



Wairoa Mayor Craig Little



FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE HIGH-POWERED EVENTS

How fantastic to have had two successful community events held in Wairoa this month.

The weekend's Wairoa River Power Boat Racing and Water Ski Racing was a tremendous visual spectacle. The local organisers did a great job of attracting such high-powered entries. The feedback I received was around how great it was to have the Wairoa River once again at the centre of so much action and activity. I hope this event will be the first of many.

Last week, we also had the East Coast Farming Expo held at the racecourse. The expo is a two-day event featuring interactive exhibits and seminars for sheep and beef farmers on the East Coast.

For me, a highlight was the muster evening where Tiniroto boxer Shane Cameron, the Mountain Warrior, was the guest speaker. Shane has gone from farmer to boxer to businessman. Having a local speaker meant the audience could really relate, and Shane's honesty and willingness to share his journey were really motivational.

The expo was launched around 10 years ago with Sue Wilson and Dave Martin key drivers. The purpose of the event was to create a sheep and beef-specific event in Wairoa, with the expo utilising Wairoa's geographical location between Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti. This event has made our town the focus of what is becoming a regionally recognised agricultural occasion.

I was impressed by the calibre of the seminars and exhibitors, and particularly by the fact that all this was on our doorstep – we didn't have to leave home to access it.

My one plea is that next year, when the expo returns, please support this event

Work on the Black's Beach coastline resilience project is progressing.



Wairoa District Council elected members and staff at the Black's Beach project.

so we don't lose it. I did enjoy seeing a wide range of locals in attendance, but I know that there are even more people who could attend and would really enjoy the day out.

MAHIA SITE VISIT

Council's elected members spent an afternoon at Mahia recently, catching up with Council-related projects and with members of the community.

Our first stop was the Black's Beach coastline resilience project, which uses rock revetment to protect the coastline from erosion. As the only sealed access to Opoutama and Mahia, reliable and safe connectivity is a priority.

We also visited the Mahanga's Happy Jack's crossing, which, over the years, has gone from a trickle to a stream. We support the community and agree that action is needed to prevent flooding, and our Council is advocating for this to happen.

Other sites of interest included erosion hot spots, a look at the slash and debris at Taylor's Bay, and the new playground and courts.

That evening, Council was kindly

invited to the Mahia Community Hui at Mokotahi Hall. This was a great opportunity for us to talk about the Local Government Reorganisation Proposal.

A key point to come out of the meeting was the frustration of people not knowing which roles and responsibilities sit under the Wairoa District Council and which sit under the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

The government's proposal involves the disestablishment of regional councils, with the interim governance being a collaborative board (CTB) comprising the region's Mayors.

We see this reorganisation as an opportunity to streamline processes, reduce bureaucracy, and avoid a division between local and regional approaches.

Locally, it is vital that we understand our resources and potential, and how they can be managed. We also need to clarify roles and functions going forward. Cross-overs and grey areas around which entity does what are not helpful, and I share the frustration of our communities.

Council Meetings

Council Forum

Tuesday, March 3, 10am

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Tuesday, March 3, 1pm

Assurance, Risk & Infrastructure Committee

Tuesday, March 17, 1pm

Council Forum

Tuesday, April 7, 10am

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Tuesday, April 7, 1pm

Catch up with Mayor Craig Kānohi ki te Kānohi 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.

The GAIETY Now Showing February 26 - March 5

Epic: Elvis Presley in Concert PREMIERE

PG | 1hr 36m

Thursday 26th February 5.30pm

Thursday 5th March 5.30pm

GOAT

PG | 1hr 40m

Saturday 28th February 2pm

Sunday 1st March 11.30am

Mārama

R16 | 1hr 53m

Sunday 1st March 2pm

Wuthering Heights PREMIERE

G | 1hr 36m

Wednesday 4th March 5.30pm

Crime 101

M | 2hr 15m

Friday 27th February 5.30pm

Scream 7 PREMIERE

R16 | 1hr 54m

Friday 27th February 8pm

Saturday 28th February 5.30pm

Coming Soon

Project Hail Mary

Ready or Not 2: Here I come

Hoppers

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