

8.1 Mayor's Report - October 2024

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

1. There are a number of events both nationally and locally that I want to comment on and I will try for brevity.
2. Recently I attended the AGM of the Marton Christian Welfare (Op Shop). This is a fantastic committee made up of the membership of each church, service clubs such as Lions and Rotary and supporters. Financially it is an outstanding business with a \$400,000 income and a profit of \$310,000. What it does with that profit is exceptional - this last year it returned \$260,000 by way of grants to the community. It also provided welfare support and essential food to many families in need. The shop is essentially staffed by volunteers and they deserve support from the community and welcome donations of clean clothing etc.
3. On 2 October I attended a dinner with 20 people in Wellington organised by the National Party Chair. It was billed as a unique opportunity to question the Prime Minister and we were asked to provide subjects that we wanted to speak to him on in advance so that his staff could have the opportunity to research these. The reality was that the Prime Minister was there for a relatively short time and little research had been done. He took the opportunity to vent his frustration on the performance of Local Government, the performance of Rail and why we shouldn't be supporting them.
4. On Saturday 2 November Hunterville needs to be everyone's destination. The Hunterville Shemozzle is such a unique, iconic event where the country comes to town. The junior, intermediate and team races run from 10am to 12pm with the shepherd's races starting at 3pm followed by the speed shear at 5pm. The adult party runs from 7pm until late-late. Shops and stalls will be there to tempt you, there is much to see, watch and buy. An event of this nature and scale does not happen by chance. The organisation of the next Shemozzle starts the day after the event. I have added in a Committee photo to my report to recognise this effort.
5. On 2 October myself and several Councillors attended a walk-through at the Taihape Community Health Centre. The provision of health services for our district is an issue that I have raised within the Long Term Plan process, really wanting to be able to provide financial support for these services. With the withdrawal of the four well-beings by Government, this will be incredibly challenging and may have to be paused at the moment. I applaud the work that is being done in Taihape within the community and in particular the amount of effort that Cr Piki Te Ora is involved with under Mokai Patea Services. Where we are able, we should be supporting these initiatives. I will ask Cr Piki Te Ora if there is an update that she can provide for in the next Mayoral Report.
6. The Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ), funded by the Ministry of Social Development, has been incredibly successful for Government and Local Government. In the times of Government cutbacks we continue to receive \$9-10m a year to find jobs for people. The success of our team headed by James Towers and Louise McCoard is always at the top of the results nationally. On 4 October Mayor Max Baxter from Otorohanga stepped down as Chair. Max has been the driver for the success and his farewell was attended by Minister Upston, LGNZ staff and many of the mayors. Thankyou Max for a job well done. I am one of four mayors who form the Governance Committee and I declined nomination for Chair instead suggesting

that Alex Walker Mayor of Central Hawkes Bay should be elected, which duly occurred. Alex is already on the LGNZ Board and is deeply involved in the Mayor’s Taskforce and will lobby for continued support. To illustrate the success of MTFJ for the Rangitikei I have included a Job Outcomes Report.

7. Over the last few Mayoral Reports there have been a number of references to the Three Waters space. Most of this work has been done by Mayors and Chief Executives in understanding the Government direction, which is always subject to change, and looking at options for our Councils. We are now at the stage where we can talk to the community and Iwi around the process and our options. I have asked staff to schedule a series of drop-in and public meetings in Marton, Taihape and Bulls and I am also happy to talk to any individual or group provided I can timetable it. These meetings will be about explaining the process and timeframes. Early next year there will be a chance to more fully consult with the community.
8. The Three Waters is significant, but what is sliding under the radar is the reform of the RMA (Resource Management Act) and Fast Track Legislation. Minister Bishop has written to Mayors with what is a very good description of why the legislation is being changed and why the fast track process has been put in place, along with which New Zealand industries are being targeted. His letter is concise so I have added it to my report. A fast track process is needed in my opinion - we are seeing factories such as the Tangiwai Mill close and we desperately need the power resources to keep them open. However, fast track comes at a risk environmentally and socially. Yes, it provides much needed infrastructure and jobs but communities now have very little say in what happens around them and to them.
9. Cr Piki Te Ora also attended the recent Local Government Conference in Wellington and I attach her report to Council on this. I will ask Cr Piki Te Ora if she wishes to explain anything further as part of her report.

Mayor’s Engagements

October 2024

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| 1 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs online meeting</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> |
| 2 | <p>Attended monthly meeting for Governor’s Q&A with Executive Leadership Team</p> <p>Attended walk-through Taihape Rural Health Centre</p> <p>Attended Christopher Luxon National Party Dinner in Wellington</p> |
| 3 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Meeting with Kanoa following Manawatu-Whanganui Regional Growth Summit</p> <p>Attended meeting with Jackson Stone Recruitment Agency – CE Recruitment</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop – Local Water Done Well</p> <p>Attended Turakina Community Committee</p> |
| 4 | <p>Attended Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs Core Group meeting in Wellington</p> <p>Attended Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs Farewell to Mayor Max Baxter</p> |
| 7 | <p>Attended Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs Chair: Candidates Address online meeting</p> |

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| | <p>Attended Comms Media Video Shoot to promote the Shemozzle</p> <p>Attended Hunterville Rural Water Scheme</p> |
| 8 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting</p> <p>Attended Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meeting</p> <p>Attended Relationship Meeting with Horizons Regional Council Governors</p> <p>Attended Linton BA5 Meeting</p> |
| 9 | <p>Attended site visit at Rangiwai to look at roading issues</p> <p>Attended Taihape Community Board Meeting</p> |
| 10 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Assets & Infrastructure Committee Workshop</p> <p>Attended meeting with Manager of Whanganui Community Foundation</p> |
| 11 | <p>Attended meeting with Taihape Community Development Trust Co-ordinator</p> <p>Attended 253 Project River Interview Meeting</p> |
| 12 | <p>Attended Open Weekend for Marton Historical Society</p> <p>Attended Rangitikei/Whanganui Multicultural Feast & Festival in Marton</p> |
| 15 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with TUIA Nyssa and teina</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> |
| 16 | <p>Attended Communications in a Crisis Civil Defence Workshop</p> <p>Attended Reuben Pokiha's tangi at Kai Iwi Marae</p> |
| 17 | <p>Attended Meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Massey University Blues Awards Online</p> |
| 18 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> |
| 21 | <p>Attended Breakfast Meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys</p> <p>Attended Fortnightly Economic Development Meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended local funeral</p> |
| 22 | <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting</p> <p>Attended Zone plus LGNZ online catchup meeting</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> |
| 23 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended monthly meeting with Comms Staff</p> <p>Attended meeting with NZDF Housing Staff</p> <p>Attended Gorges to See Cycleway Information Evening in Taoroa</p> |
| 29 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> |

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| | Attended Omatane Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor |
| 30 | Attended 2024 Manfeild Annual General Meeting Attended Ratana Wastewater Update Hui |
| 31 | Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting To attend Council meeting |

Attachments:

1. **Super Local Conference 2024 LGNZ- Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa**
2. **National Dinner with Christopher Luxon - 2 October 2024**
3. **Letter from Minister Chris Bishop**
4. **Shemozzle 2024 Committee Members**
5. **Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs - September 2024 Report**
6. **Elected Member Attendance**

Recommendation 1:

That the Mayor's Report-October 2024 be received.

Recommendation 2:

That the Super Local Conference 2024 LGNZ report from Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa be received.