

# WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

19 January 2017

## BUSY SEASON FOR THE WAIROA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

You might have heard the Wairoa fire siren quite a lot over the last few weeks. The siren alerts the volunteers of the Wairoa Fire Brigade to callouts and this usually happens any time of the day or night.

Sometimes the siren can be heard multiple times over a short period, alerting the volunteers again as more resources are required for a callout.

But what does it mean to be a volunteer firefighter? Wairoa District Council staff member, Katharina Di Lena, shares with us her experience of being a volunteer firefighter.



"The recent big fire at Mahanga has shown us how important it is for the community to comply with fire bans and to not light any fires or even use coal fired BBQs."

"Ignoring fire ban messages can be devastating for the whole community and given that the Wairoa district is now in a Total Fire Ban season, it is so important we comply with the fire bans. Fate was on the side of firefighters at the Mahanga fire, and due to a wind change only one house was lost, it could have been so much worse."

"Firefighters worked to contain the Mahanga fire from mid-afternoon on Sunday 8th January and days later fire crews were still monitoring hotspots to prevent the fire from flaring up again. I was so proud of the team and the work they did."

"Every volunteer firefighter spends about two and a half hours a week on training and Duty Crew. Duty Crews check the fire appliances and its equipment to make sure they are in working order" says Ms Di Lena.

**145**  
callouts in 2016

**12**  
callouts per month  
on average

**16**  
Callouts so far  
in January 2017

The Wairoa Fire Brigade has 22 volunteer firefighters at the moment. Not every volunteer is available at times due to work and other commitments.

Therefore the Wairoa Volunteer Fire Brigade is in need of new volunteer firefighters. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter contact Grant Duley, the Chief Fire Officer on 027 24 01 153. Join the Fire Brigade on a training night on Mondays at 7pm to find out what it means to be a volunteer fire fighter.

*Mayor Craig Little on behalf of The Wairoa District Council and the Wairoa community would like to say a HUGE thank you to all our volunteer firefighters who give up their time for our community. An acknowledgement must also be given to their employers who allow our volunteer firefighters to leave work when the siren signals a callout. You have the appreciation of a grateful community.*

"Firstly it means to be ready at any time, to drop everything and rush off to the fire station when there is a callout. It means giving up time that you could be spending with your family or friends in order to save and/or protect others in our community."

"But it's also something to be proud of and a good way to give back to the community. You work in a very trusting team environment at callouts and trainings and make friends for life."

"The Wairoa Volunteer Fire Brigade doesn't only put out fires, it also goes to motor vehicle accidents and supports other emergency services like The St Johns Ambulance."

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

24 January: 1.30pm

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

14 February: 1.30pm

### FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

28 February: 1.30pm

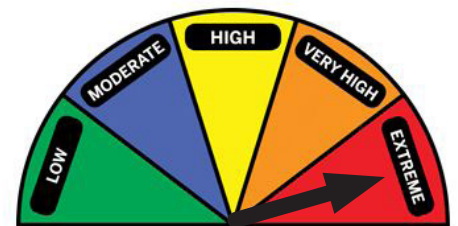
### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

21 February: 1.30pm



CONTACT US  
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## TOTAL FIRE BAN

for the whole Wairoa District

This means **no outdoor fires** may be lit. Gas barbeques may be used without a permit, but caution is advised.

For more information contact Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Officer Paul van Dorrestein on (06) 838 7309.

**If you see smoke, call 111 immediately.**



THE WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL IS PROUD TO BE THE PRINCIPAL SPONSOR OF THE WAIROA A&P SHOW

JANUARY 19TH - 21ST