

Report No:	RCS12-05-10
File No:	
Date:	23 May 2012
Information Only – no decision required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Community Services Committee
Meeting Date: 31 May 2012
Report Author: Cr Judene Edgar
Subject: Chairman's Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains the Community Services Chairman's regular meeting report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Community Services Committee receives the Chairman's Report RCS12-05-10.

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Subject: **Chairman's Report**

1. WELCOME

- 1.1 Welcome to today's meeting. It has been an extremely busy time at Council with hearings, workshops and decision-making on the Long Term Plan. At the time of writing we have not made our final decisions yet, however I do not anticipate these decisions would have been easy for any of us. Neither do I think these decisions will get any easier as the long-term sustainability of the current local government funding model does not bode well for the future. The local government reforms are well overdue but need to be conducted with a fulsome knowledge of the role and expectations of local government across the country, not just in the large metropolitan councils. Solutions for Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, are unlikely to be applicable in Tasman, Southland and West Coast for example.
- 1.2 As part of the reforms, there is the expressed desire to pare back Council services to "core business" only, however there needs to be understanding of what this is, and if local government is to withdraw from some of its existing services, who, if anyone, should step in to provide funding. Extreme examples are frequently cited such as investment into the Hamilton V8's, but these are exceptions, not the rule, and any reform needs to be undertaken knowing what councils do on an everyday basis around the country.
- 1.3 In assessing and redefining "core business", the role of councils in administering and meeting central government services and legislation such as the Building Act, Resource Management Act, drinking water standards and liquor licensing, needs to be evaluated. The increased costs imposed on councils by central government passing responsibilities on should be near the top of any list of activities to be evaluated, not conveniently ignored.
- 1.4 I guess for all of us it's "watch this space", but I would hope that central government uses this opportunity to undertake an in-depth evaluation and assessment prior to enacting any reforms, to ensure that they sustainably meet the long-term needs of the community, and is not merely an exercise in point scoring against councils.

2. COMMUNITY AWARDS

- 2.1 There are a host of people throughout our District who work quietly away without pay and with precious little recognition to make our communities better places to live.
- 2.2 The Outstanding Community Awards aim to give some well-deserved recognition to the unsung heroes of our communities. It gives us an opportunity to make sure they are rewarded with the thanks they deserve for the long-term outstanding service they have given over the years.
- 2.3 Nominations close 30 June 2012.

3. VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

- 3.1 Keep Richmond Beautiful (KRB) under the guidance of Chairman Colin Andrews, have completed over 600 volunteer hours of repair work around the Dellside track network since the December storms. Members from KRB also assisted with track security up the Jimmy Lee for four days during the recent logging operation to remove fallen pine from the creek and walkway.
- 3.2 The work in the Jimmy Lee is not yet completed; KRB will also assist with track reinstatement in the logged area, build a boardwalk across a slip and construct some new steps in an area where the track has been re-routed. Further working bees are also planned for both Hill Street South walkway and Bill Wilkes Reserve over the next few weeks. Our thanks for their efforts and the work of all groups and individuals who make a tremendous contribution towards our parks, reserves, walkways and cycleways.

4. MURCHISON SERVICE CENTRE

- 4.1 It is pleasing to see the positive outcome of the Murchison Service Centre/Library hours review. It is anticipated that this service will continue to be reviewed to ensure ongoing sustainability and that customer needs are being met. While there are broadband issues in the wider Murchison area, it is hoped that the continuing expansion of our website will enable more remote services to be delivered and transactions to be undertaken.

5. AGE TO BE POSITIVE AGEING EXPO

- 5.1 Over 2,000 people attended this year's Age to Be Positive Ageing Expo on 23 April; this included a bus from Marlborough.

- 5.2 This year's Expo had over 60 stalls showcasing a diverse range of groups, products and services – from advice and assistance in health and social services to hobby and recreational options. This year included health seminars on mental health and physical changes of ageing as well as car fit assessments, which offers older drivers a free check on how well they personally 'fit' their vehicle.
- 5.2 The event is led by the Tasman District Council in partnership with Age Concern, Work and Income, Nelson City Council, Nelson Marlborough District Health Board, Nelson Bays Primary Health and Grey Power. Appreciation is extended to the organising committee and all stallholders who helped make this event the largest yet.

6. AQUATIC CENTRE

- 6.1 I have received some very positive feedback regarding accessibility equipment at the ASB Aquatic Centre Tasman. They recently purchased a beach/pool chair. These chairs are specially designed to be used by people with disabilities to access pools, beaches and even ski fields. The chair was recently used along with a second chair from CCS Disability Action at the Secondary Schools' Special Olympics, and provided many students with their first ever opportunity to participate.
- 6.2 The Aquatic Centre is also getting a moveable hoist. Once installed it will be usable in the lane pool, spas, learn-to-swim pool and hydrotherapy pool. It is anticipated that it will be fully operation by the end of May 2012.
- 6.3 It is great to see the Aquatic Centre becoming accessible to a wider range of people in the community and I congratulate them on these initiatives.

7. RECOMMENDATION/S

- 7.1 That the report be received.

8. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Community Services Committee receives the Chairman's Report RCS12-05-10.

Judene Edgar
Chair

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