

Mayoral Column



We are currently working through the new process for the 2016/2017 Annual Plan. There were changes to the Local Government Act and as such, there are changes to the Annual Plan process.

These changes mean we now have a greater opportunity to tailor how and when we engage with our residents and ratepayers on our work programme contained in annual plans. The changes to the legislation also means that unless there are significant or material differences from the projections in our Long Term Plan, there is no requirement for formal consultation.

Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2015-2025, which was strongly informed by the Wairoa community, lays out a plan for maintaining sound infrastructure and core services as well as looking for new and creative solutions to see Wairoa prosper. During consultation on the LTP we heard from over 100 people and community groups who gave us valuable feedback. We want to thank those who got involved in helping us to shape our district's future. The course of action set down ensures that ratepayers and the community have an affordable strategy now and for future growth.

We will keep you all up-to-date with the Wairoa District Council's Annual Plan process and will ensure that if there is a requirement to consult, that we do that in a timely fashion.

Wairoa's newest Kiwi

Wairoa welcomed its newest Kiwi at an official citizenship ceremony last week.

Mayor Craig Little presented Neal Taylor with a certificate of citizenship giving him a formal welcome to town and country as a citizen.

"On behalf of the Government and the people of New Zealand in general, and the citizens of Wairoa District in particular, I welcome you here today for the purpose of taking the Affirmation of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, and completing the necessary formalities to make you a citizen of New Zealand."

"It takes great courage to leave the country of your birth and it takes even greater wisdom to call New Zealand and Wairoa your home."

Mr Little was particularly pleased to officiate this citizenship ceremony saying, "I'm surprised to see you here today Neal. I've known you since you first arrived in Tuai all those years ago and you've been part of our community for so long."

"I know so many people will join me in congratulating you on finally becoming a New Zealand citizen and I'm really pleased that I'm able to preside over this citizenship ceremony for you today and to share it with you and your family."

Mr Taylor's family members also gathered at Wairoa District Council's Chambers to share in the ceremony. Originally from the United Kingdom, Mr Taylor

came to New Zealand in 1970.

I've been in New Zealand for over 40 years and I just never really got around to getting my citizenship. Most people, like Craig think I'm a New Zealander already.

"Wairoa is certainly my home even if I wasn't actually born here, a great place to live and to raise a family.

"I married locally and my children were all raised here. We now have three generations of my family in Wairoa, and I'm pleased that I'm finally a citizen of this country."

Mr Taylor also says jokingly that "a bonus to being a citizen is that New Zealand passports are much cheaper than UK passports."



Neal Taylor and his family.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS

28 June
19 July

COUNCIL FORUM

14 June
12 July

MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

10 June: Kaiuku Marae
8 July, WDC Chambers

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



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More Systematic Approach To Breaches Of Dog Control Act And Bylaw

With central government placing more emphasis on the Dog Control Act, Wairoa District Council will now have a zero tolerance policy for any breaches of the Act or for its Dog Control Bylaw.

Chief Operating Officer, Helen Montgomery says that there has been increased media interest lately about dog control and we just wanted to remind the community of our responsibilities at Council.

“In doing this, we also wanted to remind dog owners of their responsibilities too.”

“Council now has a more systematic approach to breaches of the Dog Control Act or our Dog Control Bylaw.”

“We have a really good bylaw; it’s very clear and enables Council to set minimum standards for dog owners and provides controls around the keeping of dogs in order to minimise danger, distress and mistreatment”, says Ms Montgomery.

Enforcement Team Leader, Paul van Dorrestein says “in the past people have got away with too much for too long.”

“We will be enforcing the Act and the bylaw in a more systematic way from now on.”

“We will probably be really unpopular with some dog owners, but dog owners need to take some responsibility for their dog’s and their dog’s actions.”

“Make sure you register your dog, keep them secure so they’re not wandering, and keep them leashed when out in public.”

“We have the power to declare dogs menacing or dangerous in certain circumstances, including if the dog is considered a threat to any person, animal or protected wildlife.”

“There has been a small increase of reported dog attacks since 2012. These

range from dogs rushing through to serious attacks on both people and other animals.”

“Council has various powers for dogs involved in attacks. These range from written warnings, infringements, disqualification as a dog owner, through to the impounding of the dog and court action.”

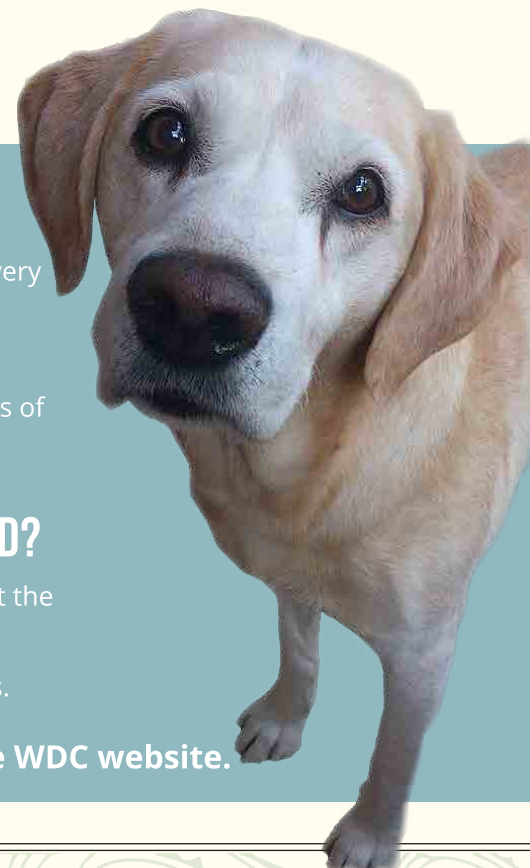
“At the end of the day it’s all about being a responsible dog owner and ensuring a safe community”, says Mr van Dorrestein.

Council recently responded to a case where a dog barked and growled aggressively at a mother and her three children cycling on the walkway, down by Spooner’s Point.




Mother of three, Kodee Green, says “it was pretty scary when the dog that was roaming spun around and stood up to me and my children growling and barking viciously.”

“We were just cycling along the walkway down by Spooner’s Point one morning when the dog stood its ground and did not let us pass.”



“It was quite a big dog too, so the first thing we did was to stop and stand still and I put myself between the dog and my children, slowly backing away with my eyes on the dog. My main concern was protecting my children and praying that the



HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR DOG?

-  All dogs must be registered by August 31 every year.
-  Discounts are available for early payment.
-  All dogs must be registered by three months of age.

HAS YOUR DOG BEEN MICROCHIPPED?

-  All new puppies need to be microchipped at the time when they are registered.
-  Microchipping services are provided by vets.

More information can be found on the WDC website.

dog did not rush or attack us.”

“This was very frightening for me and my children and we are now very weary when we go biking or walking, in fact I now take a stick for protection in case of such incidents.”

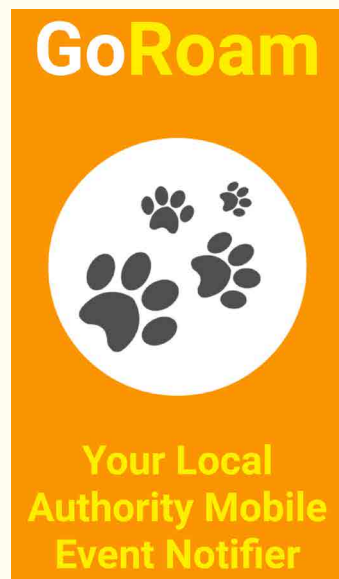
“Thankfully nothing serious happened and the dog retreated, this was such a scary moment for us all.”

“I contacted Council and they are looking into the situation, because it’s not good that dogs like this are allowed to roam the streets, mainly when we think about our kids”, says Mrs Green.

Mr van Dorrestein says it was good that Mrs Green contacted Council and she did everything right to keep her and her children safe.

“So yes, Council is keen to work with dog owners to avoid any breaches of the Dog Control Act and bylaw.”

“Please be aware that council will respond to dog control complaints 24/7 so please call the council immediately if you see an attack or an uncontrolled dog”, says Mr van Dorrestein.



To download type in “GoRoam”
 - into the playstore of your Android device
 or
 - into the store of your Windows phone device

When you start the App for the first time after install:

- Make sure you are connected to a Data plan
- WIFI is turned OFF
- Once your Personal Information is loaded you can turn on WIFI

Visual Identity Project (Update)

A Community Identity Guide has been produced to show how the new Te Wairoa font can be used to enhance the Wairoa District’s visual identity.

“Representing our district’s people, places, culture and history”, the new font, colour palette, textures and images have been developed as part of our Te Wairoa identity.

“It has been created by the people of Te Wairoa following an extensive community consultation exercise in March 2015, which engaged school students, community clubs and organisations, youth groups, business owners and managers, local artists and a large number of residents.”

This whole project has provided an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the entire district, at the same time strengthening and uniting the community.

The guide provides tools, concepts and examples of how the Te Wairoa font can be implemented to create clear, consistent and authentic visual pieces for the district.

The direction of the project has been about keeping Te Wairoa authentic, which means being confident in ourselves and keeping our identity connected to the people, and the places it represents. This ensures that

what is created is real.

Whether you live in Wairoa, Tuai, Māhia, Nūhaka, Frasertown, Ohuka or any other settlement in the district, our Te Wairoa identity groups us together, representing the district’s people, culture and history.

At the heart of our Te Wairoa identity is our Te Wairoa font. Examples below...



Time To Transition To Food Act 2014.

On the 1st March 2016 the Food Act 2014 came into force.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR FOOD BUSINESSES?

Any enterprise or organisation which handles food in any way (except for charitable organisation involved in genuine fund raising activities) now have to comply with the registration requirements of the Act. That means that all food for sale/supply must be handled under a "Food Control Plan" (FCP) or a "National Programme" (NP).

Even businesses and organisations such as those licences under liquor laws and facilities for vulnerable populations such as care of the very young or the aged are now required to adopt the appropriate Plan or Programme.

WHEN MUST EXISTING BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS MAKE THIS TRANSITION?

The Ministry for Primary Industry (MPI) has set a timetable to enable all food businesses to transition between 1st March 2016 and 28th February 2019. Activities related to the handling of food have been classified into groups.

Each group has been assigned a "cut-off date" by which an application to register a Food Control Plan or a

National Programme must be lodged with the local District Council or in certain cases, directly with the Ministry of Primary Industry.

Activities required to make the transition before 31st March 2017 include:

- Manufacturers of food for vulnerable populations.
- Manufacturers of fresh, ready-to-eat salads
- Manufacturers of sauces, spreads, dips, soups, broths, gravies or dressings which are not shelf stable
- Food Service sector with "on-licence"- restaurants, cafés, caterers and hotels
- Centre based food service to pre-school children including those under 5 years of age.
- Processors of nuts and seeds.

Existing businesses and organisations which fall into any of these categories are urged to contact the Environmental Health Officer, Vic Minter, at the Wairoa District Council to lodge an application to register a Food Control Plan or National Programme.

Applications must be received at least 3 months before the assigned cut-off-date.

There is a wealth of information on the MPI website - www.mpi.govt.nz to assist enquirers.

www.wasteminz.org.nz

LOVE FOOD HATE WASTE

Ministry Of Health - Public Notice A Simple Precaution For All NZ Households

Distributed by the Wairoa District Council in the Interests of Public Health

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mug full of water from your drinking -water tap each morning before use to

remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Director General of Health



MANATŪ HAUORA