

## Inside today

Lest we forget



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Outstanding orchids

# DOG OWNERSHIP IS 'A PRIVILEGE, STICK TO THE RULES': WDC

UNCONFINED dogs are posing a risk to the community and concerning Wairoa District Council and residents.

Council chief executive Kitea Tipuna said dogs not confined to their property were a risk the community did not need.

People are concerned about dogs not being properly secured and controlled, causing harm, or being a nuisance to neighbours, neighbourhoods, and members of the public.

Mr Tipuna said dog owners had an obligation to ensure their dogs were controlled and confined.

"On the property, there must be clear access to a door to enable people to contact you.

"It can be intimidating for people who are doing their daily jobs and are confronted with an uncontrolled and unsupervised dog."

Mr Tipuna said the council was receiving reports of postal workers, courier drivers, meter readers, and others being confronted while they were out working.

"If they are challenged by a dog, the services they are providing may not be delivered, which will impact the resident.

"Children in the community should be able to walk to and from school safely without roaming dogs confronting them.

"People should not be too fearful to walk in their local neighbourhoods because dogs are not secure and are left to roam outside their boundaries.

"We need to protect people in our community, particularly the elderly, the



**FORLORN FIDO:** Unconfined dogs are a risk to the community, says the council.

young and the vulnerable.

"Dog owners are responsible for ensuring their dogs do not cause harm or nuisance.

"Dogs that are not properly restrained are a risk to the community and could result in the dog owner being banned from owning a dog in the future."

Mr Tipuna said all dog owners are encouraged to check their boundary fences and gate latches and look at options, such as mesh on gateways and signage.

"If members of the public feel intimidated by a dog and know which property that dog lives at, please let the council know.

"Being a dog owner should be viewed as a privilege. We ask all owners to consider their obligations and responsibilities, please stick to the rules, and ensure your dog does not intimidate others — either at home or in public places."

## Cups of tea, kai follow tensions over construction of a weir

AN occasion to bless work in Whakakī was disrupted by locals letting Whakakī Lake trustees and Hawke's Bay Regional Council know their views.

On Monday morning, Whakakī Lake Trust welcomed around 50 people to bless the construction of a weir by the landing bridge on Whakakī Lagoon Road.

With Hawke's Bay Regional Council, lake trustees, local residents, contractors and other guests invited, the special day was one of frustration for some who felt they did not have a say on what should happen with the weir.

As lake trustee, Kahu Walker was giving his kōrero, a group of frustrated residents felt that by beginning work on the weir, the tikanga of a rāhui they said was in place was not being respected.

As a local resident shared their frustration, another resident said that they were the mana of the community, with another saying in response that they had no mana.

Mr Walker calmly said in his kōrero that there were differing opinions on the matter, but that the day and occasion was a way to move forward.

"Those opinions are kei te pai, but we are here to acknowledge the work that these engineers will do."

It was almost a déjà-vu moment, with many familiar faces at a blessing in May 2022 for construction on the weir due to start then.

The project is one that has attracted much discussion over many years with Whakakī Lake trustee and Hawke's Bay Regional Council catchment advisor Trevor Waikawa giving a number of reasons for the delayed start.

"Covid-19, Cyclone Gabrielle and some engineering problems prevented us from construction a couple of years ago, but there is a slightly new design concept and work is ready to go."

Despite the tensions, everyone went back to Whakakī Marae for a cup of tea and kai



**BLESSING THE WORK:** Despite some criticism on Monday, Whakakī Lake trustees Kahu Walker and Angie Smith offer karakia for the engineers' work and the weir construction.

and continued conversations on differing opinions of the situation.

In the wharekai, Mr Walker reiterated that the space they were in was for a time to move forward.

"Another part of the tikanga we use is the word mana — a word we use a lot.

"When we talk about mana motuhake, mana tangata, mana taurite or any mana, my grandmother would say 'my mana is mine and mine alone and whoever I give it to is my choice.

"So, what we have chosen on behalf of the lake trust is to give our mana so you can go about your business as safely as possible."

Looking at the wall of tipuna that have done work before him, Mr Walker said it was because of them that they stood today.

"If you talk to any lake trustees or whānau today, they are innate to hui."

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