

Survival skills earn top marks



• WDC Emergency Management Officer Tim Allan shares knowledge with Wairoa Girl Guides.

A little bit of knowledge can go a long way in an emergency situation. This message was reinforced to Wairoa Girl Guides when WDC Emergency Management Officer Tim Allan shared his top tips on how to prepare for and survive a disaster situation. “It’s about more than just getting a badge. It’s about setting off an awareness of how to be resilient in a crisis situation. Knowledge and skills can last a lifetime, so there are some good habits to get into,” he said.

Putting together a Get Ready kit, creating a household plan, and learning how to manage water and sanitation are among the areas covered by the Guides, who demonstrated what they had learnt during a follow-up session. Mr Allan is available to assist with any groups who wish to increase their disaster preparedness. Call him on (06) 838 7309 or email tim@wairoadc.govt.nz.

Urban water supply in great shape

Wairoa urbanites can turn on their taps safe in the knowledge that the water is fit for purpose. The testing laboratory at the Frasertown Water Treatment plant was recently re-accredited by New Zealand’s premier accreditation body, IANZ, confirming the fact that the urban water supply is passing through a stringent testing process. The plant pushes out around 8 million litres a day in the winter and every drop of that can be traced, more or less. At the push of a button, staff are able to bring up details of what is happening at any particular time on any given day. Plant manager Morgan Goldsmith said it is extremely important to have rigorous testing and control systems in place. “We take this very seriously. It is our responsibility to protect people as best we

can and make sure they have the best quality water possible,” he said. Reports are regularly made to the Ministry of Health, including potable water sample results as tested from the IANZ-accredited laboratory, which is located on-site. The Council takes water from the Wairoa River at an average rate of 150 litres per second. The water then passes through the plant at Frasertown, where it is treated to the highest standard before being piped to reservoirs at various points for dispersal in the urban area through the network of underground pipes. WDC is responsible for maintaining the public water supply system up to and including the toby (shut-off valve) on the street boundary. The pipework on the private side is the landowner’s responsibility to maintain and repair.

FOR YOUR **DIARY**

COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 8 July
- 12 August
- 9 September
- 14 October
- 11 November
- 9 December

COUNCIL FORUM

- 29 July
- 26 August
- 23 September
- 28 October
- 25 November

MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

- 25 July
- 29 August
- 26 September
- 31 October
- 28 November

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



CONTACT US

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Alert: annual dog rego time

Time is ticking to take advantage of the discounted annual dog registration fee.

Up until July 31, the cost is \$55 for dogs classed as 'standard' or 'working', and \$95 for those falling into the 'menacing' category. After that date, the fees for each go up a further \$10. All dog registrations must be into council by August 31. Dog control officers are hoping for a repeat of last year, when a greater number of residents took their ownership responsibilities seriously and made sure registrations were up to date.

Failure to register dogs by the cut-off date could result in a minimum fine of \$300, plus the registration fee, as well as the dog being seized.

Animal control officers recently ran a microchipping amnesty around the district, which resulted in around 300 dogs going through the simple process to make them legal, at no cost.

Team leader Des Jane said it was heartening to see so many people take responsibility for their obligations as dog owners by taking advantage of the free microchipping. "We are still doing some extra work in the more remote areas of the district, but overall it was a very successful campaign."

Attention would now be focused on carrying out property inspections to ensure obligation are being met.

The only dogs exempt from microchipping are farm dogs

that are used solely for stock work.

Registration forms for this year should have arrived in the mail for dogs already on the database.

Owners of new dogs should register the details at the Wairoa District Council offices on Queen Street.



• Pirate the whippet-cross receives his microchip from Animal Control team leader Des Jane, assisted by owner Greg Cram.

↓ YOUR SPOT



If it's a challenge you're after, look no further than tackling the Te Urewera Rainforest Route on a bike.

As recreational biking takes off around the country, expect to see more people opting to explore our area using this mode of transport. This retired couple from Tauranga were spotted near Hopuruahine, Lake Waikaremoana, on their way to Rotorua.

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

↓ Whakatauki/ PROVERB

Matawai ana te karu i te tirohanga.

Your beauty brings tears to my eyes.

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

Spotlight on Raupunga



The Raupunga amenity block was known by locals and visitors alike for all the wrong reasons. It was a staging point for anti-social behaviour and held no appeal as a place to stop. Efforts had been led by the locals to clean it up by painting murals on the block walls, but it was clear that something more needed to happen. Council were faced with the decision of removing the facility, or investing in the community infrastructure to create something better. After much deliberation, it was decided to give the Raupunga amenity block another chance. The first step in developing a plan was for council staff to meet with tangata whenua to gain their views on what would be required to establish a facility without the problems of the past. Past involvement with the locals in setting up a recycling centre nearby had demonstrated that a partnership was possible and could result in a positive outcome. A series of community hui brought out a number

of ideas that needed to be incorporated into the plans, including a desire to see youth involved in the construction, a contribution to the design process and to make it 'community-friendly', with seating and landscaping to enhance the structure. This led to an agreement that the objective of the project was to unite the village in upgrading community infrastructure, reduce the potential for social issues arising from the existing gathering point and improve Raupunga as an entrance point to the district. The working group of WDC staff and tangata whenua worked closely on designs, leading to a construction phase that involved various community organisations. Work and Income NZ (WINZ) sponsored a 12 week youth training course, with WDC engaging a local supervisor and mentor to train the youth workers and carry out all the pre-installation site works. A partnership was developed with NZTA,

where state highway safety works were incorporated in the entranceway design, leading to an enhanced parking and entry design. Following the installation of the structure, tangata whenua and a local horticultural scheme accessed native plants and soil medium from their forests and initiated the complete landscaping of the entire reserve area. Rocks were gathered from their awa (Mohaka River) and utilised as borders around the entire area. Finally, they engaged local artists to paint murals on the concrete toilet units. The amenity area was opened following appropriate tikanga in a formal ceremony and it was acknowledged by Kaumatua that this project was a gift back to the people of the district by Ngāti Pāhauwera as recognition of the times when their people gathered in the WDC reserve during the Māori Land Court

hearings during the late nineteenth century. This acknowledgement spoke volumes of how the community now have ownership in the facility. Visitors surveyed comment on the outstanding appearance, the safe open feeling and night lighting which leads to appropriate utilisation and good perception of the district. Ex-pat locals utilise this amenity as a staging point when visiting and are absolutely uplifted by this new inclusion into their community. The project has had wide-reaching effects, including enabling local youth engaged in the project to go on to other WINZ schemes and jobs.

This project is a finalist for the 2014 LGNZ Excellence Award for Community Impact. The Award will be announced on July 21.

New Managers

Wairoa's vision for growth is one step closer with the appointment of Roger Matthews to the position of Transformation Manager and Helen Montgomery as Regulatory Manager. Mr Matthews' role is new, with a focus on the strategic direction of council in regards to change management, economic development and relationship building within the community and beyond.

Most recently employed as Business Development Manager at Unitec Institute of Technology, Mr Matthews brings extensive experience from the public service and education sectors. He has held local government positions with several councils, including North Shore City Council, Auckland City Council, Taranaki Regional Council and Otago Regional Council.

"After three years at

Unitec I am very pleased to be returning to local government and its more direct community focus, and I am excited by the range of possibilities for development in this beautiful part of Hawke's Bay," Mr Matthews said. Ms Montgomery is also experienced in local government, having worked as team leader of Planning and Policy for Buller District Council for several years.

She brings significant experience of the regulatory and planning environment, with the benefit of having worked in a rural district facing many complex issues associated with use of natural resources, diverse community perspectives and limited financial resources.

Ms Montgomery is scheduled to take up her position as head of the Regulatory team on July 14.



• Roger Matthews
Transformation Manager



• Helen Montgomery
Regulatory Manager

WAIROA QUICK REPORT

Reminder: Drive to the conditions

The WDC roading team are reminding the public that it's winter so drive to the conditions. This is particularly important on unsealed roads. Also, with twilight hour coming much sooner in the colder months, there is a need to keep a watchful eye out for wandering stock on the road. WDC support Roadsafes HB and Police messages to drive safe, share the space and be cool.

Queen Street makeover

Work is well underway on a much-anticipated makeover of the western end of Queen Street. Drainage problems, footpath issues and uneven seal will all be taken care of in the revamp, which is expected to be completed soon. The intended result is a safer, more convenient streetscape for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Winter warmers at library

Plenty of kids are enjoying the current Winter Warmers reading programme at the library. Along with enjoying activities, performers and movies, participants are encouraged to read and report on their favourite books so that they can take part in the fun finale party. This is an annual programme, similar to the popular summer reading programme.

Heads up for foodies

A change in Central Government legislation means that all food outlets will be required to implement a Food Control Plan from mid-2016. Between now and then, WDC staff will be working to get as many businesses to adopt a FCP voluntarily, so as to prevent a last minute rush on "D Day". More information will be distributed as it comes to hand.



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