

Roots Rock Reggae in Wairoa



A music icon whose songs of freedom created an international legacy is the subject of the Wairoa Museum's latest exhibition. 'Roots, Rock and Reggae - Wairoa', a tribute to Bob Marley, opened at the museum on February 6 - a date which has the dual significance of remembering Waitangi Day and the birth of the reggae-playing rastafarian. The photographic exhibition originated in the

UK, and is on loan from the Tairāwhiti Museum until the end of May. Museum curator Mike Spedding said it was the first time the exhibition had seen the light in almost 20 years. "Our hope is that these images of Bob Marley will appeal to a lot of people in this community. You only need to look at local bands and artists to see his influence here," he said. The exhibition has inspired others to get involved,

with plans for educational workshops and various musical events. A memorabilia day has already been held at the museum, attracting a good range of people with an eclectic array of items. Some of these have been loaned to the Museum for the duration of the exhibition to complement the photography. Keep an eye on www.wairoamuseum.org.nz for further details.

Amalgamation hot topic for 2014

The proposal to amalgamate our council into a wider Hawke's Bay entity is hot on the agenda for WDC. Management staff have been working on a submission to the proposal, at the request of the Mayor and councillors. The submission will include analysis of essential elements such as risks, benefits and costs to our community should the proposal be accepted. Council will view the submission this month

in time to get it to the Local Government Commission before the March 7 deadline. WDC would like to remind people that the amalgamation proposal is not a 'done deal', and there will almost certainly be a referendum. At that time, people can make their opinions known by voting. To find out more about the proposal, and other related information, visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz and click on 'HB Reorganisation' on the home page.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS

11 February
11 March
8 April
13 May
10 June

COUNCIL FORUM

25 February
25 March
22 April
27 May
24 June

MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

28 February 2014
28 March 2014
24 April 2014
30 May 2014
27 June 2014

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



CONTACT US

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Mahia wastewater UPDATE



The largest construction project in the district's recent history is now well on the way to completion.

Summer months have enabled the pace to pick up across all areas of the Mahia Beach Community Sewage Scheme project. QRS has the contract for construction of property connections, with 170 out of 370 individual property connections currently live. On average two more individual property connections are being made live each working day. The Mahia Heights subdivision is also now connected to the scheme.

Reticulation pipework within the Mahia Beach township was completed some time ago, allowing boundary kit installation to link each property to the reticulation pipework to happen at the time property connections are being made live.

This pipework takes the wastewater to the pump station, which in turn sends it through a rising main and over the hill to the

treatment pond facility.

Fulton Hogan (Gisborne) has completed construction of the treatment ponds, and the pond facility is operating, leaving only tidy-up work around the site.

The final stage of the project is an irrigation system which disperses treated wastewater across the Hawke's Bay Regional Council-owned plantation forest area behind Mahia Beach township. Irrigation will not need to happen until next summer, but construction of the system is in progress, and will be completed by June 2014.

This has been a major construction project – certainly the largest in the district for decades. A range of consultants assisted Council through the consenting and design phases, while QRS and Fulton Hogan (Gisborne) have shared the construction contracts.



↓ YOUR SPOT

These little ones were among the many of all ages who enjoyed the water sports day organised by YROA YNOT at Mahia recently. Keep an eye out for more activities at yroaynot.co.nz, or visit their facebook page.

If you have a photo or artwork that reflects the Wairoa community, we'd love to print it.

Email tamsyn@wairoadc.govt.nz or post to PO Box 54, Wairoa 4160



Whakatauki/ PROVERB

Tangata akona ki te kāinga, tūngia ki te marae, tau ana

If a person is taught at home, they will stand with confidence on the marae, conducting oneself properly

Wairoa District Council supports the goal of becoming an official bi-lingual district by 2040.

Free wi-fi - it's the way we roll

People dotted along the river bank busily tapping away on electronic devices has become a familiar sight here in Wairoa – one of the country's first towns to offer free wi-fi in the main business area.

Over one million megabytes of data are chomped through every month as people make use of the unlimited broadband for anything from watching YouTube videos to checking emails.

Launched in September 2011, Wairoa Wifi is a joint effort between the council, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Harcourts - Wairoa Property Ltd, local property owner Jill Cameron and network service providers WASP NZ Ltd and Slingshot.

Only 30,000 mb were used in that first half month, but the figures have steadily climbed as more and more people cotton on to the benefits of a free wifi service.

Initially covering the east end of Marine Parade, the service has expanded to cover an area stretching from the Wairoa Community Centre, right down to the Riverview Dairy.

Administration Manager James Baty said the driving

force behind the initiative was a desire to make practical technology available to absolutely anyone.

"Free wifi is quite different from our traditional service offering, but is very applicable to modern living. Essentially, the online world is available free-of-charge to anyone with a mobile device, and that's a very powerful thing," he said. For the uninitiated, it's simply a matter of being in the free wifi area and turning on the wifi setting of your mobile device (eg laptop, smartphone, e-reader, tablet). From there, select the Wairoa Wifi connection option and you'll have the world wide web at your fingertips. Mr Baty said feedback from users, both local and visitors, has been largely positive.

"As with any free internet, there can be issues with speed at certain times when traffic is high, or due to environmental changes, but in the main people are happy to have this service." Business people travelling through town have been particularly positive about their experiences, often staying longer than



intended to catch up on internet-based work.

"We have been told that Wairoa has become a 'must-stop' town for travellers due to the free wifi, which in turns means people are spending more time and money here. At a cost of only \$1212 per year to maintain, the service is a cost effective way to boost Wairoa's digital and communications reputation, and provide a boost to the local economy."

The wifi service began with one small tower on the CAB building, and has since expanded to include a second tower on the Wairoa Waikaremoana Māori Trust Board building.

It is designed to work in outdoor places, although there is a possibility technology improvements could allow for it to work in an indoor setting.

"Anything beyond what we have now is a bonus. We are taking a staged approach to growing the service to increase benefits to users as funds allow," Mr Baty said.



GRAVE CONCERN

Wairoa's ultimate place of rest has become the dumping spot of choice for a select few of our townsfolk. Rubbish has been thrown over the fence, into the cemetery, in a display of disrespect that has upset the families of those interred and council staff alike. Staff have used the rubbish to identify the illegal dumpers, who will face fines of up to \$2500.



WAIROA QUICK REPORT

New streetscape

Investigations are underway to determine what it will take to improve a busy section of Queen Street for motorists and pedestrians alike.

The Mayor and councillors resolved last year to look into possibilities to improve the section of Queen Street from the Kahungunu Executive Building to the corner of Achilles Street.

Staff have taken the project in hand and are currently putting together options to present to council later in the year.

Engineering Manager Jamie Cox said because that small area encompassed a school, supermarket, public toilets

and a busy carpark, there were a lot of factors to consider.

“There is also an intersection that is difficult to negotiate, and heavy foot traffic heading through to Marine Parade.”

Mr Cox said it will be integral to the project to work with NZTA on traffic calming measures at the intersection.

Traffic surveys will be carried out initially, followed by draft options for Council, then the public, to consider.

Design features may include pedestrian crossings at key areas, and more defined walkways to link through to Marine Parade.

Staff profile ↓



Victor Minter, Environmental Health Officer

Time on the job: 19 years

What he does: Covers all aspects of public health, from water quality to noise control. Also responsible for liquor licensing.

Favourite place in the district: A spot on the Tiniroto Rd that looks down on the river, with Whakapuanake as a back drop.

Fire season alert

People are asked to remain vigilant as tinder dry conditions keep the risk of fire high. Permits are required in some areas, and it is possible that a total fire ban may be put in place. Keep an eye on the council website, or call the office if you are unsure. Please also be aware of what material is being burnt - any toxic items such as tyres, plastics or chemicals should be disposed of at the Wairoa Landfill.

Library programme a hit

The Summer Beach Read at the Wairoa Public Library saw 120 children read their way through the school holidays. Fun activities and report-in rewards kept the enthusiasm high throughout the six-week programme.

New learners' pool

Council staff are currently working through the planning stage, rationalising the design to meet the budget. Design work is also continuing for the skatepark.

Playground fence

A new fence has been installed around the Marine Parade playground, at the request of the Mayor and Councillors. This work is part of the Marine Parade upgrade.

Roadworks

Fine weather has enabled the road renewal programme to continue, which encompasses building up heavy metal on gravel roads, along with other surface treatments. Motorists are reminded to take care and drive to the conditions.

The contract to repair flood damage at the Wai-te-patu culvert, Te Mahia, and surrounding areas is currently being advertised and will proceed later in the year.

Mokatahi toilet upgrade

Design work is underway to upgrade the public toilets on the Mokotahi Reserve. Design options will be presented to the Mayor and Councillors once completed.