

Speak up for our future



Hard on the heels of announcing the official Wairoa District Council stance on the Local Government Commission's draft amalgamation proposal, the focus has now turned to encouraging the public to get involved.

Interim Chief Executive James Baty said council's decision to submit against the proposal, which calls for one Hawke's Bay council with only one Wairoa representative, is only the beginning of the

process to ensure Wairoa receives a fair deal. "We are encouraging people to take a stake in this process by becoming informed and taking every opportunity to get involved. There have been plenty of opinions aired in the community, but now is the time to make sure the Local Government Commission know," he said. Public hearings will be held in April, followed by the release of a final proposal. If people are unsatisfied with

the final proposal, the public can instigate a referendum by petition. "If you didn't make a submission, then turn your thoughts towards getting involved in a petition. Council cannot do this for you." If a referendum takes place, registered voters can choose 'yes' or 'no' to amalgamation. Keep an eye on the WDC website (www.wairoadc.govt.nz) for up-to-date information as it comes to hand.

Bills paid in the comfort of home

In keeping with Wairoa's commitment to technology, the Wairoa District Council will soon be able to process payments online. Staff have been working closely with IT support to develop a user-friendly system that can be accessed via the WDC website, making it easy to go online and take care of a range of bills, from rates to consents. People can also carry out searches on a range of areas from one location.

Administration Manager James Baty said the move towards online payments was a natural progression. "We have been steadily building our online capabilities, making sure we take the time to introduce systems that people want, and that work as they should," he said. Staff will still be ready and waiting for those who prefer to make their payments in a more traditional manner over the counter.

FOR YOUR **DIARY**

COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 11 March
- 8 April
- 13 May
- 10 June
- 8 July

COUNCIL FORUM

- 25 March
- 22 April
- 27 May
- 24 June
- 22 July

MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

- 28 March
- 24 April
- 30 May
- 27 June
- 25 July

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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Partnerships in the pool

A streamlined approach to swim instruction at the Wairoa Community Centre is paying big dividends for our children. The Centre Swim School and Wairoa Swimming Club partnered up in a focussed approach to take kids through from total beginners to competitive racers, allowing more participants to get in the water and learn this vital skill. Swim School takes kids from the age of five. Through weekly lessons during school terms, they progress from basic water skills to confidently being able to swim 50m in freestyle and backstroke, along with other important strokes and survival skills.

At this point, they are able to move on to Wairoa Swimming Club where they can steadily increase their distance and abilities, working towards joining the squad to compete at out-of-town meets.

Instructors volunteer their time, and are provided with professional development thanks to funding from the Endeavour Trust.

Centre Manager Sara Rangī said the partnership meant fees could be kept low and children were receiving consistent coaching throughout their journey to becoming great swimmers and learning the vital life saving skills required in our district.

“More and more kids are coming through the pool, which is fantastic for our community,” she said.

Pre-schoolers are also given the opportunity to learn water safety and survival skills with their parents/caregivers in a fun and safe environment through the partnership that has been formed over many years with Plunket.



• Wairoa Swimming Club members Kefir Kirwan and TeHei Hutchins

For more information about swimming classes, contact the Wairoa Community Centre on 838 3086.

Swimming in Wairoa will be further enhanced by the new learners’ pool.

WCC staff have been fully involved in discussions around designs, which are currently being worked on by architects HDT Ltd, and structural engineers Create Ltd.

Once the design and budget are aligned, concept plans will be on display for the public.



• Photo supplied by Gemmell family

↓ YOUR SPOT

This month we’d like to dedicate this spot to a Wairoa icon - Angus Gemmell - a former councillor and Deputy Mayor. Wairoa District Council would like to acknowledge a great community man who leaves a legacy of positivity, loyalty and strength of spirit. No reira, haere e koro ki tua o te pae o maumahara, e okioki!



Whakatauki/ PROVERB

Whakarua i te hau e taea te karo, whakarua i te mate tē tae ate karo

From nature’s storm one may find shelter, from the storms of life there is no shelter

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

Opportunity knocks for artists

Artistic endeavours that serve the cultural life of the Wairoa community are about to receive another boost from the latest round of Creative New Zealand funding.

A generous sum of around \$10,000 is made available for the local art scene each year via the Creative Communities Scheme (CCS), administered by Wairoa District Council in partnership with Creative New Zealand.

The scheme is open to anyone, from individuals furthering their career to organisations or groups with a particular goal in mind. The key criteria is that applicants should reside in the district and projects must be arts-related and be undertaken within the district.

A seven-strong committee led by Chair Liz Greenslade meet twice a year to view applications and distribute the grants.

Ms Greenslade said they are always looking for innovative ideas that cover a wide variety of art forms. "This is a golden opportunity to gain funding,

and acts as a helping hand to encourage our local craft, kapa haka, dance, music, drama, visual arts and sculpture and community arts projects.

"We want to fund projects that reflect cultural traditions and diversity. We're particularly receptive to ideas that create an opportunity for our Wairoa community to participate."

"Because we have such a large population of rangatahi, projects that enable and encourage young people are particularly welcomed," Ms Greenslade said.

The last round of funding serves as an example of the broad spectrum of projects that benefit from CCS grants, including a Marine Parade street mural, creative children's art programme, kapa haka competition, and a poetry workshop.

"These kind of imaginative events improve our appreciation, enjoyment and skills, along with creating a more vibrant place in which to live."

The committee itself is true to the aim of diversity, with



• Economic Development Officer and Upstream representative Alex Powdrell with one of the Marine Parade murals made possible through Creative Communities Scheme funding. Art by Craig Gemmell.

a range of members representing a melting pot of cultures. This year Russian-born film designer Iryna Robson and Cambodian-born entrepreneur Malis Uon Men were welcomed aboard, and will be involved in this latest round of applications.

Application forms for the next round of funding will be available soon, so look out for advertising or contact Gay Waikawa on 8387309, email gay@wairoadc.govt.nz, or visit the council website.

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Liz Greenslade
(Chairperson)
Anaru Cooper
Chance Rohe
Jenny Roper
Gail Menzies
Iryna Robson
Malis Uon Men

Mayor's message



I would like to take this opportunity to update you all on what I and my fellow councillors have been up to. I am thrilled to bits with our new Council. We are all working well together, and while that doesn't mean we all agree on everything, it makes for a good, healthy group.

Unfortunately this amalgamation proposal to make one Hawke's Bay is taking up a lot of our time. Council has passed a resolution that we do not support the proposal for reorganisation of Local Government in Hawke's Bay. I encourage you all to get involved - the proposal can't go ahead if the public force a referendum and vote against it. While we are covering our bases with plans for if it does go ahead, it's up to you all to have a say in what happens. Our thoughts have also been occupied by one of the most important jobs we will have to do as a Council - the recruitment of the CEO. It is a process we are required to do by law and it has not been an easy task. At the time of print, the CEO has not been announced.

As Mayor, it is important to look beyond Wairoa at times. With this in mind, I was very lucky to be invited to a Hawke's Bay Regional Council trip to the South

Island, looking at what the availability of water can do to a community. The economic development as a result of irrigation is huge. Towns and communities are thriving now. I believe there is a big opportunity for Wairoa to capitalise on our land use, whether this is sheep/beef, dairying, cropping or horticulture. Great to see the riverbank in town has been tidied up. Feedback has been fantastic. And at last the big eyesores of North Clyde have been removed. I believe first appearances are so important to people's perception of our town. I attended the Wairoa races recently - what a great family day out. This event, along with the Wairoa show, is put together by a small group of volunteers who need to be recognised and it is great to see these days are well supported by our community.

I believe Wairoa has an exciting future and am always delighted to hear of people moving here to take up the benefits of what Wairoa has to offer.

As my term progresses, I'm enjoying meeting and connecting with more people in this community. Remember, my door is open, so get in touch!

MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE

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WAIROA QUICK REPORT

Community profile update

The first instalment of the 2013 Wairoa census data is now available online via the Community Profile. Just click on the 'Community Profile' icon at the top of the home page and be connected to plenty of information about our community, including various age profiles, ethnicity and household data. More information will be loaded as it comes to hand from Statistics NZ.

YROA YNOT National Youth Hui

YROA YNOT Youth Voice is set to host the 'Kaupapa Rangatahi Conference' in April 2014. This National event is open to all rangatahi/youth 12-24 years, across Aotearoa. The Conference is about building networks and relationships with other rangatahi while gaining new and exciting skills and tools for the big wide world. YROA YNOT Youth Voice will be showcasing the best Wairoa youth have to offer, with a production, inspirational workshops, tools and resources developed by youth.

Fire season alert

People are asked to remain vigilant as tinder dry conditions keep the risk of fire high. Permits are required in some areas, and it is possible that a total fire ban may be put in place. Keep an eye on the council website, or call the office if you are unsure. Please also be aware of what material is being burnt - any toxic items such as tyres, plastics or chemicals should be disposed of at the Wairoa Landfill.

Skatepark project progresses

The project to upgrade the Alexandra Park skate area has stepped up a notch. QRS have the contract to build the park and is currently working on a design that fits the budget. A public forum will be held to go over the design. People can expect to see work happening on the park within the next two months.