

FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Our district is a stunning summer destination, and it is fantastic to see visitors and whānau flocking to Wairoa for the holiday season.

Wairoa does Christmas well, from the festive lights and flowering Pohutukawa trees through to last weekend's Christmas market and parade, which was a great success. Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported these fun, popular events.

As we move towards 2026, there is much to consider. Central government is sending some very clear messaging around rates capping and there are major reforms to local government, including reviewing how the roles of regional councils operate in the future.

These proposed changes are part of a broader shake-up to simplify planning under the new Resource Management Act (RMA) reforms. The aim is to enable more efficient, less complex regional decision-making by integrating regional functions such as water, transport, and pest control into

a single, consolidated structure.

The government has clearly signalled a focus on the fundamentals of local government, doing the basics well, living within our means and being more transparent and accountable to the community.

While locally, we already try to achieve this transparency, and we simply don't have the funds for the 'flashy stuff', we must continue to ensure value for every ratepayer dollar and remain accountable to those who fund and benefit from our services, ie the ratepayers and the community at large. We must be prudent in how we spend, tighten our belts where possible and demonstrate that every dollar is working for the people we serve.

While we have a lot of work in front of us, it is an exciting time. We have a new, strong, community-focused Council committed to making Wairoa the best it can be.

Along with the elected members, I am supported by Deputy Mayor Benita Cairns, whose hard work is already leading transformation for our town.



It is also a pleasure to have our new Chief Executive, Matt Lawson, on board. Matt has extensive local government experience, and I believe he is the right person to lead the operational side of our Council as we head into the winds of change.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of many Council staff, and also those people in our community who step up for others and are part of Wairoa's fabric and keep us ticking.

On behalf of all the elected members, I am committed to turning challenges into opportunities for our district. I wish everyone a happy holiday season, a Merry Christmas and all the best for a prosperous new year.

Christmas Closures

Council Office

The Queen Street office will close midday Friday, December 19 and re-opens Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Wairoa Library

Closed from midday Friday, December 19 and re-opens on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Visite

Will be closed on Christmas Day only.
Open hours are Weekdays 8.30am - 4.30pm
Weekends 10am - 4.30pm
Statutory Holidays 10am-4.30pm

December 24 and re-opens on Monday, December 29, 2025 6am - 5pm.

New Year's hours: Closed from 12 noon Wednesday, December 31 and reopens on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Wairoa Community Centre

Christmas hours: Closed from 12 noon Wednesday,

Refuse And Recycling

Mahia Recycling

Closed on statutory days only

25th and 26th December 2025
1st and 2nd January 2026
Open all other days from 20th December 2025 – 23rd January 2026 9am – 12pm

Strictly no access outside of these hours.
No flydumping or general waste accepted.

Mahia Refuse Collection – Extra peak season run

In addition to the normal Monday Refuse Collection, an additional collection for Mahia areas will run each Friday between 17th December – 23rd January. This excludes Nuhaka areas. (Prepaid bags only)

Council rubbish bags can be purchased from the Wairoa Landfill and Recycling Centre during opening hours.

Kerbside Collection changes

North Clyde/Frasertown Recycling

- Thursday 25th December will be changed to Monday 22nd December
- Thursday 1st January will be changed to Monday 29th December

Wairoa Recycling Centre and Landfill

Closed on statutory days only

25th and 26th December 2025
1st and 2nd January 2026
Open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 8am – 2pm

All other services remain unchanged

For any Council related services over the holiday break please call the Council's 24/7 number 06 838 7309

The GAIETY Now Showing
December 18 - January 21

Avatar: Fire and Ash PREMIERE

M | 3hr 12m
Thursday 18th December 5.30pm
Saturday 20th December 2pm
Wednesday 24th December 5.30pm
Saturday 27th December 5.30pm
Sunday 28th December 2pm
Saturday 3rd January 2pm
Saturday 10th January 5.30pm
Thursday 15th January 5.30pm

Wicked: For Good

PG | 2hr 18m
Friday 19th December 5.30pm
Sunday 28th December 11.30am

Predator: Badlands

R13 | 1hr 50m
Friday 19th December 8pm

Zootopia 2

G | 1hrs 48m
Sunday 21st December 11.30am
Saturday 27th December 2pm

Now You See Me Now You Don't

M | 1hr 52m
Sunday 21st December 2pm

The Spongebob Movie: Search for Squarepants PREMIERE

G | 1hr 36m
Friday 26th December 5.30pm
Sunday 4th January 11.30am
Sunday 11th January 11.30am
Saturday 17th January 2pm

Anaconda PREMIERE

M | 1hr 40m
Friday 26th December 8pm
Friday 2nd January 8pm
Wednesday 7th January 5.30pm
Friday 9th January 8pm
Friday 16th January 8pm
Saturday 17th January 5.30pm

Five Nights at Freddy's 2

M | 1hr 44m
Saturday 20th December 5.30pm
Wednesday 31st December 5.30pm
Saturday 3rd January 5.30pm
Wednesday 14th January 5.30pm

Song Sung Blue PREMIERE

TBC | 2hr 13m
Friday 2nd January 5.30pm
Sunday 4th January 2pm
Friday 9th January 5.30pm
Friday 16th January 5.30pm
Sunday 18th January 2pm

Grand Prix of Europe PREMIERE

G | 1hr 38m
Thursday 8th January 5.30pm
Saturday 10th January 2pm
Sunday 11th January 2pm
Sunday 18th January 11.30am
Wednesday 21st January 5.30pm

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