



Wairoa Mayor
Craig Little



Architectural winners



FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE

What a fabulous result to have the Te Wairoa e Whanake, Ahi Kōmau Gemmell's on Parade & Wairoa Visitor Information Centre chosen as the winner of the Commercial Architecture category in the 2026 Gisborne/Hawke's Bay Regional Architecture Awards.

The win was announced on Friday night (May 1) at the regional awards night held in Napier. It was fantastic to be at this event with locally based architects of the complex, Matteo Garbagnati and Gabriela Kopacikova

of the Collaborative Projects Studio. This talented couple, along with other partners and community input, created a design that wove the old with the new and has proven that Wairoa is leading the way.

The main street development was one of 16 projects shortlisted for the 2026 Gisborne/Hawke's Bay Regional Architecture Awards.

From a local and visitor's perspective, we know how great this area looks now. The development has modernised Marine Parade, and the

transformation is quite amazing compared to the burnt-out, unused buildings that were there before. Redeveloping this area has been a massive undertaking involving many hardworking people, with support from the Central Government and what was then the Provincial Growth Fund. This award is a testament to Wairoa's vision of transforming an eyesore into a functional, modern space while retaining its heritage. Thank you to everyone involved, and congratulations again to Matteo and Gabriela for your outstanding design work.

Authentic ANZAC experience

Wairoa's ANZAC Day is authentic and real, with commemorations carried out in all pockets of our district.

This year, my wife Jan and I attended our first Mohaka Dawn service at the Wai-Papa-A-Iwi Marae. This was a very touching experience, with many attending.

I was very grateful that Deputy Mayor Benita Cairns was able to carry out the official duties at the Kaiuku Marae, Mahia, Dawn service, which was another memorable event.



We then all met up at Taihoa Marae, where the commemorations were led by Minister Jackie Te Amo, RSA President Jeremy Harker, and Army personnel Hemi Morete, Shannon Tahu, and Toddy Rogers.

Next stop was the Frasertown service, led by Glenys Single and Mike Wilson, with Moose Tipuna leading the Ratana brass band.

It was then to the top cemetery for wreath-laying and onto the Civic service, led by Minister Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke.

Services were also held at Nuhaka, Whakaki and Waikaremoana, and it would be great if we could connect these services to our Civic Anzac Day journey.

Thank you to the Army personnel, Hemi, Shannon and Toddy, for giving up their day for Wairoa. Your presence is so significant and special. I would also like to acknowledge all those people who organise the ANZAC services across the district, especially Latoya Tipuna, for setting the schedule, Bobby Tipuna, the lady behind the bugle, supported by Mum Lynn, Susan Tipuna and Manaia Hall for your beautiful singing. Plus, thank you to those involved in the three-gun salute and the floral artists who made the wreaths.

Most of all, I would like to thank all of you who turned up to remember the ultimate sacrifice of those who served and the many who are still in the Armed Forces and the Services.

THE DIGITAL HUB

Free Computer Course Dates

Intro to AI - ChatGPT

Friday 15 May 10am-11.30am

Learn what ChatGPT is, how to set up and use it, and what it can be used for.

1-on-1 Drop in Session

Friday 22 May 10am-11.30am

A 1-on-1 drop in session for assistance with your personal devices, from laptops to tablets and smart phones.

Intro to Digital Banking

Friday 29 May 10am-11.30am

Get to know banking online and gain the confidence to move into digital banking. No personal bank information required.

Enquire at Wairoa Library or call 06 838 4658

Council Meetings

Matangirau Reserves Board

Tuesday, May 12, 1pm

Assurance, Risk & Infrastructure Committee

Wednesday, May 27, 1pm

Council Forum

Tuesday, June 2, 10am

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Tuesday, June 2, 1pm

Environment & Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, June 9, 1pm

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.

The
GAITY Cinema & Theatre
Now Showing
May 7 - 14

Mortal Kombat 2 PREMIERE

R16 | 1hr 56m

Thursday 7th May 5.30pm

Saturday 9th May 5.30pm

SGT. Haane

M | 1hr 28m

Friday 8th May 5.30pm

The Devil Wears Prada 2

M | 1hr 53m

Friday 8th May 8pm

Wednesday 13th May 5.30pm

Thursday 14th May 5.30pm

Hoppers

PG | 1hr 45m

Saturday 9th May 2pm

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie

PG | 1hr 38m

Sunday 10th May 11.30am

Michael

M | 2hr 10m

Sunday 10th May 2pm