



Re-elected Mayor Craig Little

Local Council Elections

I am honoured and grateful to be re-elected as your Mayor.

Based on the preliminary election results, I believe Wairoa will be well represented for the next three years with General Ward elected members

Jeremy Harker, Roz Thomas, and Sara Bird, and Māori Ward representatives Trevor Waikawa, Benita Cairns, and Michelle Tahuri.

Thank you to everyone who supported me and others in this election. I am looking forward to working with our returning councillors and also the fresh energy our new elected members will bring to the table. And whether you voted for me or not, my promise is I will do my best for our district.

I would like to acknowledge all those candidates who stood in this year's election. In particular, Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, former deputy mayor, who has contributed so much to our town. There are many passionate and capable people in our community, and although there weren't enough positions for everyone, I value the energy and ideas you brought to the table.

I would also like to recognise colleagues I have worked with over the past years who have either stepped away or were not re-elected. You have made

tremendous contributions to your communities, and this is appreciated. In Hawke's Bay, I am the only incumbent Mayor to have been re-elected, and I look forward to working with a new set of regional leaders, as well as with the returned Tairāwhiti Mayor, Rehette Stoltz.

Also, a big shout-out to Wairoa voters, where we were well ahead of the national voting numbers with our preliminary returns at just over 53% and slightly up on the 2022 election.

As we all know, Wairoa is recovering from tough times, but I do feel that we have a real sense of enthusiasm in our community. I am committed to using my experience, relationships and proven leadership to support our community to thrive.

There is a lot of work ahead of us, and I am excited to serve our district, address our priorities, and build a brighter future together.

The final results are expected on Friday, 17 October, if not before.

The GAIETY Now Showing October 16 - 23

Black Phone 2 PREMIERE

R16 | 1hrs 54m

Thursday 16th October 5.30pm

Friday 17th October 8pm

Prime Minister

M | 1hrs 41m

Friday 17th October 5.30pm

Thursday 23rd October 5.30pm

Demon Slayer: Infinity Castle

R13 | 2hrs 35m

Sunday 19th October 2pm

Sketch

PG | 1hr 32m

Saturday 18th October 2pm

The Conjuring: Last Rites

R16 | 2hrs 15m

Saturday 18th October 5.30pm

Wednesday 22nd October 5.30pm

Bad Guys 2

PG | 1hr 44m

Sunday 19th October 11.30am

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GREAT Business People

287 Café and Motels new summer hotspot for Wairoa

287 is bringing a buzz back to Wairoa

After sitting closed for years, the doors at 287 are open once more — and the place is humming with life again. The reboot is thanks to Te Whare Maire o Tapuwae, which bought the site in 2023. Since then, a dedicated local team has been working to breathe new life into the local treasure.

The new hotspot blends great food, comfortable accommodation, and a warm community vibe. The site, less than 3km from town on SH2 south, has been given a refresh, with five motel units available, including a spacious family suite and a fully accessible unit alongside three well-appointed standard rooms. Whether it's visitors coming to explore the coast or locals needing a handy stayover option, 287 Motels provides comfort with a personal touch.

Right next door, the café is also taking off.

287 operational manager, Toni Whakatope, has a background in hospitality, and says it's great to be offering another venue option for the community. "Our location is perfect, we are close enough to town that it's only a few minutes' drive, and we also attract a lot of passing traffic."

Toni and her husband Chris, a Wairoa local, came home a few years ago, with Toni enjoying the challenge of putting 287 on the map again.

"Since the café opened in February, it has quickly become a favourite meeting spot. We are looking forward to summer and people sitting on the spacious deck overlooking the river — it really is the perfect outside spot."

Trained chef Juanita Waihaki from Mahia is at the helm, with the kitchen serving up a menu that balances classic Kiwi favourites with something a little different. Popular go tos are the steak sandwiches and fish and chips, with other options including a BLT sandwich, sliders, and a beef burger. Plus, there is a full breakfast menu from a classic brekky to waffles and a range of fruit smoothies.

Another drawcard is the freshly made baking, from scones to a variety of muffin flavours. On the specials board, Mexican-inspired dishes add an exciting twist, and there's always a range of daily and weekly specials inspired by seasonal availability.

Fully licensed, the café is the perfect place to soak up Wairoa's sunshine. For groups and events, 287 offers catering options that scale from intimate functions on site for up to 60 people, to off-site finger food catering for up to 200 people - with all bookings by arrangement.

With the arrival of summer, the café will provide an evening meal from 5pm on Friday and Saturday nights, depending on bookings. Smorgasbords and set menus can be tailored to suit, making it a versatile venue for celebrations, gatherings, or a romantic dinner for two.

Staff-wise, the team are enjoying the hospitality trade and working towards their qualifications. "We have a great group, they are all so keen. Plus, we are always on the lookout for casual cleaning and café staff."

Already becoming a "go-to" destination, 287 is also looking to showcase local artwork and bring even more creative flair into the space. With a committed team and a passion for innovation, 287 Café & Motels is re-establishing itself as a popular option for locals and visitors alike.



Open six days from Tuesday to Sunday from 8am-3pm and from 5pm on Friday and Saturday nights. Make your reservation now by phoning 06 838 6601.



If you have a great business or service to promote, please contact Wairoa District Council at: ed@wairoadc.govt.nz