

Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

What do you want Wairoa?

The entire district is currently subject to a total fire ban. This means no open fires are permitted, with the exception of gas BBQs. For more information please phone (06) 838 7309.



YROA YNOT Co-ordinator Jamie Te Nahu and crew member Kingston Putere

Those wanting to have a say via the "What do you want, Wairoa?" campaign have until the end of today to get in touch. Members of the YROA YNOT crew have been out in force, collecting opinions on where our people see the future direction of Wairoa. The street appeal is part of the campaign to determine the vital elements of our community that must not change in the face of local government reform. People have been encouraged

to think about aspects of our community they aren't prepared to live without in terms of the way the district is run. Hundreds of responses have been collected from the street appeal, as well as via the online and freepost forms. If you've yet to take part, get in touch with ideas either online (www.wairoadc.govt.nz), via email (info@wairoadc.govt.nz) or drop a form in to Wairoa District Council on Queen Street.

Census statistics vital tool

Wairoa District Council are helping Statistics New Zealand to prepare for the next census, which will be held on Tuesday 5 March 2013. Everyone who is in New Zealand on census day must fill in a census form – this includes babies, children and visitors – as the census is the official count of how many people and dwellings there are in New Zealand. Information from the census helps determine how billions of dollars of government funding is spent in the community. It is used to help make decisions about which services are needed and where they should be, such as hospitals, kōhanga reo, schools, roads, public transport and recreational facilities. Census information is used by councils, community groups, iwi and businesses to plan for the future. Statistics New Zealand is required by law to hold a census every five years. The census scheduled for March 2011 was postponed following the Christchurch earthquake in February 2011. The next census will be the first one held in seven years, which makes



Animal Control Team Leader Des Janes talks to Census collectors about dealing with dogs.

the information we collect more important than ever. Forms are available in English or Māori. There will be no new questions in the 2013 Census questionnaires. You can do your forms online or on paper. Doing your forms online is secure, quick and easy, and if everyone in your household does their forms online a collector may not need to call back. The information you provide must be kept confidential by Statistics NZ and is protected by the Statistics Act 1975. Census information can only be used for statistical purposes and must be reported in a way that cannot identify you. No other organisations – including the New Zealand Police, Immigration New Zealand and Inland Revenue – can obtain census information that identifies you. The Public Records Act 2005 requires census forms to be retained. After 100 years they may be made available for research that meets the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act 1975.

How well do you know your district?

What is the population of Wairoa? Is our population aging or are we getting younger? Are we more or less multi-cultural than the NZ average? Do we use cars to get to work or do we walk? These and many more questions can be answered using Council's new community profile website. The community profile presents data from the 1996, 2001 and 2006 NZ Census in simple, clear tables and charts with concise factual commentary. The community profile website enables local

businesses, potential investors, community groups, students and the general public, as well as Council officers, to have access to detailed information about the characteristics of the community. The online profile enables individuals, community groups and organisations to better understand the community and tackle activities such as research, planning, and advocacy. **To view the community profile please visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz**

Quick Report

Whangawehi Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding to ensure the protection and enhancement of the Whangawehi River and catchment area was enhanced at Kaiuku Marae this month with the addition of three new signatory groups. The Department of Conservation, Grandy Lake Forest Ltd and Pat and Sue O'Brien of the Taharoa Trust joined other landowners of the catchment, along with Wairoa District Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Tangata Whenua of Mahia, represented by marae trustees of Kaiuku, Tuahuru, and Ruawharo marae, and the Mahia Maori Committee.

Rural Land Use Forum

Around 50 people representing a diverse range of primary production interests attended this month's Rural Land Use Forum. Attendees heard presentations from farming and forestry representatives, before discussing key issues related to land use in the district. Another forum to follow on issues raised is currently being planned.

Brian Avenue – Urban Rehabilitation Project

The contract to carry out this work has been awarded to QRS, who are already on the job.

For the diary:

Council Meetings	Forum
March 12	March 26
April 9	April 9
May 14	May 14
June 11	June 11
July 9	July 9
August 13	August 13
September 10	September 10
October 8	October 8
November 12	November 12
December 10	December 10

Maori Standing Committee

- March 22
- April 26*
- May 31
- June 28*
- July 26
- August 30*
- September 27
- October 25*
- November 29

*Meeting held on a marae

Meetings and Forums are held at the Queen Street office council chambers, and are open to the public unless otherwise specified.