



Mayor Craig Little

# WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL IN FOCUS

8 December, 2022

## MAYORAL COLUMN

### DRIVER LICENCE TESTING BACK IN WAIROA

We have some fantastic initiatives happening in our district and top of the list for me is the return of Wairoa-based driver licence testing.

People in our community have worked so hard behind the scenes to have testing returned, and it is great to now have a positive outcome. Removing Wairoa-based driver testing 10 years ago was a mistake, and our community has suffered as a result of that decision. For many people it is life-changing to have driver licence testing finally returned to Wairoa. I know there are many local people who have had to travel to get their licence or have not sat their driver licence because of a lack of local testing. I am so pleased common sense has prevailed and people in our community no longer have to travel for around two hours to sit their driving test.

Thank you to all those partners at a local, regional and national level, for their hard work in returning driver testing to Wairoa, particularly the work of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and VTNZ and our local providers and organisations who have supported our young people by enabling them to sit their tests out of town while we haven't had access to a local testing system.

### MINISTER VISIT

It was great that the Honourable Minister Marama Davidson visited Wairoa last week and spent time with local provider organisation Enabled Wairoa.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, and Deputy Mayor Denise Eaglesome-Karekare attended on my behalf.

It is the work of Enabled Wairoa, particularly around its involvement with the new Housing Hub, that drew ministerial attention, with the visit allowing Enabled to showcase its work across health, housing and social services. Minister Davidson is the Green Party co-leader, Associate Minister of housing, with responsibility for addressing homelessness, and Minister of Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence.

Her visit included learning more about the enablers and barriers for small rural towns when dealing with government agencies.

She praised Wairoa's collaborative approach to its housing needs through its housing coalition and recently created Housing Hub.

Enabled was pivotal in the successful funding application to develop a localised Housing Hub which attracted nearly \$1 million from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's Local Innovation and Partnership Fund to enhance the district's housing options over the next three years by navigating Wairoa's needs and pathways, from new builds to home ownership. The outcomes include navigating and transforming Wairoa's housing space by helping whānau become high-performing tenants and landlords; assisting whānau into home ownership and providing information around pāpakainga housing.

It is fantastic to see these types of locally-led initiatives and also great to see this type of work being acknowledged by central government.

### CYCLING FUNDING

Congratulations to our Council staff on a successful application for \$1.9 million to boost cycling and walking in town. This external funding was through an application to the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Transport Choices 2022 fund.

The project supports a partnership approach with Tiaho Primary School and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngati Kahungunu o Te Wairoa and will develop streets near the schools and link up with the Mountain bike park and river walkway. A 400m safe zone around Tiaho and Te Kura is proposed with improvements such as shared paths and protected cycle lanes on the road. This zone includes sections along Clyde Road, Kitchener Street, Black Street and Rutherford Street which all provide access to the two schools to make cycling and walking to and from school a safer and more attractive option than it currently is.

The goal of the programme is to support safe, green and healthy school travel while also delivering strategic cycling/micro-mobility networks and creating walkable neighbourhoods.

Thank you to the Council staff for their work to get this approach funded. I look forward to seeing increased cycling in town, particularly from our younger generation

### MAYORAL CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA

The Mayoral Christmas morning tea will be held next Thursday, December 15, and I am looking forward to catching up with local friends.

I encourage all local senior citizens to attend as it is always a morning of fun, entertainment and festivities.

I do look forward to these types of events every year. It is great to be able to spend time with so many people who have done so much for our community. It is our older generation who in many cases have created the legacy that our younger generation enjoys, and this is a great chance for our community to give back and show their honour, respect and gratitude to so many people who have given so much.

My wife Jan, who is the patron of Age Concern, and myself, look forward to seeing you all, having a bite to eat listening to some music and enjoying each other's company.

The Mayoral Christmas morning tea will be held at the Presbyterian Hall from 10am

to noon. To assist with catering, please register your attendance by phoning the Council on 06 838 7309 or calling into the Council offices or i-Site.

### COUNCIL CHRISTMAS HOURS

A reminder to everyone that Council is accessible 24/7.

While some staff will be taking a holiday break over Christmas and new year period, the 06 838 7309 phone number remains in operation.

The Queen Street Council office will have its final day on Friday December 23, reopening Monday January 9.

For assistance with any Council related queries please phone 06 838 7309 and your call will be directed to the right person.

### CHRISTMAS PARADE ON SATURDAY

It will be all about Christmas celebrations in town on Saturday afternoon.

It is great to once again be able to hold the annual Christmas Parade which will take place from 2pm with the traditional chain of floats

meandering along the main street and back again, featuring a range of nursery rhyme characters with a local Wairoa flavour.

There will be a selection of prizes up for grabs at the prizegiving which will take place at the lighthouse at 3.30pm. Categories include first place and runners-up in the best commercial float, best education provider float, best community organisation float and best overall float.

There will also be a range of boys' and girls' best costume prizes as well as an overall best costume.

Prizegiving will be followed by a free family concert under the lighthouse.

The fun day will feature main street Boulevard Day style bargains and a sausage sizzle with meat kindly donated by Affco. The sausage sizzle will be way of a koha and the Council will match what is raised and the money will be donated to the Wairoa Fire Brigade.

I look forward to seeing you all in town on Saturday afternoon.



**A tap leaking one drip per second wastes up to around 28 litres of water a day, 860 litres every month, 10,220 litres every year.**

Makes you think, huh?

**KNOW  
- our -  
WATER**

THE WHYS & THE WAYS OF  
HAWKE'S BAY WATER CONSERVATION

Visit [knowourwaterhb.co.nz](http://knowourwaterhb.co.nz) for more water tips and info

## THINKING OF GETTING YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE A DOG?

✉ [compliance@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:compliance@wairoadc.govt.nz) ☎ +64 06 838 7309 🌐 [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)

Dogs are a great addition to your life and your family. However, they are the most expensive household pet. If you're thinking about getting yourself or someone else a new furry friend to have around the house, here are a few costs you need to take into consideration.

#### INITIAL COSTS

Purebreds = ~\$3,000  
SPCA = ~\$250  
Free  
Registration

#### VET COSTS

Vaccinations  
Flea and Worm  
Microchip  
Unpredictable injuries or illness

#### GENERAL NEEDS

Kennels  
Bedding  
Food  
Food and water bowls  
Fencing for property

#### TIME COSTS

Exercise  
Feeding  
Training  
Quality/Bonding Time

There are also extra costs that owners may need to think about during the dog's life such as grooming, boarding kennels, euthanasia etc. NZ Companion Animal Council estimates that a dog set owners back by around \$1,686.00 per year. This cost is always much higher in the dogs first year and with the average life expectancy of 14 years, you're looking at over \$22,000 for that furry friend.

The Wairoa Christmas  
Float Parade and  
concert is on this  
Saturday, December 10.  
from 2pm

FOR YOUR DIARY  
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday 13th December 1.30 pm

CONTACT US  
Wairoa District Council  
Queen St, Wairoa  
[info@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:info@wairoadc.govt.nz) (06) 838 7309

