

# MAYORAL DIARY

## 7 October to 4 November 2009

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Central TV</b> I attended an interview with Janene Forlong hosting tvCentral Indepth programme where we discussed graffiti within the district and the benefits of the council sponsored MytagMyTown programme.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Pohlen Hospital</b> I attended a cocktail evening at Pohlen Hospital, Matamata, where Trustees of the Pohlen Foundation Trust gave an update on the new developments at the hospital. There is a separate Trust concentrating on fundraising in support of the hospital and it is working exceptionally well. Lady Margaret Spring continues to provide tremendous leadership of the Trust.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Petria Martin</b> Petria Martin was employed by MPDC at the Matamata Sports Centre for the last 3½ years. Petria along with her older sister, Rebecca were tragically killed by the Tsunami while holidaying at Samoa. I visited the girls' parents, Kerry and Lynn at their home at Wardville where I conveyed the sympathy and support from the wider community.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Stock Effluent</b> Don and I met with a deputation of truck company owners, sale yard representatives and officials of the Road Transport Association. Their concern is the total lack of any effluent dumping station anywhere within the MPDC area. Ideally they would like to see something established in Morrinsville. We have agreed to work with the truck owners to try and identify a suitable site and then have the proposal included in the Regional Transport Plan.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Pulse Energy</b> I met with Dene Biddlecombe, Chief Executive for Pulse Energy. The company is an electricity retailer looking at expanding into our three towns providing domestic electricity. The purpose of the meeting was simply to understand who and what the company was.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Waikato Regional Airport</b> Don and I attended the AGM of the Waikato Regional Airport. 2009 has been a challenging year for the airport and the successful signing of Pacific Blue is a great achievement. WRAL has total assets of \$71.0M and liability of \$8.0M. This makes our 15.625% shareholding valued at \$9.84M.</p> <p>Revenue is not huge. The carpark returns \$1.2M, landing and take off fees \$2.7M, rentals \$1.7M, shop sales \$500K and a grant of \$150K. Total revenue \$6.2M.</p> <p>WRAL has a total of 25 employees including 11 Firefighters. Remuneration to the Chief Executive and 3 senior staff was \$675K approximately. Director fees totaled \$103K and this year we reduced the</p>

	number of directors from 5 to 4. Barry Coombe who has served as Director for 11 years resigned at the AGM.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Tight 5</b> The Mayors and CEO's from the Tight 5 met to discuss possible Local Authority boundary changes/amalgamation. I may include this item at our combined councillor meeting in February to allow full discussion of the issues.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Walking School Bus</b> Matamata Primary School celebrated their first 2 years since the introduction of their walking school bus service. To mark the occasion the bus was extended to include myself, Jan Barnes, Leonie Tisch, Garry Stanley, together with Sport Waikato and senior Police. We all had an enjoyable walk through most of Matamata.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Elderly Person Housing (EPH)</b> We held a morning tea in each of our three towns where MPDC pensioner tenants joined me, ward councillors and property staff. This is an annual event to allow our tenants to discuss any aspects of their flats in a social environment. All three meetings expressed overall satisfaction with both the rental and quality of accommodation.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Civil Defence</b> Three staff from the Ministry of Civil Defence interviewed me for one hour on my views of Civil Defence within the greater Waikato region. Dennis Bellamy also took part in their survey. In my opinion the Thames Valley combined area is working well and the local areas should be supported more than the higher group arrangements.
<b>11.</b>	<b>Morrinsville Animal Day</b> Jill and I attended the town animal day (previously known as calf day). The Morrinsville town schools combined at Morrinsville Primary where calves, lambs, goats and other animals were displayed by their young owners.
<b>12.</b>	<b>Morrinsville College Fun Run</b> I attended the finish and prize giving of the annual College Fun Run. The weather on the day was atrocious but the competition still numbered over 600. I was not tempted to sign on for the half marathon.
<b>13.</b>	<b>Thailand Students</b> Thai students have now been coming to Te Aroha College for a 3 week cultural exchange for the last 11 years. I had the pleasure of receiving the latest group in my formal capacity as Mayor.
<b>14.</b>	<b>Business Night Out</b> Our annual BNO was held again at the Matamata Memorial Centre. The evening was a sell out with several businesses already confirming their attendance for next year. Daryl Anderson, tvCentral, was our local business showcased. Julia Hartley-Moore, Private Investigator, and ex Te Aroha was our celebrity guest speaker. Lindsay and Sue Spooner from Te Aroha were awarded the District Business Personality of the year award.
<b>15.</b>	<b>Heritage Trail</b> Council held a short function to officially open the district rural heritage trail.

	Neil Algar, David and Joan Stanley and Mike Gribble have been involved in this project for the last 11 years. The trail now accurately identifies our special heritage sites in the rural area.																																					
<b>16.</b>	<p><b>National Cycle way</b> Don, Peter Jager and I met with Jillian and Shaun O'Neill, Greg Marshall and Mike Ryan who have volunteered their services to support council's application to the NZ cycle way project. This volunteer group has the expertise and commitment to greatly enhance our application which has to be completed by 18 December.</p>																																					
<b>17.</b>	<p><b>Benefit Statistics</b> The Department of Social Welfare statistics for Matamata-Piako for August and September 2009 show the following:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Benefit</th> <th>Age Group</th> <th>August</th> <th>September</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">DPB</td> <td>18 - 24 yrs old</td> <td>137</td> <td>149</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 yrs old</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Invalids</td> <td>18 - 24 yrs old</td> <td>31</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 yrs old</td> <td>10</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Non Beneficiary</td> <td>18 - 24 yrs old</td> <td>53</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 yrs old</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sickness</td> <td>18 - 24 yrs old</td> <td>51</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unemployment</td> <td>18 - 24 yrs old</td> <td>88</td> <td>88</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>376</b></td> <td><b>398</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Benefit	Age Group	August	September	DPB	18 - 24 yrs old	137	149	17 yrs old	5	5	Invalids	18 - 24 yrs old	31	34	17 yrs old	10	9	Non Beneficiary	18 - 24 yrs old	53	62	17 yrs old	1	1	Sickness	18 - 24 yrs old	51	50	Unemployment	18 - 24 yrs old	88	88	<b>Total</b>		<b>376</b>	<b>398</b>
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<b>18.</b>	<p><b>Te Aroha Volunteer Fire Brigade</b> The Te Aroha VFB held their annual garage sale at the fire station. The brigade relies on volunteers to help on the day and John Harris and I both reported for duty at 0715 hours on the Saturday morning. An enjoyable day and a significant funds raised for the brigade.</p>																																					
<b>19.</b>	<p><b>Police</b> The Te Aroha police station operates as a sub unit to Morrinsville. There have recently been some changes to their staff and I hosted a morning tea to welcome Sergeant Vic Sneddon who assumed NCO responsibility for Te Aroha and Constable Craig Gordon who is OIC Te Aroha Station. Te Aroha is now fully staffed and all staff attended the morning tea.</p>																																					
<b>20.</b>	<p><b>Te Aroha RSA</b> I met with Russell Smith, President of the Te Aroha RSA to discuss the re-siting of their 105mm artillery gun. The gun has previously been at the side of their building and it is proposed to bring it around adjacent to the front of the premises. The new location will require council approval.</p>																																					