

Waitarere Volunteer Beach Warden Submission to the HDC 2024 – 2044 Long Term Plan

The Waitarere Volunteer Beach Warden Group are requesting that the Annual Grant of \$5250 be continued as a minimum, to enable the safety and enjoyment of all Horowhenua residents and visitors to Waitarere Beach.

In 2002 the Beach Wardens were initiated by the Waitarere Beach Progressives and Ratepayers Assn after a “chaotic” Labour Weekend when “Boy Racers” took over the beach. The objective was to reclaim the beach.

Submissions were made to Horowhenua District Council with enthusiastic support from then Mayor Tom Robinson, Deputy Mayor Dave Colling and Denis Cole.

Council supplied 7 volunteers with Warrants & Hi Vis vests on 11/12/2002.

The accreditation by Council of a group of volunteers to be warranted Traffic Control and Litter Wardens on the beach was a first in NZ.

The model would be adopted by many other communities.

Due to the hard work of those initial 7 volunteers Waitarere Beach has become a beach patrolled during the summer months by an average of 20 wardens giving more than 500 volunteer hours of community service to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all users.

It is a testament to our community that there have always been sufficient volunteers as wardens retire or shift away.

The Wardens work continuously to uphold the provisions of their warrants from Council which include – Traffic & general safety, Dog Control, Litter Control, Liquor Ban, Fire Prevention and general Community/Fishing and Beach information – refer 2023 -2024 Annual Report to HDC attached.

Throughout the past 22 years the group has worked alongside and been well supported by Levin Police and been the eyes and ears necessary when Officers are unable to be at the beach. We very much appreciate their support and affirmation of us as a group. Refer the attached letter of support from Senior Sergeant Beth Purcell.

We have been called upon in the past on at least two occasions to assist in Search and Rescue - once within the village going door to door and searching empty properties and on another occasion searching the river entrance and coastline regularly for a missing fisherman. We remain committed to assisting any searches in the future.

Similarly, we support and are supported by the Volunteer Fire Brigade and make our vehicle and drivers available at all times should it be required to assist Brigade members to access the beach when it is impractical for the Fire Engine to go onto the beach due to weather conditions or tide surges. Refer the attached letter of support from Fire Chief Roger Nicholl.

Levin Waitarere Surf Club are a much valued and integral part of beach safety and the Beach Warden group work closely to support Surf Club initiatives and continued pedestrian and vehicle user safety within the corridor the Surf Club patrols. Keeping the speed of motorists to a minimum in this area is

a high priority for the Warden group due to pedestrians crossing from above the high tide line to the water's edge. Refer the attached letter of support from Club President Andrew Parkin.

The Warden Group helps Council manage the closure of the 2x access roads to the beach on New Year's Eve – ensuring that all vehicles are off the beach prior to Tatana's placing concrete bollards and gates at 5pm New Year's Eve – wardens open the gates again at 6am New Year's Day.

Assistance is also given to the Levin and Districts Brass Band Group with their major annual fundraiser "The Big Dig" held on January 2nd each year – this year over 4000 people attended – working alongside Community Constable Simon Carter ensuring safe pedestrian passage and vehicle parking before and after the dig. Refer the attached letter from Secretary Trish Windley.

We thank Horowhenua District Council for the financial support we as a group have received for the past 22 years – this has allowed the group to operate from December to Easter most years. With the increasing costs of insurance – general liability insurance but most especially as AMI only fund 50% of the vehicle now as a community patrol, rapidly rising fuel costs, Road User charges, vehicle registration, vehicle servicing and maintenance – we are outstripping the amount received annually of \$5250. Previously we have been able to budget any excess funds for a replacement vehicle – which last occurred in 2019. The beach is a particularly harsh environment to operate in and the vehicle maintenance costs escalate each year. We predict that within the next 5-10 years a new vehicle will be required and funds will need to be available for this to happen. Refer attached Annual Beach Warden Expense transaction sheet.

We are proud to have the support of our community and with the rapidly rising population and expected growth in the next 20 years we see the continuation of the Beach Warden Group as a necessary tool in the management of a much visited and popular Beach in our region.

We would like to acknowledge the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Assn as a stakeholder with Horowhenua District Council on our behalf and the work the Treasurer carries out managing our funding.

Craig Dyson

Beach Warden Co-ordinator

Waitarere Volunteer Beach Warden Report 2023 – 2024

Firstly, we would like to thank the Horowhenua District Council for their continued support funding the Beach Warden Group.

With the expected population growth in the wider Horowhenua we are already seeing increased numbers visiting the beach and our role as Beach Wardens representing Council in carrying out oversight of Council Bylaws is an important aspect in ensuring a safe and happy experience for all beachgoers.

We would like to thank Levin Police and especially Senior Sergeant Beth Purcell and her team who did their best to patrol our beach daily from 22 Dec 2023 – 28 January 2024. Thankfully we had few incidences to report – 2 occasions occurred while a Constable was at the beach so instant action was taken. Having the cameras in the Beach Warden vehicle has been a continuing deterrent to driver behaviour once they are aware the footage can be viewed as required at the Levin Police Station.

In previous years we have had designated Officers for the summer period but constraints in personnel led to the team patrolling daily as often as possible and we thank them for that.

We would like to acknowledge the 20 active Beach Wardens who gave over 473 volunteer hours across 80 patrol days from 9 December 2023 – 10 March 2024. This season we aligned ourselves with the Surf Club season as this reflected the busiest visitor numbers.

This also reflected our efforts to remain within budget, with increased fuel costs, vehicle registration, RUC's and service maintenance and increased vehicle and public liability insurance costs. We are very aware of vehicle maintenance costs rising each year due to the harsh environment and strive to budget savings each year towards a replacement vehicle in the future.

Data collected from daily warden journal entries which show interactions with the public and also the duties stipulated in our HDC Warrants are as below:

85 Traffic and general safety

16 Dog Control

4 Fire prevention

143 Litter Control

1 Liquor Ban

91 Community/Fishing/Beach information

473 Volunteer hours 9/12/23 – 10/3/24

Wardens who are resident at the beach carried out on average 5-6 patrol days and weekend wardens generally carried out 4 days each.

It is troubling to see more Dog Control issues and more particularly the Litter control which includes picking up a lot of glass beer/spirit bottles both whole and broken which is a massive issue.

Likewise, fire prevention was making sure that smouldering fires were completely extinguished from the night before and any exploded bottle and jagged cans were safely disposed of. Also advising against lighting fires for cooking close to the dunes.

Fly tipping included porcelain sinks, vacuum cleaners, tyres, front car seats to name a few – many thanks to Recreation Service personnel for disposing of these once off the beach.

The 2x beach entrances held up well over the summer and there were less tow outs than previous years – the Windsor St entrance was the main concern towards the end of summer – many thanks to the Higgins team for their work pre-Christmas.

The Beach Wardens supported the Levin & Districts Brass Band Annual Big Dig with 17.5 volunteer hours to ensure safe vehicle and pedestrian passage and parking – a recorded 4000 people attended and Community Constable Simon Carter was on hand to ensure an orderly operation both before and after the event.

While there were less motorcross bike incidences, there were more quad bike users without helmets, registration and carrying 3-4 people. This remains a concern for rider safety. Without a designated Police presence we have seen less compliance with quad bike users and many of our interactions were about educating the drivers etc..

Last but not least a big Thank you to our community for their support and the majority of the beach users who are appreciative of our efforts.

Regards

Craig Dyson Beach Warden Coordinator



New Zealand Police,

7 Bristol Street,

LEVIN 5510

Friday 15 March 2024.

To whom it may concern.

I am the Manawatu South Prevention Manager stationed in Levin within the Horowhenua.

One of my annual duties is to arrange dedicated Police coverage of the beaches within our Horowhenua policing area during the summer period when our coastal population swells due to the inundation of holiday-makers.

As Horowhenua Police, we cover the coastal area from Himatangi Beach, south down to Te Horo Beach. Over the years we have come to see that staffing at least a six week period is required to manage events associated with the increase of population with the overall goal of keeping both local and visiting communities safe.

Historically the population increase brings with it calls for service involving intoxication, disorder, family harm episodes and poor driver behaviour on beaches – usually coming from non-permanent residents. It is a large area that we cover and the support that we have received over the years from the Waitarere Volunteer Beach Warden Group has been essential to helping us deliver on our objective of safer communities.

Police have built a strong and trusting relationship with the patrollers who give of their time and energy to be a constant presence on Waitarere Beach over summer. They assist us in educating the public about speed restrictions and safety on the beach and provide a point of contact for the public for any issues that emerge while Police are busy patrolling other beaches. Their presence in their official 4WD offers a constant reassurance to beach-goers. For Police they are also an extra set of eyes and ears and alert us immediately for emergency situations and gather information for Police follow-up on non-emergency matters. In short, the support we have from them is irreplaceable.

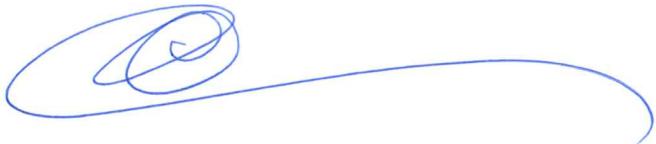
To have such investment by local people in their own community cannot be under-estimated and I am aware that the Waitarere Volunteer Beach Warden Group is the envy of other coastal communities.

Waitarere Volunteer Beach Warden Group operate by generating their own sources of funding and by applying for grants. They provide not only a necessary community service but also one that supports the objectives of Police and enhances the Horowhenua as a safe place to live and visit.

I support any application for funding that this group of volunteers makes to continue their service and welcome any contact from prospective funders who would like to speak with me.

As someone who is Horowhenua born and bred and a member of the New Zealand Police, I am extremely proud to have a working relationship with such a dedicated group of people who actively demonstrate the stake they have in their own community. Please support the Waitarere Volunteer Beach Warden Group and help fund the continuation of their voluntary service.

Kind regards, .



Beth Purcell

Senior Sergeant H366

Manawatu South (Horowhenua) Prevention Manager.

Levin.

Sharon F

From: "rogerandval" <nicholrog@xtra.co.nz>
Date: Wednesday, 6 March 2024 2:51 p.m.
To: "Sharon F" <sharonf@inspire.net.nz>
Subject: Re: Beach Warden Support

Horowhenua District Council .

I have been asked by the Waitarere Beach Wardens for a letter of support to justify continued funding from Council . It surprises me that this is even necessary as I would have thought their worth was obvious .

Not a lot of NZ beaches allow vehicle traffic and I suggest that Waitarere Beach is one of the safest , due in no small part to the Beach Wardens . From traffic management , friendly advice , assisting vehicles stuck in soft sand and providing a 4WD vehicle to transport emergency services personnel when emergency services trucks are unable to gain access to the beach .

They are a vital organisation for the safety of our beach and village , and continued funding is vital - in fact give them a raise in funding !

Roger Nichol

Chief Fire Officer . Waitarere Volunteer Fire Brigade .

On 4/03/2024 4:24 pm, Sharon F wrote:

Hi Roger,
Hope this finds you well 

For the first time ever the Beach Warden group has to put in a submission to the HDC Long Term Plan to justify continued funding.

To this end we are asking for letters of support from yourself on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Service, the Surf Club and the WBPRA.

We are hoping that this will help to convince Councillors of the on going need of our group and most importantly that the funding is continued at the present level – which hasn't changed in all my time with the group – 8 years or more.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish any further information.

Regards
Sharon
p.p. Craig Dyson Beach Warden Co-ordinator.

Levin Waitārere Surf Life Saving Club

12 March 2024

To whom it may concern

Letter in support of the Waitārere Beach Wardens

The Beach Wardens provide a valuable service to the Community and Beach users, their ongoing presence is vital to the safe and enjoyable use of our wonderful coastline.

Key roles they play are,

Informing beach users on safe place's for launching boats, surf casting and setting Kontiki's to ensure they do not endanger other beach and water users.

Ensuring vehicle and drivers adhere to safe driving speeds and practices particularly around the patrol area for the safety of children and families. This includes during the Big Dig.

Patrolling the beach north and south of the settlement, alerting and supporting the club if there are incidents. For instance, in early December 2022 Beach Wardens alerted off duty lifeguards to a person in the water after they fell out of their small boat. Lifeguards rescued the boater in dangerous surf conditions, undoubtedly saving their life.

Regularly liaise with lifeguards when we are both on the beach.

Managing Lawa 'safe to swim' signage and communication with the public.

The club supports the Beach Wardens and ongoing work at Waitārere Beach.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Parkin
Chairperson
Levin Waitārere Surf Life Saving Club



LEVIN & DISTRICTS BRASS INC
82 Weraroa Rd
P O Box 386
LEVIN 5540

*Musical Director: David Maas Tel. 021 455 327
President: Chris Craddock Tel. 027 410 2420*

6 January 2024

Waitarere Beach Wardens
Craig Dyson
9 Arataki Grove
WAITARERE BEACH

Dear Craig

The band committee wishes me to convey our gratitude for the services provided by the Beach Wardens during our annual Big Dig, held at the beach on the 2nd of January.

We have great support from the local business community, and with the weather and being perfect, we had a highly successful day. I think we fail to appreciate the role that your team plays in all of this, so thank you very much for your part.

Yours sincerely

Trish Windley
SECRETARY

Beach Warden Expenses Transactions

Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association Incorporated
For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

DATE	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE	DEBIT	CREDIT	RUNNING BALANCE	GROSS	GST
Beach Warden Expenses								
29 Jun 2023	Spend Money	NZTA Vehicle Rego - Reimburse F Clarke		56.22	-	56.22	56.22	-
25 Jul 2023	Spend Money	WB Development account - Transfer of funds to cover new camera's at Storage facility		795.00	-	851.22	795.00	-
21 Sep 2023	Spend Money	Sandblasting Services - Sandblasting under beach warden Vehicle		2,070.00	-	2,921.22	2,070.00	-
25 Oct 2023	Spend Money	McColl Automotive - WOF and work to bring to standard Beach Warden vehicle Holden		1,006.19	-	3,927.41	1,006.19	-
13 Nov 2023	Receive Money	Development account - This is transfer back of the cost of the Community shed Camera's as now an asset in Development, not cost to Beach Warden		-	795.00	3,132.41	(795.00)	-
13 Nov 2023	Spend Money	Bruce Eccles - Fuel Vouchers (Caltex reimburse B Eccles)		1,500.00	-	4,632.41	1,500.00	-
15 Nov 2023	Spend Money	CLARKE, FELICIT - 4 Square Pizza's Beach Warden function reimburse F Clarke		109.50	-	4,741.91	109.50	-
30 Nov 2023	Spend Money	AMP P/L insurance - General Liability insurance		324.88	-	5,066.79	324.88	-
15 Dec 2023	Spend Money	Club Waitarere Beach Warden refreshments		241.50	-	5,308.29	241.50	-
12 Mar 2024	Spend Money	AMI Insurance - Insurance on Beach Warden Vehicle		470.88	-	5,779.17	470.88	-
Total Beach Warden Expenses				6,574.17	795.00	5,779.17	5,779.17	-
Total				6,574.17	795.00	5,779.17	5,779.17	-