



25 March 2020 (like around midnight – love you all too, otherwise I'd be snoring by now)

Tena koutou katoa.

Wairoa has a Wellness Network to support all of us through the health, social, cultural and economic effects of Covid-19. The network at any one time includes local health and social services providers, Civil Defence, social organisations, iwi, hapu, businesses, local and national government – all working together for our community. This includes emphasising good information and future planning for and by our community. The information we share is current and reliable for the date of this panui.

**This panui has some difficult messages to absorb. Please don't shoot the messenger, I look terrible in red – like an overgrown beetroot. Stage 4 has its own tikanga that we all must follow. This tikanga is to kill the kutu Covid-19 before it kills us. Together we can do this if we follow the tikanga put in place for all of us. Kawa is permanent, tikanga changes – this is the teaching of our old people. This is why we are all still here, we adapt to survive through practicing tikanga relevant to our time.**

#### Stage 4

We are now in Stage 4. Practically this means:

- Wairoa Civil Defence is now running our District for the benefit of our entire community
- Wairoa Wellness Network is an integral part of this mode of operation – we are all operating as one for the benefit of Wairoa District, as our community has always done in times of great need
- All official local information can be found on the Wairoa District Council website or facebook page. We encourage you all to get your information from these sources
- Our country is in lock-down. Please follow all rules as they are our tikanga. As of Wednesday afternoon there were no known cases of Covid-19 in Wairoa District. If we follow the rules, we can keep it this way. If it appears here, we can contain it

I personally am a part of Civil Defence operations. I see the amount of planning, facilitating and organising that is going on in the background. Know that there is a dedicated local team working for everyone in our District

#### Our Community Gathering Places during Stage 4

Stage 4 means all of our 39 marae, our Churches, our Halls and our Clubhouses in Wairoa District are closed until further notice. Only Civil Defence can open these for Civil Defence purposes

**Before you read on, again – I look terrible in red. E te iwi – kia tau te rangimarie**

## **Tangihanga During Stage 4**

Tangihanga are never easy. During Stage 4 if any of our local loved-ones pass there are now strict rules put in place by the Ministry of Health. These are not negotiable. I ask everyone to read and absorb them please. This is our tikanga for all tangihanga during Stage 4.

**No Funerals Services can be held.** This means:

- No Public Funeral Services whatsoever
- No Tangihanga at our Marae, Churches and other venues
- No Private Family Funeral Services at home

Pickering Funeral Services are implementing measures to ensure safety of their staff and the bereaved, in remembering we have to care for everyone including Michael, Tussie and Peter. Our Stage 4 tikanga is:

### **Uplifting Your Loved One**

- Your loved one will be uplifted by staff wearing full protective clothing including masks

### **Official Arrangements and Paperwork**

- Only one appointed whanau member will meet in-person with staff to facilitate arrangements including paperwork. Any other whanau members are welcome to attend through face-time, skype or zoom if they wish

### **Embalming and Dressing**

- Where any families wish to view their loved one, the Tupapaku will be embalmed first. Non-embalmed bodies will not be able to be viewed
- Pickering's staff will dress and place in the casket all Tupapaku. One whanau appointed person can be present if they wish, to observe only

### **Visiting Your Tupapaku**

- Tupapaku will only be able to be visited at Pickering's Chapel
- Strict rules will apply around visiting because of current health rules and because the chapel is small. Only people who are self-isolating together will be allowed in the chapel at any one time
- One of the rules is there will be an attendance register for anyone who is visiting which will need to be filled out. This information will be private and will be destroyed once authorities give permission to do so

### **Cremations**

- Any cremations will be transported through to Gisborne by staff only and the ashes will be returned to the family as soon as they possibly can

### **Burials**

- The bereaved whanau and their support network are not allowed to attend any burials in Wairoa District. It is intended that those Tupapaku going to private cemeteries in Wairoa District will have a team assigned by Civil Defence to manage this

### **Support during this time**

We all know how caring the team is at Pickering's and in turn it is our responsibility as a community to look after them. I spoke candidly with Pa Karaitiana over the Taiwhenua fence today – first to be neighbourly and second to seek advice. Yes, we kept a respectable distance apart. Thanks Pa for your words and in his wisdom:

- Reach out to your support networks through technology. Being connected and supported is always very important
- Reach out to our kaumatua, ministers, priests and clergy through the telephone. They can still be there for you through the phone, especially speaker phones. This type of connecting is not new. For those of you who remember Messa from Nuhaka, she once attended a wedding via phone – one was held up at the venue for her to listen and intently she did on her own phone. I think we buried that phone with her. Also, late last year our grandfather 'attended' his baby brother's tangihanga in Australia by phone – which is not bad for an 88 year-old

### **A Lighter Moment**

Nanny 74 and Nanny 80 are staying home and following the rules, which makes me suspicious. I am doing their shopping so they stay home. They make their list, then one rings her daughter in town who then texts the list to me. On today's list was mince ... I knew what that was for and when I delivered it tonight sure enough – it was for Nanny 80's cat. Lucky for that spoilt cat it keeps her company, even more now in lock-down. That cat knows this and smugly gave me a sideways glance this evening. Insert swear word here.

When Nanny 74 was rung by whanau from Wellington yesterday, they asked what she had been doing. 'Chopping firewood and bottling pears' was her reply. Just the usual then. Today I found out she had no level block to chop her firewood on - the old one was crooked. Across the road from her house is a huge pile of wood waiting to be cut up. This wood belongs to one of our neighbours. Nanny 74 then secures one large round of wood as her new chopping block and tries to sneak it across the road to her own home. 'Bloody thief' cries Nanny 80 from her house, who can see everything from her window, as they both laugh about it. Nanny 74 got it home. Thankfully the neighbour, whose wood was stolen, was very accommodating when the culprit told him what she had done.

Nannies. I've got two for rent when this is all done and dusted. Any takers?

**Our community is vibrant and resilient. By being sensible, thinking of others, taking care of each other and working together we as a community will remain strong.**

Mauri ora!

Nigel How,

Wairoa: Wellness Network Member, Taiwhenua Chairman, Museum Curator, Wairoa Born & Bred.

