



FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE
East Coast Farming Expo

What a terrific event this was. For a small district like Wairoa to attract the calibre of exhibitors and speakers is an outstanding achievement. I attended the expo and was impressed to see many local town and country people attending as well as visitors. I also attended the muster evening where guest speaker, former professional league player Tawera Nikau, inspired the attendees with his honesty and humour – while leaving behind the message that even when faced with adversity, life is all about the attitude you have and the choices you make. Events like this have hugely positive ripple effects for our town and bring extra people to Wairoa. Thank you to organisers Sue Wilson and Dave Martin for their hard work in making the expo happen and to all those people who helped out.

Annual Plan

Council is now working on its Annual Plan, which is based on developing a strategy for the coming year. Our focus is to continue rebuilding our community following the recent flooding events while also developing resilience so the whānau of Wairoa can thrive. We must balance this with an affordable and responsible financial pathway

while still looking ahead. A priority for our Council is accessing government external funding. Without this support, our Council would struggle to keep its head above water.

During the development of our 2024-27 Long-Term Plan, we indicated that to achieve our community outcomes, rates would increase significantly in 2025/26. We are endeavouring to reduce this forecasted rate increase and are again reviewing all Council activities.

New CE recruitment underway

Our recruitment process for a new Chief Executive is underway. Recruitment company Robert Walters New Zealand is managing the process with the position currently being advertised and due to close on March 10.

Council is fortunate to have our current Chief Executive, Kitea Tipuna, still in his position as we start the recruitment process. Kitea announced his resignation late last year after three years in the top spot and a total of 10 years with the local authority.

Elected members have enjoyed a great rapport with Kitea. From the aftermath of COVID-19 to weather and flood events, three waters and a rates review,

Kitea has been the face of the Council, and through his leadership, our town has survived some really tough times. The recruitment process is a big one, and it is essential to get it right.

Development Contributions Policy

We are now consulting on the Council's Development Contributions Policy.

Development Contributions are effectively a levy on new developments to ensure the cost of extra demand on Council infrastructure is not imposed on the community.

Development Contributions apply when you subdivide land, build, alter, or expand a non-residential building, or may apply when you change the use of an existing building. The extent of the Development Contribution required will depend on the type, size, and location of the development.

Wairoa has not had a Development Contributions Policy in the past as we wanted to attract growth. However, in line with the actions of other Councils, we need to balance that with the cost of providing infrastructure and facilities. For more information, head to the Council's website. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Rural Travel Fund

Keeping our tamariki and rangatahi active is rewarding, but it can come at a financial cost.

The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund is designed to help subsidise rural travel for junior teams aged between 5-19 years and to help school and club sports teams participate in local sporting competitions.

The annual funding round for the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund is now open and closes on Friday, April 28.

The fund is a great way to support local kids in their sporting endeavours by removing the barrier of travel costs and increasing participation and access to a range of sports.

The fund does have criteria to meet, and recipients will be required to complete an accountability report showing how the grant was spent.

The fund is administered by the Wairoa District Council, with staff happy to assist potential applicants with the application form, which is available online, or a hard copy can be collected from the Wairoa District Council office.

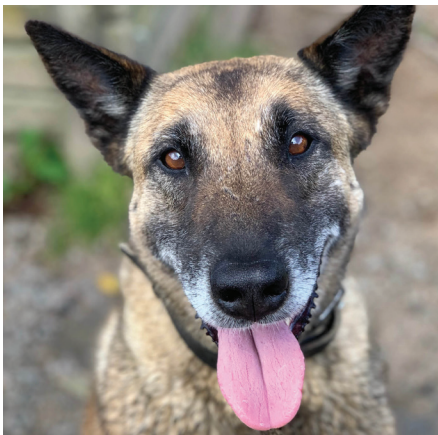
For further information, please phone the Wairoa District Council on 06 838 7309 or email Community Development Officer latoya@wairoac.govt.nz or go to www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-district/grants-funding/creative-communities-nz

Preparing your pets for an emergency

Having an emergency plan is recommended for all families. This plan should include your pets too! Follow the steps below to make sure your pet is safe during a disaster.

Put together an emergency kit for your pets. Your pet's emergency kit will need:

- A lead, collar, muzzle, a carrier, and a toy (optional),
- Bedding and/or blankets
- Enough food and water for at least 3 days
- Bowls for food and water
- Any medications and first aid supplies
- Your contact information
- Vaccination records, microchip number and registration number.



In the event of flooding, any large animals and/or livestock should be moved to a paddock that is away from floodwaters and power lines. Ensure animals have food, water, and shelter and are secured.

For more info call 06 838 7309 or email compliance@wairoadc.govt.nz

THE DIGITAL HUB

Free Computer Course Dates.

Intro to smartphones

Learn how to use the functions of your smartphone for everyday life
Friday 7 March 10am - 11.30am

Intro to tablets

Learn how to navigate your tablet, connect to the internet and use apps (tablets supplied for course).
Friday 14 March 10am - 11.30am

Email 1 - (Setting up an email account)

This is intended for people who don't have an email account and would like to set one up.
Friday 21 March 10am - 11.30am

1-on-1 Drop in session

A 1-on-1 drop in session for assistance with your personal devices, from laptops, and tablets to smartphones.
Friday 28 March 10am - 11.30am

Enquire at Wairoa Library or call 06 838 4658

COUNCIL MEETINGS

COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, March 4, 10am

ORDINARY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 4, 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 11, 10am

YOUTH COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 11, 3.30pm

FINANCE, ASSURANCE, AND RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 25, 12.30pm



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.

GAITY Now Showing
February 27 - March 6

Captain America:
Brave New World

M | 2hr 5m
Wednesday 26th February 5.30pm
Friday 28th February 8pm
Wednesday 5th March 5.30pm

TINĀ PREMIERE

M | 2hrs 4m
Thursday 27th February 5.30pm
Sunday 2nd March 2pm

A Complete Unknown

M | 2hrs 20m
Friday 28th February 5.30pm

Alien Weaponry:
Kua Tupu Te Ara

M | 1hrs 39m
Saturday 1st March 5.30pm

Sonic the Hedgehog 3

PG | 1hr 50m
Sunday 2nd March 11.30am

Mickey 17 PREMIERE

TBC | 2hr 17m
Thursday 6th March 5.30pm

