



Page 8-9



Page 15



**WATCH OUT!:** Left, Mokoia Wilson-Winterburn, Cedar Wairau and right, Tamati Tuhi of Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust practice their tsunami warning calls.

## 'Be prepared, learn the warning signs', advises tsunami expert

EAST Coasters and anyone in the Hawke's Bay region should watch for tsunami warning signs, says Kate Boersen of East Coast Lab.

At a meeting held in the Māhia Golf clubroom on Tuesday, Ms Boersen gave a presentation on the potential threats posed to the upper North Island by tsunamis and earthquakes.

Māhia was the first stop on the Hikurangi M9 Roadshow, a joint venture between EQC, East Coast Lab and Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust to raise public awareness about these natural disasters.

"Don't wait on official warnings to come.

"If the earthquake is longer than

ten seconds or you hear a strange rumbling in the ground — especially if you live near the coast — that is the most reliable warning you'll get," the community science coordinator said.

If you are at the beach, watch out for water suddenly receding.

Ms Boersen shared a story of a 10-year-old girl Tilly Smith from the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami.

"Tilly saw the sea draw back and said, 'Mummy, we need to get everyone off the beach!' and they managed to save around 250 people.

"The warning signs were something she had learned about in class only a week earlier."

■ Look out for more from the road show on Thursday.

## Report reveals district's key concerning trends

A SUMMARY of key Wairoa metrics or data over the last quarter of 2023 shows that the number of years to save for a house deposit, crime rates and job-seeker support rates are all on the increase here.

Metrics are measures of quantitative assessment used for assessing, comparing, and tracking performance or production.

The quarterly report was led by Community Compass and Dot Loves Data and presented to the Wairoa District Council Strategy, Wellbeing and Economic Development committee Tuesday a fortnight.

It is the first time the committee has received the report, with group manager for community services and development Juanita Savages saying it costs \$1000 per month plus GST.

"Dot Loves Data is a relatively new service, led by former Wellington Mayor Justin Lester, and I had to ask where they got their data from.

"They said it was from Education-counts, Ministry of Health and Stats NZ."

Committee chair and deputy

mayor Denise Eaglesome-Karekare said it provided important information.

"There is some good data and it is easy to read, but it also highlights some concerns.

"It is something I would like for us to receive, so that we can monitor the trends. It means that we can talk to people in those pau, like education or crime, and what they are doing to address these trends."

The education trends include a 56 percent secondary school retention in January 2022, with students staying until their 17th birthdays, which is down from 64 percent in

January 2021.

Females were more likely to leave with NCEA Level 3 in the Wairoa district, which is 144 percent higher than males from 2014 to 2022.

Wairoa College was 56.2 percent 2022, 62.9 percent in 2021 and 63.4 percent in 2020.

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Kahungunu o Te Wairoa, 2020, had 80 percent retention of female students until their 17th birthdays; in 2021, it was 40 percent, but no gender was given and figures were not available for 2022 on

educationcounts.govt.nz.

Crime in December 2023 was up 6.26 percent from September 2023, with 16.1 incidents per 10,000 people.

The type of crime with the greatest change was robbery, extortion and related offences.

It had increased by 59.56 percent between September 2023 and December.

The number of years it took to save for a house deposit in December 2023 was seven — about one and a half months longer on the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, rental affordability based on the percentage of income spent on rent rose three percent, to 26.9 percent.

The purchasing affordability is the percentage of annual median household income that would be spent on mortgage repayments, which is based on purchasing at the median house price with a 20 percent deposit over 30 years and a fixed interest rate of 4 percent.

Rental affordability is also based on the median annual household income.

Meanwhile, job seeker support rates are up 5 percent from December 2022 to December 2023, with 12.8 percent of the working population aged 15-64 years in the Wairoa district claiming job seeker support.

"There is some good data and it is easy to read, but it also highlights some concerns."

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