

Mayoral Column | 23 November, 2023



HEAVY RAINFALL IMPACT SIGNIFICANT

My heart goes out to those people, particularly in the Nuhaka, Mahia and Whakaki areas, who suffered so much due to the recent heavy rain.

Nineteen properties sustained damage and received Rapid Building Assessment placards, ranging from red to white, as a result of the rainfall. It is unbelievable that our district is still being impacted by weather events that are causing damage to homes, roads and infrastructure.

I would like to extend a huge thanks to our local Civil Defence team, emergency responders, and those in our community who have stood up to help others.

A reminder, we have seen significant slipping and ground slumpage at Mahia along the East Coast Road and Brown's Rise. This affected land remains unstable, and extreme caution is advised. Our continued rainfall over the weekend could also have a further impact, and anyone concerned about unstable ground should contact the Council.

LOCALISM AT ITS BEST

Utilising local resources and training local people is a key component of Wairoa's post-Cyclone Gabrielle rebuild – and Hookmade is doing just that.

Hookmade was established by Tina Wilcox, Maria and Benita Cairns, with its driver being to support whānau. The initiative grew from whānau need in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, and what began as kai and water distribution now involves clean-up and rebuilding work across the district.

Work to date has included kaiawhina whānau support with 317 kanohi ki te kanohi contacts with affected property homeowners, silt crews and Taskforce Green labour for affected rural properties, orchards, marae, community halls, schools and early childhood centres.

As of the end of October, Hookmade had:

- Removed silt from around 63 homes.
- Delivered and spread 23 loads of gravel onto driveways
- Carried out gib installation and plastering at three homes
- Cleaned and stripped six outbuildings/sheds
- Cleaned up debris at two early childhood centres
- Cleared debris and carried out fencing at 30 rural properties

Well done to everyone involved with Hookmade. Your foresight has had people on the ground to help impacted whānau and involves vital training and skills teaching.

MAYORAL MORNING TEA

I am looking forward to catching up with our local senior citizens at tomorrow's Mayoral Christmas morning tea. We have a morning of fun, entertainment and festivities planned and I hope as many local senior citizens and kaumātua can attend the event and share the morning with elected members.

I make no secret that the Mayoral morning tea is one of my favourite events as it is an opportunity to catch up with so many people who have done so much for our community.

My wife Jan, who is the patron of Age Concern, and myself, look forward to catching up with familiar faces, having a bite to eat, listening to music and enjoying each other's company.

The event will be held at the War Memorial Hall from 10am to noon. To assist with catering, please register your attendance by phoning the Council on 06 838 7309.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Registrations are rolling in for this year's Wairoa Christmas Parade. The theme is 'Everyone Santa', which allows everyone to demonstrate the spirit of Christmas by wearing their local versions of Santa and Mrs Claus costumes.

Scheduled for Saturday, December 9, the parade is a fun-filled fixture on the Wairoa calendar, with organisers hoping for lots of involvement this year.

For the parade to succeed, we need as many people to join as possible. Cyclone Gabrielle has made it a tough year for our community, and the parade is a chance to have some fun, especially for our children to be involved in a happy and festive local event.

A shout out to our sponsors for helping make this event possible, thank you to Wairoa Taiwhenua, Wairoa New World, Kahungunu Executive ADARA, Wairoa Tennis Club and QRS.

For those who enter floats, plenty of prizes are up for grabs with categories for best commercial, education provider and community organisation, as well as best costume age group prizes for boys and girls.

Registrations close on Friday, December 8. Email rubbyanne@wairoadc.govt.nz for your registration form or collect it from the Wairoa i-Site office.

WAIROA A AND P SHOW

I know it has been a difficult decision not to hold the 2024 A and P Society Show at the North Clyde showgrounds, which was significantly impacted by flooding from Cyclone Gabrielle.

Congratulations to the organisers for their commitment to hold a smaller-scale community fair. The details are being finalised and will include the popular shearing event on January 19 and 20. All the best for the scaled-down event, which I hope is supported by our community.

ECKO HOME FINALIST

Well done to Ecko Home – Wairoa's main street gift and homeware store, which was named a finalist in the Resilient Business category of the Hawke's Bay Business Awards. While Ecko didn't win this category, being named a finalist was a tremendous achievement for owner Lauren Johansen, and her team, and demonstrated that Wairoa can foot it on a regional level.



Mayor Craig Little

MEET THE MAYOR KANOHI KI TE KANOHI

If you would like to have a meeting with the Mayor, call the council offices on 06 838 7309 to arrange a meeting time. He is available to meet with people on Wednesdays.

FOR YOUR DIARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 28, 1.30pm

STRATEGY, WELLBEING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 5, 1.30pm

INTERIM SPEED MANAGEMENT POLICY PLAN

Wairoa District Council is proposing to implement an interim speed management plan to reduce speeds in key locations, outside schools and along Marine Parade.

To make a submission online go to www.consultations.nz/wdc/
Email feedback@wairoadc.govt.nz
Submissions can also be made by post or in person to the Wairoa District Council Governance Team, 97 Queen Street Wairoa 4108.