

Kawhia's new eyes & ears

By **ROBBIE KAY**

KAWHIA will be a safer place to live when volunteer groups begin patrolling the seaside village's streets later this year.

Twelve volunteers, registered with Community Patrols of New Zealand (CPNZ) and vetted by the NZ Police, are being trained to help police reduce crime.

The volunteers are local residents who want a safer community and believe fighting crime by being the eyes and ears of the police is the best way they can take responsibility for making Kawhia safer.

Members sign a declaration of confidentiality and agree to abide by a CPNZ code of conduct before working with the patrol.

EXTRA OFFICER

Former Kawhia Community Board chairman Hano Ormsby is among those who backed the idea of patrols after a NZ Police decision not to sta-

tion a second police officer in the town.

The call for a second officer came after the town's sole charge police officer Constable Perry Griffin was allegedly assaulted in January (*Waitomo News*, January 17).

"There are more than 145 registered CPs (community patrols) in towns all over country with more than 4500 volunteers out and about looking after community interests," says Mr Ormsby.

"Typically they contribute in two key areas - providing high visibility patrols day and night which deter crime and, if they observe crime in progress, they provide info to the police who respond."

Patrollers work in pairs on the lookout for activities that should be brought to police attention including public drinking, fighting, suspected drug dealing and burglaries, tagging and people acting suspiciously.



TEAM WORK: Community Patrols of New Zealand senior patroller Richard Torpey (right) will lead a team of 12 volunteers to help Kawhia's sole police constable Perry Griffin reduce crime.

TO P2

WDC debt drops by almost \$2m

By **TODD WARD**

WAITOMO district's debt has dropped. Waitomo District Council's annual report (2012/2013) showed the council has reduced the district's overall debt by 6% from \$47.005 million for the 2011/2012 financial year to \$45.182m.

Coupled with a 90% increase in council reserves from \$3.529m (2011/2012) to \$5.277m and council-owned roading company Inframax's post-tax profit of \$266,600, the district's financial health is showing steady improvements.

WDC corporate services group manager Kit Jeffries says the trends show debt re-

quirements were considerably less than forecast.

"Despite major capital works (\$31.537m) having been completed during the past three years (mainly on urban water and wastewater networks) council has managed to fund those works from subsidies and available cash while reducing overall debt during that time.

"This is a positive result for council and indicates that council's debt is being well managed and kept under control."

Mayor Brian Hanna says it is the best financial report he's ever seen.

"It has taken a culmination of hard work, astute financial management and really good governance to arrive at this great result."
- Brian Hanna

TIGHT MANAGEMENT

Mr Hanna was most impressed with the council's tight financial management and expenditure and finding the best financing deals possible.

"It has taken a culmination of hard work, astute financial management and really good governance to arrive at this great result.

"Chris (chief executive Chris Ryan) and his senior management team have been totally focused on righting the ship and this result is a credit to their efforts."

"In terms of our financial performance, we'll continue to manage council's finances prudently on behalf of the Waitomo district community.

"The committed effort of the elected council and staff who have worked hard and have achieved good outcomes for the district during the 2012/2013 year needs to be recognised.

"But the focus is now on the future and working towards the priorities laid out in the 2012/2022 Long Term Plan."

A recent survey by the council found 79% of Waitomo residents surveyed were either satisfied or very satisfied with the council's overall performance.

Look who's top of the table!

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