

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

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Rural community resilience

Building resilience for rural communities and moving forward together is a priority for the Wairoa District Council Civil Defence Emergency Management Project Team.

Working alongside Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management, the Council is actively meeting with rural communities to help plan emergency preparedness.

Wairoa Civil Defence Controller Juanita Savage said it is vital Wairoa learns from the weather and flood events that it has been through.

"We know preparedness is key, and it is great to see so many rural communities taking the initiative to look after themselves. Council wants to be part of this planning and looks forward to helping and assisting, but people must take responsibility for looking after themselves and each other. Our role is to facilitate and connect, we are not here to take over.

"Since Cyclone Gabrielle, many improvements have been made, including improved roading and communication connectivity, emergency pods, and an awareness of what needs to be done. During and after the cyclone, we had hundreds of rural people who were isolated due to road slips and dropouts, and we know this could happen again. There is still a lot of work ahead of us, but I am encouraged by the community response that we are seeing.

"Rural communities are stepping up by developing central hubs around halls, marae or emergency pod containers, and building community structures



Wairoa District Council staff and the Ruakituri community are moving forward together to build emergency preparedness.

around that hub. Their motivation is people first while planning how to respond to an emergency and function in isolation."

Mrs Savage said Council staff recently caught up with The Guardians of Ruakituri group, which provided a great example of how communities are planning to look after themselves.

Ruakituri Hall Committee members James Brownlie and Di Roadley said the challenges with accessibility and closures of the Te Reinga Bridge, which started back in March 2022, have demonstrated the Ruakituri community has responded and functioned well.

"The committee now wants to drill down on those responses, and with a Ruakituri Community Plan now developed, we need to be deliberate in our next steps and facilitate more preparedness. We want to be prepared for complete isolation for at least three days and a longer-term plan for partial isolation."

The solar option increases power supply resilience by reducing reliance on power lines and electricity supply while also lowering electricity bills as the sites generate their own electricity.

Those involved with the halls and marae are now learning how to maximise solar power.

Based on the success of the local rollout, Wairoa has now been invited to apply for additional solar funding through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA).

Potential sites, again based on a strict risk matrix, have been submitted for consideration, and the Council is awaiting the outcome.

Meanwhile, district halls at Kotemaori and Putere have also received attention through predominantly DIA funding secured by the Council. The aim has been to upgrade the halls to a weatherproof level to improve their capability during an emergency. The council will continue to proactively secure external funding to upgrade more halls around the district.

The community has carried out a feasibility study with the next steps including attracting funding to upgrade the Ruakituri Hall.

"The aim is to have the hall functioning and able to stand up in an emergency. Work is funding-dependent and will be rolled out in stages, including rewiring and water management, providing overnight capability and ablutions. The overarching principle is to be strategic in building community resilience and emergency preparedness, including appropriate resourcing."

Additional areas the committee has identified to work on include funding for ongoing running costs of the hall, solar power, emergency supplies and the connection of the local Radio network to the Wairoa CD base.

Mrs Savage said the Council will continue to work with rural communities as facilitators to support them in building resilience.

WAIROA DISTRICT ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE

The temporary Te Reinga Bridge will be closed daily to all traffic from 7am to 5pm, Monday, May 12 to Friday, May 16.

Pursuant to section 342(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that the Wairoa District Council, for the purpose of completing bridge approach repairs.

Closure of Te Reinga Bridge daily from 7am - 5pm from Monday, May 12 - Friday, May 16. The bridge will reopen 5pm Friday, May 16.

Pedestrian access can be accommodated if required.

Any further queries can be directed to the Wairoa District Council on 06 838 7309.

Malcolm Alexander
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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.



Solar panels and storage have been installed at the Tuai Hall as part of a climate change resilience project.

Improving rural resilience

Four local sites have had solar panels and storage installed as part of a climate change resilience project.

The Wairoa District Council successfully secured \$400,000 to install solar panels at four local sites as part of a post-Cyclone Gabrielle pilot phase.

The War Memorial Hall, Taihoa Marae, Tuai Hall, and Kotemaori Hall were selected as part of the programme, with the sites chosen based on strict criteria. Each system cost around \$100,000.

The last installation has just been completed with positive community feedback.

Mahia Recycling Centre

Community Engagement meeting is being held 5pm Thursday, 8th of May at Mokotahi Hall.

After Hours Service

If there is an outage to a Council service outside of regular business hours please call 06 838 7309 - 24/7.



Dog Registration Payment Plan.

Setting up a payment plan over the year can help reduce the pinch when it is annual registration time.

To find out more www.wairoadc.govt.nz/services/animal-education/dog-owners

The GAIETY Now Showing May 8 - 15

TINĀ

M | 2hr 4m

Sunday 11th May 2pm

Thunderbolts

M | 2hr 6m

Thursday 8th May 5.30pm

Friday 9th May 5.30pm

Wednesday 14th May 5.30pm

Sinners PREMIERE

R16 | 2hr 17m

Friday 9th May 8pm

A Minecraft Movie

PG | 1hrs 41m

Saturday 10th May 2pm

Drop

R16 | 1hr 25m

Saturday 10th May 5.30pm

Dog Man

PG | 1hr 34m

Sunday 11th May 11.30am

Final Destination: Bloodlines PREMIERE

R16 | 1hr 49m

Thursday 15th May 5.30pm

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