



THE RETURN OF KITAIBARAKI

It has been great to see ties with Wairoa's Japanese Sister City, Kitaibaraki, being restrengthened.

Wairoa and Kitaibaraki have had a strong relationship for around 30 years. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 restrictions, it's been challenging to have a relationship with our Japanese Sister City in recent years.

However, earlier this month, we had a long-awaited and much-anticipated visit from representatives from Kitaibaraki, and it was great to rekindle the friendship.

Wairoa's connection with Kitaibaraki has seen student exchange trips, and we look forward to seeing this relationship grow.

It was an honour to take the group on a tour of the Wairoa district with the visitors particularly impressed with Lake Waikaremoana and the Wai Wai Xpres water taxi service. The six-day-a-week service operates over the peak summer season, transporting people around the lake. The service is proving popular and makes accessibility to Lake Waikaremoana so much easier.

CYCLONE GABRIELLE APEAL TRUST FUNDING ROUND OPEN

The Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal Trust Funding Round is now open. I encourage local groups and organisations to apply.

Thanks to public donations, the Trust has \$14 million to allocate. This includes all donations to the government appeal (including the special Lotto draw) and all interest earned to date.

The Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal Trust is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs. It is open for applications from communities, iwi, hapū and marae in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, East Coast and Hawkes Bay regions and the Tararua district.

Basic Information:

- The funding round opened on 20 March 2024.
- The funding round will close on 29 May 2024.
- Grant decisions will be notified by 25 July 2024.
- Maximum funding request is \$30,000.

Funding objective:

- Support cyclone-impacted communities to recover.

Funding priority:

- Small scale projects with a tangible benefit able to be quickly delivered.

Funding criteria:

- the project is located in an impacted region or district.
- the project is community, iwi, hapū and/or marae-led.
- the project is ready to action as soon as funding is received.
- proof that the project has been completed is easily provided.
- the project is not a grant to individuals.

For more information, including how to apply, please go to www.cycloneappeal.org.nz/

RECOVERY

We are making cyclone recovery progress. A success is that we have now reached just under 100 yellow-stickered residential properties (from 146 at the peak), 162 white-stickered properties (from 198 at the peak), and three red-stickered properties. Our goal remains to get whānau into homes, and we will continue to work hard to achieve this.

It is great to see other signs of recovery, like the opening of the Vista restaurant and the fuel side of the former Mobil Mart. Each of these small milestones is a success and a step towards our community returning to its new normal.

While whānau remain at the centre of Wairoa's cyclone recovery – background changes are underway.

In the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, the Wairoa Recovery Office was initially stood up for 12 months. Now, the work of the Recovery Office will slowly be transitioned into the daily work of the Wairoa District Council.

The council continues to assess the needs and meet the changing requirements where possible.

The Wairoa Recovery Office will continue to operate from the Wairoa airport base in the short-term. However, Wairoa Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri concluded her fixed-term role as Recovery Manager. Council's Group Manager Finance and Corporate Support, Gary Borg, will take the lead as local Recovery Manager for Wairoa.

Thank you Benita, for your hard mahi in a very difficult and challenging role, and welcome Gary to the next stage of rebuilding our district.

The recovery team will slowly be transitioned as the Council absorbs work.

We know there is still a significant need in our community, and the Council will continue supporting Wairoa's recovery wherever possible.



Mayor Craig Little

MEET THE MAYOR KANOHI KI TE KANOHI

If you would like to have a meeting with the Mayor, call the council offices on 06 838 7309 to arrange a meeting time. He is available to meet with people on Wednesdays.

FOR YOUR DIARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, April 9, 10am

ORDINARY COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 9, 1.30pm

ZERO WASTE

Para Kore - the Maori not-for-profit, zero-waste organisation - is bringing experts to Wairoa to share insights into how community groups can turn waste into resources in our rohe. Presenters will include:

Rick Thorpe - one of the founders of Xtreme Zero Waste in Whaingaroa, will share how the community enterprise was established.

Gary Kelk - who is deeply involved in several Community-led Resource Recovery Centres.

Pine Campbell (Ngati Porou, Ngati Kahungunu) - is the Para Kore Waste kaiarahi ki Tairāwhiti and a founder of Xtreme Zero Waste.

The event will be held on Wednesday, 10 April, at the Wairoa Taiwhenua Office from 9:30am to 12 noon. Please RSVP by email: tairawhiti@parakore.maori.nz.