

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

We are two days away from one of the most intense General Elections New Zealand has seen for some time. If you are voting this year, we can help you find the locations to cast your vote in two days time. Advance voting is still open at the WAIROA WAR MEMORIAL HALL, at 93 Queen Street. This means that if you can't vote on Saturday, you can make an advance vote at the Wairoa War Memorial Hall.

There will be three voting places in Wairoa on Election Day. Those locations are: Wairoa College, 20 Lucknow Street; the Wairoa War Memorial Hall, 93 Queen Street; and Taihoa Marae, 174 State Highway 2 North. Make it count, if you wish to have your vote.



Wairoa voting booth officer Sharon Jane

What a fun-filled week it was last week promoting and getting involved with Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. Promoting our indigenous language through community events, and local businesses, is exactly what we strive to do. The screening of Moana Reo Māori last Saturday was the cherry on the icing, and the turnout was fantastic. It was a great day, filled with exciting competitions and prizes to draw our Wairoa whānau to the Gaiety Theatre. Tau kē!

As we head into summer, it's time for home owners who have residential pools to take into consideration the Building (Pools) Amendment Act 2016, and how it could affect you. The act came into effect on January 1, 2017. This amendment to the Building



Brothers Karoro Moe Tahuna, Pihama Tiakiwai, Raihania and Te Rawhiti Ora at the screening of Moana Reo Maori.

Act repeals the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 and includes new provisions in the Building Act 2004 relating to residential pools.

The new legislation was introduced to help keep children safe around swimming pools and clearly sets out the types of fencing property owners need to have around pools.

Key changes include: Residential swimming pools must be inspected every three years, safety covers will be able to be used as barriers for some spa pools and hot tubs and territorial authorities will have better tools to enforce pool barrier requirements, including notices to fix and infringement notices.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, 3 October: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 12 October: 12.00pm

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 17 October: 1.30pm

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 24 October: 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 31 October: 1.30pm



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STERN WARNING/REMINDER FOR DOG OWNERS: BE RESPONSIBLE!

Seven serious dog attacks across the district over a three-day period this month has prompted Wairoa District Council's animal control team to issue a stern reminder to dog owners: please be responsible for your dog! It's due to your negligence that we are on your case.

The animal control team is alarmed at the increase of serious dog attacks within the district, after seven were reported to Council over three days.

Chief Operations Officer Helen Montgomery is amazed at the total lack of responsibility shown by some dog owners, and the excuses given when animal control officers investigate these attacks.



"It makes our job extremely difficult when we approach dog owners who become extremely aggressive and abusive towards the team," Ms Montgomery said.

"The animal control officer's job is to enforce the Dog Control

Act 1996 and the Council bylaws, so the district is safe for all residents.

"I am astonished at the response we get from people: some blame everybody else for the dog being off the property, and others come up with excuses like 'someone left the gate open'.

"It is a simple fix: keep your dog confined or under control at all times. The Dog Control Act 1996, Section 5 outlines the obligations of dog owners... ensure that the dog is kept under control at all times."

Council has a zero tolerance policy for roaming dogs, and dogs involved in an attack. If a dog is caught, it will be impounded, if the dog is involved in an attack, prosecution and/or the destruction of the dog will be sort.

Council cannot release a dog from the pound until the dog is registered for the current year; the dog is microchipped and all impounding charges paid.

Impounding charges increase if the dog is caught again.

Animal control officers will work with dog owners, making suggestions to make the property more secure, but at the end of the day an owner is responsible for keeping the dog confined and under control.

"Infringements will be issued for dogs not being controlled or confined," Ms Montgomery said.

"It is a privilege to own a dog, not a right, and with the owning of a dog comes responsibilities."

"Remember not everyone loves your dog like you do".

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Why do you like to live, work & play in Wairoa and what can we do better?

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Keyword: #makeitcount

WAIROA