


Mayoral Diary

March 2019

<p>Friday 1 March</p>	<p>Zone 2 Meeting This meeting was hosted by Waikato District Council at Zealong Tea Estate in Hamilton.</p> <p>Presentations at this meeting included topics on millennial Employees, Radix Nutrition, Aeronavics Ltd, Toi Ohomai Institute, Zealong Tea Estate, Rates Rebates and an update from LGNZ President Dave Cull.</p> <p>Cambridge TDM Modular Homes Tour I was invited to view the new modular factory based in the Waikato. Housing NZ was also present and they had visited Stanley Modular in the morning.</p> 
<p>Saturday 2 March</p>	<p>Morrinsville A & P Show A very successful show with great support from the community. A fun day with lots of activities for all. Great to see a display from our 31st Squadron Air Training Corp Morrinsville.</p>
<p>Sunday 3 March</p>	<p>A Day in the Domain – Te Aroha There was another excellent turn out at the annual Day in the Domain event in Te Aroha. The organising committee had secured a good number and variety of stall holders with entertainment for young and old!</p> <p>From bouncy castles, a teddy bears picnic and face painting to music and yummy food, there was something for everyone.</p> <p>Rex and I had high tea at Domain House put on by Keep Te Aroha Beautiful. It was nice to sit on the veranda and watch over the bustle of activity going on in the lower greens of the Domain.</p> <p>Congratulations to the organising committee for your hard work behind the scenes bringing the event together for a successful day.</p>



**Tuesday
5 March**

Te Manawhenua Forum meeting

Deputy Mayor James Thomas and I represent council on this committee. Items on the agenda at this meeting included: Ngati Hinerangi Membership Change, Confirmation of Work Program Priorities 2019, Draft Te Reo Maori Policy, Morrinsville River Walk Extension Project, Waitangi Day overview, Six Monthly Report July – December 2018, Provincial Growth Fund projects, District Plan update, Consultation update and the Te Manawhenua Forum Annual Survey 2019.

Friends of the Rail Trail meeting

Following on from our initial meeting in February I caught up with John and Dianne Hawkins, representatives from the railway trust and council property staff to further discussions on what the next steps need to be to progress the vision of the group. CEO Haruaki Rail Trail Dianne Drummond is to attend the next meeting with Vicki Black from Keep Te Aroha Beautiful.

**Thursday 6
& Friday 7
March**

Rural and Provincial meeting

A good full agenda with our sector of Local Government NZ. Deputy Mayor James Thomas accompanied Don to this meeting which I chaired for the two days. The 3 Waters and where to from here is the hot topic.

**Monday
11 March**

Te Aroha JP AGM

Rex and I were guests at the annual JP dinner and AGM held at the Silver Fern Farms Event Centre in Te Aroha. Guest speaker Paul Sweetman was most informative on his compliance work in Saudi Arabia. Our JP association and its members are to be commended for their service to our community. A strong committee going forward.

**Tuesday
12 March**

Walton School visit

I was invited to opening the schools new sand pit. The PTA have put a lot of money and time into this project and now they have this wonderful area for the children to play in. The district businesses played a big part from Morrinsville, Matamata and Te Aroha. A delightful and well supported rural school.

	<p>Meeting with NZ Police</p> <p>I met with Supt Bruce Bird for our regular catch up on what is happening in our district from a police perspective. I raised the security issues of my community and the need for a resource to support them in a reaction to the petition for a 27/7 policed station.</p> <p>Supt Bird can now confirm I have that resource coming in three months with a watch house employee at our station for 20 hours a week, i.e. five days 10am to 2pm. This should give confidence and access to discuss issues but please phone 111 as your immediate police call.</p> <p>Te Aroha Community Patrol is covering the next three months once a week up town at Ironique Café on Monday mornings at 10am for one hour to record any concerns. Thank you Te Aroha Community Patrollers.</p> <p>Meeting with Chorus</p> <p>Jo from Chorus met with me in Morrinsville to provide an update on the plan of work in our district, specifically around Ultra Fast Broadband in Matamata and Morrinsville.</p> <p>Chorus are presently in Matamata and almost completed and had programmed Morrinsville CBD to commence early in 2020. However they are well advanced in their timetable and their operational Manager recently advised Council staff that they were now committing to start work in the Morrinsville CBD in June/ July this year.</p> <p>Audit and Risk committee meeting</p> <p>The first meeting of the year Chaired by John Luxton. The agenda comprised items on: BDO Internal Audit Plan, 2019 Local Election Matters, Treasury Policy Review, Councils Tax Obligation, Annual Report Audit Plan – Year ending 30 June 2019, Six Month Report July – December 2018 and Consultation update.</p>
Wednesday 13 March	<p>Council meeting</p> <p>Councillors had a full day ahead of them with the Council meeting followed by a number of workshop items. These included: Audit and Risk Report from Chair Hon John Luxton, Annual Report Audit Plan, WRAL - Shareholder Approval, WRAL – 6 Month report and Statement of Intent, Thames Valley Emergency Operating Area Review 2019, Hamilton and Waikato Tourism – 6 month report, Rubbish Bag Fees 2019/20, 2019 Local Election Matters, Hauraki Rail Trail Update, Mayoral Diary – February 2019, Matamata-Piako Civic Centre, Wairere Falls Easements, Consultation Meeting Attendance and the Provincial Growth Fund.</p>
Thursday 14 March	<p>Volunteer Youth Ambassadors meeting</p> <p>The 7.30am start in the Morrinsville Library was the venue of this month's VYA meeting. We talked about the work programme including Youth Awards, the WILLIS mentoring day and Gumboot Friday. Our VYA's will also be contributing to our Anzac Day services, across the district.</p>

	<p>Nga Iwi FM I highlighted to Rino about the consultation on bylaws and policies and the upcoming 'Talk Tourism Te Aroha' event coming up on 20 March. Also our VYA Gumboot Day promotion. Look out for our consultation stalls at market days.</p> <p>Anzac Day meeting - Morrinsville Operational meeting with Morrinsville RSA to discuss the Civic Service next month. I am pleased to support our RSA's and put together four civic services for our district. They are at Matamata 9.30am, Morrinsville 10.30am, Te Aroha 10.30am and Walton 11am.</p> <p>Meeting with Clothier family This was to discuss development in the Waharoa precinct, MPDC and the Waikato region and to support their endeavours.</p> <p>Matamata stadium meeting Sheree Hart, Frank Healey, and Councillors Adrienne Wilcock and Kevin Tappin and I met. Adrienne and Kevin will visit The Peak in Rototuna. Sheree Hart is happy to support an independent Trust along with Frank Healey to progress fundraising and give confidence to our community of independent governance of an indoor stadium.</p>
<p>Friday 15 March</p>	<p>Paula Bennett meeting Waikato MP Tim Van der Molen arranged for a meeting with Paula Bennett in Matamata.</p> <p>I was able to highlight the 3 Waters discussion and how Local Government knows it's community and can help Central Government on so many issues.</p> <p>Anzac day meeting – Matamata Operational meeting with Matamata RSA to discuss the Civic Service next month</p>
<p>Saturday 16 March</p>	<p>Turangawaewae Marae Regatta Rex and I were invited by King Tuhetia to the annual regatta at Turangawaewae marae. This is a celebration of Maori culture, waka ama (canoe racing) and the Turangawaewae Marae</p> <p>The Turangawaewae Regatta is very much an integral part of the history of Ngaruawahia and a tradition for New Zealand as a whole. It's the only Maori aquatic carnival of its kind and the only regular event when Waka Taua or Maori War Canoes take to the water.</p> <p>This annual event is hosted under the patronage of the Maori King, Kingi Tuheitia and in essence the regatta encapsulates the bringing of all peoples together to share the cultural wonder that is the Turangawaewae Regatta.</p> <p>Along with a Japanese delegation Mayor Sanson, Rex and I sat with Rukumoana Schaafhausen and Couplands NZ North Island manager. Good networking and a thoroughly enjoyable day.</p>



Waihou Hall event

The Waihou Events Society held an evening showcasing the talented singers Lisa Lorrell and Katie Trigg where Rex and I were invited guests for the night. These songstresses had the crowd engaged from the first note. We thoroughly enjoyed the evening, congratulations to the organisers for a successful night. Well done Les Munro.

**Sunday
17 March**

Piako Triathlon

Councillor Donna Arnold and I presented medals and a special award to Terry Semmins – what an honour. A founding Piako Triathlon member and vision for Morrinsville. Terry, we are so proud of your achievements.



Terry Semmins and Jan

**Monday
18 March**

Community meeting with Community Patrol in attendance

As Mayor I could hear the insecurity of some in my community. Our community patrol will meet this need in the short term until our new police resource is employed at the Te Aroha Police Station.



Tuia meeting

The Tuia programme is an intentional, long term, intergenerational approach to develop the leadership capacity of young Maori in communities throughout New Zealand. It is believed that with the right support and right opportunities these young leaders could become in time, drivers of social and economic change in their respective communities.

This year after discussion and recommendations from iwi and Te Aroha College Deputy Principal and Councillor Peter Jager, Taine Wilson from Te Aroha has been selected as the candidate for the programme.

Taine is a former Te Aroha College student who is studying Sport and Exercise at Toi-Ohamai Institute of Technology.

Taine and I caught up to discuss how the first Wangana went in Te Kuiti and how we can work together.

IHC meeting

Swim Zone manger Wendy Clothier and representatives of IHC Matamata (Keith Rea, Annette Davison and Christine Lee) met to discuss the specialised hoist equipment at Swim Zone Matamata.

Tim Van der Molen meeting – NZTA

I represented our Community of Morrinsville at this meeting called by our MP Tim Van der Molen. I spoke for action from NZTA and I am pleased works promised six months ago are now underway.

**Tuesday
19 March**

Prayer Vigil

Ngati Hinerangi from Matamata region organised a prayer service at the Matamata Civic and memorial Centre at 7am for the whanau of Christchurch. The short service gave the people of Matamata a chance to lay flowers at the cenotaph in remembrance and aroha. I was able to speak on behalf of the community.



Meeting with E-Team

I met with CE Don McLeod and his executive team to have an update on projects and current topical enquiries.

Morrinsville Business After 5 (BA5)

Council were given the opportunity to briefly present at the BA5 hosted by Dr Trim in Morrinsville on the current consultation process we are in. I congratulated Dr Trim on 10 years of business.

We are seeking feedback on proposed changes to several of our Policies, Bylaws and Management Plans. This consultation is open for submissions from 20 March 2019 until 22 April 2019 and we invite you to have your say.

**Wednesday
20 March**

Council workshop

This workshop saw us work through topics with Council staff on: Road Naming Policy, Smoke Free Policy, Media Training and Plan Change 54 – Papakainga.

Meeting with Vice-Chancellor Waikato University

Neil Quigley asked to meet with me to discuss the concept of a regional art gallery at the Waikato University.

Talk Tourism Te Aroha

In conjunction with the Te Aroha Business Association, an evening was held to 'Talk Tourism'. Hamilton Waikato Tourism CEO Jason Dawson presented on how our region is experiencing a boom in visitor numbers, CEO of the Hauraki Rail Trail Trust Diane Drummond provided an update on the Te Aroha to Matamata trail extension, and Council provided an update on the Provincial Growth Fund application.

	<p>There was a good turnout from the community and we had good discussion and ideas. Questions answered.</p>
<p>Thursday 21 March</p>	<p>Meeting with Matamata Croquet Council's Coordinator Operations and Projects Bryan Turner and I met with representatives of Matamata Croquet to discuss the bore they have put down and the fundraising they are doing to help finance the balance of the project in holding national and international championships in the coming years.</p> <p>Waharoa Areodrome Committee meeting This meeting which was held in the Tainui Room of the Matamata-Piako Civic and memorial Centre saw the following items on the agenda: Adoption of standing orders by Committee, Consultation update, Management Plan Update, Marae Entrance, Parking Arrangements, Marae updates and aviation updates. Our meeting began with a workshop and community representatives spoke on the noise nuisance.</p>
<p>Friday 22 March</p>	<p>National Council Committee meeting This meeting was changed to a teleconference due to the Mayors on the board being involved in services across the country later that day after our tragedy at Christchurch and loss of 50 lives.</p> <p>Te Aroha Islamic Centre service In the wake of the tragic events from 15 March in Christchurch, I joined our Islamic community for their Friday prayers at the Islamic Centre in Te Aroha.</p> <p>I along with everyone from the community and district that joined the prayers were welcomed with open arms. I was privileged to speak to all those who gathered and offered support from our community.</p>
<p>Saturday 23 March</p>	<p>Waharoa Cemetery Restoration In 2017 the Matamata Kiwanis began a restoration project of the Waharoa Cemetery. This saw them begin the massive job involving spraying and clearing weeds, headstone cleaning, restoring and installing fencing, and building of pathways.</p> <p>I am delighted that council could partner with this project and to support our service club Kiwanis in this very worthwhile project.</p> <p>I am also very proud of council staff involvement particularly Bryan Turner who liaises with so many community groups. Sheree O'Brien who saw an opportunity with the service club and Todd Makeham from KVS who partnered with the cost of the afternoon tea with me.</p>
<p>Sunday 24 March</p>	<p>Altrusa fundraiser Morrinsville Altrusa hosted a high tea fundraiser for the groups service and literacy projects within the Morrinsville community.</p> <p>We were provided with entertainment of an outdoor fashion show, music and a high tea. This hard working group of 12 also provide Age Concern baskets for elderly people in need many times throughout the year.</p>

	<p>Thank you for filling a need in our community, Altrusa you are a fantastic club.</p>
<p>Tuesday 26 March</p>	<p>Te Aroha Primary School This term the senior students at Te Aroha Primary School have been looking at inquiry learning. Their focus question for this learning is - How does the past, present and future connect us to our community?</p> <p>As part of the student's process of exploring the question they invited me to come and speak to them about it. We talked about what past life was like, how the past influenced Te Aroha today, what makes Te Aroha a great place to live in and how it may look in the future.</p> <p>We had great discussion about all these questions and I was very impressed with the ideas and answers the students came up with.</p> <p>Thank you Te Aroha Primary for a having me at your school and involving me in your learning! Your haka for me was very emotional.</p>  <p>Waitoa Red Cross Golden Jubilee I was an invited guest at the Red Cross luncheon to celebrate their 50-year golden jubilee.</p> <p>Red Cross provide a valuable service both nationally and in our communities. These may include Refugee programmes, Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Restoring Family Links, First Aid courses and education, Education programmes, Disaster management, Current awareness campaigns along with other community programmes.</p> <p>Thank you to our Red Cross volunteers for the much appreciated work you conduct in our community. Times are changing going ahead and I wish you well in your endeavours.</p>
<p>Wednesday 27 March</p>	<p>Meeting with NZ Police I met with John Kelly who is the Waikato Eastern area commander. John briefed me on current police issues and focus.</p> <p>Corporate and Operations meeting Items on this month's agenda included: Morrinsville Stormwater</p>

Development, Naming of a reserve in Waharoa, CCO Monitoring – WLASS six month report and statement of intent, Health and Safety Report and CEO report.

I was also delighted to have Jo Gifford in the boardroom where we acknowledged 25 years of service. Congratulations Jo!



**Thursday
28 March**

Phone interview Nga Iwi FM

I promoted the VYA Gumboot Friday completion, highlighted the consultation period and noted the café conversation day with Councillors at Ironique Café on Wednesday 3 April.

Thai student visit

Te Aroha College are currently hosting 17 students and one teacher from Thailand. The Te Aroha College students who are part of the international Smart Day group accompanied them on their visit to the council boardroom.

We had a good question and answer session on topics about Te Aroha and the district. After our meeting the Te Aroha students were taking the Thai students on a tour of Te Aroha finishing with a visit to Swim Zone.





Consultation meeting – Rural Groups

An invitation was sent out to our Federated Farmers and Rural Women's groups to give them an opportunity to come and meet with council representatives to discuss the policies and bylaws we are consulting on. A two hour informative discussion, thank you Fed Farmers and dairy women.

New Staff meeting

I met with a group of new council staff where I had the opportunity to get to know a little about them all and we shared afternoon tea.

**Friday
29 March**

Tom Grant Drive meeting

I joined the beginning of the committee walk through the drive and was able to introduce David and Shirley Rea who have agreed to form a Neil Algar Reserve committee.

**Sunday
31 March**

Matamata Brass Fundraiser

The Matamata Brass Band are currently fund raising for the national competition in 2020. They put on an afternoon tea and fine entertainment at the Walton Hall.

Not many districts can claim to have their own brass band, I am very proud of our Matamata Brass Band, of the awards they have won, and events they have been part of over the years.

The successful format of the Matamata Festival of Music event, previously the Pohlen Cup competition, bringing together bands from around the Waikato and Bay of Plenty for our community's entertainment and the development of players and cultural experiences is outstanding.

It is great to see some up and coming new members of the band coming through putting their own mark on the music scene. But your strength must be the diversity of your group. Encouraging and supporting each other. Extending your players with opportunities.

Their support of our Anzac day services at the RSA dawn service, Council's Civic Services at Matamata and Walton, and the bugle call at the Cemetery at 8am does not go un-noticed.

I see young, and not so young sharing music with enthusiasm and mature heads giving stability with freshness and enthusiasm shining through.

The bands support network of people in behind the scenes of family and whanau tending to uniforms, sheet music, administrative duties play a vital part of the band.

Rex and I are proud members of 'Friends of Matamata Brass' and I salute you all.

Thank you to Councillor Adrienne Wilcock who spoke on behalf of the Walton Hall Committee for supporting myself and the successful afternoon.