



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Connect free at library

Internet access just got a whole lot easier at the Wairoa Public Library with the launch of a free WiFi service.

Now anyone can go to the library with their WiFi device and be instantly connected to the world wide web.

Some smartphones and virtually all laptop or palm-sized computers are installed with a WiFi device - a class of wireless local area network (WLAN). This device seeks out a 'hot spot' to connect to, which in this case is located within the library.

The APNK WiFi service is not password protected or hidden, so users should see the name of the library listed in the available wireless networks on their laptop or WiFi device. All you need to do is click to connect.

The free service is part of a national initiative led by Aotearoa Peoples Network Kaharoa (APNK) - an organisation charged with providing free access to broadband internet services in public libraries so that everyone can benefit from accessing, experiencing and creating digital content.

Library users have been enjoying

free broadband access at the library for over two years now, and the new WiFi service takes it one step further.

Library manager Sandra Hughes said the service is simple to use and will allow greater flexibility to those wishing to use the internet.

"People who do have their own laptop, but not broadband at home, can come in any time during opening hours and connect without having to book in to use one of the library computers. The service is also likely to be popular with tourists passing through town, looking for somewhere to connect," she said. Regular broadband access using the library computers is still available - bookings are essential.

WiFi Troubleshooting

The number one reason laptop users can't see the library WiFi listed is because they haven't switched the WiFi button ON on their laptop. Most laptops (not Macbooks) have a button OR function key that physically turns the WiFi off and on. If you have trouble, check with your laptop supplier or check your laptop model's user guide via the manufacturer's website. The WiFi hotspot only operates when the Library is open.



Water Treatment Plant operator Peter Newland checks over one of the new Ultra-Violet reactors that have been installed to provide another measure of ensuring the quality of Wairoa's water supply.

Top treatment technology

The pristine drinking water in Wairoa is about to become even safer with the installation of two Ultra-violet reactors at the Water Treatment Plant.

Flown in all the way from Germany and installed by specialist technicians, the reactors are weeks away from becoming an active part of the water treatment plant's process to deliver even safer potable water to all who are on town supply.

Treatment Plant manager Morgan Goldsmith said the commissioning of the reactors would be the culmination of four years of planning and research.

"Adding this component into the treatment plant process is more than simply making room for another process. It has involved a lot of re-configuration of our current systems all the way from the pumps to the reservoirs, so that we are making the most of the new technology," he said.

Plant operator, Peter Newland said the purpose of the UV reactors was to provide another means of disinfection without the risk of by-products being introduced. Only one reactor will operate at any time. Each consists of 12 x 2.2m long, UV tubes that produce a UV light within a large 1m x 2.4m long stainless steel cylinder, which the water passes through. This process provides a finishing disinfection

treatment to the potable water leaving the plant.

Mr Newland said while the water was already of the highest standard, the UV reactors were a necessary step in keeping up with technology. "These reactors are the way of the future for treating water, and now Wairoa's potable water supply is more secure heading forward," he said.

Mr Goldsmith commented that the reactors could be viewed as an "insurance policy", should anything go wrong with any of the plant's other filtering systems due to unexpected events.

"We still operate full filtration, but in an emergency situation, such as a large earthquake, the filter beds could be damaged. Having UV filtration operating at the tail end of the plant would give one confidence that the water quality is maintained during these periods," he said.

The reactors are expected to be up and running by mid-August, after which trials will be undertaken to ensure everything is working. Pumping times are expected to be about two litres per second slower than at present. To put this in perspective, during peak times flows are up to around 180 litres per second, so the reduction in flow is not expected to have too much, if any, impact once the pumping main has been repaired.

Water main update

Work on replacing a section of the Wairoa water main is now in the design phase, with the job expected to go out for tender in October. In April, a section of pipe near Putahi Marae was washed away, leaving no link from the water treatment plant at Frasertown to the town reservoirs.

A temporary solution is currently carrying out the job effectively until a permanent design solution is put in place.

At the June council meeting, it was decided to install two new sections of pipe. One will run from the water treatment plant, alongside road reserve on SH38, then over Scamperdown Bridge to link up with the existing pumping main on the Wairoa side of Putahi Marae.

The new pipe route removes the risk associated with having the pipe line exposed to flooding from the river.

Another new section of pipeline will be installed alongside Frasertown Meats, well away from waste water treatment ponds at the site.

Investigations will also be carried out into the cost effectiveness of replacing the pipe between the two new sections, as well as the viability of installing a new reservoir on the hill near Frasertown Meats.

Opoutama project decision pending

Wairoa District Council is awaiting a decision from the Environment Court over whether or not to uphold an appeal against the Opoutama roading and wastewater project.

Resource consents were granted for the project in September last year, but were appealed.

Wairoa District Council aim to build a new section of road on reserve land at Opoutama to replace a section of Ormond Drive that crosses the Ruawharawhara Urupa. Trustees of the urupa currently have an agreement with WDC to keep the road open until Wednesday, August 3.

Road closure has been signaled for some time, meaning motorists face an extra 5km journey travelling via Mahanga and Kaiwaitau Roads to

reach Mahia Peninsula until the new proposed alignment is constructed.

A new wastewater treatment and disposal system will also be developed in conjunction with the road.

WDC Engineering Manager Neil Cook said the project was all set to go ahead pending a decision from the court.

"We realise the inconvenience to motorists of having to travel the extra distance around Kaiwaitau Road.

We are also particularly aware that twice already this year this alternative route to Mahia Peninsula has been inaccessible due to flooding. This has the potential to cause considerable inconvenience so our best efforts will go towards completing the project in a timely manner."

All going well, the road could be built within months of beginning the project.

For the diary:

Council meetings:

August 9
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

Forum:

August 23
September 27
October 25
November 22

Maori Standing Committee:

July 29*
August 26
September 30*
October 28
November 25*

*Meeting will be held on a marae

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers in the Queen Street offices and are open to the public, unless otherwise specified.

For more information phone 833 7309 or visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz