

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: B Askew, Service Centres Manager
DATE: 15 March 2007
SUBJECT: Service Centres Manager

1 Visit by RNZAF

As of writing this report, the Air Force were packing up after a very successful Operation Wise Owl. The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the open day held on Saturday 10 March 2007 which involved some spectacular displays of aerobatics by the Red Checkers. In addition, the displays from the Iroquois, Seasprite and the fire truck were extremely exciting. The fire truck was actually involved in a real emergency at the same time as its display, when an oil seal in a microlight aircraft that was visiting the airport resulted in a dramatic outpouring of smoke. The Orion low flight passes were awesome. Feedback has generally been very positive, both from airport tenants and the general public and I would like to complement and thank the RNZAF for choosing Motueka Aerodrome for this exercise.

In addition to the RNZAF open day, the airport tenants also provided a huge contribution to the day with very low cost scenic flights and other entertainment. They also provided food and drink for the crowds. Although the numbers of people entering were not officially tallied, reports from the Air Force were that up to 5,000 people availed themselves of the open day which was run as a free event as a mark of gratitude to the Motueka and District community.

2 Screenings on Issues of Climate Change and Peak Oil

A series of films highlighting issues about effects of climate change and peak oil are being screened in Motueka, with the first screening being the film called "An Inconvenient Truth" which will screen on 24 March 2007 at the Motueka Community Centre.

Attached in the correspondence is the full schedule of screenings which provide a broad range of focus on the global environmental issues which are the challenge for us and our children and grand children.

3 Local Government Managers of Australia – Management Challenge

I have been involved with mentoring the Tasman District Council team “The Able Tasman’s” who participated in the Regional Challenge in New Zealand, held in Christchurch on 16 March 2007.

The challenge is to provide strategic management experience for a group of Council staff in an environment that provides a real one-day challenge of matters that could be faced by a senior executive management team.

The aim of the challenge is to provide participants with experiences that they would not normally encounter in their current roles with Council.

An outcome of the challenge event has been that a number of participants have elevated to managerial positions, myself included.

4 People Making a Difference

Regrettably we often hear of the negative things happening, and in particular things like dumping occurring along the banks of the Motueka River. So it was indeed heartening to hear of one person (Jason Garland) who has single handedly, cleared a riparian strip of the Motueka River of noxious weeds.

To understand the labour intensive work involved one has only to look at the ‘before’ picture attached to get an idea of the hours of persevering cutting and slashing is required to remove the nasties such as blackberries and old man’s beard.

What was a landscape that looked like a scene from the ‘War of the Worlds’ has been reinstated to its former glory.

Anyone wishing to undertake similar work should first contact Council for information and advice. In the first instance I would be happy to receive calls and refer them to the appropriate Council staff.

Bob Askew
Service Centres Manager

Typical “Before” of Weed Infestation along Motueka River Bank



After some labour intensive TLC

