



A message from the Mayor: Celebrating Waipā this Christmas

Kia ora koutou, and Merry Christmas! As the year winds down, I wanted to grab a moment to say thanks to everyone in our wonderful Waipā community.

It's been a huge year for me personally - officially taking on the role of Mayor just over six weeks ago has been exciting, inspiring and humbling. Even in that short time, it's really reinforced for me the energy, the dedication, and heart that make Waipā such a great place to live. It makes me proud to represent Waipā, and I am grateful for the trust the community has placed in me.

Family has been front and centre for me this year, especially with my daughter's wedding last month. That milestone reminded me how important it is to stay connected - not just with family but with friends and neighbours too.

Those connections are what make our communities strong, and why Waipā feels like home for so many of us.

When I ran for Mayor, I focused on three things: getting results, building relationships, and being realistic about what's achievable. People want to see things get done. That's the approach I'll stick to as we work together to make Waipā even better - celebrating wins, facing challenges head-on, and being honest along the way.

But for now, it's time to enjoy the festive season. I hope you get the chance to slow down, share a few laughs, and enjoy the simple things that make this time of year so special. My family and I will be doing the same - enjoying Christmas lunch around the table with a traditional glazed ham and then spending plenty of time outdoors, getting out on the water and catching up with the people who matter most.

From all of us, have a safe, joyful and relaxing festive season. I'm looking forward to catching up with you in 2026 and as we continue building Waipā - our Home of Champions.

Mike Pettit



Sprinklers  
6 - 8am & 6 - 8pm  
Hand-held hosing any time

Waipā moves to early water restrictions

Waipā District has moved to level one water restrictions earlier than anticipated. This comes after a sweltering start to summer, which has pushed daily water use across the district up to around 35 million litres - around 40 percent more than the usual average daily use for this time of year.

Under level one, sprinklers should only be used between 6-8am and 6-8pm, while handheld hoses can still be used at any time. The level one restrictions will stay in place over the holiday period and will be reviewed in the New Year.

For more information about alert levels and water-saving tips, visit [smartwater.org.nz](http://smartwater.org.nz)

A quick safety note for the holidays

With Christmas and summer holidays coming up, it's a good time for all of us to remember: our homes - and our community - are safer when we stay alert. CommSafe and Neighbourhood Support highlight some basic steps we can all take:

- Lock your doors and windows - even if you're just stepping out for a short time.
- Keep valuables out of sight. That includes gifts under the tree or items visible through windows - and not sharing posts online of your shiny new presents.
- If you're away or on holiday: consider asking a friend or neighbour to help out - collect your mail, turn lights on/off, maybe park a car in your driveway so the place doesn't look empty.
- Lock sheds, garages, and make sure garden tools or equipment aren't left outside - burglars often look for easy entry or quick grab items.
- Delay your social media posts - consider sharing your adventures when you're back home again, rather than tipping off the wrong person that you're away.
- And perhaps most importantly: look out for each other. A friendly wave, checking in on a neighbour's place - especially if someone's away - goes a long way to keeping Waipā safe.

Holiday hours reminder

The Council offices and libraries in Te Awamutu and Cambridge will be closed from **5pm Friday, December 19**, and will reopen **9am Monday, January 5, 2026**.

Please note, Te Whare Taonga o Te Awamutu Museum will also be closed during this period.

If your enquiry is urgent, please contact our after-hours team on 0800 924 723.

During the break, we are unable to respond to reports submitted via the Antenno app. Please call us if you need anything urgently.

Alternatively, visit our website [waipadc.govt.nz](http://waipadc.govt.nz) for a range of self-service options (pay your bill, check your recycling day, and more).

Please note if your recycling collection falls on Christmas Day or New Year's Day, your wheelie bin will be picked up the following day.

From all of us, to all of you, have a safe and merry festive season.

HAPPY  
Holidays



Your Elected Members Get in touch: [waipadc.govt.nz/our-council/our-team/mayor-and-councillors](http://waipadc.govt.nz/our-council/our-team/mayor-and-councillors)

|                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mike Pettit<br>Mayor                                                               | Jo Davies-Colley<br>Deputy Mayor                                                    | Roger Gordon                                                                        | Aidhean Camson                                                                      | Pip Kempthorne                                                                      | Clare St Pierre                                                                     | Les Bennett                                                                          | Shane Walsh                                                                           | Dean Taylor                                                                           | Marcus Gower                                                                          | Mike Montgomerie                                                                      | Dale-Maree Morgan                                                                     |