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Tuesday, August 23, 2016

Goldsmiths racquet up success

WAIROA is home to sibling squash success with Carol and Vaughan Goldsmith making names for themselves in the North Island and national squash arena.

Vaughan Goldsmith took out the North Island Championships' division four and older sister Carol has been selected to compete in the Women's D Grade National Squash Championships.

Vaughan Goldsmith took out his title last month and he is keen to compete in more tournaments.

Squash has been a favourite sport since he started playing when he was seven-years-old.

Goldsmith plays in Wairoa's mercantile league and trains every week.

"Since playing squash my fitness has improved and also my technique."

Looking to the future he intends to keep training and playing more tournaments to help improve his grade.

Carol Goldsmith plays for the Hawke's Bay Squash Racquet Club and will be representing Hawke's Bay and the Wairoa Athletic Club when her team competes at New Plymouth during the week September 20 to 25.

To go through to nationals, teams from all over Hawke's Bay play against each other in an eliminations tournament.

The team that wins the most games goes through to nationals to represent the district.

"Our team beat Hastings and Havelock North to qualify for nationals.

This isn't the first time Carol has hit the squash big time.

In 2013 she was asked to play for the same team making it to the nationals once before.

"I was really excited about being asked as I enjoyed the experience and process to get to nationals a few years

back and was keen to do it all again.

Carol began as a tennis player and started playing squash when she was 11-years-old.

"A dear family friend, the late Angus Gemmell suggested I give squash a go and ever since I have enjoyed the sport."

She has had several opportunities to play in the North Island Championships and Hawke's Bay tournaments and played well, achieving runner-up for the C and D Grade Women's section in this year's North Island Championships.

"It's always a good feeling being able to make yourself proud, your family and the club you represent.

"It makes all the training worth it. It's also fun having your brother competing in similar tournaments as well, so we support each other during our games."

Vaughan and Carol are children of Kathy and Morgan Goldsmith.



□ Squash siblings, Carol and Vaughan Goldsmith are hitting new heights with their racquets in tow.

River's quality is muddied by resource breaches

THREE local organisations breached their resource consents nearly 20 times over an 18-month period.

Information sourced by the Star under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 revealed a series of resource consent breaches into the Wairoa River by Affco, the Wairoa District Council, and Silver Fern Farms from the beginning of last year to June of this year.

Affco had 10 breaches related to water quality and three technical non-compliances not related to water quality.

The breaches relate to the breakdown of discharge measured by the depletion of dissolved oxygen by biological organisms in a body of water in which the contribution from nitrogenous bacteria has been suppressed.

The Wairoa District Council occasions related to the council breaching its Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) measures five times.

The Silver Fern Farms issues were based around four water quantity and quality breaches including a possible false reading.

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council five-yearly report 2009-2013 found the Wairoa River suitability for recreation was very poor.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council resource management group and resource use manager Wayne Wright said consent conditions were set to ensure the environmental effects were minor.

In October 2012, the regional council requested Affco Wairoa provide a health risk assessment on the impacts of its wastewater on the Wairoa River as a condition of its consent which expires on May 31, 2025.

These reports were due by December 2015 — Mr Wright said they had expected the reports to be submitted within the timeframes.

He said fish surveys and water quality testing have been, or are in the process of being, carried out

by Affco. As yet no results have been received.

"Agreement on sampling methodology has caused some delays.

"Our ultimate aim is to have all resource consents operated in the required manner and we work with consent holders to achieve this.

"Enforcement action is likely to be taken when all avenues are exhausted or the consent holder fails to cooperate or take positive action to remedy any breaches."

Affco declined to make comment.

With regard to the Wairoa District Council Mr Wright said the COD and suspended solids standards were set to protect the environment.

Mr Wright said elevated suspended solids in the discharge occurred when the wastewater treatment plant became overloaded by stormwater leaking into the town's sewer network.

"It is expected investigations and work to progressively reduce this leakage will fix a number of issues for the sewer network and discharge over the next several years.

"While the current river and ocean discharge will be an option, alternatives will need to be considered, including land application."

Wairoa District Council engineering manager Jamie Cox said the major issue was stormwater getting into the sewer network during heavy rain and high river levels.

"An investigation found some sewer pipe joints and junctions had ruptured, allowing groundwater from the surrounding sand layer to get into the sewer.

It has been estimated it would cost \$12 million to replace the sewer network with new pipes.

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Long River rollin' on

THE promise of a great night out was delivered with gusto on Saturday.

The latest Long River concert at the Gaiety Theatre captivated the audience who had assembled to enjoy A Night at Long River starring Whirimako Black.

Although not a full house, the audience was robust and appreciative with one concert-goer describing the final duet by Whirimako Black and Caitlin Smith — singing Autumn Leaves — as the highlight.

The evening, which appears on tourism websites and attracts many visitors from out of town, is a significant

drawcard for Wairoa.

Whirimako offered the audience te reo Maori and Aotearoa selections and classics including Cry Me A River, My Funny Valentine, The Look Of Love and Kia Kua Ra Ahau and dedicated two numbers to Wairoa and its river, changing lyrics in the popular numbers to suit the local culture.

Whirimako Black was joined by pianist and composer Kevin Field, singer-songwriter Caitlin Smith, drummer Reuben Bradley, guitarist Lance Sua, bassist Olivier Holland and local songbird Susan Tipuna.



❑ Whirimako Black with Kevin Field at the piano and Olivier Holland on double bass — all keen to return for an encore performance.

Heavy rain events major cause of discharges

FROM PAGE 2

Operational improvements include limiting the lower pond level not to be below a level which would allow potential carry over of algae into the effluent discharge.

He said another improvement was the installation of a new \$85,000 pre-treatment screen which removes all particles greater than 6mm increasing efficiencies.

Mr Wright said Silver Fern Farms discharge was required to meet standards based on recreational standards and for the protection of in-stream values.

He said in the last three years there has been one instance of one of the discharge standards being exceeded and several instances of the volume being exceeded, typically during rainfall events.

“Their discharge is treated biologically via a four-stage treatment pond system.

“Monthly testing of the discharge is required.

“A survey is also completed once every two years during low-flow conditions to confirm the discharge, after reasonable mixing, meets water quality guidelines.

Silver Fern Farms communications manager Justin Courtney said their plant works and structures had been assessed by the regional council as being well-constructed and maintained.

“Stormwater during a particularly high rainfall event in January this year meant we exceeded the daily discharge limits, though it did not impact the correct functioning of the treatment in the pond.

“In these extreme weather event cases, the stormwater dilutes the treated wastewater, improving its quality.

“Normal processing flows have not exceeded our daily wastewater discharge.

“We have carried out maintenance to increase our pond capacity.”

He said no significant upgrades were planned for the plant at this stage.

Monitoring reveals the poor state of the river

CONCERN over the health of the Wairoa River is growing.

Readings from a local wai monitoring group reveal contamination by metals, poor oxygen levels and a tough environment for fish to live in, especially if there is low rainfall, warm temperatures and a blocked bar.

The group is led by Katarina Kawana, whose monitoring of the river and its tributaries is supported by Wairoa Taiwhenua and the regional council.

Her monitoring of the ski club ramp discovered particularly poor readings from three samples taken in January, May and June.

In all her samples from the Wairoa River high readings were often after a flood which can correct itself by having a good fast water flow when the Wairoa bar was open, but water quality deteriorated quickly if the bar was closed.

She believes a permanent bar opening would help the river, and said it was about a co-operation — monitoring groups working with environmental groups, local government and best-practice in place for land and water use.

“For far too long our authorities have allowed this to happen.

“It’s around the Resource Management Act and how much discharge is allowed

to get into the water.”

The keen surfcaster would like to see more filter plants around drain outlets going into the river.

“That is where the filtering is needed, these rushes, carex and flax act like lungs for the water and clean the water before it enters the waterway.”

When algae and phosphate levels build, the sea lettuce increases and these plants use up all the oxygen.

This means fish become stressed and in summer the high temperatures force them to go out of the main waterway into tributaries looking for shade, Ms Kawana said.

She regarded rising levels of sedimentation as the biggest concern because it takes up space where the tuna and other fish species swim and the water is shallower as a result.

Mid-year readings revealed pH levels of eight, with the ideal level being seven.

The independent water assessor and environmental consultant has also found high levels of phosphorus at the Awatere Stream where it enters the river.

She said she and her group find lots of metals at drain outlets from town and nitrate levels were very high in the town area of the Wairoa River.

Redevelopment opens up future for museum

WITH the redevelopment of the Wairoa Museum almost complete, the staff and volunteers have reflected on the long journey.

Museum curator Mike Spedding presented a rundown of the journey to councillors at last Tuesday’s Wairoa District Council forum.

The redevelopment cost in the realm of \$200,000 which has enabled the museum to showcase around 90 percent of its artefacts.

Mr Spedding said a key aim of the redevelopment was to put more of a focus on the users of their services.

He said they were now consciously trying to focus on visitors, the community and the tourism potential.

“This a fundamental shift — it’s important.”

Mr Spedding said they had received a good grant from the council which covered their basic costs, but other costs such as rates and insurance were an “ongoing challenge”.

He said another challenge they were facing is succession planning.

Looking to the future Mr Spedding said the museum was a “significant piece of infrastructure” in terms of built tourism product in Wairoa.

He was constantly amazed at what a terrific institution and valuable asset the museum was.

He said it wasn’t just a redevelopment — it was re-imagining the potential of the museum and its position in the community.

With the redevelopment, there had been a significant increase in accessible public footprint.

He said in the public gallery space there would also be an interactive discovery area for children.

This was expected to be complete by the end of the week.

Mr Spedding said another important feature at the museum would be a taonga database.

The database would record all taonga relating to the Wairoa District throughout New Zealand.

“It’s important to not limit ourselves to the district as local taonga reside in regional and national museums.

Internships at the museum are also on the cards for the future, said Mr Spedding.

Another project they were looking at was a “living document” which illustrated the history of the district.

“It’s an important tool for us and the community,” he said.

Councillor Jeremy Harker said it could be a good idea for the museum to host battlefield tours around the district, to places such as Marumaru and Ruakituri.

Mr Spedding said it was definitely something they would like to look into in the future.

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