



Mayor Craig Little

## MAYORAL COLUMN

### WAIROA MAYORAL RELIEF FUND

So far around \$440,000 has been distributed to local people who have applied for funding through the Wairoa Mayoral Relief Fund. The purpose of this fund is to assist our people who have been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle, particularly those people whose homes have been stickered.

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.

We have been canvassing hard to attract as many donations and as much support as possible and have been overwhelmed with the generosity shown to date. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed to this fund, without their generosity, it would not exist.

Applications can now be made by scanning the QR Code or via the following link: <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle/wairoa-mayoral-relief-fund>

Assistance is also available at the Recovery Team Office at the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust building (the old Westpac building on the corner of Marine Parade and Paul Street) and if you get really stuck I am personally available to help.

### BRING GAVIN HOME

There has been overwhelming support locally, and from throughout New Zealand, to bring our Wairoa icon Gavin Jones home. Thank you all for your concern and love for Gavin and the many offers of travelling to Rotorua to bring him home, we all want this and believe me we will have a welcome home party when he does get home!

I am working with the Ministry of Disabled People Whaikaha very closely, they have taken this very seriously and I am confident with their support, we will come up with a long-term solution for Gavin and our community.

The TVNZ news piece with John Campbell was exceptional and resulted in nationwide exposure and messages from many people across New Zealand who are supporting our journey.

Unfortunately, Gavin is the face of Wairoa's erosion of services. We need parity and we need to be able to provide Wairoa-based support for everyone in our community.

I urge the providers of the Glengarry rest home to please do everything they can to repair the facility or set up a temporary facility. People like Gavin and our Glengarry rest home residents who were also shipped out of town, need to



be bought back to Wairoa, back to their home, and be assured they will receive the level of care they need. It is heart breaking that we have local people who are being forced to live away from their home, and away from their whānau. I will continue to advocate strongly for our community. I believe I am making some traction, but if we cannot find a way forward very soon, then we need to meet as a community to see how we can do this together and discuss the erosion of localism issues we are experiencing.

### VICIOUS ATTACK

My heart goes out to the local elderly man who was the victim of a home invasion. What happened to him was appalling. To wake up and find someone at the end of your bed and then be attacked is incredibly frightening. He was seriously assaulted and was hospitalised as a result. I visited him at his home, he is a very brave and resilient man and has been overwhelmed with the support he has received from local people. If anyone knows who carried out this cowardly attack please contact the Police, this is really not the Wairoa way.

### RECOVERY

Our Wairoa Recovery team, led by Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri, is making inroads on progressing the rebuild of our town and district.

A co-ordinated approach to silt removal is being trialled and the team is putting in processes for things like asbestos management, how to apply for Red Cross funding and general inquiries.

Some of the work that is being rolled out is using learnings from the Edgumbe flooding in 2017, but there are also a lot of issues that relate directly to Wairoa's experience.

We have a long road of recovery ahead of us, but we are making progress. Already around 12,000 tonnes of silt has been stockpiled with much more silt removal needed, especially from under houses.

The Recovery Team is now channelling all its requests through the Wairoa District Council Customer Service Requests (CSR) system to hopefully meet people's needs in the most efficient way possible by having all requests going to one centralised point.

Wairoa District Council Customer Service Requests can be made in person, by phone, online or by email.

To lodge a Customer Service Request:

- Online form <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request/>
- Phone 06 838 7309
- In-person at the Council
- In-person at the Recovery Team Office at the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust building (the old Westpac building on the corner of Marine Parade and Paul Street)

For more information or an update on any requests that are lodged please email [recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz) or go to the Wairoa Recovery page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wairoarecovery> Well done to the team, the work they are doing is huge. I know not everything

has been rolled out perfectly but please be patient, everyone is working towards the best outcomes for our people.

### ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day is always a poignant commemoration as we remember those who went before us. This year was no exception, and in fact, even more so because of the number of young people who attended and took part in our services.

My day started with the dawn service at Mahia. This ran to a new format which was very smooth and of course, was based on Mahia's famous manaakitanga that welcomed and embraced everyone from locals to visitors. The next stop was the Frasertown service which was really well run and attended with a highlight being the Hamuera Ratana band. This was followed by Taihoa Marae where everyone is always so well looked after. Finally, we had the Civic Service in town which was also a great commemorative event. I also understand the Mohaka event was again well done and well attended. These events are all unique, each location adds its own flavour, and it is a tribute to all those people who arrange these services and those who attend. A special thank you to Bobby Tipuna who played the bugle and Last Post at these services.

Lest we forget.



## FOR YOUR DIARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

### Council meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 1.30pm

### Strategy, Wellbeing and Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, May 23, 1.30pm

### Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee

Tuesday, May 30, 1.30pm

### CONTACT US

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



**WAIROA RECOVERY**  
TE WAIROA KA ORA TE WERO TE TAKI  
STRENGTH x UNITY x RESILIENCE

## Wairoa Recovery - silt removal

A co-ordinated under-house silt removal approach is being rolled out.

For silt removal, please lodge a Customer Service Request:  
• Online form <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request/>  
• Phone 06 838 7309  
• In-person at the Council  
• In-person at the Recovery Team Office at the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust building (the old Westpac building on the corner of Marine Parade and Paul Street)

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## HEY DUCKSHOOTERS

Fish & Game's game bird hunting licences are available now from the i-Site on Paul Street.

**OPEN WEEKDAYS  
BETWEEN  
8.30AM - 4.30PM  
AND WEEKENDS  
10AM - 4PM.**

## IT'S ALL ABOUT MUMS AND DUCKS THIS MAY.

**HEAD TO COUNCIL'S  
FACEBOOK PAGE AND  
TELL US WHY YOUR  
MUM IS THE BEST**

Your post could give you a chance to win a Mother's Day gift. The competition runs from May 1-8.

**POST YOUR  
FAVOURITE DUCK  
SHOOTING PHOTO**

#WDCduckshootingcomp2023  
for your chance to win.  
The competition runs from May 6-13.

