

## Mayoral Diary 1 July 2011 to 31 July 2011

<p>1.</p>	<p><b>Viterra</b> I attended the opening of the new dairy feed store at Waharoa. This business is a partnership between Viterra and the Skatchard family and has been established in the Industrial area of Dunlop Road.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><b>Kenwyn Home</b> I attended and officially opened the new extension to Kenwyn Retirement Home Hospital. Kenwyn was originally built by William Wright, a local farmer, so that the town doctor, Richard Lawrence would stay in town. In 1950 the hospital was purchased by Waikato Hospital Board and provided full maternity services. When the Hospital Board shifted to Stanley Ave site Kenwyn was offered for community use. It was purchased by a Bretheran Trust for £7,000 and changed to a rest home for the aged in 1964. Two years ago the rest home was sold to Trevor and Doreen Beer who completed the new hospital extension. The Bretheran Trust continues to own the self contained units adjacent to Kenwyn.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Local Government New Zealand Conference</b> Together with Jan Barnes, Ash Tanner and Don McLeod, I attended the annual Local Government Conference held in Wellington. The Conference was opened by the Prime Minister Rt Hon John Key, although there was a significant and noticeable lack of Government Ministers attending during the two days. Agenda items included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melissa Clark – Reynolds – Sustainability</li> <li>• Spatial Planning</li> <li>• Realising Maori Potential</li> <li>• Ngahi Bidois – living to potential</li> <li>• Ultra fast broadband</li> <li>• Christchurch Earthquake</li> <li>• Hon Phil Goff Leader of the opposition was programmed to address conference but tendered his apologies</li> </ul>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Matamata Lions Club</b> I attended the Matamata Lions Club meeting as guest speaker I was asked to discuss the impact of the Christchurch earthquakes on the insurance industry, particularly as it affects Council, enlarging on the problems for our local community. The Councils owned insurance company, Civic Insurance, has ceased offering “material damage” cover on council owned assets from 1 July 2011. The infrastructure mutual insurance pool, LAPP, has extinguished its reserves and reinsurance treaties, and the domestic insurers have substantially increased premiums and excess for any form of earthquake cover in the Waikato.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Civil Defence - Controllers</b> I attended a meeting in Hamilton where the Group and local Civil Defence Controllers met to discuss potential civil defence operations. The Agenda items included:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Draft 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Civil Defence Group Plan</li> <li>• Integrated Training needs</li> <li>• Rugby World Cup security update</li> <li>• Christchurch Earthquakes</li> <li>• Training and skills needs for Controllers</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Waihou Hall Committee</b> The current Waihou Hall Committee having successfully fundraised to renew their local hall roof and other improvements, are looking at promoting use of the Waihou Hall. The Committee therefore organised a very successful Trivial Pursuits evening to raise funds for the Te Aroha Hospital which I attended.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Remuneration Authority</b> I had a very interesting discussion with Angela Foulkes from the Remuneration Authority. The Authority is preparing a paper on elected councillors remuneration and they have invited me to express some local views, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should there be a base salary for all elected councillors throughout New Zealand</li> <li>• Should there be a financial pool to pay meeting allowances</li> <li>• Should the pool be flexible to provide for extra work with District Plan reviews and LTCP work</li> <li>• Do Community Boards reduce the workloads for Councillors</li> <li>• Should the remuneration reflect duration of meetings and/or complexity of decision making or dollars</li> <li>• Should the pool be allowed to carry forward any credit balance at end of year</li> <li>• Any other issues to consider</li> </ul>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Hauraki Rail Trail</b> Don McLeod and I attended a Joint Committee meeting with Hauraki District, TCDC and Iwi Reps at Paeroa. At this stage this Joint Committee is unconstituted and therefore the purpose of the meeting was to provide a brief history of the project and an outline of future options. We have arranged for a similar presentation to council at our next meeting.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Matamata Citizens Advice Bureau</b> Together with Matamata Councillors I attended the AGM for the Matamata CAB. This is the Bureaus 32 <sup>nd</sup> year and they currently have 37 volunteers. The Bureau undertakes bookings for the Matamata Health Shuttle and this activity currently accounts for 61% of their time. The Bureau's finances are sound and their support is strong.
<b>10</b>	<b>Significant Natural Features</b> In Piako Road,.Morrinsville there is a farm property where approximately 70% of the land has been classified as a Significant Natural Feature. The protected area is 60 hectares of peat land and is believed to be the last naturally vegetated piece of the former Komakorau bog of 22000 Ha. The current owners are seeking to have the protection of this area reduced in size or wiped all together. Dennis Bellamy, Don McLeod, Maurice Steffert and I visited the site and walked over much of the area. We will discuss the issue with Waikato

	Regional Council to ascertain their views on changing the protection.
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Te Aroha Volunteer Fire Brigade</b></p> <p>I attended the Te Aroha Volunteer Fire Brigade's double Gold Star presentation ceremony.</p> <p>The Brigade was officially recognising 25 years service by SFF Ross Hall and DCFO Geoff Edwards. This is another remarkable achievement of volunteer service by members of our local community. I spoke on behalf of Te Aroha and District community and thanked both of these men for their service.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Waikato Regional Triennial Forum</b></p> <p>I attended the latest Forum meeting in Hamilton. Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the proposed Upper North Island Strategic Alliance between Auckland Council, Bay of Plenty Region, Northland Region, Waikato Region, Hamilton, Tauranga and Whangarei.</li> <li>• Regional Strategic collaboration Each Forum member has agreed to fund \$1500 and Graeme Emerson and Leigh Auton have been engaged as consultants to:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Establish a broad business case for collaboration</li> <li>b) Identify critical success factors</li> <li>c) Identify strategic opportunities</li> <li>d) Identify potential methods for strategy</li> <li>e) Identify structures and arrangements</li> <li>f) Identify economic opportunities</li> <li>g) Identify initiatives for social, cultural, environmental</li> </ol> </li> <li>• National Policy Agenda</li> <li>• Regional Council update             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) R P S has attracted 200 submissions containing 4465 submission points</li> <li>(ii) Main areas of submission:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Built environment 23%</li> <li>- Freshwater 13%</li> <li>- Objectives 12%</li> <li>- Integrated Management 11%</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> <li>• Funding for Regional Facilities. A lively debate with differing opinions</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Hauraki Gulf Spatial Plan</b></p> <p>The Auckland Council together with Waikato Regional Council are in the process of developing a Spatial Plan for the Hauraki Marine Park. I attended a meeting of the Waikato Mayors/Chair to discuss how best this process can be done and how to include the various interest groups such as Fonterra, Federated Farmers, Fish Farmers, Iwi, in the early stages of consultation.</p>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Regional Transport Committee</b></p> <p>I attended the monthly Regional Land Transport Committee meeting.</p> <p>Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Transport update</li> </ul>

- Funding Assistance Rate review – changes announced 18 August 2011.
- National Health Travel Assistance Policy
- Road Safety update
- Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP)
- Regional Land Transport Programme prioritisation methodology
- New Zealand Transport Association update
- Transport Projects Update
- Funding Options for Stock Truck Effluent Facilities  
Proposed to have 8 facilities across the region at \$150K each to construct and up to \$30K each per year to maintain. Options include targeted rate per property or rural and urban rate at differential.  
The only Matamata Piako District facility is at Morrinsville saleyards
- There are currently 14 potential freight hubs over 100 ha each in the upper North Island. NZTA can not service access to this number and will therefore be choosing a small number of strategic sites and providing state highway access.
- Hauraki District Council has applied for \$450,000 over three years to help fund the Hauraki Rail Trail. The RLTC has an annual budget of \$185,155 to help fund the regional walking and cycling strategy.
- The Land Transport Act changes include
  - (i) Significantly reduce number of assessment criteria
  - (ii) Extend role of RLT programme to identify outcomes for 10 years and discontinue RLT Strategy separate document
  - (iii) RLTC to be smaller and more focused removing requirement for appointed members.