

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

We are well aware of the issues of council's wastewater system and our intention is based around long-term, sustainable and affordable solutions for Wairoa. A band-aid fix is not enough.

We are very conscious of the discharge consent breaches around the Wairoa River and have spent the past year engaging with our community via the wastewater stakeholder group, community meetings and hui.

During these processes we have been co-operating with the

Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Hawke's Bay District Health Board and the Ministry of Health to ensure there is no significant effect to public health and the environment.

Council acknowledges that where possible it needs to minimise the impact we have on our environment and I commend the work the stakeholder group has done to bring good, practicable options to council.

It is so important that we look at how we manage our wastewater, both now, and into the future.

If I had a magic wand, I would pour millions of dollars into getting our whole wastewater system upgraded. Unfortunately, neither myself or the community has that wand, leaving us to all work together for the best outcomes.

I would like to see E.coli tests on our river pin-pointed at different locations. I think we should be testing the river further upstream, even beyond Frasertown, so we can get a better understanding of where these E.coli sources are.

The more information we have the more empowered we are to make improvements. I know the Hawke's Bay Regional Council is making a real commitment to help us with these issues.

Part of our future planning around waste water, and basically everything Wairoa, is centred around the Wairoa District Council Long-Term Plan 2018-28

This document is about what our community wants over the next decade. The consultation period for people to have their say is still open and I encourage everyone to put their thoughts forward to help us plan to make our community the best it can be.

The current long-term plan contains 10 significant projects we need to focus on to achieve our objectives and vision as a community.

Council is committed to investing in our core business as an organisation. This means maintaining our services and infrastructure.

We have already received feedback from a pre-consultation process which involved council representatives out in the community in the caravan. Our consultation period is open for a month, with submissions closing on Tuesday June 26 at 4.30pm.

To download and read the LTP consultation document, and submit your feedback, visit Wairoa District Council's website on www.wairoadc.govt.nz and search for #ltp2018.

Submission forms and consultation documents are also available at council's Queen St office, the Wairoa i-SITE, the Wairoa library, Osler's Bakery, New World, BJ's Dairy in Frasertown and the Mahia Beach Store.

Our community needs to get serious about the Mycoplasma bovis. This disease has the potential to devastate our farming community.

More than 120,000 cows have been slaughtered to eradicate the disease. As a community, we need to be informed and prepared.

I hope Government officials will be visiting all of rural New Zealand, including Wairoa, to give the actual facts around this disease and not just hearsay.

Thank you to all those who took part in the Wairoa Māori Film Festival gala evening on Saturday night.



I had the privilege of presenting the Te Wairoa Award for contribution to media to former Wairoa College music teacher Mary Stubbings. Mary had supported dozens of young students and their musical aspirations during her many years heading the Wairoa College music department.

Her students competed in X Factor, NZ Idol, Smokefree Pasifika Beats and Smokefree Rock Quest. A group of former students, led by Kiri Gilbert, sang a "Wairoa All Stars" medley to honour their former teacher.

The organisers of the film festival did a cracking job to put on a wonderful event that was full of beautiful singing and showcased some grassroots Wairoa talent.

A small group of community champions - including local women Michelle McIlroy, Whaiora MacDonald, Jenny Scothern-King and councillor Denise Eaglesome-Karekare - are taking to Wairoa streets tomorrow to pick up plastic and rubbish.

By taking the lead Michelle and Whaiora are showing that a small group of dedicated people can make a difference to our environment.

As a community we should be proud of this initiative, we are the only town in the North Island to be taking part in World Oceans Day. On June 8 each year the ocean and its importance in our lives, and how we can protect it is celebrated.

World Oceans Day helps raise the profile of the ocean and inspire more involvement in helping to conserve this amazing resource we all depend on. Three local schools will be helping our community group to pick up rubbish along roadside drains and off the streets.

The crusade starts at 9am at Wairoa College with a karakia. I encourage you all to attend or help out.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 12 June: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14 June: 12.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 June: 1.30pm

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 26 June: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY 14TH JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
Hauora Building (old school), Raupunga

WEDNESDAY, 20TH JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
Mokotahi Hall, Mahia

MONDAY, 18TH JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
Community Hall, Tuai

THURSDAY, 21ST JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
War Memorial Hall, Wairoa

TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
Erepeti Marae, Ruakituri