

## Mayoral Diary October 2018

<b>Monday 1 October</b>	<p><b>Community Meeting</b> I attended a community meeting at Waharoa with regard to the odour issues Open Country Dairy (OCD) are currently experiencing.</p> <p>Laurie Margrain, CE of OCD said they would be spending \$20million on a new Waste Water plant. Council and OCD want to work with community and support them.</p> <p>Plant Manger Dane Brink accompanied me the previous week to a community meeting about crime and we are working with a committee of the community that has been formed.</p>
<b>Tuesday 2 October</b>	<p><b>Meeting with Swaps</b> I met with Dudley who is the Environmental Manger to discuss the use of some land that J Swap Contractors own.</p> <p><b>Industrial relations meeting</b> MP Tim Van Der Molen held a meeting at the Matamata-Piako Civic and Memorial Centre to discuss the governments proposed industrial relations changes and hosted Coromandel MP Scott Simpson.</p> <p><b>Hill Road day camp Te Aroha</b> Each year in the October school holidays the Day Camp is held in the hills of Mt Te Aroha. This year 220 children attend the camp. This is truly an outdoor experience, where the children are bused out from Paeroa and Te Aroha daily to attend.</p> <p>I visited the camp and had a great time moving from group to group, what an asset it is to have this day camp for our youth.</p> <p>The programme was initiated by the Paeroa Cooperating Parish and supported by the Te Aroha St Davids Cooperating Parish, and the Paeroa Community Support Trust and the Te Aroha Springs Trust.</p>
<b>Wednesday 3 October</b>	<p><b>Chorus information drop in</b> Chorus held a drop in day in Matamata to inform residents of the progress of Ultra-Fast Broadband and the scheduling programme of works. I visited and met with Chorus's staff.</p>
<b>Thursday 4 October</b>	<p><b>Prime Minister visit and Provincial Growth Fund announcement</b> Matamata-Piako could experience a tourism and industry boom thanks to a \$1.7million funding injection from the Provincial Growth Fund.</p> <p>Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern visited Matamata-Piako and announced the success of Council's two applications to the fund.</p> <p>The two approved projects include \$900,000 towards a feasibility study and business investment case for a Te Aroha tourism precinct and \$800,000 towards a feasibility study for a Waharoa industry hub.</p>

The announcement was made at a luncheon at Dalton's Plantation, organised by Te Waka, Waikato's regional economic development agency. In her speech, the Hon. Jacinda Ardern spoke fondly of her memories of Te Aroha and how, overall, she hoped funds used for research, would open doors and encourage people to 'linger a little longer in the district'.

"Describing to people what Te Aroha means to this region and what it means to me, sometimes I find rather difficult. Both my parents were born in Te Aroha I spent my childhood growing up playing around the Domain. The history of that place is not known to nearly enough people, it's a beautiful place and could become a real triangle of tourism".

The Prime Minister said Waharoa's prime location meant it had the potential to attract businesses wishing to relocate and also supply Auckland. She said Waharoa had challenges to overcome, such as the right infrastructure and housing but funds towards a business case would help examine these closer and provide solutions, which was one of the fantastic benefits of the Provincial Growth Fund.

"Overall my hope is this region can form links together and become a tourism destination as a whole. Hobbiton already attracting thousands, Te Aroha with its hot springs, Morrinsville with its Wallace Gallery and the biggest cow you ever did see, could be a tourism triangle."


Feasibility studies would provide a better understanding of how to increase the productivity potential of the Waikato region, boost the local economy, develop the use of natural resources and help the region to grow.

These kind of opportunities to enhance economic development, create sustainable jobs, partner with iwi, and build resilient communities are exactly what the Provincial Growth Fund is all about.



<b>Friday 5 October</b>	<p><b>National Council Meeting</b> A number of operational reports were presented to the board along with Advocacy Reports on Water 2050, Climate Change, Housing 2030 and Localism.</p> <p>Heather Simpson, Chair of the Health &amp; Disability System Review spoke and was followed by Hon Phil Twyford, Minister for housing and urban development and transport talk to us about the Urban Development Authority Proposal.</p> <p>Hon John Carter discussed iwi participation arrangement under the Resource Management Act.</p>
<b>Saturday 6 October</b>	<p><b>Wallace Gallery collection opening</b> I was invited to the opening to view the tapestries, drawings, paintings and digital work by Marilyn Rea-Menzies held at the Wallace Gallery in Morrinsville.</p> <p><b>Aroha Cruise In</b> This year the running of the annual Cruise In was taken on by an organising committee through Te Aroha Primary School.</p> <p>Once again this was a very successful event seeing the main streets chocka block full of cars and bikes from days gone by. The care and detail that goes into the restoration and maintenance of these vehicles has to be commended!</p> <p>Well done to all involved, you should be very proud of your achievement!</p>
<b>Tuesday 9 October</b>	<p><b>LGNZ Webinar</b> Local Government NZ put on a webinar on the topic of Affordable Housing. This webinar gave us the opportunity to understand what affordable housing is, and what it is not? Does Council need tools and resources to create and implement affordable housing?</p> <p><b>Audit and Risk Committee meeting</b> Our third meeting of the year covered off a number of standing items such as Project Risk Management Review, Review of Audit Reports and Policy Review as well as a review of the final Annual Report, Summary and Audit Opinion, Annual financial warrant of fitness and Annual legislative warrant of fitness.</p> <p><b>Meeting regarding Provincial Growth Fund (PGF)</b> I met with Councillor James Thomas, CEO Don McLeod and council staff to discuss what a PGF application for Morrinsville could look like.</p>
<b>Wednesday 10 October</b>	<p><b>Council meeting</b> At this meeting John Luxton, our Audit and Risk Chair presented the minutes of 9 October meeting, we discussed the Annual Report, Representation Review Appeals and Local Government Commission process, Donation of Asset/Memorial Policy, Quotable Value – General Revaluation 2018 presentation, Dog Control – Annual Report 2017/18, Council Health &amp; Safety Charter and 2019 Health &amp; Safety Objectives, Waikato Regional Council Plan Change 1: Healthy Rivers, and a</p>

	<p>presentation on the Hauraki Rail Trail. This was followed by a workshop on the Wairere Falls Carpark</p> <p><b>Meeting with Te Waka</b> Harvey Brookes from Te Waka met with us to discuss the PGF projects and discuss what happens next.</p>
<b>Thursday 11 October</b>	<p><b>Business Night Out</b> There were smiles all around as the winners of the 2018 Business Night Out celebrated their success.</p> <p>Over 250 people came together at the Matamata-Piako Civic and Memorial Centre for the annual event that celebrates business success from within the district.</p> <p>Guest speaker Lilia Tarawa, a former community member of Gloriavale, held the audience in the palm of her hand as she delivered a very emotional and passionate account of her time in the cult and why she choose to leave the only world she knew behind. Lilia, aged 27, is a self-made entrepreneur, author and motivated business consultant.</p> <p>Lilia's speech was only one highlight of the evening. We gave out eight awards to deserving businesses from within the Matamata-Piako district, ranging from retail to trades primary industries.</p> <p>I was thrilled with how the evening went and was honoured to present the awards to each recipient. The Business Night Out not only showcases the amazing and successful businesses in our community, but shows people's determination to see their own dreams come true.</p> <p>Being present to see these humble business owners shed tears of joy at receiving an award was very heart warming and we are proud to acknowledge their success.</p> <p>A very big thank you to the communications staff who pulled this event together, well done Rachael and the coms team.</p> <p>The winners of the 2018 Business Night Out were:</p> <p><b><i>Gull Customer Services</i></b> Matamata: O Del Emz, Morrinsville: Imagine If, Te Aroha: K9 Kennels</p> <p><b><i>Trades, Manufacturing and Primary Industries</i></b> Forsi Innovations from Matamata</p> <p><b><i>Consumer Services</i></b> Ebbett Toyota Morrinsville</p> <p><b><i>New and Emerging Business</i></b> Twenty20 Concrete Ltd from Te Aroha</p> <p><b><i>Professional Services</i></b> Sadliers Funeral Services from Morrinsville</p>

	<p><b>Bayleys Supreme Business Award</b> Twenty20 Concrete Ltd from Te Aroha</p> <p>Full photos from the evening can be found on council's website: <a href="https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/news/3161-smiles-all-around-from-the-2018-business-night-out">https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/news/3161-smiles-all-around-from-the-2018-business-night-out</a></p>
<p><b>Friday 12 October</b></p>	<p><b>Debrief with Business Night Out guest speaker</b> Lilia and I spent some time together in our district and I was able to showcase some of the tourist highlights we have to offer.</p> <p><b>Equidays event</b> Rex and I were invited as guests to attend the showjumping spectacular held at Mystery Creek. This was an excellent networking opportunity.</p>
<p><b>Monday 15 October</b></p>	<p><b>Waikato Mayoral Forum</b> This month items on the agenda included an update on the Waikato Plan Project, Youth Employment, Three Waters Review, Waters Collaboration, RATA (Road Asset Technical Accord), Te Waka, Hamilton to Auckland corridor and collaboration with new government Round table discussion to update on collective meetings and Messaging</p> <p><b>Meeting with WINZ and Silver Fern Farms (SFF)</b> Allan Poy who is the National Recruitment Projects Manager for SFF asked to meet with me. Representatives from WINZ were also at the meeting and I was able to facilitate further discussion between the two parties.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 16 October</b></p>	<p><b>Thai Student visit</b> Our final visit of international students from Te Aroha College for 2018 saw 18 students and one accompanying teacher visit me in the boardroom. They were escorted by Te Aroha College teachers Dianna Jager and Val Diprose. As is usual the students had beautiful manners and were very respectful. They asked some very interesting questions about my role as mayor.</p> 

	<p><b>Meeting with Executive Team</b> CEO Don McLeod and his exec team updated me on current projects and issues.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Iwi</b> Council staff and I met with representatives of Ngati Hinerangi with regard to their treaty settlement.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Chamber of Commerce Chair</b> It is good to touch base regularly with our business community one on one, I met with Chair Nigel McWilliams to update Nigel on where council is heading and to have good dialog and share information.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Wallace Gallery Chair</b> Greg MacDonnell and I met to discuss and talk tourism opportunities.</p> <p><b>Meeting at Morrinsville Museum</b> I met with David Sing regarding the tourism opportunities that may come about and how the gallery and museum wish to draw on that.</p> <p><b>Morrinsville Business After Five (BA5)</b> This month's meeting was hosted at Placemakers. Good networking to be had. Councillor James Thomas was also in attendance with me.</p>
<b>Wednesday 17 October</b>	<p><b>Meeting regarding accessibility to council offices</b> I met on site at the Matamata area office to discuss accessibility and parking in our town for our residents with restricted access.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Price Waterhouse Cooper</b> We met to discuss the successful PGF applications which staff at PWC assisted with, and what are our next steps going forward.</p> <p><b>Site visit with Council staff</b> I met with Bryan Turner, Coordinator Operations &amp; Projects, to have a walk over the Coulter Bridge in Te Aroha. We will be meeting with NZTA next month to discuss the bridge further.</p> <p><b>Teleconference call</b> I spoke to James Willis of the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) to discuss the Ngati Hinerangi settlement.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Anna Mayne</b> Anna approached me to have a meeting about sustainable farming methods and education around phosphorus and nitrogen use for farmers. After meeting with Anna I have connected her with Federated Farmers and Dairy NZ.</p> <p><b>Matamata Business After Five (BA5)</b> This month's meeting was hosted by Cooney Lees Solicitors. There was good attendance from the business community.</p>

<p><b>Wednesday 24 October</b></p>	<p><b>Corporate and Operations Meeting</b> As we head towards the last few meetings of the year the agendas and need for workshops increase! This was a full day's meeting with items discussed including: Volunteer Youth Ambassadors 2018 wrap up, Digital strategy, Funding for the proposed Morrinsville Carpark at the end of Ron Ladd Place in Morrinsville, Naming of a reserve in Morrinsville, Amendment of Road naming policy, Road naming in Matamata and Morrinsville, Enviroschools presentation, Community Grants 2018/19 summary, Annual declarations of interest, 2017/18 State of the environment report, Health and Safety report, Waste minimisation report, Office of treaty settlement – Easement request, Future Matamata Stadium – Feasibility and site assessment, CEOs Report and then a workshop covering an update from David Sing on the Morrinsville rec grounds, Earthquake Prone Bylaw and Gambling policy cap.</p>
<p><b>Thursday 25 October</b></p>	<p><b>Interview with Nga Iwi FM</b> Reno and I talked about the Provincial Growth Funding we had received from the government and highlighted events coming up.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Sheree Hart</b> Sheree has shown an interest in helping to coordinate community fundraising for the new stadium in Matamata, I met with Sheree to discuss the project.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Craig Mowatt</b> I met with Craig to discuss the future of Waharoa and Waharoa Park. The discussion was both positive and informative.</p> <p><b>NZ National Fieldays Economic Impact Report Release</b> The facts and figures presented at this event really highlights the positive economic impact the annual Fieldays event has on the Waikato region, as well as the far reaching impact across New Zealand.</p> <p>While tourism draws in money for our economy, we mustn't forget that farming is such an important source of income also both domestically and internationally.</p>
<p><b>Saturday 27 October</b></p>	<p><b>Kiwanis Club Childrens Day</b> Kiwanis One Day is held once a year and is a day that all Kiwanis Clubs throughout the world try to organise something for children.</p> <p>The Morrinsville Kiwanis Clubs held a fun day at Campbell Park where all food and activities are free for children. There were bouncy castles, train rides, kite flying, pony rides, face painting, three legged races, candy floss, popcorn, sausage sizzles and many more exciting things for the children.</p> <p>I cooked sausages, made candy floss and had a great tour around in golf buggy. I commend Kiwanis on how they have included other Kiwanis members from around the region, which strengthens out families and values them.</p>



### **Gold Star Award**

Tahuna Fire Brigade members Iain McDonald and Greg Balme were recognised at a function for their 25 years of service to New Zealand Fire.

Their service and dedication to all areas of the fire service and community that they are involved in is to be commended.

We are fortunate to have volunteers like Iain and Greg who give so much of themselves and their time to our groups and communities in the Matamata-Piako District.

The support of our employers who release our brigade members to attend call outs is also appreciated. I am sure Iain and Greg's families have also given them much support over the years in all aspects of their firemen's life. Without the support of our friends, family, and employers our volunteer fire fighters could not do the outstanding job for us day in and day out.

Events like this is what rural NZ is all about. It was also great to network with Aaron Wateris from Thames. Councillor James Thomas and his wife Jane were also in attendance.

Congratulation on this achievement Iain and Greg, you should be very proud of yourselves.

**Sunday  
28 October**

### **Matamata in Motion**

This inaugural event held at Firth Tower was a wonderful success! There was everything from electric cars and e-bikes to transport from days gone by like horse and cart! The event brought district groups together at Firth Tower.

Rex and I along with fellow councillors Paul Cronin, James Sainsbury and Brian Hunter biked out to the event on e-bikes (see picture below).

Congratulations to the organisers of the event, there were so many happy smiling faces!







Paul Cronin and Brian Hunter with Major Blunder of Waikato's 5th Dragoon Alf's Imperial Army – prior to them being mortal enemies on the 'battlefield'.



The Waikato 5th Dragoon Alfs Imperial army were defeated by the "Firth Imperial Amy" (not a typo – the army was led by Firth Tower Manager Amy Martin) who defended the tower with honour and Valor. Our esteemed MC Colin Kemplen honoured our very own Councillor Brian Hunter's bravado in battle with a knighthood. He shall be forever known as Sir Brian