

# Mayoral Diary

## November 2017

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| <p><b>Wednesday</b><br/><b>1 November</b></p> | <p><b>Meeting with staff</b><br/>Council staff, CEO Don McLeod and I met to discuss the Hauraki Settlement.</p> <p><b>Council workshop – Representation Review</b><br/>External consultants Dale Ofsoske of the Election Services (supported by Craig Taylor as an observer) spoke to our elected members about the representation review. Dale provided an overview of the representation review process, what ‘communities of interest’ are and how Council needs to achieve fair and effective representation through the process.</p> <p>Possible options for our representation structure were discussed. Ms Te Ao Marama Maaka, Chair of Te Manawhenua Forum also presented to Council on the Maori Ward option.</p> <p>Councillors indicated a desire to do preliminary consultation with the community to understand where the communities of interest are especially for residents living along the ward boundaries. Staff were asked to prepare a survey questionnaire and report this back to Council.</p> <p>Council staff gave a presentation on an online voting trial for the 2019 local government elections. Councillors indicated support for participating in a trial and staff are to report back to Council once more information and costs are known.</p> <p>The workshop concluded with LTP discussions on consultation, Revenue and Financing policy and Rates Remission policy.</p> <p><b>Hobbiton Forum</b><br/>Hobbiton hosted a forum on Matamata’s Tourism Future at Bedford Park. Guest speakers included George Hickton of the Hobbiton Board, and Jason Dawson, CEO of Waikato Tourism.</p> <p>Jason discussed tourism from the regional perspective and George talked about Hobbiton and its brand, intellectual property and future opportunities.</p> <p>Hobbiton plays a large role in our district for tourism and economic growth, and they are one of our larger employers.</p> <p>Thank you to Russell and the board for hosting this evening.</p> |
| <p><b>Thursday</b><br/><b>2 November</b></p>  | <p><b>Phone interview with Nga Iwi FM</b><br/>Rino and I discussed the upcoming VYA Awards - Volunteer Youth Ambassadors, and the opening of the Kaiaua to Thames leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail taking place on 18 November.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Matamata resident</b><br/>I met with a concerned resident to discuss roading issues in Matamata, predominately roads which are State Highways and managed by NZTA. I am meeting with Parekawhia McLean from NZTA who is the Director,</p>  |

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|                                      | <p>Regional Relationships for the Central North Island later this month to stress how important and urgent some of these repairs are and to advocate to get them done promptly.</p>  |
| <p><b>Friday<br/>3 November</b></p>  | <p><b>LGNZ Zone Two meeting</b><br/> Hosted by the Kawerau District Council we heard from Chair Mayor Tony Bonne and Kawerau District Council's Mayor Malcom Campbell. An update on LGNZ's activities was provided by Helen Mexted before we heard from local MP for the East Coast region Kiri Allan on 'Working Together'.</p> <p>Other issues discussed included the Tree Waters, the Industrial Symbiosis in Kawerau, and the Te Ahi O Maui Geothermal Power Station Project. MPDC was represented by myself and Councillors Adrienne Wilcock, Donna Arnold and Paul Cronin, as well as CEO Don McLeod.</p> <p><b>Waikato Business Awards</b><br/> Rex and I were delighted to be invited to the black tie event held at the Claudelands Event Centre to recognise the success of businesses in our region. Businesses who participate in the awards process gain good networking opportunities with other business leaders and professionals who are all striving for excellence.</p> <p>Congratulations to the award winners on the night, especially Annah Stretton for her work with RAW – Reclaim Another Woman who won the Not-For-Profit category and Kirsten Madill as the Emerging Leader of the Year category. The overall supreme award went to Fosters Construction Group.</p> |
| <p><b>Tuesday<br/>7 November</b></p> | <p><b>Te Manawhenua Forum workshop</b><br/> Staff lead us through a workshop on reputation review.</p> <p><b>Meeting with visitors from South Korea</b><br/> I met with a delegation of visiting representatives to discuss strengthening relationships and they had interest in our trails and forestry.</p> <p><b>LGNZ Roadshow – South Waikato District Council</b><br/> As a member of the LGNZ National Board, I supported the road show team as they met with Mayor Jenny Shattock and councillors from the South Waikato District. The road show is progressing well throughout the Waikato and BOP and nearing a conclusion, having covered off all of NZ councils.</p> <p><b>Te Aroha College Prize Giving</b><br/> I always feel so very welcomed by the students when I come into Te Aroha College and I was honoured to be part of the annual Senior Prizegiving this year.</p> <p>The school continues to produce fine young adults that we should all be proud of with some very impressive results and achievements!</p> <p>Congratulations to award winners of the Dux Shannon Jerkovich and Teagan Gorman. Councils funding for the Proxime Accessit Award went</p>   |

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|  | <p>to Ruby Spooner this year. Thank you Ruby for your letter, thanking council.</p>  |
| <p><b>Wednesday<br/>8 November</b></p> | <p><b>Council meeting and workshop</b><br/>At the conclusion of our meeting Councillors and some staff were taken through a Maori protocol workshop by Te Manawhenua Chair Te Ao Marama Maaka.</p> <p>Te Ao Marama is an excellent teacher and it was a good informative session.</p> <p>Our Council is continuing to upskill in all areas of compliance and community understanding.</p>  |
| <p><b>Thursday<br/>9 November</b></p>  | <p><b>Meeting with NZ Police</b><br/>I met with Superintendent Bruce Bird in Matamata to discuss issues the community are currently concerned about, particularly police presence. Councillor Ash Tanner joined me during the appointment. Part of our meeting was live streamed through the council's Face Book page so the community could see and hear what was being discussed and ask questions, or view the meeting later on.</p> <p>It was a good meeting and perfect timing with the community of Te Aroha calling a public meeting on the upcoming Sunday to discuss these and other issues.</p> <p><b>Ingham Matamata-Piako District Sports Awards</b><br/>This year the nominees represent an amazing range of sports, from tree climbing, to wrestling, to motor sport. There was even a surf lifesaving team – not bad for a landlocked district.</p> <p>Matamata-Piako District Council is proud to be involved in these awards in partnership with Sport Waikato and the major sponsors Ingham's.</p> <p>Each athlete nominated owes thanks to their supporters, coaches, teachers, sports administrators, volunteers and not least parents, who give their time and often financial support to enable their sports people to compete at high level.</p> <p>Congratulations to all nominees and winners for 2017.</p> |
| <p><b>Friday 10<br/>November</b></p>   | <p><b>Tuia Mayoral Luncheon</b><br/>The Tuia programme has come to an end for 2017 and I travelled to the Horotui marae at the Auckland University of Technology to attend the final presentations and support MPDC's rangatahi, Hapairere King.</p> <p>After the welcoming powhiri we had presentations from selected rangatahi, and our Hapairere was one of four asked to present. I was very proud to see her up there on the stage alongside her peers and in front of friends, family and mentors in the audience, it would have been quite daunting for Hapairere but she took it in her stride and delivered her speech.</p> <p>Hapairere spoke of raising the profile of Waharoa and I support her in this vision.</p>  |

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|  | <p>It has been a very rewarding journey mentoring Hapairere and we have built a friendship that will last beyond this Tuia programme.</p>  |
| <p><b>Saturday<br/>11 November</b></p> | <p><b>Armistice Day</b><br/>This year's memorial service was hosted by the Te Aroha RSA. On this day we remember and reflect on our soldiers service and their sacrifice during the First World War and reflect on the loss our community felt during this time and going forward.</p> <p>It has been 100 years since the Battle of Passchendaele, near the Belgium city of Ypres, considered the darkest day in New Zealand's military history. This slaughter occurred within a few short hours, with estimates of nearly 1000 New Zealand men losing their lives and close to 2,000 more being wounded.</p> <p>It was pleasing to see community join our RSA members. Like ANZAC Day, Armistice Day seems to be marked with new vigour as each year passes.</p> <p>After the official proceedings I caught up with a number of people before heading off to the Morrinsville RSA. They were holding a Veterans luncheon. I called in to say hello on the way to another Armistice Day event in Hamilton – the luncheon to commemorate the unveiling of the War Horse Statue. Thank you to Mayor Andrew of Hamilton City for the invitation.</p> |
| <p><b>Sunday<br/>12 November</b></p>   | <p><b>90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration</b><br/>Rex and were invited to the birthday celebration for former Matamata Mayor and Doctor, Neil Algar.</p> <p>Neil was a long serving elected member in our district and it was lovely to see some familiar faces who served alongside him.</p>   |
| <p><b>Monday<br/>13 November</b></p>   | <p><b>Volunteer Youth Ambassador meeting (VYA)</b><br/>Final preparations are being made for the inaugural VYA awards being held at the end of November. The close off date for nominations has been extended for a couple of days and most categories have a good number of nominees.</p> <p>Council staff member Ann-Jorun Hunter has been invaluable in supporting this group along with Grace from Communication.</p> <p><b>Webinar</b><br/>Elected members watched a webinar run by Chair of the Remuneration Authority – Dame Fran Wilde, covering the Authority's consideration of a new approach to pay for local government elected members.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Te Aroha Event Centre Charitable Trust</b><br/>CEO Don McLeod and I were invited to meet with the trust members now we have been operating for a year.</p> <p><b>JP Association AGM</b><br/>The Annual General Meeting was held at Candy Gillespie offices in</p>   |

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|  | <p>Matamata. Our newly elected JP Chairman Eric was present and spoke to us. Tim Van de Molen our National MP was the guest speaker.</p>   |
| <p><b>Tuesday<br/>14 November</b></p>                    | <p><b>Meeting with Executive Team</b><br/>I met with the E-Team to discuss current projects and topical issues facing council at the moment.</p> <p><b>Meeting with NZTA</b><br/>I met with Parekawhia McLean, Director Regional Relationships, Central North Island and Karen Boyt of NZTA to discuss the issues with our roads that are State Highways within our District, particularly Matamata and Morrinsville pressure areas. A number of issues have started to be addressed and Parekawhia and I discussed the work programme for the district.</p> <p>This was another meeting that our Coms team live streamed on Face Book which again proved to be very popular.</p>  |
| <p><b>Wednesday<br/>15 November</b></p>                  | <p><b>Workshop</b><br/>This workshop was primarily regarding budgets for the LTP.</p> <p><b>St Joseph's School Girls Night</b><br/>I was invited to talk to the schools year 7 and 8 girls and their Mums who are part of a club that has been operating the whole year and is run by the schools yr 7 teacher Teal Gray.</p> <p>Their meeting this week was all about finding confidence. I talked to the girls about confidence and how a woman portrays their confidence in a positive way to reach their potential. This included talking about myself and how I have got to where I am today.</p> <p>We enjoyed a dinner together and finished off with a beauty and hair session and a catwalk for the girls to show off their confidence.</p> <p>A truly inspiring evening, well done St Josephs. I am proud of your achievements.</p>  |
| <p><b>Thursday<br/>16 and Friday<br/>17 November</b></p> | <p><b>Rural and Provincial meeting</b><br/>This was the first meeting held since the coalition government came into power, so guest speakers included ministers and MP's from the new government.</p> <p>Starting off was Minister for Local Government Nanaia Mahuta. Nanaia is pleased to be the new minister and I am looking forward to working with her in the future in my role as co-chair of the Rural and Provincial committee, and as a member of the National Council committee.</p> <p>We had updates from LGNZ covering the National Council strategy and direction, how the National Council is building relationships with the new government, and the NZ China Mayoral Forum next month.</p> <p>FENZ – Fire and Emergency NZ provided us with information on their continued engagement with Councils and other Mayors and CE's gave updates on Stormwater and Flood Protection, UN Global Compact</p> |

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|  | <p>Cities Programme, and broadband initiatives.</p> <p>Day two saw Minister Phil Twyford – Minister of Housing and Urban Development, and Minister of Transport address the attendees regarding priorities for the incoming government.</p> <p>Natural Resources Focus, Rural Health Workforce, Le Quesnoy Trust, Regional Growth and Employment and the CouncilMARK Excellence programme rounded out the agenda.</p>  |
| <p><b>Saturday<br/>18 November</b></p> | <p><b>Opening of the Kaiaua to Thames leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail</b><br/> The day started with a dawn blessing at 4.45am simultaneously at Kaiaua and Thames. This was followed by a gala festival, opening speeches, ribbon cutting and a ride on the trail.</p> <p>The three councils of Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako support each other as one trail bringing our districts together. The Rail Trail trustees have put in an immense amount of work both now and over the past many years to get the trail up to where it is today. It is through this commitment that we are able to keep extending the trail, and the aim is that the extension from Te Aroha to Matamata is scheduled to break ground in 2018</p> <p><b>Te Aroha and District Museum</b><br/> After months of planning and work by a dedicated team of volunteers, I was pleased to be part of the revamped L A Strange Memorial Wing reopening. Several displays are housed in this area including Fire Brigade, St John, Council, Sport, Education, Printing, Medical, Drainage Boards and Banks.</p> <p>Well done to Janice and her group of volunteers at the museum for the outstanding job you have done. A delightful morning was had.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="432 1270 794 1765">  </div> <div data-bbox="922 1270 1289 1765">  </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div data-bbox="432 1765 794 1825"> <p>Mayor Jan and Museum President Janice Parsell</p> </div> <div data-bbox="922 1765 1289 1825"> <p>Jan trying out an old Mayors Chair</p> </div> </div> <p><b>Morrinsville Tennis Club</b><br/> The club held an open day to celebrate the resurfacing of their courts. It was an opportunity to thank and recognise those who helped make this possible. It was a great opportunity for me to meet those people behind the scenes and who were a driving force in getting the resurfacing done.</p> |

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|                                  | It is good to see an asset revamped and re-loved.   |
| <b>Monday<br/>20 November</b>    | <p><b>Red Cross Morrinsville Annual Morning Tea</b><br/>I was delighted to be able to attend the annual morning tea at the hub at St Matthews Church. Our Red Cross groups are a valuable contributor in our communities. I noted Morrinsville Red Cross meals on wheels are only one or two branches that deliver 7 days a week to our community, what a commitment!</p> <p><b>Matamata Fire Brigade</b><br/>I took the opportunity to attend the training night of the Matamata Brigade to thank them for their efforts in the community over the past year, and to thank them for the way they partner with Council in Civil Defence incidents such as the weather events earlier this year. Our dedicated volunteers of our Fire Brigades are a huge asset to our communities.</p> <p>I was also able to congratulate the Matamata guys on their win in the weekend of the Australian World Team Challenge. These guys really punch above their weight of a small town! Thank you Kevin for an enjoyable evening.</p> |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>21 November</b>   | <p><b>Te Aroha Fire Brigade</b><br/>This time I was able to visit the Te Aroha Brigade and to also thank them for their help throughout the year, especially the Easter weather and flooding. Thank you Roger.</p> <p>Due to clashes in both my and the Tahuna and Morrinsville diaries, I won't be able to touch base with them this year on their training nights, and will endeavour to do so in the new year.</p>   |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>22 November</b> | <p><b>Corporate and Operations Meeting</b></p> <p><b>LTP Workshop</b><br/>Council is on target to get our draft out to our community.</p>   |
| <b>Thursday<br/>23 November</b>  | <p><b>Waharoa Aerodrome Committee meeting</b><br/>Hosted at the Raungaiti Marae. A full agenda - safety concerns raised again as marae facilities often fully booked and speed limit is an issue. NZTA to be involved again.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Greenlea</b><br/>Councils Asset Management Project Coordinator Chelsea Cannell and I met with representatives of Greenlea – Graeme and Aaron - in Morrinsville to discuss the Morrinsville River Walk. Greenlea will partner with Council so we can lease the land for the walkway. This project is now able to get underway with suveryors being lined up.</p> <p><b>Matamata Community Resource thank you</b><br/>The community groups who utilise the Railside by the Green premises had a thank you evening for those who support them in the community. It was great to be able to thank many volunteers who help with the services run out of Railside.</p>   |

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| <p><b>Friday<br/>24 November</b></p>    | <p><b>Freedom Villages St Kilda</b><br/>Councillors and I were invited to the opening of the new houses in the St Kilda village in Cambridge managed by Freedom Management Services. This is the same group who are planning on building lifestyle housing in Matamata, and it was good to see the layout of the village, and the interest in the houses from the public.</p> <p>Matamata will have many choices in this style of village.</p> <p><b>Kids and Choirs @ Waihou</b><br/>I attended the event held at the Waihou Hall. Thank you to Les Munro for organising, a fabulous evening with some very talented singers entertaining us, an outstanding event!</p> |
| <p><b>Monday<br/>27 November</b></p>    | <p><b>Meeting with MP Tim Van de Molen</b><br/>I met with our National MP Tim at his office in Matamata. We discussed strategy, vision and focus for our district and region, and part of the meeting was live streamed on the Council's Face Book page.</p> <p>I look forward to working with Tim in his new role as our MP for Morrinsville and Matamata.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Council staff</b><br/>I met with CEO Don and Strategy and Policy manager Michelle to discuss the agenda for the final workshop of the year on the Long Term Plan (LTP)</p>  |
| <p><b>Wednesday<br/>29 November</b></p> | <p><b>Council workshop</b><br/>The final LTP workshop for the year seeing a full day in the council chambers.</p>  |