

# MAYORAL DIARY

## 1 July to 4 August 2009

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Civil Defence – Lifelines</b></p> <p>I attended a breakfast in Thames where members of the Civil Defence Engineering Lifelines were present to discuss changes to services. John Harris is the project manager for the group. Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address by Civil Defence Minister, Hon. John Carter on Government Policy.</li> <li>• Communications in an emergency.</li> <li>• Impact of storm events on the Coromandel.</li> <li>• Site visit to storm affected areas.</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Transpower</b></p> <p>Don and I met with Transpower CEO, Patrick Strange and Project Manager Nick Coad. The Board of Inquiry has confirmed the proposed 400Kv transmission line from Whakamaru to Auckland and property access will commence later this year to prepare for the foundation work for the pylons. Transpower currently have agreement over 70% of the route. MPDC has agreed to work collectively with other affected Councils to undertake the regulatory inspections.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Police</b></p> <p>I met with Sub Area Commander, Senior Sergeant Dana McDonald to discuss policing issues within the district. Items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The liquor ban bylaw management</li> <li>• Te Aroha Community Patrol</li> <li>• Proposed staffing changes</li> <li>• Crime within the District</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Civil Defence – Welfare</b></p> <p>Sandy and I attended the regular Civil Defence Welfare meeting in Morrinsville. This is a volunteer group chaired by Shirley Gillard and included volunteers from Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha. Ron and Helen White support the welfare group. At the meeting I asked the group to establish a Civil Defence welfare centre as quickly as possible and to prepare to accept evacuees who were on their way from the cyclone damaged town of Te Aroha. Shirley and her volunteers responded quickly and the evacuees started arriving within thirty minutes. All were registered, given a hot drink, checked for medical requirements and allocated to emergency housing.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Australian Fire Fighter</b></p> <p>Council hosted Captain Sue Waters, and her family from the Leonards Hill</p>

	<p>area of Daylesford. Sandy and I put together a programme of activities and personally escorted the family for the week. I have received great support from the business community throughout the district and beyond. A copy of the actual programme is attached.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>400 kv Transmission Line</b>  I met with twenty land owners who are affected by the proposed new transmission line through the District. There is reluctant acceptance that the line will proceed and most of the discussion was on how a fair and reasonable compensation could be achieved.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Business Night Out</b>  I met with Jenni Worboys and the three Presidents of our town Business Association's to discuss this years Business Night Out programme. We have engaged Julia Hartley-Moore as our celebrity speaker and finalised the date being Wednesday, 14 October 2009. It was agreed that this event is strongly supported and no major changes were needed to the format.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Youth Benefit Statistics</b>  As part of the Mayors Taskforce we are now receiving statistics regarding beneficiaries within MPDC. As at 26 June there were a total of 400 people in receipt of a government benefit. From that 400 there are 374 aged under the age of 25.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Karapiro Lodge</b>  Jill and I attended the opening of the newly designed Sir Tristram Room at Lake Karapiro Lodge. Guests at the function included numerous Cambridge business and racing people with Sir Patrick Hogan officially opening the new room. The lodge itself it inside the MPDC boundary and is a very professional and exclusive facility.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Stanley Avenue School</b>  I met with Principal, Mr Stuart Armistead and Board Chair, Mrs Julie Sweeney from Stanley Avenue School. The meeting was to further discuss options for a single indoor basketball court complex being built at Te Aroha.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Business Round Table</b>  I attended a meeting in Hamilton where Roger Kerr, Chair of the Business Round Table spoke on the New Zealand economy from a business perspective. He believes that New Zealand is continuing to fall behind Australia through a lack of comparative productivity. He identified both the RMA and the Building Act as major hurdles for businesses to overcome. Low income countries (Bangladesh, Ethiopia) are no threat to New Zealand but highly productive economies (India, China) are direct competition to New Zealand economic standards.</p>

<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Te Aroha Rotary Club</b> I accepted the invitation as guest speaker at the Te Aroha Rotary Club. I updated members on growth within MPDC and possible scenarios for future TLA boundary changes within the Waikato.</p>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Family &amp; Community Services</b> I met with Peter Waru and Carol Buckley from Family and Community Services, a branch within the Ministry of Social Development. They are keen to initiate a meeting of social service providers in Morrinsville to help co-ordinate support to families in need. If the Morrinsville meeting is successful it can be repeated in both Matamata and Te Aroha. They are also administering a new government community response fund to assist volunteer social service provider groups affected by either reduced income from community trusts or increased work load from new clients affected by the downturn in the economy.</p>
<b>14.</b>	<p><b>Raungaiti</b> Don and I met with Tainui MP Nanaia Mahuta to discuss the possibility of both the Raungaiti Marae at Waharoa, and the houses opposite, connecting to the proposed sewer system for Waharoa. We stressed that any extension would be unsubsidised by ratepayers and therefore 100% funded by users or Government.</p>
<b>15.</b>	<p><b>Grace Groube</b> I attended the birthday celebration in Matamata for Mrs Grace Groube who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. I presented the family with an official MPDC Certificate of Congratulations.</p>
<b>16.</b>	<p><b>LGNZ Conference</b> Together with Bob McGrail, Peter Jager and Don McLeod I attended the LGNZ Conference in Christchurch. Keynote speakers included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prime Minister John Key</li> <li>➤ Peter Biggs MD, Clemenger BBDO</li> <li>➤ Peter Salmon, Chair Royal Commission on Auckland Governance</li> <li>➤ Phil Goff, Leader of the Opposition</li> <li>➤ Mai Chen, Public Law Specialist</li> <li>➤ Rodney Hide, Minister of Local Government</li> <li>➤ Judge Andrew Becroft, Principal Youth Court Judge</li> <li>➤ Carl Wright, Commonwealth Local Government</li> <li>➤ John Carter, Minister</li> </ul> <p>I also attended workshops on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ World economy challenges and opportunities</li> <li>➤ Rugby World Cup – ensuring a legacy</li> </ul> <p>LGNZ AGM remits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Local Government request Central Government to develop NPS</li> </ol>

	<p>on siting of wind farms – passed.</p> <p>2. That infringement fees for illegal deposit of waste be increased to \$1,000 – passed.</p> <p>3. Change to the Dog Control Act to allow any dog known to have committed an attack to be euthanised – passed.</p>
<b>17.</b>	<p><b>Mayors Taskforce</b></p> <p>I attended the Mayors Taskforce AGM where Otorohanga Mayor Dale Williams was thanked for his work and he has agreed to continue to Chair the taskforce. Of concern was a turnaround in finances from a \$40K surplus last year to a \$60K deficit this year.</p>
<b>18.</b>	<p><b>Morrinsville Sports</b></p> <p>Morrinsville Sports Senior A rugby team won the Waikato Premier Division Championships beating Fraser Tech at Waikato Stadium. Whilst at the LGNZ Conference in Christchurch I phoned Sandy Barnes to organise a Civic reception for the team. Accordingly a street parade was held in Morrinsville culminating in a civic reception outside the Morrinsville Library. Support from the town was enormous. Shops decorated their premises, supporters wore Morrinsville Sports jerseys, Morrinsville College changed their lunch hour to enable all the school to view the parade as many of the team were ex pupils. The parade was supported by Matamata-Piako District Police, Morrinsville Volunteer Fire Brigade, Andy Smith Limited and the Morrinsville Promotion Association. From my Mayoral Fund I authorised afternoon tea for the team following the reception.</p>
<b>19.</b>	<p><b>Campbell Park</b></p> <p>On Saturday morning I did my annual volunteering as gate keeper at Morrinsville’s Campbell Park. I collected a \$2 parking fee for each car and enjoyed discussing various issues with a large number of sporting parents.</p>
<b>20.</b>	<p><b>Regional Land Transport</b></p> <p>I attended the July RLTC meeting in Hamilton. Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Regional Road Safety campaign starting in September. Includes sign writing of Police cars.</li> <li>➤ Regional Land Transport Strategy – reflects Government policy shifts and increased 30 year horizons.</li> <li>➤ Health Impact Assessment – the need for strategies to take into account impacts on peoples health and wellbeing.</li> <li>➤ Regional Land Transport Programme – adopted and now published. There are 16 regions who have adopted programmes. Total funding across New Zealand is \$8.6bn of which 35% is for State Highways. A total of \$400m is being withdrawn from other activities to fund Roads of National Significance for the year.</li> <li>➤ Submission to increase vehicle length and weight. The RLTC resolved to submit against the proposal. It was also noted that the only roads</li> </ul>

	<p>currently engineered to take the extra weight vehicles on a regular basis are SH1 Auckland to Tirau, SH2 to junction of SH26. There is also no funding identified to bring other roads up to required specification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Kopu Bridge – estimated completion date is Easter 2012.</li> <li>➤ Michelle Lock was appointed to the Committee representing Environmental Sustainability.</li> </ul>
<b>21.</b>	<p><b>Waikato Regional Triennial Forum</b> I attended the WRTF in Hamilton. Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Waikato River settlement update</li> <li>➤ Regional Policy Statement</li> <li>➤ Auckland Governance update</li> <li>➤ Rugby World Cup</li> <li>➤ Amalgamation of Waikato TLA's</li> <li>➤ Contaminated sites</li> </ul>
<b>22.</b>	<p><b>Citizenship Ceremony</b> A citizenship ceremony was held in Te Aroha where 10 people became our newest Kiwis. Those taking citizenship had previous nationalities from eight different countries.</p>
<b>23.</b>	<p><b>Morrinsville New World</b> I attended an evening function with the Directors of Foodstuffs, Auckland and on the Tuesday morning I officially acknowledged and opened the new Morrinsville supermarket. The Morrinsville store has some 2200m<sup>2</sup> (Matamata is 3000m<sup>2</sup>) and over 140 carparks. The owner operators are Malcolm and Angela Boyd who have been managing the previous Morrinsville New World supermarket.</p>
<b>24.</b>	<p><b>Big Night Telethon</b> I attended a promotional event at Morrinsville Warehouse to promote the TV3 Telethon to raise funds for Kids Can Stand Tall Charitable Trust.</p>

## **PROGRAMME – DAYLESFORD FIRE FIGHTER VISIT 4 – 12 July 2009**

Mrs Sue Waters  
Mr Michael Waters  
Zak Waters (16)  
Shyann Waters (14)  
Kyah Waters (12)

### **Saturday, 4 July 2009**

- Arrival at Auckland Airport - 1245 hours.
- Vehicle - Nicholson United Autos (sponsored)
- Accommodation - Mayor Hugh Vercoe & Jill Barnes Home (sponsored)

### **Sunday, 5 July 2009**

- Taupo Bungy
- Huka Falls & Huka Falls Jet
- Taupo Prawn Park
- Mini Van - Greenline Motors (sponsored)

### **Monday, 6 July 2009**

- Accommodation - Aroha Mountain Lodge (sponsored)
- Tour of District
- Te Aroha - Spas, Geyser, Domain, Fire Station, Boyd Park, Subdivisions
- Industry - Inghams, Fonterra, Wallaces, Tatua, Greenlea Meats, Degussa
- Morrinsville - Tour of Annah Stretton Clothing
- Lunch at Café Frock (sponsored)
- Matamata - Firth Tower, Swim at Sports Centre (sponsored)
- Dinner at Ironique, Te Aroha (sponsored)

### **Tuesday, 7 July 2009**

- Tour of Candyland (sponsored)
- Tour of Otorohanga Kiwi House
- Te Aroha RSA – Speaking Engagement
  - Four fire chiefs, Area Commander & Fire Fighters from four brigades present)
- Dinner at RSA (sponsored)

### **Wednesday, 8 July 2009**

- Attendance at Council Meeting & Morning Tea
- Visit to Murray Barker's Goldfish Farm (sponsored)
- Lunch at Top Pub, Morrinsville (sponsored)

- Gliding at Waharoa (sponsored)
- Dinner at Workman's Restaurant, Matamata (sponsored)

#### **Thursday, 9 July 2009**

- 4x4 trip to top of Mt Te Aroha (sponsored)
- Lunch at Crazee Cow, Morrinsville (sponsored)
- Visit to Hugh's Farm – Sheep Shearing demonstration & 4x4 bikes (sponsored)
- Visit to Waihi Beach
- Dinner with Sponsors – Hugh's Home

#### **Friday, 10 July 2009**

- Accommodation – Mayor Hugh Vercoe & Jill Barnes home
- Spa & Massage – Te Aroha Mineral Spas (Romance Package & Facial) (sponsored)
- Shopping in Hamilton
- Visit to Hamilton Central Fire Station (sponsored)
- Dinner at Rebo Restaurant & Café, SkyCity Hamilton
- Ten Pin Bowling – SkyCity Hamilton

#### **Saturday, 11 July 2009**

- Whakarewarewa Thermal Experience – Mud pools, Geysers, cultural performance guided tour etc. (sponsored)
- Gondola & Luge

#### **Sunday, 12 July 2009**

- Stone grill dining at Degree Restaurant, Auckland Viaduct
- Flight to Australia