOCAL AND WIN CAMPAIGN - BEGAN LAST MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, AND WILL RUN UNTIL THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11. DRAWS ARE HELD EVERY WEEK AND THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF TIMES YOU CAN ENTER.

Participating businesses are Angus Gemmell Hardware, Beauty Antix, Bloom 'n loco, Books on Parade, Bradbury Jewellers, Dollar Heaven, Wairoa Pharmacy, Eastland Building and Farm Supplies, Ecko, Estway Sports, Goods 4 U, Hammer Hardware, Hair Here, Hind Furnishers, i-Site, JC Electronics, Local Living, Mojo, Petite Fleur, Purple Petals, Richies Hair Salon, Stihl Shop, Wairoa Appliance Centre, Wairoa Star, Wash with Sweets and Te Kapu Apiaries.

The promotion is part of the Wairoa District Council Tautoko Wairoa Buy Local Campaign to encourage people to shop and buy locally.

FORESTRY COLLABORATION

Wairoa District Council and the Tararua District Council are leading a collaborative local government response to forestry and future sustainable land use. Around a dozen other Councils have joined us in this united approach.

Councils throughout the country are doing a lot of good work individually, but we haven't been working together for the greater good of future land use.

I will say again, I am not anti-forestry, but it is important there is a land use balance and that the approach is the right tree in the right place.

As the Mayor, my job is to advocate on behalf of the Wairoa district. On the East Coast we don't have to look very far to see areas where too much forestry planting has tipped the balance and communities have been destroyed.

IF I WAS ANTI-FORESTRY, I WOULD BE WANTING ALL THE CURRENT PLANTINGS RIPPED OUT. I DO NOT WANT THAT. I SIMPLY WANT A BALANCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

I do firmly believe any further blanket forestry planting on productive farmland in Wairoa is not in the best interest of our community. It is reassuring to know that many other Councils share these concerns and by working collaboratively we will have a strong united voice to lobby the government and hopefully make change.

I also think we must be very wary around carbon forests, this is new territory and we do not yet fully understand the future ramifications of carbon forests.

Together our Councils are working with Yule Alexander Consulting to develop a really clear picture of where our districts are placed and what is needed to ensure sustainable futures for all our communities.



Mayor Craig Little



It was a pleasure to welcome Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and ministers Meka Whaitiri and Kiri Allan to town as part of their vaccination campaign.

PRIME MINISTER VISIT

It was fantastic to have Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in town recently. While her message was very clearly around getting vaccinated it was also a great opportunity for her to see Wairoa and meet our people.

Ms Ardern told us her decision to travel around the East Coast of New Zealand came after seeing statistics that showed areas like Wairoa had slowed down in their vaccination rates.

The regional road trip was aimed at encouraging vaccination, dispelling myths and keeping the New Zealand team of five million as safe as possible.

Ministers Meka Whaitiri and Kiri Allan were part of the visit which focussed on rangatahi and whānau. It was unfortunate that due to COVID-19 Level 2 restrictions only 100 people could gather at the Community Centre for the visit.

The whirlwind trip certainly showed us the compassion and caring nature of our Prime Minister and also a very down to earth side as she joined the question-and-answer 'ask your aunties' session and learned to tik tok the Wairoa way.



My son Alex was quite happy to receive his second COVID-19 vaccination supported by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and local MP Meka Whaitiri and myself.

TAUTOKO WAIROA



SHOP LOCAL

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tues, 26 October: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thurs, 28 October: 1.30pm

YOUTH COUNCIL

Mon, 1 November: 3.30pm

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Tues, 2 November: 1.30pm

FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Tues, 9 November: 1.30pm

Under Level 2 all meetings will be held by video conference, the link will be available on Council's website.



CONTACT US

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