

REPORT

TO: Councillors
FROM: Mayor R Kempthorne
DATE: 21 January 2009
SUBJECT: Mayor's Report for December 2008

The year ended with a busy flurry of community events, Christmas celebrations and meetings.

Attached to this report is a report on my trip to Brisbane in September of 2008, and a summary of the Mayor's discretionary fund from 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008.

11 December 2008

Attended Chamber of Commerce Christmas function, followed by a dinner for the Waimea Water Augmentation Committee at Bouterey's restaurant

12 December 2008

Presentation from Iwi on the cultural impact of the Monaco/Bell's island sewage pipeline.
LTCCP workshop.

13 December 2008

Attended Tasman Regional Sports Trust Christmas lunch at Waimea Estate

15 December 2008

Meet with Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs committee to discuss the upcoming Industry Training Graduation. Agreed that Pamela would help organise this event in 2009.
Attended combined crown agencies hui at Saxton Field, discussing issues relevant to Maori for all agencies. A very good opportunity to demonstrate our constructive working relationship.
Attended presentation by TDC to Tiakina on the Ruby Bay CIA with Cr Ensor and David Stephenson.
Attended joint TDC/NCC Christmas function at Trailways.

16 December 2008

Met with Mike Williams, station manager of Fresh FM regarding how this community radio station works with the Tasman community.
Attended Safer Communities meeting, Nelson Police station, with Mike Tasman Jones.
Joint meeting of TDC/NCC and Nelson Regional EDA to discuss potential presence of the Nelson/Tasman regions at Expo's in the UK, with by CEO and Susan

Edwards. Concluded that we could not justify the cost of assisting someone to attend UK to attract people from the UK to resettle in Tasman for employment at this point.

Community meeting on Motupiko Tapawera Plains water, at Tapawera Community Centre, with Cr Bryant, Joseph Thomas, Jeff Cuthbertson and E&P Manager. Questioned whether local water users are prepared to financially contribute to the feasibility stage in the Motupiko.

17 December 2008

Breakfast meeting of the NCC/TDC Mayor's/CEOs - discussed roading issues and mechanisms for constructively working together.

Met John Roseaveare, new Recognised Seasonal Employer director, regarding adequate seasonal employee numbers.

Staff Christmas function, very successful this year, with a very good atmosphere amongst staff.

18 December 2008

Initial meeting to discuss recruitment of a new CEO for Tasman Regional Sports Trust with other Trustees of the TRST.

Met with Glenda Bushell regarding the Nelson Bays Community Foundation. This is a new initiative, and a presentation and discussion on the Foundation is included in the confidential section of this Council meeting.

20 December 2008

Golden bay Santa parade – proceeded despite rather inclement weather, i.e. torrential rain.

21 December 2008

Carols in the Park, Richmond, very successful this year and all credit to Paul McConachie who helped organise this stunning event. Mike, Paul and others do the Council proud with their efforts.

22 December 2008

Assisted with selection of the Nelson Mail 'Nelsonian of the Year'

23 December 2008

Met with Network Tasman to discuss Top of the South broadband

25 December 2008

Attended Mayor's Christmas dinner in Nelson assisted by granddaughter Isabella.

3-6 January 2009

Jazzfest

5 January 2009

Live telephone interview with the BBC (4.20am their time). The topic was a discussion between the interviewer and me regarding Richmond Nelson and

comparing it largely to Richmond Surrey, just outside of London. The interview went well, and the interviewer, Kath Melandri, even expressed an interest in holding her upcoming wedding in the Abel Tasman National Park. We are following up this opportunity.

8 January 2009

Attended Tony Fry's funeral with several other Councillors and staff members. Tony's enormous contribution to the community was noted well by his son Steven, brother Peter and Community Board Chair David Ogilvie.

9 January 2009

Met with Brent Maru of the Motueka Recreation Centre and Grant Andrews of the Police. Brent and Grant are keen to continue a Friday Night Youth Transport project for Motueka for 2009.

MAYORAL DONATION FUND

The following is a summary of the Mayor's discretionary fund for the year 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008.

Description	Number of items	Total spend
Local Government NZ contribution	1	2231
Fundraisers – charity	4	632.22
Sponsorship Children/training	5	1222.22
Koha	1	100.00
Other/miscellaneous	1	31.11
Total		\$ 4216.55

The budgeted amount for this fund for the 2008/09 year is \$13,000.

QUEENSLAND STUDY VISIT – SEPTEMBER 2008

Saturday 13 September

Woke at approx 2:30 am, and then just dosed off and on until deciding to get up at 3:50 a.m. to get to the airport in time. By the time I arrived in Brisbane I felt pretty shattered, aided by the two families of small children in the row in front on the plane. However, I linked up with Steven Cairns from Southland Regional Council and Jenny Brash from Porirua City Council and we travelled in to the hotel successfully. Then the three technos spent around the next hour furrowed over phones, establishing how they work in Brisbane.

Sunday 14 September

Shifted hotels and walked to the City Hall for the official reception with Brisbane City Council (BCC) and the Local Government Authority of Queensland (LGAQ). Received speeches from:
Cr Margaret de Wit from BCC,
Cr Paul Bell, President of LGAQ,
Mr Greg Hallam, Executive Director of LGAQ and
Lawrence Yule, President of LGNZ

Monday 15 September

Ipswich

We were joined on the bus from Brisbane by **Carl Wulff, CEO of Ipswich City Council**. Carl explained that Ipswich is part of the south east Queensland strategy for accommodating the massive growth that this part of Queensland is experiencing. Ipswich is planning for a **growth rate of approximately 4.6%** over the next 20 years. They currently have a population of 155,000 and in the next 20 years they predict this will reach 320,000 between 2026 and 2030. Growth is based on employment, affordable housing, and migration from the southern states and overseas.

Current funding mechanisms for **provision of infrastructure** are **completely inadequate** for development of this scale. Ipswich city has set up an **alliance partnership** (different to a public private partnership) with developers of **Springfield Land Corporation** for the development of Springfield, a 'greenfield' development taking the population from the current **40,000 to 105,000** when fully developed. The PowerPoint presentation shows this takes into account residential, commercial (jobs), retail, education and a data centre. This development needs **\$6 billion spent over 20 years**.

Russell Luhrs spoke of Springfield as a **Master Planned City (MPC)**. They have been tracking MPC developments in the USA and others for eighteen years. The city is owned by developers, and one strength of two people owning the city is that they share a common vision with cross generational thinking. The developers developed their business case, found partners and worked with all stakeholders and government agencies e.g. health. They have developed education, health, and a business centre modules within Springfield. They have developed a data centre, a

five story complex worth \$240M for the whole country with its own backed up security system and power supply.

While most of Springfield is based on affordable housing approx \$250,000, **Brookwater** is a subdivision of premium residential development with sections averaging \$600,000 situated by the golf course.

It was clear from presentations and from discussions that the CEO, Carl Wulff, has been instrumental in the strategic direction to help establish this form of development. Once the concept of this form of development was established, legal and financial advisors helped implement the detail.

We visited Brookwater Golf Club where we had a presentation by Russell Luhrs, Springfield Land Corporation giving the "Springfield Story" and there was a PowerPoint presentation including these details. Springfield is growing at the rate of 3.3 families per day. Growth is based on affordable housing and job availability. People are again coming from the southern states and overseas.

We met with the Mayor and Councillors of Ipswich City Council (ICC).

Services Queensland

We received a presentation by **Steve Crowe, Queensland Partnership Group** regarding the shared service partnership between ICC and the private sector. This provides a back office and call centre to deliver customer service, rates, human resources, payroll, etc to all Councils. This will involve a ten year contract worth \$111 million in a strategic relationship with councils and contractors. This will likely be for rail, roads, water and waste water for the region.

Local Government Australia Queensland (LGAQ) has worked in collaboration with councils to help develop this service so that it can be relevant to all involved. Intellectual Property (ORACLE ERP) has been purchased from the UK to develop this system. There has been increased pressure from councils to deliver this service and a corresponding increased requirement from the community. There has also been a requirement for local government in Australia to increase efficiency 2.5% to 3% each year.

In South East Queensland it is likely there will be a partnership to deliver water by three retailers, governed by boards of independent directors, with Councils as shareholders only. There is likely to be a capital outlay of \$10 billion for water for the region and ten large retailers.

Provision of water is more important than fuel, because of its comparative scarcity. By the end of 2008 it was planned to have a desalination plant installed to give security of supply. Cost per household approximately \$450 per year and properties were metered. Water charges increased 11% in 2008.

The Chief Executive's approach is to work with developers to deliver services so that private developers develop the area in partnership with local government.

Springfield uses an urban design panel for advice.

Tuesday 16 September

Toowoomba Regional Council

The Toowoomba Regional Council has projected growth by 2026 of 115,000 in the city, and 160,000 for the whole district. The regional representation has undergone amalgamation whereby eight councils were merged to form one council and 68 councillors were reduced to only 11. It was clear that the amalgamation was a result of a decision of state government, and did not have the support of residents and ratepayers. They were one year into the corresponding council restructuring. It will be interesting to listen to feedback from the relevant communities in a couple of years.

Toowoomba has a rich pastoral and horticultural industry similar to New Zealand. They face challenges in maintaining the character and uniqueness while broadening its economic base.

We had a presentation by Chris Rubie regarding the Charlton Wellcamp Industrial Estate, inland rail, and an additional airport at Darling Downs. We had a presentation about the BCD bypass study, a \$700 million tunnel project which has taken ten years to plan involving the Australian Transport and Energy Corridor (ATEC). This roading project is needed, however like our significant infrastructure projects, is difficult to justify and consequently has struggled for completion. Funding of infrastructure for Toowoomba Regional Council is very difficult and sound asset management plans identifying levels of service and funding are critical elements for success. This is identical to the Tasman situation. This reiterated for me the need for sound long term planning, prioritising projects and establishing funding implications.

Steven Ames presented to us the planning process he used called the "Oregon Model". This involved questionnaires including random household, staff, youth, quick questions in the newspaper, competitions, facilitated working group of 50 individuals and focus groups (aged, indigenous, disabled and youth).

Deborah Howe, manager of Tourism and Development, gave us a presentation on their tourism agency. Clearly similar issues to us were regarding funding the agency and service delivery.

Wednesday 17

Brisbane City Council (BCC)

Brisbane is the largest Council in the southern hemisphere. A key to the management of Brisbane City is vertical integration of planning, development and service delivery. This particularly involves transport projects and passenger transport; and the obstacles and strategies for dealing with them.

We were met at BCC by Margaret Allison. She explained that one in seven Australians live in South East Queensland. There are pressures that population growth is placing on social and physical infrastructure. Key issues in Brisbane revolve around traffic congestion, public transport, roading and cycleways.

BCC Strategic Plan – Andrew Chesterman

Andrew is the strategic planner employed by BCC and he explained their strategic planning approach including the vision, certain aims, targets and outcomes. Significant issues for them include retaining competent staff and being a good employer. He explained that their Lord Mayor has the powers of a chief executive, i.e. he has certain executive powers. Their chief executive, therefore, acts as a chief operations officer, an extremely demanding role in this instance.

Community and citizen engagement are key elements of their planning. The Lord Mayor has a neighbourhood plan with 50,000 residents involved.

Traffic and Transportation – Brendon Sowry

BCC has a \$17 billion asset base. *“As soon as we put on a new bus there is someone to get on it.”* BCC owns a company making buses and make two new buses for their city each week. They have maxicabs that cover eight routes which do not have enough population and passenger numbers to justify full size buses. Currently public transport services 8% of the commuter population. BCC is looking at increasing this to 18%. 75% of trips to the CBD are made on public transport. BCC is aiming to keep through traffic out of the CBD. Public transport has a council subsidy of \$60 million to \$70 million annually, funded by the general rate. Their engineers established a 13% improvement in traffic efficiency through synchronisation of traffic signals.

BCC is approaching the peak oil issue by “acting responsibly in a general sense”.

The BCC Trans Apex plan is a tunnel which will have electronic tolling. The capital cost is approximately \$2 billion and includes two tunnel borers at a cost of \$50 million each.

Some of the Lord Mayor’s key commitments are solving congestion, building the tunnel and spending \$22 million each year on cycleways in Brisbane city.

Flew to Hervey Bay and travelled by Kingfisher Catamaran to Fraser Island

Thursday 18

Noosa

High levels of growth are putting pressure on social and physical infrastructure.. There is a focus on managing the effects of tourism on business.

Beach Replenishment

We observed the mechanism by which Noosa maintains its sandy beach. Noosa has a tidal current which continuously washes the sand along the beach. They

have established a large pump and pipe system which mixes the sand into a slurry and pipes it back to the areas that are currently eroded. This was a most impressive engineering feat and necessary to maintain the Noosa beach, fundamental to its attraction to tourists.

Hastings Street Streetscaping

Hastings Street has been upgraded to a most impressive level. The capital cost approximated \$10 million. The property owners of the CBD agreed to pay for approximately 70% of the cost through a targeted rate, because they could see that they were primary beneficiaries of this work. They clearly had a good relationship with the council.

Key issues in their streetscaping planning included way-finding, security, a people place, traffic safety (diverting traffic from the main street), artworks and trees.

The artwork consisted of sand blasting concrete through steel plate templates. This was most impressive. They considered it important to choose the correct species of trees for the street.

They were assisted by a focus group of people from the CBD. A successful anti-graffiti technique was imprinting people's names in the bricks that were laid. They then took ownership of the area.

Friday 19 Sunshine Coast

We visited several locations on our way down the Sunshine Coast. All demonstrated well planned coastal development with a high level of growth. We visited Sunshine Coast Airport, which was described as having been converted from a well-run airport to a well-run business including landing fees, passenger charges, parking, property development and retail development.

Some key observations from the trip.

- The value of Councils working with private enterprise in order to maximise outcomes.
- The common issue for local government of providing infrastructure to a reasonable level of service at an affordable price.
- It is so much easier to achieve good outcomes when we work constructively as a team using each others strengths.
- The value of effective presentations. One council had very professional technology that worked without a glitch and presentations that ran seamlessly. On another occasion, each presentation had technology delays, which significantly reduced the effectiveness of the presentation.

The importance of being respectful of others, no matter how relatively important they may seem.

R Kempthorne
21 January 2009