

# Gisborne legal firm taking over Wairoa practice

## Four decades of service

THE team at Gisborne law firm Woodward Chrisp say they are pleased to announce that retiring Wairoa solicitor Ian McDonald has entrusted them to take over his practice in Wairoa.

Woodward Chrisp will continue to work out of Mr McDonald's offices in Locke Street.

"We are very pleased that existing staff members Vicki Halpin and Sylvine Bouchet have accepted employment with us," a statement from Woodward Chrisp says.

"We will rely heavily on their knowledge of the Wairoa community. All deeds and files will remain at the Wairoa office for easy access.

"All work coming from the Wairoa community will be allocated to suitably qualified staff.

"Vicki and Sylvine are contactable on the usual telephone number (838 8189). We also have a dedicated email address (wairoa@wwclaw.co.nz)."

There will be a solicitor in the Locke Street office from Monday through to Thursday each week, with appointments

available between 10am and 4pm. Staff will also be available on a Friday if required.

"We recommend that you call us to arrange a suitable time to meet so we can ensure we have the necessary information to hand to assist you.

"Appointments can be made by calling the Wairoa office on 838 8189 or the Gisborne office on 06 869 0900.

"We will do our best to ensure that the transition for Ian's clients will be as seamless as possible."

Adam Simperingham,

Jeff Allen and Ellie Fitzgerald, as the partners of Woodward Chrisp, say they are pleased to be expanding their practice to Wairoa and are looking forward to working further with the Wairoa community.

"We wish Ian the very best in his retirement. He has done a great job bringing us up to date with many of his clients' activities and we hope to serve the Wairoa community with the same commitment as Ian has for more than 40 years."

**'We will do our best to ensure that the transition for Ian's clients will be as seamless as possible.'**

## WOODWARD CHRISP LAWYERS

### Offering a wide range of legal services across Wairoa and surrounding areas.

Woodward Chrisp provides clients quality legal services within a supportive and collaborative environment.

#### Our comprehensive range of services includes:

- Conveyancing
- Refinances
- Subdivisions
- Maori land
- Leases
- Forestry
- Resource management
- Employment law
- Trusts
- Wills and powers of attorney
- Estate planning
- Business law
- Family law
- Estate administration
- Criminal law
- Litigation

We look forward to serving the Wairoa and surrounding community with our experienced staff offering the highest standard of services.

WOODWARD CHRISP  
LAWYERS

Locke Street, Wairoa | Phone 838 8189 | [mail@wwclaw.co.nz](mailto:mail@wwclaw.co.nz)



NEW ZEALAND  
LAW SOCIETY

## Financial reporting progress

CONTINUAL improvement was a common phrase at Wairoa District Council's Finance Audit and Risk Committee meeting on Tuesday.

The council's financial accountant Lauren Jones tabled a financial report for the financial year to August 31, 2020 as a late item to the agenda.

Committee chairman, councillor Jeremy Harker, said the committee members had been going on about the importance of this reporting for some time and were pleased with the progress.

There were now opportunities for further improvements, he said.

Independent financial consultant Philip Jones suggested a financial forecast report including capital expenditure would assist councillors with decision-making.

A financial forecast for capital expenditure would be presented to the council with the second and third quarter financial reports.

These would show how the council was tracking to budget and highlight any variances.

## Praise from the consultants as audit finalised

INDEPENDENT financial consultant Philip Jones had high praise for Wairoa District Council's improved financial reporting processes.

"I would like to give recognition to the chief executive officer, Steven May, for his leadership in driving this work.

"Steven's deliberate strategy to increase capacity will ensure the successful completion of this annual report on time.

"I want to extend a big 'well done' to him."

His comments followed the presentation of a draft annual report for 2019/2020 to the Finance Audit and Risk (FAR) committee on Tuesday.

The council is on target to accept the completed report at a full council meeting on October 20.

Mr May said the Government had extended the time frame for all councils to adopt their annual reports out to December 2020 due to Covid-19.

"We decided to test the improvements we had made and stick to the plan to complete the report before the end of October.

"All the staff have worked very hard to get here and they have done a fantastic job."

Mr Jones said the council's draft financial result was very good with a healthy balance sheet.

He had some minor technical questions for the finance team that he would work through with them and report back in detail at the next FAR meeting.

The council's financial accountant Lauren Jones said the audit had progressed extremely well. Auditors Ernst and Young had raised only one question around capital and operational

expenditure classifications, she said.

"I think the auditors were surprised as we are way ahead of where we were this time last year."

Auditors are on site at the council this week to complete the annual audit process.

The council requires information from Quality Roading and Services (Wairoa) Limited to complete the annual report.

QRS is a Council Controlled Trading Organisation and information from the company will be consolidated into the council's annual report. Legislation requires the company to provide the information to the council by the end of September.

Mrs Jones said the information from QRS could now be easily added into the programme and would automatically update into the council's annual report, lessening the time to consolidate the financial information.

The finance team were testing this process with draft financial information provided by the CCTO, she said.

Mr Harker commended the improvements council staff had made to their financial reporting processes and sought confirmation that these changes had been locked in.

Finance manager Russell Rogers and Mrs Jones said the processes had been streamlined with instructions so anyone could pick up and complete tasks.

Mr Rogers said at least two or three staff were able to complete any given task to ensure succession planning and continuity of work.

Last year's annual report was delayed partly due to staff changes during its preparation that also caused delays to audit processes.



Weekend  
Spotlight

HAVE your say about rates tonight at a Wairoa District Council rates review community workshop at the War Memorial Hall from 6pm.

THE sweet fragrance of orchids will fill the Presbyterian Hall on Saturday when the annual orchid show opens from 10am to 3pm.

(NB not from Friday afternoon as published in Tuesday's Wairoa Star)

WOMEN golfers have Mahia women's open this Saturday, tee off at 10am.

The club also has the third round of the pennants to play.

Mahia Golf Club has round two of the club captain's competition this Sunday.

TAKE care on roads around Whakaki on Saturday morning as residents remove litter along SH2.