

Mayoral Diary 2 August 2011 to 1 September 2011

<p>1.</p>	<p>Civil Defence The Morrinsville Community Board requested an update on Civil Defence within the Waikato and specifically how an emergency in Morrinsville would be managed. I therefore attended their monthly meeting and addressed both topics.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Right Debate I have attended several group meetings to discuss the Right Debate and the six high level questions council is seeking response to. Groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morrinsville Rotary Club • Ngarua Young Farmers Club • Matamata Grey Power • Matamata, Morrinsville & Te Aroha Community Boards • Federated Farmers
<p>3.</p>	<p>Matamata Fire Brigade I attended an evening function with the Matamata Volunteer Fire Brigade. Wyatt Creech was in attendance as the newly appointed Chair of the Fire Service Commission replacing Dame Margaret Bazley. I was asked to address the meeting speaking on behalf of the Matamata and districts community expressing thanks to both the volunteers, as well as their employers who support their employees to undertake this service. It was an enjoyable social evening.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Morrinsville Museum The Morrinsville Museum Committee held an open day where individuals and group representatives were invited to look over progress to date at the new museum site. I was shown over the complex which is certainly impressive and will be a great new asset for Morrinsville.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>MPDC Police The Hon Judith Collins, Minister for the Police visited our district and had presentations in both Morrinsville and Matamata. I attended the Matamata reception. On talking with the Minister she said that our district was well served by the police to which I agreed. We are indeed well served by the current staff. Judith is an ex Matamata person and both her parents reside at the Matamata cemetery.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Morrinsville Community Patrol I attended the Morrinsville Community Patrol AGM where I was asked to discuss civil defence and how the Patrol members could help in a local emergency. The group now has 21 members and during the last year they undertook 106 patrols and reported 170 incidents. While finances are tight the Patrol has come through its first year in a sound financial position.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Silver Fern Farms I attended the official launch of the rebuild for Silver Fern Farms new meat works at</p>

	<p>Te Aroha. The finished plant will be considerably larger than the previous factory. It will be state of the art and will be a specific beef processor.</p> <p>To mark the commencement of the project I was providing with a 15 tonne digger and asked to dig the first sod.</p>
8.	<p>Powerco Together with the Matamata Councillors, Don and I met with representatives from Powerco.</p> <p>There is currently only one power feed into Matamata and this has potential problems with security of supply. Powerco are proposing to install a second feed from the Grid to service Matamata and Waharoa areas. Powerco believes that the significant cost of the new supply triggers their requirement to consult with the community, hence our meeting.</p>
9.	<p>Te Aroha College I attended the Te Aroha Collage inaugural Arts Festival.</p> <p>On display were paintings and other art works which were complimented by musical entertainment from the students.</p>
10.	<p>Tight 5 Don and I attended a Tight 5 meeting in Hamilton. Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director requirements for Hamilton airport • Regional collaboration • Fonterra's 10th birthday • Rugby World Cup • FIFA under 20 World Cup 2015 <p>At the conclusion of the meeting I joined Julie Hardaker, Alan Sanson and Alan Livingston for a social dinner where we solved all the Local Government current issues.</p>
11.	<p>Strategic Collaboration Don and I met with Graeme Emmerson, consultant, who has been engaged by all collective Waikato Councils, to look for ideas for Strategic Collaboration. The final report will be presented at the next triennial meeting.</p>
12	<p>Arbour Day I attended Arbour Day plantings in all three towns.</p> <p>Matamata planting was at Furness Reserve where Matamata Primary and St Josephs Schools attended.</p> <p>Morrinsville planting was at Howie Park where Morrinsville Primary, David Street, and St Josephs school attended.</p> <p>Te Aroha planting was at the Howarth Wetlands where Stanley Avenue, Te Aroha Primary and St Josephs schools attended.</p>

13	<p>Coffee With The Mayor</p> <p>I trialled a new initiative by advertising an invitation for anyone to join me for coffee and discuss any issues.</p> <p>In Matamata I had six people attend. The issues raised were trucks and noise at night in the town, volunteers for the local Civil Defence welfare organisation and their service requirements for qualification for the new Armed Service Medal.</p> <p>In Morrinsville I was asked why Council was not supporting the Art Gallery and in Te Aroha the regular coffee shop patrons made comment but nothing more.</p> <p>I will try the exercise again but reduce the time to one hour and advertise better.</p>
14	<p>Civil Defence</p> <p>I chaired the Hearing Panel to hear submissions on the Draft Waikato CDEMG Group Plan (2GP).</p> <p>There were 12 submitters most of whom supported the draft plan and GNS submitted on technical points on earthquake, volcanic hazards, tsunami, calder and unrest and other threats. All changes sought were made.</p> <p>CCS Disability action wanted separate representation on any working party.</p> <p>Amateur radio group Hamilton wanted formal inclusion in the plan.</p> <p>Ministry of Civil Defence asked for grammar corrections and very technical changes.</p>
15	<p>Morrinsville Arts Week</p> <p>The Morrinsville Art Gallery held a full week of different events. These involved all the local schools, local artists, and the community. It was a very successful week of bringing various art to the community.</p>
16	<p>Hauraki Rail Trail</p> <p>I attended the Joint Committee Hauraki Rail Trail meeting in Paeroa. The main business items were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update • Proposed structures going forward
17	<p>Hon Tim Groser, Ministry of Trade & Enterprise</p> <p>I attended an official factory tour at Seales Winslow where Hon. Tim Groser was the main speaker. He emphasised that agriculture was the silicon valley of New Zealand and businesses like Seales Winslow added considerably to the export earnings from the dairy industry.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that genetics had taken the industry to a high degree but future growth would now come from nutrition and in this Seales Winslow would be a major contributor.</p> <p>The Balance Board chair, David Graham and CEO Larry Bilodeau were also in attendance.</p>

<p>18</p>	<p>Regional Transport Committee I attended the September RTC meeting in Hamilton. Agenda items included:</p> <p>Road safety Matamata Piako District Council was criticised as part of this presentation for removing a “truck Stop” at Waitoa and grassing the area as a reserve. From a truck safety issue there are very few areas where trucks can pull off the road safely and the driver can check his load and stretch his legs.</p> <p>Regional Walking and Cycling There are currently seven separate cycle trails being established in the Waikato being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hauraki Rail Trail – 73 km • Waikato River Trail – 100 km • Pathway of fire (Rotorua) – 74 km • Lake Track Taupo – 93 km • Mighty River Ride – Ngaruawahia to Horahora – 70 km • Pureora Timber Trail – 80km • Te Araroa & Ngaruawahia to Hamilton leg <p>Safety Initiatives Trials have been started on the State Highways where the centre line is actually two centrelines one metre apart.</p> <p>Funding Assistance Rates (FAR) New Zealand Transport Authority has confirmed FAR for all councils in the Waikato. Some have had their subsidy reduced by 1%, some have increased by 1% and the others stayed the same. Matamata Piako District Council had no change. The extent of the proposed roading package is often reduced by NZTA but the reduced package is subject to FAR.</p> <p>The establishment of the Crawford Street Dairy Freight Hub at Te Rapa has reduced the road/rail freight percentage from 50/50 to 75/25 in favour of rail.</p> <p>Passenger rail Hamilton to Auckland. It is proposed to start a two years trial of a passenger train from Hamilton to Auckland in the morning returning in the evening. NZTA is unlikely to provide funding assistance and therefore subject to consultation Waikato Regional Council will rate for this service. Across the greater Waikato. The proposal is for a rate of differential with all properties in MPDC attracting \$1.59 per year.</p> <p>Heavy Vehicle speed campaign A 5 week campaign was undertaken to target HVM speed between the hours of 2100 and 0700. A very high number of trucks were ticketed for excess speed. As part of this campaign stationary speed cameras were positioned at Waharoa ticketing all vehicles travelling at 60 kmh (+). At that hour of the night the cameras caught most vehicles travelling through.</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p>Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEMG) I chaired the CDEMG Joint Committee meeting in Hamilton. Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Col Jon Broadley who spent some 11 weeks at Christchurch

	<p>at both the EOC and working for the Dept of Housing. His address was “The role of Controllers”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project is underway to collect and collate civil defence resources both physical and trained personnel across the region. • A new Group Constitution was adopted by the Joint Committee and will now be forwarded to each TLA for sign off.
20.	<p>Civil Defence Welfare I attended the welfare section MPDC for civil defence held in Matamata. This was the last welfare meeting under the control of Helen White. The meeting held a desk top exercise on welfare requirements for the 1985 Te Aroha Event.</p>
21.	<p>CIMS 4 The Thames Valley Combined Civil Defence held a two day CIMS 4 course in Thames which I attended. Attendees were from Police, Fire Service, DOC, Health and Councils.</p>
22.	<p>Scott Simpson I formally met with the new Coromandel electorate National candidate Scott Simpson accompanied by Lindsay Tisch. Te Aroha and Tauhei are both in the Coromandel electorate.</p>