

## MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

### CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Christmas is just around the corner, and there are some great local events planned.

The Riverside Motor Camp Christmas lights are always popular, and I recommend people check them out. Well done to Sharron and Bill for helping to spread the Christmas spirit.

The PGG Wrightson Wairoa Christmas Parade and free family concert will be held on Saturday, December 8.

This year's float parade theme is myths, legends and fairytales.

Floats will travel along Marine Parade followed by prizegiving on the lighthouse green.

This is a great opportunity to get together with family and friends and enjoy a fun Christmas filled afternoon.

December 8 will also see the East Coast waka ama regatta being held at Lake Whakamarino. It is wonderful that Tuai has secured the event and Council is working on making the area look as good as possible for the event which is expected to draw hundreds of visitors.

### COUNCIL VISITOR

Local man Brad McGurk got to experience what it was like to be in the Mayor's shoes with a visit to the council offices and chambers last week.



The highlight for Brad was wearing the Mayoral chain.

Brad is a real identity in the Wairoa community, and it's great to be able to arrange visits like this.

The Council door is always open, and if anyone one or group would like a look around, please contact our office to arrange a time.

### NEW WEBSITE

The revamped Wairoa District Council website is proving to be a hit with users taking advantage of the new online services.

The upgraded site offers increased usability and new functions with a clean, fresh and uncluttered look.

Major improvements include the ability to now complete most Council forms online and more video usage to make the site more interactive.

Anyone looking for a Council form can now easily complete their

application online saving a trip to the Council offices.

A big focus has also been on the new documents and forms area of the website which now offers a filtering and search function making it easier to find what you are looking for.



A 'do it online' section will also make it easier for the user to find Council's online services.

More online services will be introduced in the future, and we are working on including more te reo with the new site including a switch in the menu that allows the user to flick between English and te reo.

Feedback so far has been positive with people already accessing the new services.

We are fortunate the website update is a joint project with all the Hawke's Bay Councils meaning we have had the ability to share costs.

We are encouraging anyone who is interested in taking part in a quick survey to let us know what you think about the new look and functionalities of the website.

Our aim is to continually develop and improve the website to offer an improved service to everyone who uses it.

You can find the link to the survey on our homepage.

[www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)

### NUHAKA & FRASERTOWN SCHOOL JUBILEES

Congratulations to Nuhaka and Frasertown Schools which have both recently held jubilee celebrations.

The Nuhaka School jubilee was held at Labour weekend and celebrated 120 years.

The Frasertown School jubilee was held earlier this month and celebrated 150 years.

It was a privilege to speak at the Frasertown School jubilee. I have an association with the school as my children went there and I am a former board member.

These milestones show what resilient communities we have. Well done to the organisers who ran the events and also to the staff, both now and from the past, who have kept these schools running so strongly.

I know how much work goes into keeping these schools going so our children and communities can prosper.

The jubilee weekends were also a great chance to catch up with old friends and family and revive many fantastic memories.

## FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 4 December: 1.30pm

### MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13 December: 12.30pm



### CONTACT US

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## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

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