

## Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Have you heard about the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs? It's a great organisation that has a series of projects that we have supported for a number of year now, and I want to take this time to talk about this and what we have been doing here in Wairoa.

*The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) is a nationwide network of Mayors working on the issues of work and livelihood in their communities.*



Mayor - Craig Little

MTFJ's governance group is called the Core Group. I have recently been appointed to this group and am excited about the opportunities for Wairoa. This group is made up of about 12 Mayors from throughout the country who oversee the organisation. The group meet quarterly in Wellington, as well as regular presentations to the rest of the Mayors on the operations of the MTFJ.

We facilitate two MTFJ work streams here in Wairoa; the Industry Training Graduations and the TUIA Rangatahi Leadership Programme.

### Industry Training Graduations

The ITO Graduations recognise the achievements of Wairoa's ITO graduates and provides an opportunity for the trainees and apprentices to celebrate with their families, friends and employers.

We've held ITO graduation functions for the last few years now and these are great functions to host. Mayors from throughout the country are asked to host a function for graduates who have recently completed a National Certificate qualification with an Industry Training Organisation (ITO). We seek to recognise and celebrate their achievement along with family, friends, ITO representatives and employers.



Wairoa's 2016 ITO Graduates Glenn Bradley, Daryl Whaanga and Trent Hedley with Mayor Craig Little

The graduations are an important time to also celebrate and thank local employers for their ongoing commitment to ongoing training. Organisations who have a commitment to their staff by allowing them the opportunity for professional development need to be acknowledged and I on behalf of the community thank you for your continued support.

### TUIA Rangatahi Leadership Programme

TUIA is a leadership development programme for young Māori in communities throughout New Zealand. It is believed that with the right support and the right opportunities, these young leaders could become instrumental in driving

social, cultural and economic change in our community.

Selected rangatahi will be expected to undertake and record a 100 hour community service project or what we call a 'Wairoa Legacy Project' for our community. They will also have the opportunity to build networks, obtain support and receive leadership training by attending four leadership development wānanga throughout the country over the course of the year.

*I have the pleasure of nominating a candidate from Wairoa to participate in the year long programme and the feedback I have received from previous nominees is that this programme is life changing.*

Seeing this transformation in our young people is so awesome because when you transform an individual you have the potential to transform entire communities. I want to acknowledge our previous TUIA leaders - Ngari Keefe, Kawa Stirling and Lara Tangiora. Many of you should remember the planting that our young people did along our riverbank, this is one project that initially came from one of our TUIA representatives and to see these projects come to life gives us all a sense of achievement. Our current candidate is Kassandra Huata; she is doing some great work for her community out at Raupunga including running school holiday programmes for Raupunga children and she also assists in coordinating the GHAT programme (Growing Hopeful Achieving Teenagers) which was recently acknowledged with a Trustpower Wairoa Community Award.



Kassandra Huata - Wairoa TUIA Leader for 2016 in Auckland with Councillor Hine Flood.

Kassandra has just completed her final wananga in Auckland and I want to thank her for her continued work with her community. I'm looking forward to selecting our 2017 candidate because I believe the potential of our young people is so good here in Wairoa and I'm always excited to see what ideas they have and what legacy project they will plan for our community.

I know there will be some good opportunities for our community because of our continued support of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and I'm looking forward to now joining the Core Group of 12 Mayors which govern the organisation. It's important to be part of programmes that benefit our community and that help us address the issues our community faces.

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

6 December: 10am

**Join the Summer Reading Programme at the Wairoa Public Library from 12th December 2016 - 20th January 2017.**



CONTACT US  
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**12th December 2016 -  
20th January 2017**



Register online at  
[www.wairoalibrary.co.nz](http://www.wairoalibrary.co.nz)  
Or come in and see us.



## Children's Storybook Parade

Wairoa Christmas Festival 2016

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 4pm