

## Mayoral Diary

### 1 October 2011 to 31 October 2011

<b>1.</b>	<b>Morrinsville A&amp;P Show</b> I attended the AGM for the Morrinsville A&P show. The President Jim Lichtwark, acknowledged that the income for the 2011 show had been significantly affected by heavy rain on the day. The committee is looking at increasing revenue by including a "Top Town" type competition on the Friday night and more entertainment on Saturday.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Trust Waikato</b> Together with several councillors I met with the Chief Executive Officer and Trustees of Trust Waikato. This was an excellent opportunity to update the Trustees on what is happening in the district and to discuss major projects coming up, such as the Te Aroha Events Centre.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Hauraki Treaty Claim</b> I attended a briefing on the Hauraki Treaty claims by Crown Chief Negotiator, Mike Dreaver, in Hamilton. The negotiations are progressing well and we are planning to have Mike Dreaver at our March 2012 Council meeting to provide an update to Council and the community.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Ngati Haua Mahi Trust</b> Together with Neil Goodger I attended the He Piko He Taniwha Symposium at the Kai e te mata marae. Native tree planting took place alongside the river where Arch Bishop Moxon, Nonain Mahuta, and I undertook symbolic plantings. The day was well attended by Regional Council and Government departments. The planting was the first of many proposed to help protect water quality in our district.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Matamata Community Board</b> I attended the monthly meeting of the Matamata Community Board at their request to discuss the following matters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firth Street/Farmers Road intersection</li> <li>• Councils Representation Review</li> </ul> I also acknowledged Council's Community Board Secretary Andrea Charters-Leahy who was attending her last meeting after nearly 3 years in the role.
<b>6.</b>	<b>District Police Person of the Year</b> The joint project between Morrinsville Rotary, Matamata Rotary, Matamata Piako District Council police and the Mayor is proceeding. Nominations open on 18 <sup>th</sup> October and close on 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2011. This is an excellent initiative and reflects the Rotary motto "Service above self". (Te Aroha Rotary were invited to join but declined).
<b>7.</b>	<b>Hamilton Waikato Tourism</b> Don and I met with Alistair Calder and Kiri Goulter, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the newly formed Hamilton Waikato Tourism that Matamata Piako District Council have funded by \$100,000 this year. They currently operate as a subsidiary to Hamilton Airport but it is proposed to change this to a stand alone CCO for the 7 councils involved.

<b>8.</b>	<b>HEB Construction</b> I attended a presentation by HEB Construction, attended by Don, Council, Kaimai Consultants and other staff where HEB outlined the scope of their operations and the significant projects they are currently involved with.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Matamata Society of Arts</b> I attended the annual exhibition of work by members of the Matamata Society of Arts. Their work includes painting, photography, sculpture and other art forms. This was an excellent display from some very talented local artists.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Hauraki Rail Trail</b> I attended a workshop with Te Aroha Councillors and interested parties to discuss how development of the termination area of the Hauraki Rail Trail could be co-ordinated and developed.
<b>11.</b>	<b>Hamilton International Airport</b> I attended the AGM of Hamilton International Airport as Matamata Piako District Council's Shareholder representative. Some items of interest were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic travellers are up 13% than last year but are currently declining</li> <li>• Overseas travellers are down 7000 on last year. The Pacific Blue Sydney Service was cancelled in July 2010 for lack of support with flights now restricted to Brisbane.</li> <li>• The greatest threat to international travel from Hamilton is still the over capacity and cheap flights out of Auckland.</li> <li>• The extended runway designation to 3000m has been completed although some navigation structures would need to be constructed on neighbours land.</li> <li>• Titanium Park has completed the sale of 12.2 Hectares of industrial land. The development of this area will trigger other industrial users to look at locating on site.</li> <li>• Hamilton International Airport recorded a net profit for the year of \$111,000 after 2 years of losses. Revenue was up from \$6.65m to \$7.08m.</li> </ul>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Tui Mine</b> Hon Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment came to Te Aroha to "turn the first sod" marking the start of the Tui Mine clean up. Waikato Regional Council is project manager. Phase 2 of the project relates to the tailings dam with Government contributing \$15.2m, Waikato Regional Council \$800k and Matamata Piako District Council \$200k. Most councillors attended the function where I acknowledged that after lots of procrastination, government has finally allocated the funds to allow the stabilisation of this hazard.
<b>13.</b>	<b>Business Night Out</b> Council held another highly successful Business Night Out with over 300 business people in attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Thissen, owner of the Bolt Holder in Matamata was the local business profiled this year.</li> <li>• Sir Ray Avery, Pharmaceutical Scientist and founding member of the Auckland University School of Medicine was our inspirational guest speaker.</li> <li>• Business awards were presented to</li> </ul>

	<p>Customer Service:  Horse Jockey Inn – Matamata  Wallace Gallery – Morrinsville  Te Aroha District Hospital – Te Aroha</p> <p>Business Excellence:  Horse &amp; Jockey Inn – Matamata  Wallace Gallery – Morrinsville  The Te Aroha District Hospital – Te Aroha</p> <p>The Business Personality award this year was presented to Morrinsville’s Annah Stretton.</p>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Siler Fern Farm</b>  I met with Ruth MacKenzie and Jason Graham from Silver Fern Farms to discuss progress on the rebuild of their Te Aroha site. We also discussed their community fund for local support</p>
<b>15.</b>	<p><b>Waikato Regional Council</b>  Don and I attended a breakfast meeting called by Peter Buckley, Chair Waikato Regional Council. Hauraki and Thames Coromandel District Council mayors were also present, as were local regional councillors Simon Friar and Phillip Legg. The meeting was informal and several common issues were discussed.</p>
<b>16.</b>	<p><b>Totara Springs</b>  I attended a meeting of the National Christian Ministry for Disabled who were holding their 30<sup>th</sup> Labour weekend meeting at Totara Springs. I officially welcomed everyone to Matamata and acknowledged their long association with the district.</p>
<b>17.</b>	<p><b>Morrinsville Golf Club Centennial</b>  I attended the Morrinsville Golf Club centennial dinner where I acknowledged the proud history of the club over the last 100 years. The Morrinsville club is the second oldest in the Waikato and was formed 3 years after the Morrinsville Town Board was established.</p>
<b>18.</b>	<p><b>Thames Valley Civil Defence</b>  I attended and chaired a farewell to Ron and Helen White at Thames. Ron has been manager for the combined Thames Valley Civil Defence for the last 21 years. He was originally employed by Matamata Piako District Council but later transferred to Thames Coromandel District Council. During his term the Thames Valley had 34 emergencies which is significantly more than any other Civil Defence area in New Zealand.</p>
<b>19.</b>	<p><b>Te Aroha Drop In</b>  I attended the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Te Aroha Drop In Centre. The volunteers here provide tea/coffee and conversation to anyone who wishes to drop in and spend time. The centre operates each morning. The young lady volunteers made me very welcome with coffee and cake.</p>

<b>20.</b>	<b>John Key</b> I attended a meeting held at the Matamata Memorial Centre where the Prime Minister, John Key was guest speaker. He gave a political overview of the New Zealand economy and presented the National Party's vision for the future.
<b>21</b>	<b>Te Aroha Volunteer Fire Brigade</b> I assisted members of the Te Aroha Volunteer Fire Brigade with their monster garage sale. The event was well supported by locals as well as operators of second hand stores looking for a bargain. I sometimes found myself negotiating with buyers over a single dollar in purchase price. The event is estimated to have raised \$6,000.
<b>22</b>	<b>Matamata BMX</b> I attended and officially opened the new BMX facility at Swap Park in Matamata. Young riders had gathered from near and far to be present at the opening. This will be an excellent facility for the younger people in Matamata and credit must go to Bob McGrail who has been the driver of this project from idea through to completion.
<b>23</b>	<b>Firth Tower</b> I attended the Firth Tower open day where a good number of people were viewing the displays or taking part in the games. The event has also the opportunity to promote "Tea at the Tower".
<b>24</b>	<b>New Citizens</b> I had pleasure in conducting another citizenship ceremony. A total of 17 people became New Zealanders. Previous nationalities were South Africa, Chilean, British, Uruguay and Indian.
<b>25</b>	<b>Steve Fabish</b> Steve Fabish has worked for Matamata Piako District Council for the last 5.5 years as our Community Facilities manager. Steve has enjoyed a good relationship with councillors and several community groups. I took the opportunity to take him up to our local restaurant and thank him for his service and wish him well in his new role as Community Services Manager at Hauraki District Council.