

Mayoral Diary

1 June 2011 to 30 June 2011

1.	Morrinsville Rotary Club I attended the Morrinsville Rotary Club meeting where Steve Fabish was the guest speaker talking about his experiences in Christchurch as part of the Civil Defence welfare team. His address was well received as Morrinsville Rotary Club members actively involve themselves in our MPDC welfare committee.
2.	Wintec I attended a function at Wintec in Hamilton where Sir Henry Van Der Heyden was awarded Honorary Fellowship for services to agriculture. The function was attended by business and political leaders where it was acknowledged that the vast majority of the Waikato economic benefit is driven by agriculture but there is little recognition of this from councils and other regulators.
3.	Auditor General Don and I met with Lyn Provost, the Auditor General, and Andrea Neame, the Sector Manager for Local Government. The visit was part of a tour being undertaken by the pair to all councils.
4.	Te Aroha Arts Society I attended and officially opened the Winter Exhibition of the Te Aroha Arts Society latest exhibition. The society has some 60 members whose exhibition work covered a wide range of painting styles including pastels, oils, landscape and portraits.
5.	Springdale School I went to Springdale School where I was asked to plant a tree in recognition of World Environment Day. Schools receive one native tree for every 2000 litres of paper and cardboard they recycle. Springdale School received 5 native trees.
6.	Fieldays - Morrinsville Together with Tim Armstrong and members of New Zealand Fieldays I helped judge the various window displays in Morrinsville supporting the Agricultural Fieldays. Many shops had dressed their windows to support the rural theme, some even displaying real live cowpats.
7.	Civil Defence I chaired the June meeting of the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group in Hamilton. The main agenda item was to adopt in draft the revised Group Plan and promote this for public submission. This 2 GP is vastly superior to the current plan. The wording is more enabling than prescriptive and has been written with full input and agreement from all the committee members.
8.	Rural Broadband I attended a presentation in Hamilton where Telecom, Vodafone and Chorus provided an update on the Government Rural Broadband Initiative. Most rural schools in our district will be connected by fibre within the next 12 months. The rural community will be connected by wireless coverage from the new towers being erected by Vodafone but available for all Telcos.

9.	Waikato Regional Council I attended a meeting in Hamilton where Waikato Regional Council presented their new strategic direction to enhance our environment and improve the regions economic performance and contribution to the national economy.																
10.	National Fieldays I attended the official opening of the Agricultural Fieldays at Mystery Creek. This is a major annual event where lots of our business operators display their products and services, and the majority of our farmers take time out to view the latest innovations. Hamilton City and Waipa District mayors also attended.																
11.	Leave On 16 June I took one week leave and travelled to Australia returning on 23 June.																
12	Morrinsville RSA The Morrinsville RSA was host to the National Indoor RSA bowling tournament over the weekend. A total of 50 teams and supporters attended from all over New Zealand. The bowlers tell me that the Morrinsville Events Centre floor is one of the best in the country for trueness and level. I attended the opening where I welcomed all the visitors and declared the tournament open.																
13	Maurice Steffert I attended the celebration of Maurice's 70 th Birthday held at Morrinsville Sports club rooms. Maurice surprised everyone by singing solo to entertain his guests. Congratulations Maurice.																
14	Tight 5 The Mayors and partners of Hamilton City, Waikato, Waipa, Otorohanga and Matamata Piako District Council all met for a business dinner in Cambridge. The meeting started at 6:30pm and finished at 10:30pm. There would appear to be support for the current more formal Tight 5 meetings with CEO present to change to lunch/dinner meetings with Tight 5 Mayors only.																
15	Youth Statistics The latest youth statistics as at 27 th May 2011: <table data-bbox="225 1388 638 1684"> <tr> <td>DPB related</td> <td>186</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invalid</td> <td>42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non Beneficiary</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Benefits</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sickness Benefit</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unemployed Benefit</td> <td><u>76</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td><u>499</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last months total</td> <td>500</td> </tr> </table>	DPB related	186	Invalid	42	Non Beneficiary	65	Other Benefits	55	Sickness Benefit	75	Unemployed Benefit	<u>76</u>	TOTAL	<u>499</u>	Last months total	500
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16	Matamata Grey Power I attended the full meeting of Matamata Grey Power where I was asked to discuss Civil Defence, how it was structured, and how it would respond to an emergency in Matamata. At the conclusion of the talk I offered to answer any council related questions. There were only two; why do we change so much for library books, and can we paint the logo on disabled car parks blue instead of yellow.																
17	Citizenship Ceremony We held another citizenship ceremony where 9 people became new kiwis. Previous nationalities were Nepalese (3), British (3), Indian (1), South African (1) and Zimbabwean (1).																
18	Waikato, Bay of Plenty Lifelines																

	<p>I attended a joint meeting of the Lifeline groups annual seminar held in Hamilton.</p> <p>As Chair of the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, I welcomed the attendees and gave an update on Group Civil Defence issues.</p> <p>Agenda items for the day included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Thompson – assisting the key personnel during the Pike River coal mine disaster. • John Hamilton, Director Ministry of Civil Defence – report on the Christchurch earthquake. • Regional/National Lifelines updated. • Martin Reyner, GNS Hazard model from Canterbury earthquake.
19.	<p>Matamata Piako District Police</p> <p>I attended a welcome for Senior Sergeant Rod Carpinter, who has now been appointed to replace Senior Sergeant Dana McDonald as Matamata Piako District sub area commander. Rod has previously been our area Detective Sergeant and he will do an excellent job in his new role.</p>
20.	<p>Regional Land Transport</p> <p>The regular RLTC meeting was cancelled and replaced with an increased attendance workshop to list roading priorities in both the 1-3 year and 4-10 year time frames.</p> <p>Our sub area (MPDC, Hauraki, TCDC) confirmed our support for the Waikato Expressway to be completed through to Tauranga and a concentrated effort to remove heavy vehicles from State Highway 27, State Highway 2 and our local roads. We also confirmed our support for the eastern traffic to link to the expressway and into the city at the University area.</p> <p>On local safety issues we managed to get the Mangawhero Bridge replacement recorded as a high priority..</p>
21.	<p>Civil Defence</p> <p>I attended the Matamata Piako District Council Civil Defence welfare meeting held at Te Aroha. The group consists of loyal volunteers from Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha who met regularly to train and upskill to man a welfare centre whenever needed in the area. Thames Coromandel District Council is holding a civil defence exercise in November this year and our welfare team will take part in this exercise.</p>