

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Councillors  
**FROM:** Acting CEO  
**REFERENCE:** C780  
**DATE:** 24 January 2007  
**SUBJECT:** Acting CEOs Report for December 2006/January 2007

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## CHRISTMAS BREAK CHALLENGES

The recent Christmas break was very uneventful with the exception of the Didymo outbreak in Golden Bay. As reported in the newspaper at the time, a Biosecurity New Zealand staff member on holiday in the Bay found Didymo in the Takaka River and immediately reported it to the Department of Conservation. This resulted in many notices being placed in shops, motor camps and other public places within Golden Bay asking public to take the necessary precautions to avoid any further spread of Didymo.

Council also produced a set of guidelines and our contractors and subcontractors have been advised of these.

## RICHMOND AND DISTRICTS INFORMATION CENTRE

I recently met with volunteer staff members from the Richmond and Districts Information Centre and at that meeting they tabled figures on visitor numbers since the Centre was opened in 1987. These show since the opening of the Centre until 2006, approximately 147 000 people have visited the Centre with a daily average of 22.

The Information Centre is open all year round and is staffed entirely by volunteers. Their busiest period is between November and April. Copies of the visitor tallies are available should any Councillor wish to see them.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES REVIEW PROJECT TEAM

In December the Waimea Rural Fire Committee met with Jane Johnston, Senior Policy Analyst with Local Government New Zealand to discuss the fire and rescue services review.

During the discussions, it was suggested that the Waimea Rural Fire Committee should be represented on the Project Team as we are one of the largest rural fire authorities in the country and have been very proactive in setting up the structure.

As a result we agreed to nominate Councillor Tim King and we have recently received confirmation that Councillor King's nomination to join the Local Government New Zealand Fire and Rescue Service Review Project Team has been accepted.

## **KAUMATUA APPOINTMENT**

At the December Council meeting it was resolved that staff be requested to establish a process for the appointment of a Kaumatua for Tasman District Council and report back to Council.

Recently staff commenced investigations on this matter and considered that before a job description could be completed Council needed to confirm what their expectations of the position were eg:

- Advice to Council and staff on protocols when receiving visitors, conferring with local Iwi or visiting Maraes.
- Taking an active role in welcoming visitors at special functions.
- Advice to Council on policy matters and strategy issues.

Staff have contacted other councils for copies of job descriptions and any other information that may assist in this matter.

On 22 January 2007 senior managers met the Tiakina te Taiao Board to discuss various issues with a proposal to appoint a Kaumatua being one of them. The meeting agreed that Council staff would prepare a draft paper on Council's expectations for the position and also prepare a draft job description. This would then be discussed with the Board at their March meeting.

It was also suggested at the meeting that for policy issues an Iwi Manager may be beneficial.

So that staff can progress this matter further it would be helpful if Councillors could provide any feedback on their expectations of a Kaumatua either before the full Council meeting on 8 February 2007 or at the meeting.

## **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES WITH CLIMATE CHANGE BENEFITS**

The Minister responsible for Climate Change issues has responded to a letter regarding carbon sinks and financial incentives to land owners who plant commercial forests. A copy of the Minister's letter and information on Government initiatives with climate change benefits are attached for Councillors' information.

Lloyd Kennedy  
Acting Chief Executive

<http://tdctoday:82/Shared Documents/Meetings/Council/Full Council/Reports/2007/RCN070208 Report Acting CEOs.doc>