

## **REPORT**

**TO: Councillors**

**FROM: Mayor Richard Kempthorne**

**DATE: 24 September 2009**

**REPORT REF: RCN091001 MAYORS REPORT**

**SUBJECT: Mayor's Report for August/September 2009**

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### **10 August**

- Trip to Murchison including the Murchison and Districts Community Association AGM, and the unveiling of a plaque which marks the spot of the former Fern Flat School. This event brought together many locals with interesting family connections to the school and stories to share.

### **11 August**

- Joint Agencies Ant Baiting Workshop to discuss the development of a strategy and Pest Management Strategy for the control of Argentine and Darwin ants. Cr Wilkins also attended and Cr Borlase will be involved at the next meeting, he was having a little forced holiday and could not attend.

### **12 August**

- Visit from the Minister of Agriculture, David Carter, to the Waimea Water Augmentation Committee. Minister Carter was very encouraging and supportive of the concept of the Lee Valley Dam.

### **13 August**

- Meeting with Rachel Reese, (NCC), Dennis Bush-King and Steve Markham regarding Waimea Estuary Management. A second meeting on 10 September was subsequently held including Cr Higgins. A report will be coming to an E&P Meeting
- Meeting with Keith Palmer from Wakatu Incorporation, Deputy Mayor King and CEO, regarding working closer with iwi. A meeting with the iwi Chairs is now to be organised to progress this.

### **14 August**

- Met with Paul O'Sullivan, High Commissioner for the Australian High Commission
- Community Awards ceremony

### **15 & 16 August**

- Soil and Water Forum, Taupo

### **17 August**

- Combined Shareholders meeting
- NCC and TDC Mayors and Deputy Mayors catch up

### **18 August**

- Tasman Resource Management Plan Richmond West deliberation

### **19 August**

- Motueka Valley Community Association AGM

### **25 August**

- Met with one of the property owners of the area affected by the Richmond South developments. A number of affected parties are currently in communication with the Council and have presented a number of questions to the Council. Answers to these questions are currently being formulated by council staff. The key issue for those in the Richmond South deferred area is the problem that with decisions regarding Richmond West, the water that would have enabled them to develop residentially is now likely to go to Richmond West and not provided to them in the next 20 years of LTCCP. A real blow for these property owners.
- Met with JobTrack students and discussed how Council works and issues around employment.
- Briefing on recently released National Land Transport Programme. Some of the issues within the programme will have a profound impact on aspects of roading and transportation within the district and have now been covered at Engineering Services Committee.
- Met with the Golden Bay Community Board and Bolden Bay Councillors and discussed a constructive working relationship.

### **28 August**

- SportNet AGM, Wellington

### **31 August**

- Presentation to several groups in the South Canterbury region on the Tasman experience of working as a Unitary Authority. There is a strong feeling in this area that their issues are missing out with Environment Canterbury as a result of the urban Councillor weighting of Christchurch based Councillors. This highlighted for me the importance of an appropriate rural representation on a Council where a larger urban population could dominate decision-making.

### **1 September**

- Land and Water Forum in Wellington

### **2 September**

- Chamber of Commerce breakfast. Speakers covered the topics of exporting to China and Measuring Trade Confidence.

#### **4 September**

- Opening of Black Bridge, Ngatamoti. Attended by all the local school children (around 100 students) and a very good turnout of local residents on the day. I was assisted with cutting the ribbon on the bridge by Cr Norriss's grand daughter, Skyla Savage, Isaac Knowles and Ethan Haycock-Grant. Both Skyla and Isaac are senior students at the school and have strong family connections to the Valley. Ethan is the fourth generation of this local family; is the school's youngest student and the newest entrant to the school. He was highly relieved to escape back to school!

#### **8 September**

- Golden Bay Community Board
- Motueka Community Board

#### **10 September**

- Tasman District Council hosted a Seasonal Worker forum led by the Department of Labour and MSD.
- Estuary management meeting

#### **11 September**

- MTFJ Connections Steering Group meeting

#### **12 September**

- e-Day
- Attended the Isel House 160<sup>th</sup> Commemorations, a really enjoyable event.

#### **13 September**

- Commemoration of the beginning of WWII (70<sup>th</sup> anniversary) at the Nelson Cathedral

#### **14 September**

- Chat with Lawrence Yule, President of Local Government NZ

#### **15 September**

- Land and Water Forum, Wellington

#### **22 September**

- Top Shop 2009 awards, celebrating excellence in service. The supermarket in Tapawera was the winner of their section, a remarkable achievement for the owners and staff involved. A Chamber of Commerce function that has tremendous value in encouraging excellence in service from retailers.

#### **During the Month/s..**

- Tasman Regional Sports Trust successfully tendered for management of the Saxton Stadium complex. There are challenges ahead for the two Councils to make decisions to collectively maximise this tremendous asset.