

## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Community Services Committee  
**FROM:** Community Services Chair  
**DATE:** 29 March 2007  
**SUBJECT:** Chairperson's Report

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**Annual Plan meeting time is here again already** – the response so far seems muted, probably because we have been able to contain the actual general rate rise and there are no valuation issues this year. However, it will not pay to be complacent about the cumulative effect of various increases which may not hit home until the first rate demands are received in the new financial year.

**It is rewarding to see the success of the Facilities Rate** – the concept has enabled communities such as Murchison to make amazing progress in their fundraising and to show what can be done when there is a sense of community purpose. It seems a shame that often larger settlements struggle to build this same cohesion of purpose and therefore miss out on the resulting benefits.

**In this vein, congratulations to the Taste Tasman team** who reached the finals of the Transpower Community Awards and although not the overall winners, I'm sure they impressed all those who saw their presentation.

**In April the Tasman Bays Heritage Trust farewells its Chief Executive,** Wayne Marriott after six years at the helm. Wayne has been at the centre of the new museum project and brought considerable skill and knowledge to the task. As a shareholder in the museum, Tasman District Council may wish to acknowledge Wayne's contribution.

**Last weekend I spent an interesting hour with the 2007 Tasman Youth Council** at their inaugural workshop. In a general discussion on local government it is again clear to me that most New Zealanders have little idea of the scope of the work of their Councils. It is encouraging to see so many young people putting their names forward for the Youth Council and subsequently becoming more aware of what is involved. I would encourage Council committees to invite Youth Councillors to their meetings on a regular basis to build on this. In the light of some comments made at this workshop, I believe we need to be constantly on our toes to convey clear and easily digested information to our residents.

**Finally I would like to thank councillors and staff** for their support and understanding over the past few weeks. I appreciate those who have taken my place at various meetings and also the numerous messages received from both councillors and staff. It has all helped to make things just a little easier.

Patricia K O'Shea  
Chairperson

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