



Mayor Craig Little

MAYORAL COLUMN

WAIROA A&P SHOW

What a fantastic event this was. I have nothing but praise for the team who brought our show back to Wairoa. For a small base of predominantly volunteers to have worked so hard to bring the show to fruition was just fantastic. I know it was challenging with the wet conditions leading up to the weekend which left the grounds sodden. It is great also to see younger people joining in and being active on the committee and behind the scenes. The show has been a big part of my life, and this year I really enjoyed watching people catch up and enjoy a true community event. Well done to everyone who helped make this event possible and thank you to all those people who attended. A reminder too, if everyone gives just a small amount of time to these types of local community events, then we will have more and more happening in our district.

COUNCIL ROADSHOW

Elected members and Council staff will be out and about over the next month as part of our local Roadshow.

The Roadshow is a chance for representatives to explain where Council is at, and to hear from the community. It's a chance for two-way communication, and the information we gather will be used to feed into our Long-Term Plan.

The Roadshow is a chance to simply have a chat, hear what people have to say and really listen to people from our community and also share Council's position. We encourage people to catch up when we are in your area. The dates, times and venues are on this page.

WAITANGI DAY CELEBRATIONS

This year, Wairoa's Waitangi Day celebrations will take place on the Library Green.

This year's celebrations will be held on Monday, February 6, from 10-2pm and include a display about Waitangi Day.

The event will feature entertainment, a bouncy castle, stalls with a variety of food, as well as spot prizes and giveaways.

The fun day is open to everyone and a great chance to have a whānau day out.

NEW PRIME MINISTER

Congratulations to new Prime Minister Chris Hipkins. It is early days, but I have been pleased to hear our new Prime Minister acknowledging that the concerns of New Zealanders need to be listened to.

A change of leadership is a chance for a reset and for people to feel that their views are truly being heard and that, as a result of feedback, appropriate action is taken.

Of course, for me, the biggest win would be significant changes to the Three Waters. Under the Government's current regime, we will still all be charged for Three Waters delivery, it's just the invoice will come from a new water entity rather than the local Council.

If Three Waters goes ahead in its current state, the entities will be borrowing more money overall to bring Three Waters up to the required standards. Don't be fooled that the Government is investing in Three Waters, it is not, it is simply using these entities to borrow more money on your behalf. Plus, under the current proposal, New Zealanders will lose the assets they, and generations of their whānau have paid for, as well as losing local voice, control and democracy. I have always said the issue with Three Waters starts with the lack of Central Government investment. Shifting the problem to new entities that also need to borrow money is not a solution. The only solution is increased Government funding to subsidise the work that needs doing, much like how the Government funds roading.

My hope is that the Government pauses and listens to New Zealanders. We don't need new entities; we need the Councils which are currently delivering Three Waters services to be appropriately funded. That will enable us to keep control of local assets, our local people will have a say and we will retain our local knowledge and skill base. Under a centralised regime, it is very unlikely Wairoa will be prioritised above other bigger centres. We have seen time and time again that 'centralised' does not suit Wairoa's unique and isolated needs.

Communities 4 Local Democracy He hapori mō te Manapori (C4LD), of which the Wairoa District Council is a member, has stated that with Prime Minister Hipkins signalling a review of the policy agenda, he has an opportunity to deliver on Government

aims for three waters, in a manner that would bring communities with him. I know locally we are 100% behind taking a fresh look at a model for water reform.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of previous Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. I believe under her leadership there were some standout moments, including the Government's handling of COVID-19 in the initial stages, the Christchurch shooting and the Whakaari/White Island eruption.

EAST COAST FARMING EXPO

The East Coast Farming Expo will be held later this month, on February 22 and 23, at the Wairoa Showgrounds.

The Expo aims to connect rural communities with agribusiness and innovators and will feature exhibits, demonstrations and seminars for sheep and beef farmers.

This event brings forward-thinking speakers, who never fail to ignite conversations, sharing their valuable insights and breaking down barriers to help East Coast sheep and beef farmers make positive changes in their businesses. This year promises to be no different and those who take the time to attend this popular two-day gathering can once again expect to come away inspired, invigorated and connected.

Wairoa District Council will also have a presence at the Expo as part of our Council Roadshow to collect local thoughts and share information.

FUTUREFIT

Wairoa District Council is part of a regional initiative based on how we can each play our part to slow climate change down.

Wairoa District Council has partnered with our local regional councils to bring FutureFit to Wairoa with the campaign being publicly rolled out to the Hawke's Bay region this week.

The concept has already been trialled using staff from the region's Councils and it is now being launched for everyone in Hawkes Bay to take part in.

FutureFit is Aotearoa's first gamified carbon footprint tool and helps turn intention into action by:

- understanding our impact on the planet
- knowing what to do to reduce our (carbon) footprint
- engaging with our friends, whānau and communities on the topic of climate change.

A quick, easy survey measures your individual (consumption) carbon footprint. You'll then be challenged to reduce your footprint by choosing a range of customised lifestyle choices.

Start taking action and track your progress over time. Even with small changes, you'll be making a difference.

To join, register at www.futurefit.nz and use the tool. FutureFit is an opportunity for you to measure, understand and reduce your carbon footprint, while also making lifestyle changes that lead to increased savings, resilience, health and wellbeing. As FutureFit is rolled out across the region you will see posters, press releases and digital promotion. The goal is to have 5,000 people in Hawkes Bay registered with FutureFit.

FOR YOUR DIARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Council meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 1.30pm

Strategy, Wellbeing and Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, February 14, 1.30pm

Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee

Tuesday, February 21, 1.30pm

CONTACT US

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



SPORT NZ Rural Travel Fund

Applications for financial assistance through the SPORT NZ Rural Travel Fund (Formerly SPARC) are now open.

Approximately \$11,352 is available for distribution to local rural sports clubs and school teams with members aged between 5-19 years who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

Applicants will need to meet the eligibility criteria of the Rural Travel Fund.

Application forms and further information are available from: Latoya Tipuna, email latoya@wairoadc.govt.nz or call into the Wairoa District Council offices or i-Site or phone 06 838 7309.

For more information please refer:



Applications close
Friday, April 21, 2023

Kitea Tipuna
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

A CHANCE TO CHAT

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ROADSHOW

COMMUNICATION IS A TWO-WAY STREET. COUNCIL'S ROADSHOW WILL BE TRAVELLING AROUND THE DISTRICT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS AND SHARE OUR INFORMATION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CATCHING UP AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

9TH FEBRUARY 2023

9AM - 12PM Tuai - Tuai Hall
1PM - 4PM Frasertown Shop - Caravan

10TH FEBRUARY 2023

9AM - 12PM Ruakituri - Ruakituri Hall
1PM - 4PM Marumaru - Marumaru Hall

16TH FEBRUARY 2023

9AM - 12PM Iwitea - Iwitea Marae
1PM - 4PM Whakaki - Whakaki Marae

17TH FEBRUARY 2023

9AM - 12PM Nuhaka - Nuhaka Domain
1PM - 4PM Opoutama Garage - Caravan

22ND & 23RD FEBRUARY 2023

9AM - 4PM East Coast Farming Expo - Wairoa A and P Showgrounds

3RD MARCH 2023

9AM - 4PM Mahia - Mokotahi Hall

6TH MARCH 2023

9AM - 12PM Mohaka - Mohaka School
1PM - 4PM Raupunga - Te Huki Marae

17TH MARCH 2023

9AM - 12PM Putere - Putere Hall
1PM - 4PM Kotemaori - Kotemaori Hall

