



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Top facility opens

They may be under lock and key, but Wairoa's stray canines are now enjoying all the benefits of a posh pound.

The new facility opened this month and is already housing a steady stream of wandering hounds. Capable of accommodating up to 21 dogs, the large facility allows the WDC Animal Control Team to provide a higher standard of care for their charges.

Officer Harry Te Rangi says the improved conditions make the job a lot easier and more pleasant for all

concerned.

"The new facility is much easier to clean, and there is plenty of room for each dog to be housed separately. Before, we were having to pair dogs up based on temperament, which was always a difficult thing to judge. Now, it's a lot safer for the dogs," he said.

Typically, a dog is held at the pound for up to seven days, before being re-homed or put down. To find out more about Animal Control, visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz/wairoa/services/animal_control.



Animal Control Officer Harry Te Rangi checks on his charges at the new dog pound.

Emergency eruption plan

Recent activity on Mount Tongariro and Mount Ruapehu serves as a timely reminder to think about how you would respond to a volcanic eruption.

Before a volcanic eruption:

- Monitor the volcanic risk in your community.
- People with respiratory health issues should consider where they could go to gain respite.
- Develop a Household and Business Emergency Plan. Assemble and maintain your Emergency Survival Items for your home as well as a portable getaway kit.
- Consider how you would operate with restrictions, eg electricity/transport.
- Include your pets and livestock in your emergency plan.

If volcanic ash comes our way:

- Listen to your local radio stations as emergency management officials will be broadcasting the most appropriate advice for your

community and situation.

- Put your emergency plan into action if advised to do so.
- If you have a disability or need assistance, make contact with your support network and monitor civil defence advice.
- Put machinery inside a garage or shed, or cover with large tarpaulins to protect from volcanic ash.
- Bring animals into closed shelters to protect them from volcanic ash.
- Protect sensitive electronics and do not uncover until the environment is totally ash-free.
- Water supplies can be affected so it is a good idea to store drinking water in containers and fill bathtubs and sinks with water. Disconnect down pipes if on rainwater supply.
- Check on friends and neighbours.

Visit www.getthru.org.nz for more information

Solo certificate gained

Another string has been added to the bow of Wairoa District Council

water treatment plant engineer Pete Newland (pictured right with Chief Executive Peter Freeman).

Pete has achieved the NZQA National Certificate in

Water Treatment (level 4), which means he can fly solo in the production of the town's water supply.

Having worked at the plant for the past four years, he is well-versed in what it takes to keep the operation flowing, although up until now this has meant working under the supervision of Plant Manager

Morgan Goldsmith.

The hefty responsibility of ensuring that the 8 to 14 million litres of water passing through the plant daily is of the highest standard is not taken lightly. "It means a lot to have the ticket to



carry out the work on my own, particularly with all the new technology we've been introducing such as the UV reactors," he said. Rather than settle for the Certificate, Pete is continuing his education by turning his attention to achieving a Diploma in Water Treatment, which will expand his capabilities even more.

For the diary:

Council Meetings:
December 11

Maori Committee:
November 30

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

2012 Wairoa Lighthouse Festival Saturday 8th December 2012

RUN-A-MUCK (9.30am – 11.30am, Wairoa Lighthouse Reserve)

Dress as your favourite Super Hero and have a super fun time with the whanau. You can run or walk along the 5km course. Registrations from 8.30am - FREE!

CHRISTMAS PARADE (2pm, Marine Parade)

Float registration forms can be picked up at the Wairoa Centennial Library, Wairoa iSITE or the Wairoa District Council.

FREE FAMILY CONCERT (3.30pm, Lighthouse Reserve)

Entertainment and spot prizes until dusk. Anybody interested in performing at the concert can contact Event Coordinator Layton Gemmell on 838 7328 or email laytongemmell@gmail.com

Santa Is Coming to Town! Thursday, December 20

Keep an eye on Marine Parade to see if you can guess the spot where his workshop is going to appear on **December 15**. Santa is arriving in town on **Thursday, December 20** at 10am and will celebrate with a lolly scramble under the lighthouse. He will then be in residence at his Workshop, along with his little helpers. Bring the kids along for a visit with Santa. Photos can be ordered for \$5, with all proceeds going to the Little Theatre. Sponsored by Carters, Upstream Wairoa and The Little Theatre.

Christmas Cracker Market Day Saturday, December 22

See stalls and Christmas Specials right along Marine Parade. Enjoy music and entertainment, Santa, spot prizes and giveaways. Mediaworks Spin and Win at Lighthouse, 11am. Spot Prizes up for grabs for children dressed up as their superheroes.

What do you want Wairoa



Times are changing in Local Government ... new reforms could result in some major reorganisation to the way our district is run. To keep up with the play, Wairoa District Council is making sure the nation knows what we need to retain our unique voice in a changing landscape.

This is 'big picture' thinking, and everybody is included in the brainstorm.

Over the summer, we need you to think about aspects of life in Wairoa you aren't prepared to live without. To give you an idea of what we're looking for, the Mayor and Councillors have put together a list of what they consider to be the bottom line when it comes to shaping our future.

Contact us and let us know what vital elements of our community you think must be maintained for the future.

Get in touch:

- On-line at www.wairoadc.govt.nz
- Email info@wairoadc.govt.nz
- Send a letter to Wairoa District Council, PO Box 54, Wairoa 4160

The ideal identified by Council is to retain its own autonomy, ie, the status quo. However, in the face of change they have agreed on these 'must-haves':

- Retain local decision-making through meaningful representation
- Commitment to maintaining infrastructure, including roads
- Retain QRS
- Retain a local Service Centre
- Retain local investments and reserves - community money stays in the community
- Guarantee the commitments of the Long Term Plan
- Maori significance and character continue to be reflected in decision-making
- Retention of Friendship City Relationship
- Shared delivery of services - Councils combining resources to improve services to residents
- Debt protection to avoid taking on other councils' debt
- Retention and protection of our local industries
- Retain cultural and community identity

For more information phone 838 7309 or visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz