

MAYORAL DIARY

9 September to 6 October 2009

1.	<p>Future Proof</p> <p>I attended the official launch of the Hamilton City, Waipa, and Waikato Districts Growth Strategy, Future Proof. Prime Minister John Key officially launched the strategy at the Hamilton Novotel. The strategy sets the growth patterns over the combined area for the next 50 years with projections of an extra 250,000 people over that period. Its implementation will be challenging.</p>
2.	<p>Rugby World Cup 2011</p> <p>I attended a morning tea with Prime Minister John Key, the Tight 5 Mayors and members of Rugby World Cup. The event was timed to promote the countdown of exactly two years to the start of the 2011 tournament in New Zealand. Each Mayor was asked to bring a total of four primary school students to the event where they were photographed with the actual rugby world cup and then played a demonstration game of nipper rugby at the Stadium.</p>
3.	<p>Zone 2</p> <p>Our latest Zone meeting was hosted by Opotiki District and held over two days at Te Kaha. It was an excellent meeting and although attendance was down slightly to 50 attendees, many felt it was the best zone meeting for some time.</p> <p>Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Army cadet unit based at Opotiki District high School and the success they are achieving. • Aquaculture: The enormous potential to harvest large areas of the ocean to grow mussels, scallops, fish etc. • Procurement: Designing Council contracts to meet the desired outcome not trying to make standard contracts cover the tendered work. • Civil Defence: The long history of civil defence in the Thames Valley presented by Ron White. • Local Government New Zealand update on current issues and work programmes. • Opotiki: An overview of this district which has the highest level of deprivation in New Zealand and how they meet some of the challenges.
4.	<p>Morrinsville Lions Club</p> <p>I attended the 50th anniversary of the formation of Morrinsville Lions Club. The Morrinsville Club was originally sponsored by Matamata Lions. The reunion attracted an excellent attendance with old Lions returned from as far away as Australia. I received several comments from those returning on how good the town was looking.</p>
5.	<p>Waikato River Scoping Study</p> <p>I attended the presentation of a scoping study to be carried out on matters affecting the Waikato River. The area being studied includes full</p>

	<p>catchment of land and waterways which may affect water quality of the river. In essence the study will identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are we now with river water quality? • Where do we want to get? • Options to get there. • Costs of the various options. • Plan implementation.
6.	<p>Trust Waikato The CEO, Chairman and Trustees met with me and some Councillors in Te Aroha and then went to a second meeting in Matamata. It is pleasing to note that one of the newly appointed Trustees is John Gillespie from Matamata. This will benefit local charities and groups by allowing a better local knowledge on some of the funding applications.</p>
7.	<p>Waikato Mayoral Forum Don and I attended the regular Tight 5 meeting in Hamilton. Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aviation cluster presentation on the strength of associated aviation industries around Hamilton airport. • Waikato Regional Airport Ltd, the directors, and the AGM shortly. • Waikato local authority boundary adjustments and possible amalgamation. • Rugby World Cup. • Waikato River settlement. <p>All Councils supported a combined councilors meeting in February 2010 along similar lines to the last few years. A date has been set for this combined meeting, being Friday 19 February 2010. A social dinner will follow the formal meeting.</p>
8.	<p>Te Aroha Food Bank I attended an afternoon tea to recognize the efforts of Peter Childerhouse and David Stewart who have been delivering food parcels for the last 14 years in Te Aroha. Both have now retired from this voluntary work and I was able to extend thanks for such a long and valued service.</p>
9.	<p>Queens Scouts I attended an evening function with the Morrinsville Scouts where I had the pleasure in presenting Queen Scout badges to three local Scouts: Paul Brunton, Gavin Ralph and Nathan McGregor. It is 20 years since the last time a Morrinsville Scout qualified for this award.</p>
10.	<p>Tauhei Hall I attended the Tauhei Hall Annual General Meeting to discuss options to refinance the cost of recent major upgrades to the hall. The meeting unanimously voted to apply to MPDC and WDC to extend the existing hall loans by incorporating the current overdrawn accounts and to repay the combined loan from the existing hall rates in the Tauhei area.</p>
11.	<p>Civil Defence I Chaired the regular six monthly Thames Valley Combined District Civil</p>

	<p>Defence meeting held in Paeroa. Ron White presented the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2009 together with detailing activities over the past six months. Updates were also provided by NZ Fire Service, NZ Police, St John Ambulance, Ministry, and Health.</p> <p>Shamus Howard, CDEM Controller for Southern EOA, gave a presentation on the declared emergency at Taupo in June this year. This declaration was different to the norm in that a declaration was imposed prior to any actual damage.</p>												
12.	<p>Central TV I accepted the invitation to appear on Central TV news in Matamata where I filled two news slots on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting the MPDC Business Nite Out. 2. The combined Thames Valley Civil Defence response to the recent tsunami. 												
13.	<p>Aroha Cruise In I attended the Aroha Cruise In being the 2nd annual event in Te Aroha. The threatening bad weather did not arrive and the main street was filled with classic cars. Military vehicles were also on display outside the RSA. An excellent day which brought a very large crowd to Te Aroha.</p>												
14.	<p>Waikato River I attended a meeting with officials from the Office of Treaty Settlements to receive an update on co-management arrangements over the Waikato River and its catchment area. The proposed Joint Management Agreement (JMA) replaces the previous Statutory Board to implement the strategy identified. Details from the briefing are still subject to final negotiation between the Crown and Iwi.</p>												
15.	<p>Regional Land Transport I attended the October RLTC meeting in Hamilton. Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RLTC submission on Safer Journeys Discussion Document. • I raised concerns about the lack of input Councils have with setting speed limits on state highways within town/city boundaries. • “Older age drivers” are now those people over 85 years. • Variation process for the 2009/12 regional Land Transport Programme. <p>A copy of the RLTC submission is available to anyone interested in this.</p> <p>Environment Waikato has now installed locked doors to prevent access to the Boardroom area where RLTC and other meetings are held. Attendees need to register to obtain temporary clearance to enter this area.</p>												
16.	<p>Benefit Statistics The Department of Social Welfare statistics for Matamata-Piako for August 2009 show the following:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>DPB</td> <td>137 people</td> <td>18-24 yrs old</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5 people</td> <td>17 yrs old</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invalids</td> <td>31 people</td> <td>18-24 yrs old</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10 people</td> <td>17 yrs old</td> </tr> </table>	DPB	137 people	18-24 yrs old		5 people	17 yrs old	Invalids	31 people	18-24 yrs old		10 people	17 yrs old
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