

Councillor Report

5th May 2009

1.0 Gail Sellers

1.1 Red Shield Appeal Launch

The Business Launch for the Red Shield Appeal was held on 21st April. The guest speaker for the morning was Inspector Eddie Lacko of Queensland Fire and Rescue Services, who spoke on the large part the Salvation Army play in disaster management. The breakfast was attended by all Gladstone Regional Councillors.

1.2 Airport Meetings

The first was held Tuesday the 21st April, on site, to inform the *local residents* of the scope of the work before the job commences. The meeting was well attended and presentations were well received. The attendees were encouraged to call the Hot Line if a problem arose during construction.

The second on Thursday the 23rd April was held on 23rd April at the Gladstone Entertainment Centre. This was well attended also and several questions were asked regarding the construction, time frames and aircraft re-scheduling.

On 29th April, the Gladstone Engineering Alliance held a luncheon for their members and guests. This also was well attended and there were presentations by CEO Graeme Kanofski, Goldings and Qantaslink. Residents will be kept up to date with progress during the construction.

1.3 Local Disaster Management Group

On 22nd April, I chaired the meeting of the Local Disaster Management Group for the Chair Mayor George Creed and Deputy Chair Cr Rick Hansen who were away from the city. There was some discussion about processes followed during Cyclone *Hamish*. Most felt it was useful exercise.

We are the first Regional Council to have an approved structure in place for its State Emergency Service function under the Disaster Management Act.

Local Disaster Management Plan needs to be completed and approved by March 2010 and a draft will be provided at the August Meeting of the LDMG.

Tsunami warning – this is a Commonwealth Warning and more information will be available at the June Meeting as to how this information is disseminated to the community when required. Data from the warning buoys is still being validated and checked for accuracy by relevant Commonwealth Departments.

Emergency Message Dissemination methods are being reviewed and it is possible there will be a hard copy (as distributed in the recent event by Queensland Police), mobile phone message, or a voice message to the land line are all options that will be investigated in future events.

1.4 Welcome Morning Tea

On 23rd April, Councillor Chapman and I attended the Welcome Morning Tea held at the GAPDL this month. There were about ten newcomers to the city and they were made feel extremely welcome by those present.

1.5 Healthy Active Gladstone

The committee has received notification that the project has been shortlisted for the Premiers Healthy Qld Awards. The next stage is now to prepare an hour long presentation for the visit of the judge. The co-ordinating group for this project is *Keep Australia Beautiful*. Special mention must be made to the excellent work done by Crystal McGregor of Amarna. Crystal will be involved with the final presentation, as will the community committee.

1.6 Anzac Day Ceremonies

Anzac Day is truly a people's day which is thriving because of the public participation it encourages. The Gladstone Region celebrated Anzac Day with public and school ceremonies which were attended by the Mayor and Councillors. The large increase in numbers was noted by councillors.

1.7 QAL Apprentice of the Year

On behalf of the Mayor, I attended the annual QAL Apprentice of the Year function on Wednesday 29th April. The function was a celebration for first year apprentices and their families. QAL Apprentice of the Year was Laurie Tooker and the CQ Petroleum Apprentice of the Year was Michael Smith.

1.8 CQUniversity

On Friday 1st May at Councillor Brushes' invitation, I attended a presentation in Brisbane supporting a tender proposal to Queensland Health for a comprehensive research project into the nutrition and physical activity of men aged between 35 – 55. The funding is for \$900 000 and there are two finalists, CQUniversity will conduct the study within the Gladstone Region.