REPORT

TO:	Community Services Committee
FROM:	Community Services Chair
REFERENCE:	C785
DATE:	21 July 2005
SUBJECT:	Chairperson's Report

Today we will have presentations from the Rural Fire Service and from the Heritage Subcommittee. I look forward to our Committee having a closer understanding of the working of both these groups.

I have received some comment from Councillors on the reporting procedures and information trail for various projects, mainly those proceeding under the Facilities Rate umbrella. As it is often Councillors who are quizzed and/or challenged over these projects and their funding and expenditure, I believe it would be useful to re-examine the reporting process. It is possible that a clearer reporting structure may be able to be developed as we go through our 12 month review of Committees and responsibilities.

Councillors may recall that a submission to the Annual Plan was concerned that there was little public art in the district. I believe there is a considerable amount of public art in our communities but it is not comprehensively listed or catalogued. The Motueka Arts Council has identified a number of public art works and has developed an 'Art Walk' brochure for the town. I believe that other communities would have similar inventories if asked. There are murals, mosaics, sculptures and many other examples around the area – as a district renowned for its arts and crafts, I would like us to take up the challenge and develop at least a rudimentary inventory of these features.

Today we also take a visit to the new regional museum – this is fast taking shape and is presently on time to be ready for the official opening on 22 October as part of the Trafalgar bi-centenary commemorations. The museum is a major Council asset and it should prove useful for Councillors to see the progress the project is making.

P.K. O'Shea
Chairperson