

MAYORAL DIARY

1 June to 30 June 2009

1.	<p>Matamata College I attended an OSH presentation with one of the classes at Matamata College. The students had undertaken a survey of the public about OSH, whether it was over the top, or warranted.</p> <p>The OSH inspector, employed by the Department of Labour, advised that they were not about taking the enjoyment out of life, but simply wanted to ensure safer work places. The average convictions nation wide each year is 155. I took from his presentation the need to identify and assess the risk and be prepared to justify your actions taken.</p>
2.	<p>Morrinsville Rotary Club I was the official guest speaker at the Morrinsville Rotary Club. I spoke about some of the statistics for the district, the amalgamation in 1989, early thoughts for the Waikato following the Auckland super city amalgamation, the Waikato River, and other general issues.</p>
3.	<p>My Tag My Town I attended a short filming session where Alpha Media is producing a DVD for Council to encourage reduction of tagging in our communities. While accepting a star role, all of 30 seconds duration, I was impressed at the detail being given by the young actors and directing staff.</p>
4.	<p>Volunteer Awards Council recognised various community volunteers at a morning function held at the Matamata Memorial Centre. Once again it was a privilege to recognize people who give so much of their time to make Matamata Piako such a special place.</p>
5.	<p>Regional Land Transport I attended the June RLTC meeting in Hamilton. Reports included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Transport – Proposed to increase heavy vehicle weight above 44T and to extend trailer length by 2.0 m. Trials have been done with 60T and 25.0 m vehicles which indicate a strong economic advantage. Permits will be issued to qualifying vehicles with specific routes. • Regional allocation of government funding has gone. Priorities will now be determined nationally where government will invest rather than fund. Priorities will be on growth and productivity showing an economic benefit. • Hamilton City will progress the trial of passenger rail transport between Hamilton and Auckland as a private initiative rather than a RLTC sponsored trial. • NZTA is reviewing their policy on vehicle speeds on state highways to see if more flexible policy with delegation to TLA can be included. • The draft Regional walking and cycling strategy identified the heritage links between Thames and Te Aroha as a significant link.

6.	<p>Morrinsville Ministers Association I met with Morrinsville Ministers Association to discuss the dedication service of the Stillborn Remembrance Garden at the Piako Cemetary. This facility was originally proposed by the Association some years ago and recent funding has now seen the project undertaken.</p>
7.	<p>Audit New Zealand I met with our new Auditor, Sue Bethell, where we formally discussed Council's audit requirements for the coming year.</p>
8.	<p>Combined Community Board Meeting Don, Dennis, George and I met with members of the three Community Boards. The discussion was around how Matamata-Piako District Council sees the role of the Boards and how a closer relationship can be developed.</p>
9.	<p>Pacific Blue I was invited to attend a function by Hamilton Airport to celebrate the signing of a new agreement with Pacific Blue. Despite best endeavours I was unable to track down the venue.</p>
10.	<p>Morrinville Golf Club I attended a ceremony at the Morrinsville Golf Club where the club acknowledged the various services provided by their neighbouring developer Mr Kevin Honiss. I also thanked Kevin for his willingness to work with Council and the golf club to achieve some very beneficial community gains.</p>
11.	<p>Remembrance garden Together with Morrinsville Councillors I attended the dedication and opening of the Stillborn Memorial Garden in Morrinsville. Despite some heavy rain Terrafirma had laid the instant lawn and bark mulch to finish the project in time for the opening. This memorial is the result of partnerships between all local churches, community groups and Council and was well received by approximately 50 people at the wet opening.</p>
12.	<p>Telecom Together with other Mayors I attended an afternoon tea in Hamilton where Telecom Chief Executive Officer Paul Reynolds gave an update on Telecoms proposed new services to the Waikato.</p>