



Students full of excitement and a few nerves at start of new school year

WITH their favourite books from the library, Frasertown School's new students are excited about learning this year.

The school is looking forward to a carnival today, with water slides and zorb balls at the school.

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SHABBY SHOPS IN SPOTLIGHT

THE need for a refresh of Marine Parade was discussed at Thursday's Wairoa Business Association meeting — and again at the Wairoa District Council Strategy, Wellbeing and Economic Development Committee Meeting on Tuesday.

The central business district (CBD) redevelopment Ahi Kōmau/Gemmell's on Parade attracted positive comment at the business association meeting on Thursday and at the committee meeting.

With the redevelopment on the corner of Marine Parade and Locke Street, committee chair Denise Eaglesome-Karekare said the demolition of the Winter's building was going well, with the contractors keeping everything contained.

She said they had received some good feedback from the Wairoa Business Association about how they could progress the CBD.

During the Christmas break, a Wairoa business that had stayed open did very well but they told her, it felt like Wairoa had closed for business.

Council chief executive Kitea Tipuna said there was a steady flow of people coming through the town during that holiday period.

Mayor Craig Little said there were a few issues where tenants in these businesses did not own the shop, but those who owned their buildings were doing something to fix leaks.

"We are going to have to have a campaign to see what we can do to help. It is a disgrace."

Mrs Eaglesome-Karekare wondered if there were levers in particular clauses of the public safety bylaw they could use to enforce greater care of these buildings.

Mr Tipuna said they were going to review bylaws this year and they might investigate ways they encouraged landlords to care for their tenants.

The chair said it was about how many signs you could have per business but the mayor said it did not say anything about cleanliness.

Mrs Eaglesome-Karekare said they heard that Kaitaia had tried to encourage businesses to stop being shabby.

"We should see how they got on. Maybe that is a model we could look at and get proactive businesses to encourage their neighbours to clean up their act."

Mr Tipuna said Wairoa had a history of landlords being a bit absent and they have had conversations to encourage them to be more responsive.

He said Hawke's Bay Chamber of Commerce were keen to support Wairoa businesses post Gabrielle.

"They receive government funding across Hawke's Bay for support programmes."

Mrs Eaglesome-Karekare said perhaps they could use their services to help encourage

businesses to pick up their game — window dressing and drawing people into their businesses.

"Maybe there is an opportunity for Hawke's Bay Chamber of Commerce to be part of what we are going to do."

Wairoa Business Association chair and star manager Sam Jackman said Wairoa needed to become more attractive presenting itself with pride.

At the meeting held at the Wairoa Club, they looked at a Wairoa District Council colour scheme from 2013.

"It is completely out of date."

"I have looked at the Resenes' website which has a host of art deco colour palettes."

"Shop owners could select their own palette and the association could purchase the Resene paints from local agents Hammer Hardware."

"I am keen for us and for those who have to do roof maintenance to look at their colour scheme."

"That is what The Wairoa Star is doing."

"We have a sprinkle of shops along Marine Parade that need attention but there are some who can not paint and have contractual signage they have to work around."

"Those are corporate issues."

"And others, like the Gaiety, you would not want to change, but this is an opportunity for a refresh for the town."

At the meeting, he said people were keen, it was just a matter of finances and how to go about it.

'He was lucky': fire chief full of praise for homeowner after very close call

A MĀHIA angler had a very close call when he arrived home from fishing on Saturday afternoon at 2pm to find the whole of his two-storey house filled with smoke.

Māhia fire chief Bruce Hedley said when the homeowner arrived, he immediately ventilated the house and shut down the power.

"He did the right thing."

"We searched the ceilings with an infra-red camera and could not find anything but we found the oven was red-hot. When we removed the oven, the wall was on fire behind the oven."

"The fire was extinguished and an electrician was called."

He was full of praise for the homeowner for shutting the power down, but a little disappointed the neighbours had not noticed smoke coming out of the windows.

"The whole house was full of smoke."

"He was very lucky. It pays to check your batteries in your smoke alarms and if you do not have smoke alarms, get them installed."

"Contact your fire department for help with their installation."

Just two hours later, Māhia fire crew and a Wairoa fire tanker attended a vegetation fire at Ōpoho.

"That was still burning when we arrived, the landowner and workers had managed to put out the surrounding area."

"He was very lucky there was no wind."

The fire had started in a rubbish hole and got out of control.

"We dampened it down for half an hour and I asked them to keep an eye on the rubbish hole for the rest of the night."

Nūhaka fire chief Denal Meihana says if you are doing a burn off, make sure you keep an eye on it and have a means of extinguishing it.

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