



# WAIROA IN FOCUS

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## FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Last week's weather events impacted much of the country, and my heart goes out to those communities who were impacted, and especially those whānau who lost family members.

I really understand the anxiety our community goes through when these weather events are happening, and we know what a difficult and long challenge recovery is.

Locally, our district was under an orange heavy rain warning, and because of the early messaging we received from MetService and our flood forecaster, we were able to stand up a Civil Defence Incident Management Team to gather intel and ensure emergency responses were in place if needed. I have full confidence in our local Civil Defence team, led by controller Juanita Savage.

Wairoa also received tremendous inter-agency support. I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone, both locally and from out of the district, for supporting us. Thank you also to community members for sharing

information. We were fortunate the impact wasn't as severe this time around, but we must remember that no matter how prepared we are, we cannot control Mother Nature.

A key factor in last week's event was that the Hawke's Bay Regional Council had opened the Wairoa River mouth at a new optimal location, allowing the bar to work as it should and to be further widened by the volume of water.

A large amount of rain fell in the upper catchment, but because the bar was open, while the river swelled, the water also quickly pushed out to sea, reducing the risk of flooding. This approach aligns with what our local people have been saying for years, and it is great that it worked.

### Catch up with Mayor Craig Kanohi ki te Kanohi Face to Face

If you have anything you would like to discuss with the Mayor, please call the council offices on 06 838 7309 to arrange a meeting time. The Mayor is available to meet on Wednesdays or by appointment.



Wairoa Mayor Craig Little

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Ordinary Meeting of Council**  
Tuesday, February 3, 1pm

**Environment & Economic Development Committee**  
Tuesday, February 10, 1pm

**Assurance, Risk & Infrastructure Committee**  
Tuesday, February 17, 1pm

**Māori Standing Committee**  
Tuesday, February 24, 1pm



Friday 6 February 9am - 12pm  
Manukanui Pa | Wairoa Library Green

# GREAT Business People

## RAY WHITE WAIROA

**W**airoa is geared for growth, and Ray White Wairoa is committed to partnering with the district.

Business director and property investment specialist Hamish Harrison describes Wairoa as having a real feeling of energy and community spirit, and on the pathway to expansion.

Ray White (CO-LAB Real Estate) is a new business with Wairoa initially covered by Gisborne before setting up the central Marine Parade Wairoa office last year.

The business works in real estate sales and rentals, including property management.

"We believe it is great for the community, from landlords to tenants and house sellers to house buyers, to have a choice - and a locally based office. Ray White Wairoa specialises in residential, lifestyle and rural property sales as well as full-service property management. Hamish describes the approach as proactive, transparent and tailored, providing expert guidance and dedicated support from start to finish.

Hamish explains that the CO-LAB part of the business name refers to working collaboratively with clients to find solutions. "We focus on the client, and our point of difference is that everyone from within our team works collaboratively to get the best results. We work together, we share everything, and the referrals we receive and the repeat business we pick up are testimony to that."

The Ray White Gisborne and Wairoa team proved it was walking the talk by picking up the July 2024-June 2025 award for 'Small Property Management Office of

the Year' for the Ray White Group.

Renee Lynch has been looking after the property management side of the Wairoa business for just over a year. Renee's partner, Rob Wallis, has Wairoa connections and, with a background in civil works, came home to help the family clean up after Cyclone Gabrielle. He enjoyed the slower pace of life and being back in Wairoa so much that the family relocated from Auckland, making Wairoa home.

Renee's work covers the district managing properties at Mahia, Nuhaka, Tuai and beyond. In addition to long-term tenancies, Ray White also assists with short-term accommodation needs. The business prides itself on providing a personalised experience, whether you are looking for accommodation for one night, one month or one year. "We have a lot of contacts and always work something out."

Renee also provides rental inspections, 360-degree condition inspections, tenancy advice and appraisals, with the team always looking to take on new properties.

Hamish and Renee say having a main street presence and being even more involved with the community has been a great step forward. The office is open daily, although the team might be out and about, so it's best to make an appointment.

Hamish described the Gisborne and Wairoa offices as growing organically. "The East Coast has had a hard couple of years, but it feels like the injection of resources and time that we have had following the weather events is now giving the region a new energy and exciting times ahead."



**Ray White**

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