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The Wairoa Star

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Thursday, August 1, 2019



Council open to talks on lake rubbish woes

WITH another busy summer expected for the district's tourism hotspots, Wairoa District Council was asked if they would provide more waste management support at Tuai and Waikaremoana.

Wairoa Mayor Craig Little said the council had a weekly rubbish and recycling collection from Onepoto, which includes Tuai, down to Frasertown. The same contractor also monitors and empties the bins in the area.

The collection area covered was Tuai village, including Onepoto village, Waimako papakainga, Te Kuha papakainga, Piripaua village and SH38 (from Onepoto to Pakowhai Bridge).

The council has no obligation to deliver waste services within Te Urewera.

The council monitors waste demands over peak periods. There is a slight increase in volume of waste and attendance required over the summer months, which is handled by the contractor.

The council has been and will continue to work with the Tuai community to enhance the area across all council-related services.

"With regards to Waikaremoana, the council understands there are issues with rubbish over the summer season within Te Urewera, as has been previously reported in the Wairoa Star.

"There are no Wairoa District Council ratepayers within Te Urewera, and the council has no obligation to deliver waste services within Te Urewera.

"Council has never picked up rubbish in Te Urewera, including when the national park was under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation.

"From an environmental perspective, we would be open to discussing options around this issue with Te Urewera Board and Tuhoe Te Uru Taumatua, the governing board of Ngai Tuhoe."

Plans for additional freedom camper wardens this summer were outlined at Tuesday's economic development committee meeting at Wairoa District Council.

Freedom camper wardens will have a focus on Mahia peninsula and direct tourists to local events and advise them if they are in a prohibited area.

They will monitor rubbish and public facilities, and their focus is on education and visitor experience.

The council applied to the Responsible Freedom Camping fund for the manuhiri (visitor) programme.

The council's group manager of community and engagement, Kitea Tipuna, acknowledged the support of Mahia Maori Committee and Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust Board, which supported the application.

The council has also applied for funding to improve infrastructure for toilets, rubbish and recycling in peak season.

Mr Tipuna said there was also funding applications for more signage and brochures to ensure it was clear where people with self-contained vehicles were able to freedom camp and where restricted freedom camping and prohibited areas were.

Chasing the pig with Dad



WAIROA District Schools Speech Festival at Takitimu Marae last Thursday saw 38 top speakers entertain and persuade, including Frasertown School's Connor Cavaney, who had his audience out pig hunting with his dad, chasing a pig and sliding down the hill after it. More on the speeches on p8.

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