WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

02 March 2017



FROM THE MAYOR



It has been a busy few weeks and I'd like to make a few acknowledgements. Firstly, I hope you all enjoyed the races on the weekend. This is a highlight in the Wairoa calendar and by all accounts it was another successful event for Wairoa. Thanks certainly to everyone who was part of the organising committee. It's great to see the Wairoa community turn out for a fantastic event

and to also see Wairoa ex-pats coming home to support race

I also want to congratulate our local kapa haka group Te Rerenga Kōtuku who competed at the national Te Matatini Festival in Hastings last week. They did us all very proud. Jan and I were lucky enough to go to the festival on Friday to support and watch Te Rerenga Kōtuku's performance and I must say, I was very proud to be from Wairoa. The festival was a great success and as a Hawke's Bay Mayor, I was so thrilled that our region was able to organise such an extraordinary event.

I want to also take the time to highlight some upcoming changes to government legislation that will affect how we do things here at Council. Again, it should be said that we at Council merely administer the law. These pieces of legislation are developed and approved by central government and it is our role to implement our services according to these laws.

The Building (Pools) Amendment Act came into effect on the 1st of January 2017. The key changes are that there are now mandatory inspections of swimming pools every three years, allowance of safety covers to be used as barriers for spa pools and hot tubs and the introduction of additional enforcement tools for councils, including notices to fix. It is important

that people start to understand what these changes mean. We will be putting together some information pieces so that you know what these changes mean for you.

2016 Review of Dog Control Regime - Our dog control staff have a really tough job out there. They come up against some really horrible situations, but I just want to say that they have my 100% support in what they do.

The Wairoa District Council has a zero tolerance approach for any breaches of the Dog Control Act and our bylaws and it is so important that dog owners really understand what it means to be a responsible dog owner.

Proposed changes to the law mean that high-risk dogs (classed as menacing or dangerous) and their owners will be subject to stricter controls. Proposed law changes will require owners of high-risk dogs to:

- Have high-risk dog neutered.
- Keep high-risk dogs in a fenced in area at home that allows visitors dog-free access to at least one house
- Display signs at the front of their property alerting people of high-risk dogs.
- Ensure dangerous or menacing dogs wear collars identifying them as high-risk. These dogs must also wear muzzles and be on a leash in public places.
- Obtain a high-risk dog owner licence.
- Seek consent from the local authority to transfer the dog to a new owner.
- Inform any new owner that the dog is classified.

These are only a few of the legislative changes that are being implemented and proposed and I want to make sure that our community is aware of these changes.

Finally, there are a number of events that will be hosted in Wairoa over the coming weeks. Of particular note is the National Rodeo Finals later this month. Please do go along and support this event. Without all the many volunteers, workers and supporters, these types of events would not be possible in Wairoa and I acknowledge all the many volunteers who make Wairoa the great community that it is.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS 28 March: 1.30pm

COUNCIL FORUM

7 March: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

9 March: 12.30pm Council Chambers

All meetings will be held in the Wairoa District Council Chambers and are open to the public unless otherwise specified.



CONTACT US Wairoa District Council Queen St, Wairoa info@wairoadc.govt.nz (06) 838 7309



TOTAL FIRE BAN

for the whole Wairoa District

This means no outdoor fires may be lit.

Gas barbeques may be used without a permit, but caution is advised.

For more information contact Wairoa District Council Rural Fire Officer Paul van Dorrestein on (06) 838 7309.

If you see smoke, call 111 immediately.

LOWE CORPORATION RESCUE HELICOPTER WAIROA WALKATHON



4TH MARCH 2017, 4PM

WAIROA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Take part as a business team or whānau

If you would like to be a-part of the Wairoa Walkathon contact Esta Wainohu at the Wairoa Community Centre 06 838 3086.









