# WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL IN FOCUS

Mayor Craig Little



### **MAYORAL COLUMN**

#### THE AFTERMATH OF CYCLONE GABRIELLE

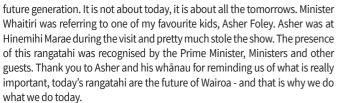
 $\label{look} As I look around our battered district my heart goes out to all our local people,$ the homeowners, the businesspeople, our rural people and farmers who have been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. I don't want to compare anyone's loss as each and every one of us has suffered differently. There are those who may not have had material loss, but the lack of connectivity, particularly to Hawke's Bay, I know is hard for many people.

Cyclone Gabrielle occurred just over seven weeks ago and the progress that has been made in many areas is outstanding and a terrific tribute to the determination of our local people and the assistance given by local services. I know we have a long way to go and I know for many of you recovery can feel like it is out of reach. If you need help or assistance, or don't know where to turn, please contact the Council offices, call in or phone 06 838 7309, or head to the i-Site or the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust building on Marine Parade (in the former Westpac bank building). Staff at these sites may not have all the answers, but hopefully, they will be able to point you in the right direction.

#### PRIME MINISTER VISIT

It was great that Prime Minister Chris Hipkins finally made it to Wairoa to see first hand the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle. The visit was the third time lucky as the Prime Minister has been unable to fly in on the two previously scheduled visits. The Prime Minister was accompanied by our local MPs who are great Wairoa supporters, and I am appreciative of how hard they push for

During the Prime Minister's visit, it was the words of the Hon. Meka Whaitiri that really resonated with me. She reminded us all that the mahi we do is for the



#### RECOVERY

I am thrilled with the appointment of our recovery manager Benita Tahuri. Benita has hit the ground running, she knows our community well and will do everything she can to support everyone in our district. As she says, 'no one left behind.

Wairoa's recovery approach is very much Iwi/Council-led and partnered and we want a 'By Wairoa, For Wairoa approach'.

Our recovery and regeneration need to be based on what our Wairoa whānau needs, both immediately and into the future. In partnership with Iwi, we are best placed to co-ordinate this, as we are currently geographically isolated and disconnected which makes it challenging for people to even be here to understand our unique community and situation.

Our cyclone response, and now our recovery, needs to be centrally and regionally enabled and locally-led. Wairoa's ability to work inclusively is a big factor. We are a connected community, and we have the ability to get our needs met quickly - provided we are given the necessary support and resources to do so.

The Wairoa Mayoral Relief Fund, established in response to the impact

The fund comprises over \$1 million made up of donations and the Givealittle fundraiser page. Donations are ongoing.

This fund only exists because of the generosity of the people and organisations whānau rebuild in the wake of such destruction.

Applications will be considered based on immediate recognised needs in the community and where the applicant has suffered a financial loss or is experiencing financial hardship because of the weather events. While this fund sounds as though it has a lot of money, we also have a lot of need and distribution will be fair to all.

The panel to review applications and allocate the Mayoral Relief Fund comprises Nigel How Chair of Wairoa Taiwhenua, well-respected North Clyde resident Hine Kohn and myself. The panel will also be observed by an independent member of Council's Finance, Assurance and Risk Committee, and the recovery manager.

Receiving funds from the local fund does not prevent people from also applying for additional funds available from other sources including the greater Hawke's Bay Relief Fund, Central Government business support, as well as various individuals and businesses offering help and through

To apply to the Mayoral Relief Fund head to, https://www.wairoadc.govt.

or call into the Wairoa District Council offices to collect a form, or ask for assistance and a staff member will fill out the form with you. Forms and support are also available from the Wairoa i-Site or the Wairoa Young Achievers building on Marine Parade (in the former Westpac

The Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Fund is also accepting applications. This find is for residents and ratepayers of the Hawke's Bay region who

have been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. The fund, organised by the Hawke's

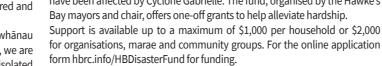
#### WAIROA MAYORAL RELIEF FUND

of Cyclone Gabrielle and the subsequent heavy rainfall event, is open for

that have made donations. These donors wanted the funding to go directly to support Wairoa people who are most in need. We are tremendously grateful for the generosity of hundreds of people whose donations will help our

nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle/wairoa-mayoral-relief-fund?stage=Stage





# **FOR YOUR DIARY** PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

# Infrastructure and **Regulatory Committee:**

Tuesday, April 11, 1.30pm

# **Māori Standing Committee:**

Tuesday, April 18, 1.30pm

**CONTACT US** 







#### **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** 



AND WEEKENDS

10AM - 4PM.

## **ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2023**

5:45 AM

KAIUKU MARAE DAWN SERVICE Mahia East Coast Road | MAHIA

9.00 AM

FRASERTOWN CIVIC SERVICE Carroll Street | FRASERTOWN

**TAIHOA MARAE SERVICE** State Highway 2 | WAIROA

11:00 AM

**WAIROA CIVIC SERVICE** Wairoa War Memorial Hall | WAIROA

