

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL IN FOCUS

Mayor Craig Little



MAYORAL COLUMN

THE AFTERMATH OF CYCLONE GABRIELLE

As I look around our battered district my heart goes out to all our local people, the homeowners, the businesspeople, our rural people and farmers who have been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. I don't want to compare anyone's loss as each and every one of us has suffered differently. There are those who may not have had material loss, but the lack of connectivity, particularly to Hawke's Bay, I know is hard for many people.

Cyclone Gabrielle occurred just over seven weeks ago and the progress that has been made in many areas is outstanding and a terrific tribute to the determination of our local people and the assistance given by local services. I know we have a long way to go and I know for many of you recovery can feel like it is out of reach. If you need help or assistance, or don't know where to turn, please contact the Council offices, call in or phone 06 838 7309, or head to the i-Site or the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust building on Marine Parade (in the former Westpac bank building). Staff at these sites may not have all the answers, but hopefully, they will be able to point you in the right direction.

PRIME MINISTER VISIT

It was great that Prime Minister Chris Hipkins finally made it to Wairoa to see first hand the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle. The visit was the third time lucky as the Prime Minister has been unable to fly in on the two previously scheduled visits. The Prime Minister was accompanied by our local MPs who are great Wairoa supporters, and I am appreciative of how hard they push for our community.

During the Prime Minister's visit, it was the words of the Hon. Meka Whaitiri that really resonated with me. She reminded us all that the mahi we do is for the future generation. It is not about today, it is about all the tomorrows. Minister Whaitiri was referring to one of my favourite kids, Asher Foley. Asher was at Hinemihī Marae during the visit and pretty much stole the show. The presence of this rangatahi was recognised by the Prime Minister, Ministers and other guests. Thank you to Asher and his whānau for reminding us of what is really important, today's rangatahi are the future of Wairoa - and that is why we do what we do today.



RECOVERY

I am thrilled with the appointment of our recovery manager Benita Tahuri. Benita has hit the ground running, she knows our community well and will do everything she can to support everyone in our district. As she says, 'no one left behind.'

Wairoa's recovery approach is very much Iwi/Council-led and partnered and we want a 'By Wairoa, For Wairoa' approach.

Our recovery and regeneration need to be based on what our Wairoa whānau needs, both immediately and into the future. In partnership with Iwi, we are best placed to co-ordinate this, as we are currently geographically isolated

and disconnected which makes it challenging for people to even be here to understand our unique community and situation.

Our cyclone response, and now our recovery, needs to be centrally and regionally enabled and locally-led. Wairoa's ability to work inclusively is a big factor. We are a connected community, and we have the ability to get our needs met quickly - provided we are given the necessary support and resources to do so.

WAIROA MAYORAL RELIEF FUND

The Wairoa Mayoral Relief Fund, established in response to the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle and the subsequent heavy rainfall event, is open for applications.

The fund comprises over \$1 million made up of donations and the Givealittle fundraiser page. Donations are ongoing.

This fund only exists because of the generosity of the people and organisations that have made donations. These donors wanted the funding to go directly to support Wairoa people who are most in need. We are tremendously grateful for the generosity of hundreds of people whose donations will help our whānau rebuild in the wake of such destruction.

Applications will be considered based on immediate recognised needs in the community and where the applicant has suffered a financial loss or is experiencing financial hardship because of the weather events. While this fund sounds as though it has a lot of money, we also have a lot of need and distribution will be fair to all.

The panel to review applications and allocate the Mayoral Relief Fund comprises Nigel How Chair of Wairoa Taiwhenua, well-respected North Clyde resident Hine Kohn and myself. The panel will also be observed by an independent member of Council's Finance, Assurance and Risk Committee, and the recovery manager.

Receiving funds from the local fund does not prevent people from also applying for additional funds available from other sources including the greater Hawke's Bay Relief Fund, Central Government business support, as well as various individuals and businesses offering help and through Givealittle funding.

To apply to the Mayoral Relief Fund head to, <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle/wairoa-mayoral-relief-fund?stage=Stage>

or call into the Wairoa District Council offices to collect a form, or ask for assistance and a staff member will fill out the form with you. Forms and support are also available from the Wairoa i-Site or the Wairoa Young Achievers building on Marine Parade (in the former Westpac building).

The Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Fund is also accepting applications. This fund is for residents and ratepayers of the Hawke's Bay region who have been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. The fund, organised by the Hawke's Bay mayors and chair, offers one-off grants to help alleviate hardship.

Support is available up to a maximum of \$1,000 per household or \$2,000 for organisations, marae and community groups. For the online application form hbrc.info/HBDisasterFund for funding.



FOR YOUR DIARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee:

Tuesday, April 11, 1.30pm

Māori Standing Committee:

Tuesday, April 18, 1.30pm

CONTACT US

Wairoa District Council

Queen St, Wairoa

info@wairoadc.govt.nz (06) 838 7309



SPORT NZ Rural Travel Fund

Applications for financial assistance through the SPORT NZ Rural Travel Fund (Formerly SPARC) are now open.

Approximately \$11,352 is available for distribution to local rural sports clubs and school teams with members aged between 5-19 years who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

Applicants will need to meet the eligibility criteria of the Rural Travel Fund.

Application forms and further information are available from: Latoya Tipuna, email latoya@wairoadc.govt.nz or call into the Wairoa District Council offices or i-Site or phone 06 838 7309.

For more information please refer:

Applications close
Friday, April 21, 2023

Kitea Tipuna
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2023

5:45 AM

KAIUKU MARAE DAWN SERVICE
Mahia East Coast Road | **MAHIA**

9.00 AM

FRASERTOWN CIVIC SERVICE
Carroll Street | **FRASERTOWN**

9:30 AM

TAIHOA MARAE SERVICE
State Highway 2 | **WAIROA**

11:00 AM

WAIROA CIVIC SERVICE
Wairoa War Memorial Hall | **WAIROA**



25 APRIL 2023

ANZAC DAY
WAIROA

Acknowledgements to Wairoa artist Chance Rohe who designed the graphics in this banner.
KORERO FROM THE ARTIST: Kai Wareware Tātau - the imagery used in the poppy graphic above is derived from conversations I've heard and had about our Tipuna who fought in the World Wars. The Māori Battalion. Korero tuku iho heavily aligned to us and how we are a result of their sacrifice. We shall never take life for granted. We shall never forget. Your sacrifice, created my future. Thank you.

HEY DUCKSHOOTERS

Fish & Game's game bird hunting licences are available now from the i-Site on Paul Street.

**OPEN WEEKDAYS
BETWEEN
8.30AM - 4.30PM
AND WEEKENDS
10AM - 4PM.**