

Another hummer of a summer

It's time to put away the slippers and shake the dust out the beach towels - summer's here folks!

The lighthouse festival, market days, A & P Show, fishing tournaments, Bridge to Bridge and the annual races are just a few of the exciting events filling up the calendar this season. Wairoa District Council is working closely with event organisers and UpStream Wairoa to make sure the word gets out about all these



happenings and more.

For up-to-date info, and other activity ideas, keep an eye on www.visitwairoa.co.nz.

Don't forget to mention this to out of town visitors so they can have a 'Hummer of a Summer' in Wairoa too.

Highly rated i-SITE worth a look

Wairoa i-SITE Visitor Information Centre has been recognised once again as a high performer by Qualmark - New Zealand tourism's official quality assurance system. To earn the prestigious quality mark, the i-SITE underwent a comprehensive on-site assessment to ensure it met quality criteria focused on service, facilities, safety and systems the business has in place. A score of 87 percent was awarded to the Wairoa centre. Manager Sally Simpson said this is the third Qualmark endorsement for the i-SITE, which is a credit to the team.

"We place a lot of emphasis on ensuring the i-SITE is operating at the required standard, so we are pleased to have maintained that quality of work," she said.

WDC Administration Manager James Baty said the high score was a reflection of the effort put in by the i-SITE team.

"To be able to boast the Qualmark standard is of huge importance to our i-SITE, and it is purely down to the work put in by the staff. This result is great for them, and it's also an endorsement for Wairoa."

Qualmark's endorsement programme offers quality assurance to a full range of tourism businesses, such as adventure activities, transport providers, culture and nature experiences.

Assessment criteria are developed with the tourism industry, based on research into what travellers expect, and specific to the type of business.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 10 December 2013
- 11 February 2014
- 11 March 2014

COUNCIL FORUM

- 25 February 2014
- 25 March 2014

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



Wairoa District Council Mayor, Councillors and staff wish you all a safe and happy festive season.



CONTACT US

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Mapping system leads the way



It's simple to access, easy to use, and can take the sweat out of complicated research.

Online mapping was a key factor in earning the WDC website it's third place ranking in this year's local government list, and is earning high praise from other councils around the country. The man behind the maps is GIS Co-ordinator Russell McCracken, who is continually developing the system's capabilities.

He encourages people to click on to the system and have a go - search for roads, addresses, legal descriptions and valuations - the capabilities are extensive. The system is also linked to Google street view, which provides roadside photography of the property searched for.

"Get in, have a look and you'll find plenty to use it for. Applying for a building consent, checking out a potential real estate purchase, or confirming boundaries - these are just a few of the many uses of GIS."

To search a Wairoa property, it's as simple as bringing up the

wairoadc.govt.nz homepage.

From there it's possible to type in an address, or valuation number, and the requested site will come up on the map. Zoom in, or out, and look at the basic property information. A further click will fire up the full GIS mapping system, showing layers of data such as detailed property information, topo maps and rapid numbers.

Family researchers will be interested to use the cemetery search function, where a name can be typed in to find out where they rest at Wairoa Cemetery.

Mr McCracken is always thinking up new ways to make use of the technology - his latest development is making use of aerial mapping to allow people to apply for a new rapid number online.

"It's an interesting field, and I work closely with colleagues from other councils to share the knowledge. It's all about making use of what's there to create useful, simple tools for the end user."

↓ YOUR SPOT



If you have a photo or artwork that reflects the Wairoa community, we'd love to print it.

Email tamsyn@wairoadc.govt.nz or post to PO Box 54, Wairoa 4160

These photos were sent in by one of the many people who attended the amazing Marines@Mahia event during Labour Weekend. For those wanting another Marine fix, call in to the Wairoa Museum to see the current exhibition. Congratulations to all those involved in the commemorations.

↓ Whakatauki/ PROVERB

He aroha whakatō, he aroha puta mai

If kindness is sown, then kindness you shall receive

Wairoa District Council supports the goal of becoming an official bi-lingual district by 2040.

Pooch alert

Dogs may be described as man’s best friend, but what happens when the man wants to go on holiday? Canine companions are in the spotlight right now, as Wairoa District Council animal control officers remind people of their responsibilities as owners. Wandering dogs often result in a full pound over the festive period, which is not good news for the animals concerned. Team leader Des Jane said animals are held for a week and if they are not claimed or rehomed, the only option is to euthanise. “The best outcome for all involved is to make sure your dog is not out wandering in the first place,” he said. “We realise that people are on holiday and perhaps aren’t being as vigilant as usual. However, if you choose to own animals, it is up to you to look after them and provide them with appropriate care.” Food, water, shelter and a secure area to exercise in are the basic requirements to keep any dog happy and healthy. The Animal Control team meet at the start of every day to assign tasks, and there is always someone on call. Another daily duty that has to be attended to is taking care of the dogs in the pound by letting them

have some exercise, as well as feeding them and cleaning out the kennels. The new pound opened early this year makes this job much more pleasant, and provides better digs for its canine guests. The majority of dogs that end up in the pound are not microchipped. All dogs are required by national law to be microchipped when they are registered for the first time, no matter what the age of the dog. “We realise that people are on holiday and perhaps aren’t being as vigilant as usual. However, if you choose to own animals, it is up to you to look after them and provide them with appropriate care.”
DES JANE - ANIMAL CONTROL

The only dogs exempt from microchipping are farm dogs that are used solely for stock work. The task can be carried out at a vet clinic and enables proof of ownership to be established. Owners of new dogs should register the details at the Wairoa District Council offices on Queen Street. Urban dwellers wanting to own more than two dogs also need to call into the council to obtain a free permit.



Wandering stock is also traditionally more of a problem during the holiday period, with officers regularly called out to sort out the animals. Aside from call out work, animal control officers are about to begin another round of property inspections throughout the district. This involves checking that dogs meet all the legal requirements, such as registration and microchipping, as well as making sure food and shelter arrangements are up to standard. The owner does not have to be present for the officer to carry out the inspection, although they prefer to have contact if possible. “We do our best to work with people and prefer to have a chat about any problems,” Mr Jane said. “A big advantage of doing this job in a small town is that you know a lot of people and can sort out situations without too much fuss.”



Special Projects Engineer Pune Brown

Engineer joins team

A passion for bringing community projects to life will stand WDC’s latest engineering recruit Pune Brown in good stead as he takes on the role of Special Projects manager. Mr Brown has extensive experience in his field, having worked for Porirua and Wellington City Councils, and Fulton Hogan. He has spent the past two years working on projects in Samoa, for the Ministries of Health and Education. “Engineering is not just about building or construction. It’s also about educating and involving people in their own community,” he said.

Rates rebates

Fun and the festive season go hand in hand, but the frivolities certainly last longer when there's extra cash around.

With that in mind, it is an ideal time to remind ratepayers that they could be eligible for a rebate.

Assistance of up to \$595 may be available to those on a low income, so it is well worth taking the time to make an appointment with the Council rates team to go through the application form and calculate eligibility.

The first step to determine if a rebate is coming your way is to ensure that your name is on the rates bill for the home where you live and that you were living there on July 1, 2013.

When all these details are in place, it's time to ring

the Council and make an appointment.

The ten minute process lets you know straight away if a rebate is due, provided all the documentation is supplied, including proof of all your yearly taxable income for the year ending March 31, 2013 and verification of any dependants living with you. Another option is to head online to www.ratesrebates.govt.nz. Here you'll be able to get more information, and even calculate if you're eligible for a rebate, although you'll still need to get the application form into council.

Applications will be accepted until June 30 2014, so call Council on 838 7309 to make an appointment.

Staff profile ↓



Russell McCracken, GIS Co-ordinator

Time on the job: 32 years

What he does: Administers the GIS, which is a system to manage all of Council's spatial data.

What's special about living in Wairoa: It's the sense of place and belonging. I'm proud to be a product of Wairoa.

Civil Defence

Hawke's Bay Civil Defence have a new group plan and they want to know what you think about it. Wairoa District Council works closely with others throughout the Bay to ensure systems are in place should disaster strike. The plan outlines how they will improve resilience to adverse events and disasters over the next five years. To take part in the consultation process, visit <http://www.cdemhawkesbay.govt.nz/> and follow the links to make a submission.

Water reminder

Households on both private and public water supplies need to be aware that some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in fittings for several hours. Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health advice is to flush a mug of water from the drinking water tap each morning before use.

Keep an eye on fire restrictions

Fire season is upon us, bringing with it the possibility of fire restrictions, or even fire bans. Weather and ground conditions are assessed regularly, so if you're planning even a small fire (eg hangi or bbq), get in touch with council to check if you need a permit.

Mind the neighbours

Summer and entertaining go hand in hand, but if you're planning a party, spare a thought for your neighbours. Noise control officers have had an increase in callouts recently, and would like to remind people to be considerate and turn the music down a notch or two.

Mohaka Township Bridge

Motorists planning a trip across the river at Mohaka need to be cautious when driving over the Mohaka Township Bridge. This bridge is closed to heavy traffic and speed limits are in place for other vehicles. Engineers are currently assessing the bridge.