

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

DATE: 22 October 2009

SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Welcome to the final Engineering Services meeting for what has been a rather hectic year. My thanks to Councillors, staff and members of our Regional Transport Committee for your time and input which is appreciated.

Special thanks to Dr Deborah Hume and her team for the guidance through a period of uncertainty when the new Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding was being finalised. Tasman District Council emerged from the funding round in reasonably good shape compared to other councils. The comments regarding our Council's performance on budgets and delivery were certainly appreciated.

Highlights of the year included:

- The first traffic lights installed in Tasman District;
- Opening of the Black Bridge (well attended and appreciated by the community);
- The Ruby Bay Bypass on schedule;
- The Regional Land Transport Strategy ready to go out for public consultation;
- Mr Clark, our new Transport Manager partly trained;
- Car pooling options available to the community through the Council's website; and
- Finally our first dust suppressant trial is underway (I didn't think I would live long enough!)

The results of the dust suppressant trial will give many of our residents living on dusty roads an affordable alternative to used oil and enable them to live in their homes without the continual hassles created by dust.

Also after approximately ten years working with a group of residents regarding signage, we have reached agreement on roadside signage. I believe as a Council we need to urgently review our signage policy. What looks better – a whole proliferation of different signs at intersections or a neat stack sign combining all of these business etc. You don't have to be a rock scientist to get the answer (unfortunately roading engineers at times are not rocket scientists). We need practical solutions not infringement notices which only put us offside with our ratepayers.

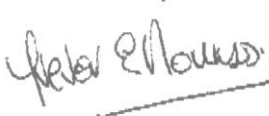
After becoming aware of the need for a discharge consent when getting a building alteration permit, and after talking to compliance and planning staff, we may need to review this policy in the coastal wastewater areas. Some of these areas have no power and some of the alternative septic tank options are not available especially when existing systems are working fine.

Heading into this year's annual plan round, I believe Council will need to concentrate on what we need to do rather than what would be good to do. We need to ensure that Tasman is still an affordable district to live in.

Once again thanks for your input into issues cropping up around our districts. My thanks to the Engineering staff for your support which is crucial in my role as Chair of the Engineering Services Committee.

Enjoy your Christmas break with family and friends – see you in the new year.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Norriss". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Trevor Norriss
Chair

PS I have attached - for information only - something that I think we can all relate to.

WE WAS BRUNG UP PROPER!

Congratulations to all my friends who were born in the 1930's 1940's, 50's, 60's and early 70's !

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us and lived in houses made of asbestos. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese, raw egg products, loads of bacon and processed meat, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets or shoes, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

Take away food was limited to fish and chips, no pizza shops, McDonalds, KFC, Subway or Nandos.

Even though all the shops closed at 6.00pm and didn't open on Sundays, somehow we didn't starve to death!

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We could collect old drink bottles and cash them in at the corner store and buy Toffees, Gobstoppers, Bubble Gum and some bangers to blow up frogs with.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soft drinks with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because.....

WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of old prams and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. We built tree houses and dens and played in river beds with matchbox cars.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo Wii , X-boxes, no video games at all, no 999 channels on SKY ,no video/DVD films, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....

WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

Only girls had pierced ears!

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

You could only buy Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns at Easter time...

We were given air guns and catapults for our 10th birthdays.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them!

Mum didn't have to go to work to help dad make ends meet!

RUGBY and CRICKET had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!! Getting into the team was based on MERIT.

Our teachers used to hit us with canes and gym shoes and bully's always ruled the playground at school.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

Our parents didn't invent stupid names for their kids like 'Kiora' and 'Blade' and 'Ridge' and 'Vanilla'.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned **HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL !**

And YOU are one of them! CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good.

And while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.

PS -The big type is because your eyes are not too good at your age anymore.