

1 Sept

## Two council hopefuls making a stand over Havelock North water debacle



Standing for a seat with Hastings District Council Damon Harvey (left) and Bayden Barber are organising a Walk for Water on Saturday, from the Havelock North fountain to the fountain in the Hastings CBD. Photo / Duncan Brown

Two men vying for a seat on Hastings District Council are determined to show authorities "enough is enough" with a march following the latest Havelock North water debacle.

"Let's get clean safe water flowing again," is the organisers, Bayden Barber and Damon Harvey's, message underpinning the Walk for Water community rally set for Saturday morning.

The duo are inviting all of Hawke's Bay to join and show their support for the thousands who were hit by a severe gastro bug after Havelock North's water was contaminated last month.

The Walk for Water will leave from Havelock North's water fountain at 8.30am and will go down Havelock Rd and Heretaunga St to the water fountain in the Hastings city centre.

They said the walk was a way for people to come together and show authorities "enough is enough," leading the way and showing that although Havelock North had suffered the community was "stronger together".

They added that people who had been sick were on the road to recovery but the water still wasn't.

"Together we can send a strong message that the water we drink, swim in and use to grow food needs to be clean and pure again," Mr Barber said.

"We need to work together and rebuild our region's reputation and protect our water now and for our future generations," Mr Harvey said.

There has so far been a focus on Havelock North, but Hastings businesses and homes had been impacted, too, after being given chlorinated water.

"Many say this is a one-off incident, but we need to make sure that this never happens again and that we can drink from our taps in full confidence that it's fresh, clean, unchlorinated water," Mr Harvey said.

Ngā Marae o Heretaunga and Ngati Kahungunu Iwi are endorsing the walk.

Both men urge school sport teams to get involved with winter sport competitions taking a huge hit with cancellations during the crisis.

"Wear your team uniforms and finish the season on a positive note," they said.

A traffic management plan will be put in place and there will be pure water stations.

There will be free transport back to Havelock North after the walk.

- People are asked to gather at 8am at the Havelock North water fountain. The 4.5km walk begins at 8.30am.

- [Hawkes Bay Today](#)

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## 9 comments

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You have my vote guys

Joe - 10:59 AM Thursday, 1 Sep 2016

Good on them both for their efforts. Our health and clean water is important for everyone, the residents, the rural sector and our environment. No need for a witch-hunt but let's have an assurance that there is a plan in place to make sure this doesn't happen again. If council need better systems to ensure safe clean drinking water, then let's see them in place now. Don't wait for an 'enquiry', just get into action and make it happen.

Stuart Perry

Council Candidate Kahuranaki Ward.

Stuart Perry - 11:00 AM Thursday, 1 Sep 2016

Great, so we have people taking political advantage of the situation. This is not necessarily the fault of HRC incumbents .... our complacent government allowed them to engage in a health-critical activity they are not qualified to administer. Fixing this issue requires that the design and operation of a city water facility be assigned to a technically-qualified entity. Lack of community spirit is not the problem.

Paul - Napier - 11:00 AM Thursday, 1 Sep 2016

Just blatant electioneering. Don't buy into it, that just encourages them.

" "Let's get clean safe water flowing again," is the organisers, Bayden Barber and Damon Harvey's, message underpinning the Walk for Water".

Really? What a revelation! Who disagrees with that? It seems the Council is working pretty hard to do just that already. Instead of marching why not ask people to flush their toilets a few times or run a tap as requested by the Council to help them flush the contaminated water out the supply pipes and bring through the newly connected supply of water. We could then stop having to boil it. That might actually help.

It is a shame this problem arose in the lead-up to local body elections.

Justsayn - New Zealand - 11:00 AM Thursday, 1 Sep 2016

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Enough is enough!! Really!! anyone would think this water contamination is a monthly event, it's the first time we've had a problem in how long?? talk about jump on a band wagon to try and get a possie around the TROUGH!!

William - 11:00 AM Thursday, 1 Sep 2016

To drink non chlorinated water supplies is stupidity.

Pipelines can be contaminated by bacteria and virus entering during periods of low pressure.

Such as fire fighting and routine maintenance.

A 'pure' supply source is no protection from pipeline contamination.

Only chlorination provides an effective and low cost health guard.

HIV has been detected in water pipes.

max - Australia - 04:17 PM Thursday, 1 Sep 2016

Politics is always about taking advantage of a situation or a weakness in another politician.

Clearly somebody needs to be accountable - too often our elected representatives side step the situation and some employee takes the blame.

As bad as the situation has been (and is) it is the time that we the people can send a real message to elected representatives. By the way I am a Havelock North resident.

I often say the only way to get change is to vote for change!

Concerned - 04:17 PM Thursday, 1 Sep 2016

Blatant electioneering! Shameful! Bayden Barber should concentrate on the water supply on his Waimarama property and make sure whanau don't have their water cut off ;) That would be a better starting point. As for Damon Harvey it is the usual PR nonsense just like the pro amalgamation campaign which he ran and the pro Ruataniwha dam campaign. I wonder who is paying for it? Bad move boys

Caroline - 04:17 PM Thursday, 1 Sep 2016

The water contamination has been a traumatic event for thousands. On Monday night a group of concerned residents met and expressed real anger and frustration, and the following community meetings also gave some members of the community a chance to voice what's been going on and ask questions. This event will give everyone another avenue to express frustration, hurt, etc in a healthy way. Much better than letting it fester. And who cares who organised it.

Myra - 04:17 PM Thursday, 1 Sep 2016