

REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee

FROM: Community Services Chair

DATE: 5 November 2010

SUBJECT: Chair's Report – RCS10-11-03

Welcome to the first Community Services meeting for this term. I am privileged to chair this Committee and thank the Mayor and Councillors for the opportunity.

A warm welcome to the three new Councillors Martine Bouillir, Kit Maling and Zane Mirfin. We intend to run a separate informal session to give each of you the opportunity to meet the Community Services staff, learn a little bit about their various roles, responsibilities and key projects, and to ask any questions.

With a lot of attention on amalgamation and any potential savings there may be, particularly through the loss of staff, the sub-discipline of human resource accounting comes to mind. Traditionally people in employment have been considered in the financial reporting of organisations' performances as liabilities or expenses, appearing on the debit side of the ledger, and therefore as costs to be minimised. However, there has been a growing realisation that human resources are an organisation's most critical resource and add value to them.

Human capital is crucial for the success of Tasman District Council both from our paid staff but also from all of the dedicated volunteers out in the community who put in an immeasurable number of hours each year. In today's agenda Councillors will be appointed as representatives on a number of these volunteer community groups, and I'd just like to express the importance of Councillor attendance at their meetings both in terms of supporting our community volunteers but also as a conduit to Council knowledge and processes for them.

To quote Albert Einstein, "not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."

Within Council, the area of community services is a lot like this also. While we cannot quantify the benefits of providing parks, reserves, libraries, playgrounds and sporting facilities, this does not mean they do not count nor add value to our community.

Indeed the provision of community facilities and recreation opportunities is becoming increasingly important to the community at large. With 17 unique settlements it is important that they all have access to a range of community, sporting and recreational facilities, opportunities and events.

Over the past six weeks two major projects have come to fruition. Crs Bryant, Glover, the Mayor and I attended the opening of the new learner's pool at the ASB Aquatic Centre Tasman on Friday 1 October. My two sons Sean (11) and Matthew (6) had the privilege of being the first two (official) swimmers in the pool. Already the learner's pool is being used extensively for the Swim Magic programme and is a great outcome for all of our staff, the contractors and Aquatic Centre staff involved.

Crs Bryant, Inglis, Wilkins, David Ogilvie, the Mayor and I also attended the unveiling of the refurbished Motueka Recreation Centre on Friday 5 November. The Motueka Recreation Centre, which has been operating for 23 years, is an amazing facility and a real asset to the community. It was fantastic to see the efforts of Brent Maru, Jody Maru and the Sport Tasman team alongside Council staff and contractors come together for this long-awaited upgrade.

Discussions are underway in Golden Bay with regards to their needs and priorities for a community facility. The Golden Bay Community Board and Ward Councillors are taking a lead role in overseeing these discussions in the community to facilitate good community consultation and engagement in this process.

For those who have seen the recent damage at Higgs Reserve, this came as a real blow to the Council and community. The Parks and Reserves team are focussing on the opportunities and will be working with all groups involved to, ultimately, have some positive outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Chair's Report RCS10-11-03 be received by the Community Services Committee.



J L Edgar
Chair

g:\tara\agendas\community services\2010\november\rCS10-11-03 chair.docx