



CYCLONE GABRIELLE FIRST ANNIVERSARY

A day of remembrance will be held next Wednesday, February 14, to commemorate the first anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle.

Events and activities are planned throughout the day, starting with a Memorial Hikoī and Mokopuna Day for children and including a minute's silence at midday and an evening whānau concert.

This anniversary is certainly a time to reflect. Our district is still scarred, with hundreds of people displaced from their homes. Many challenges are still ahead of us, but we are also working as a united community to build back, hopefully, better than before.

Next Wednesday, commemorations will begin with a Memorial Hikoī walking the whenua engulfed by the awa and acknowledging the journey our people have been on. Join the 1.8km hikoī, starting with a karakia at the Wairoa A and P Showgrounds at 6am. Everyone is welcome to 'hikoia te hikoī' walking from Ruataniwha Road to Crarer Street, Mahia Avenue, Freyberg Street and onto Hunter Brown Street, ending at War Memorial Park/Tapuae Grounds and collecting whānau along the way.

This will be followed by speeches, acknowledgements and breakfast.

A Mokopuna Day for our children will follow, which will see War Memorial Park/Tapuae Grounds transformed into an inflatable world to acknowledge Wairoa's amazing, resilient children. Schools and pre-schools must register their attendance.

A regionwide One-Minute silence will be held at midday when Wairoa and Hawke's Bay will unite as one community to remember those precious lives lost during Cyclone Gabrielle with everyone encouraged to pay tribute wherever you are.

During the evening, a Whānau/Family Concert featuring local and New Zealand artists will be held from 5.30pm-8.30pm at the Tapuae Grounds. This is a chance for the Wairoa community to come together to reflect on being proud Wairoa people with music, kai and whanaungatanga.

WASH, SQUASH AND LIDS OFF

There will be limited changes for Wairoa kerbside recycling as a result of the national roll-out.

Standardised rules for kerbside recycling came into force across New Zealand last Thursday – but in Wairoa, 'we're all good'.

That is because the kerbside recycling already

collects most of the materials specified in the Government's new national guidelines.

The Wairoa District Council waste team has confirmed that: 'we're all good – we just mostly need to keep doing what we're doing'.

The main changes are that all lids, caps, and triggers need to be removed from bottles and items that are smaller than 50mm or larger than four litres will not be collected.

Residents can continue to put out glass bottles and jars, cans, paper and cardboard, and plastics numbered 1, 2 and 5.

The government has introduced standardised kerbside recycling across New Zealand to increase consistency and reduce unnecessary waste to landfill. This way, people can go anywhere in the country and know how and what to put kerbside, helping all Kiwis recycle better together.

The changes will ensure that where waste is recycled . . . it is less likely to be contaminated by material that cannot be used.

So remember recyclers, 'Wash, squash and lids off'.

EAST COAST FARMING EXPO

The upcoming East Coast Farming Expo will feature two days of exhibits, demonstrations and seminars for sheep and beef farmers.

Due to damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle at the showgrounds, this year's event has been relocated to the Wairoa racecourse and is scheduled for February 21 and 22.

The expo aims to connect rural communities with agribusiness and innovators, focusing on building back smarter to help farmers look forward after such a tough few years.

The event will include the Rural News Cadet Challenge and the Beef + Lamb NZ Station Challenge, seminars, drone demonstrations, a digger challenge and working dog training days.

SPRUCING UP THE MAIN STREET

I'm pleased that discussions are happening around tidying up Wairoa's main street.

We have some retailers who are fantastic, and their shops look amazing, but there are others where more work is needed. We need everyone, from business owners and landlords to shoppers and members of the public, to take pride in Marine



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 FORUM

Tuesday, February 13, 10am

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 1.30pm

FINANCE, ASSURANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 20, 1.30pm

Parade. It is great to have the new redevelopment of Ahi Kōmau/Gemmell's on Parade, and we are thrilled to have these three businesses in place, but it is important our focus is on all our businesses.

It has been a challenging few years, and we want our businesses to succeed moving forward. Refreshing Marine Parade will make it more attractive, more of a drawcard and ultimately busier for our local retailers. In a small town, it is important we support our retailers. If we don't, we run the risk of losing them. I encourage local people to tautoko (support) Wairoa businesses by shopping and buying locally wherever possible. I also look forward to the Council working in partnership with our local retailers to spruce up our CBD. If the Council can help with any initiatives, please let us know.