



# Wairoa In Focus

*Your Community, Your Future*

## Council identity takes final bow

A Wairoa District Council stalwart is saying goodbye as a quarter of a century of service draws to a close. Well-known throughout the district, Doug Waugh began his time at council as part of the team carrying out hydatids control, dosing dogs in an intensive programme to eradicate the disease.

Close ties with farmers formed as Doug worked in partnership with them to develop dog-proof killing houses and freezing capabilities that met the criteria of the programme. The strength of these relationships was evidenced when the Wairoa District became the first to reach a 95 percent completion rate for the hydatids programme.

Over the ensuing years, Doug has turned his hand to many roles within Council. One of the most lasting is his involvement with Civil Defence. Following Cyclone Bola, Doug took on the role of Civil Defence Officer to set up a formal response plan for the area. Using the networks he had established during the hydatids programme, Doug worked with rural communities to divide the district into sectors, establishing warden response teams and community links.

"People were very keen to be a part of Civil Defence. Bola hit everyone hard and taught us all a few lessons about vulnerability. Farmers were already fairly self-sufficient, but plenty went out and invested in generators after that storm," Doug said.

A sterling example of a multi-tasker, Doug has also carried out stints as Parking Warden and Rural Fire Officer. However, it is his role as Animal Control Officer that most will associate him with.



Along with the rest of the compliance team, Doug is charged with making the district a safe place for both people and animals alike by enforcing by-laws.

Dogs are his main area of expertise, and he clearly has a passion for them. "A dog is only as good as its owner. If it's well-trained and looked after, there are no problems. It's only when a dog falls into the wrong hands that it can become as lethal as a gun." While he has had to deal with his fair share of incidents over the years, Doug believes there has been a change in attitude for the better, helped by stricter by-law enforcement.

"Based on what I've seen, I would

like to see people having to have a license to own a dog rather than dog registration. It would solve a lot of problems," he said.

After working with three Mayors and three CEOs, he feels it is now time to draw a close to what has been a varied and valuable time at council. He will keep his hand in as a Civil Defence volunteer, and will keep up his community involvement with the Wairoa Racing Club. Maintaining his status as a national champion gun dog trialler is also sure to keep him busy, and the Wairoa whitebait had better watch out too.

**Farewell and thank-you Dougie, from the Wairoa District Council.**

## WDC websites live this week

Go online and visit four new websites launched by Wairoa District Council this week. Modern and fresh, the websites cover WDC, the library, i-Site and YROA YNOT. Each has its own look and can be accessed through its own domain name.

Administration Manager James Baty said creating the sites involved a lot of behind-the-scenes work with Napier-based web agency Xplore, and it was great to be at the 'go-live' stage. "The purpose of the websites is to act as a tool for people, be it to find accommodation through the i-Site, learn about building consents on the council site, find YROA YNOT events, or connect with e-books at the library. We've aimed to make these sites simple to use and relevant," he said. "While WDC already had a website, it was in need of an upgrade to bring it in-line with what is offered by other councils. It was a logical step to create the other sites as portals off the main site, but with the advantage of having their own domain names." The websites will continue to evolve and staff are expecting to receive plenty of feedback.

**Visit the new websites here:**

[www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)

[www.wairoalibrary.co.nz](http://www.wairoalibrary.co.nz)

[www.visitwairoa.co.nz](http://www.visitwairoa.co.nz)

[www.yroaynot.co.nz](http://www.yroaynot.co.nz)

## For the diary:

### Council Meetings:

May 8  
June 12  
July 10  
August 14  
September 11  
October 9  
November 13  
December 11

### Council Forum:

May 22  
June 26  
July 24  
August 28  
September 25  
October 23  
November 27

### Maori Committee:

April 17  
May 25  
June 29  
July 27  
August 31  
September 28  
October 26  
November 30  
Meetings and forums are held in the Council Chambers in the Queen Street offices and are open to the public, unless otherwise specified.

## Have your say on Maori wards

Voting forms to determine if Wairoa District Council will have Maori wards in the next election should be arriving in mail boxes this week. The poll is being carried out as a result of a petition presented to Council earlier this year, requesting to overturn a decision to delay the poll until the 2013 election and instead hold one immediately. All local electors should receive a voting form, asking them to tick 'for' or 'against' the establishment of Maori wards, then return the form before 12 noon on Saturday, May 19.

If the majority of voters are in favour of introducing Maori wards, Council will undertake a detailed review of its representation arrangements, including the number of general and Maori wards, the number of representatives for those wards, and ward boundaries and names.

The review must be completed by August 31, 2012. There will be a right to make submissions on the Council's proposals and a right of appeal to the Local Government Commission. Should the majority of voters be against the introduction of Maori wards, Council is not required to undertake a representation review. The result of the poll will be binding for at least the next two triennial elections in 2013 and 2016. Councils around the country are required to decide very six years whether or not to institute Maori wards. Depending on the poll results, in the next election, you could have the choice of voting for a Maori ward candidate, or a general candidate. The number of Maori wards depends on the number of voters registered on the Maori Electoral Roll (MER). At present, this would equate to three seats, depending on official figures, leaving three general seats, plus the

Mayor. Anyone of Maori descent can enroll on the MER.

Only voters on the MER can vote for Maori ward candidates. These voters would not be able to vote for general candidates. Everyone can vote for Mayoral candidates. Anyone can stand for a Maori ward, regardless of ethnicity, but a candidate cannot stand for both general and Maori at the same time. Once elected, Maori ward representatives have the same responsibilities as other councillors to act in the best interests of the entire community.

Voting forms were sent out to all local electors this week. Anyone who has not received a voting form, or who wishes to know more about the process, can contact Administration Manager and Electoral Officer James Baty on (06) 838 7309.

For more information phone 838 7309 or visit [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)