



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Duo return to Building Control team

Familiar faces have returned to take up positions in the Wairoa District Council building department. Danny McCaul has taken over the Building Control Officer role left vacant following the recent retirement of Garth Duley. Danny is no stranger to WDC, having spent some time here relieving back in 2009, when he was employed for the Hastings District Council. Brioney Court has also returned to the building department, in the role of Building Control Administration Officer. Led by Corinne Hamlin, the Building Control team is responsible for processing building consents from the initial application stage, right through to signing off on the final inspection.

Most people will only apply for a building consent once or twice in their lifetime – and it can be a confusing process to embark on. It is important to understand what forms need to be filled in and what information needs to be submitted with the forms in order for the process to run smoothly, Corinne says. "Staff are more than happy to work through the process with you, just call in and have a chat so that we can get you underway," Corinne said.

WDC staff have 20 days to process an application for consent. However, if all the requested information is not provided or needs clarifying, the application is put on hold. Since 2005 WDC has maintained a 100 percent 20 day processing record.

Applications for consent can be downloaded from the WDC website (www.wairoadc.govt.nz) or picked up from the council offices on Queen Street.

Council would like to stress that having a Building consent protects you, the home/building owner. They aren't just a necessary evil. They are also an assurance that compliant commercial buildings will be safe, healthy, sustainable and able to be used by everyone.

Building consents are a formal approval granted by council, under the Building Act, that allows a person

to carry out building work. The Building Act covers the construction, alteration, demolition or removal of new or existing buildings. It sets standards and procedures for people involved in building work to ensure buildings are safe, healthy and built right the first time. Council grants a building consent only when it is satisfied the proposed



Familiar faces ... Building Control Officer Danny McCaul and Building Control Administration Officer Brioney Court rejoin the team at Council.

building work will meet the requirements of the Building Code. Most building work requires a building consent but there are exemptions in certain cases. Usually exempt work is minor or low risk in nature and does not significantly affect public safety, the structural integrity or fire safety components of a building.

But please note that all building work, regardless of whether a building consent is required, must comply with the New Zealand Building Code and other relevant legislation.

The Draft Annual Plan 2011/12 is now out for public consultation.

If you are interested in what's planned for the district this year and want to have a say, then now is the time to make a submission.

The Draft Annual Plan can be viewed online (www.wairoadc.govt.nz) or view a copy at Council offices on Queen Street or at the Wairoa Public Library.

Submissions must be made on the official form and be in by 12 noon on Friday, June 17.

Rural recovery rolls out

Flood recovery work is ongoing at the Wairoa District Council, with Enhanced Taskforce Green teams now out in the field helping to restore order to affected farms.

Three crews of six are working their way around the district, carrying out work directed by farmers at Mahia, the area between Waiatai Valley to Nuhaka and south of Wairoa township.

Recovery Manager Des Jane said around 60 farmers responded to a survey to report damage.

"About 25 farms are severely affected, so we are focusing on them at present. We'll have the crews out working for about 12 weeks, then reassess the situation," he said.

The crews are made up of local workers, most of whom have experience in general farm work. Meanwhile, WDC engineering staff have been focused on overseeing the repair of the many roads that were affected by the flood.

IBU Manager Michelle Meyer said that along with drop-outs and slip clearing, contractors were also working on replacing lost metal and repairing damage caused by water runoff across roads.

Sober driving takes spotlight for Youth Week

Stand up, be heard, take responsibility and be YOUTH – that's the message going out to Wairoa's young people this week to mark Youth Week 2011. To support this theme, YROA YNOT and Roadsafes Hawke's Bay are running the SOBA.D Campaign to fill youth in about the impacts of mixing alcohol and driving. Wairoa College students had the chance to participate in a lunchtime session on Tuesday that included a Sober Driver Game competition and vision impairment scenarios, while Year 12 students went into more

depth with workshops to explore messages around the SOBA.D branding.

Getting the word out about sober driving continues today, with the whole community invited to attend an interactive experience at the Wairoa Community Centre from 10am to 2pm.

A highlight is having a go with the fatal vision goggles that simulate how judgement and control is affected after drinking alcohol. The simple task of putting a key in a car ignition becomes almost impossible, let alone hitting the road (which participants will NOT be trying while

wearing the goggles).

Police and Kahungunu Executive are also getting behind the SOBA.D campaign this week.

Statistics for Wairoa over the past decade paint an alarming picture when it comes to drink driving. In the district, 44 percent of all recorded crashes are alcohol related with 34.5 percent of all crashes being attributed to 15-24 year old drivers. 77percent were male drivers. On average alcohol related crashes in the Wairoa District kill least one person (15 fatal injuries between 2000 – 2011) and seriously injure five people each year (50 serious injuries between 2000-2011).

Alcohol related injuries in the Wairoa District alone have an average annual social cost of \$7.7 million. This encompasses loss of life, quality of life, medical costs, loss of output, legal costs and property damage. Crash data tells us that serious crashes involving young people are more likely to involve loss of control, high speeds, alcohol/drugs, distraction and usually occur at night. Age, inexperience and risk taking are among the primary underlying causes of these crashes.

Have a go ... People at this year's A & P Show had the chance to try the fatal vision goggles that simulate the affect alcohol can have on judgement and co-ordination. Visitors to the Youth Week 2011 SOBA.D experience at the Wairoa Community Centre today will have a chance to try the goggles, as well as learn plenty more about the sober driving message.



For the diary:

Council meetings:

June 14
July 12
August 9
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

Forum:

June 28
July 26
August 23
September 27
October 25
November 22

Maori Standing Committee:

May 27*
July 1
July 29*
August 26
September 30*
October 28
November 25*

*Meeting will be held on a marae

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers in the Queen Street offices and are open to the public, unless otherwise specified.

For more information phone 838 7309 or visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz