



MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12 JULY 2011

PRESENT

Mayors Adrienne Staples, Alan Livingston, Aldo Miccio, Alistair Sowman, Angus McKay, Annette Main, Brendan Duffy, Bryan Cadogan, Chalky Leary, Dave Cull, David Ayers, Frana Cardno, Harry Duynhoven, Ian McKelvie, Janie Annear, Jenny Rowan, John Forbes, John Tregidga, Kelvin Coe, Les Probert, Malcolm Campbell, Maureen Pugh, Neil Sinclair, Pat McManus, Richard Kempthorne, Roly Ellis, Ross Paterson, Tony Bonne, Tony Lepper, Tracy Hicks, Winston Gray and Winton Dalley.

Deputy Mayor Nona Gaskin [Gisborne]

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Jan Francis, Mo Pettit, Bry Kopu, Marcus Akuhata-Brown, Annette Smithard and Mariska Wouters [LGNZ-MTFJ liaison].

Invited Guests

Roger Gyles [Civic Assurance-LGNZ], Mark Quinlivan [Ministry of Social Development], Gloria Campbell [Work and Income], Peter Conway [NZCTU], Jeremy Baker [ITF] and Hon Rodney Hide.

APOLOGIES

Mayors Alex Familton, Allan Sanson, Bob Parker, Celia Wade-Brown, Claire Barlow, Dale Williams, Garry Daniell, John Coles, Kevin Winters, Len Brown, Meng Foon, Neil Tiller, Neil Volske, Nick Leggett, Penny Hulse, Peter Butler, Ron Marks, Tony Kokshoorn and Vanessa van Uden.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Sally Gray

Invited Guests

Felicity Bollen [Department of Labour], Nita Kerepeti-ikin [Te Puni Kokiri], Samantha Seath [EDANZ] and Sue Mackwell [Ministry of Social Development]

WELCOME

The Taskforce Deputy Chair, Mayor Jenny Rowan, welcomed Mayors and invited guests to the meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting 2010 were presented to the meeting. It was proposed that they be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved – Ross Dunlop

Seconded – Brendan Duffy

Carried

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Taskforce Chair, Mayor Dale Williams' Report was presented to the meeting. Mayor Frana Cardno moved a vote of thanks to Dale for the passion, commitment and hard work he has put into the Taskforce.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Annual Accounts were presented to the meeting. Mayor Maureen Pugh acknowledged the work of Roger Gyles, General Manager-Finance, Civic Assurance/LGNZ who has had responsibility for the accounts but will no longer be continuing in this role. It was moved that the accounts be accepted.

Moved – Maureen Pugh

Seconded – Malcolm Campbell

Carried

VOTE OF THANKS

Jan Francis, Executive Officer-Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, moved a formal vote of thanks to Roger Gyles for his help with the accounts over the years and the manner in which he carried out this work.

RANGATAHI LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Marcus Akuhata-Brown updated the Mayors on the progress of the Rangatahi Leadership Programme thus far and encouraged those Mayors not already participating to identify a potential young leader in their community and to contact Marcus about being part of the Programme.

YOUTH WEEK

Mo Pettit spoke of her work with Youth Week since 2008 and how in just a few years the uptake of participating Youth Councils has grown from 8 to 40. Mayors were encouraged to see young people as a valuable resource in their respective communities and to work towards establishing a Youth Council in their area if one does not already exist.

CORE GROUP MAYORS

Mayor Frana Cardno [Southland] spoke of the relevance of the Taskforce and how being a member does make a difference. "Borland Alive" is a programme for young people between 16-24 who can't see any future in what they are doing or just need a kick start in life. They get to experience: Abseiling, Kayaking, Rock Climbing, Caving, Tramping, Team work and Personal development. Following the outdoor component, they are mentored and supported for up to 12 weeks with personal development; further education and employment support and learn valuable life skills in Cooking, Leadership, Healthy living, Budgeting and Goal setting. Borland Alive has an 80% success rate – this being possible with the backing of the Taskforce and good support from neighbouring Mayor Tracy Hicks [Gore] and the local MP Eric Roy. Frana is a firm advocate for Mayors sticking together and the power of that collective. Things can be achieved without the input of Government.

Mayor Les Probert [Wairoa] is proud of the successes in his district and the on-going commitment, driven by the Deputy Mayor, to programmes for it's young people. From a "Zero Waste of Young People" Forum 10 years ago, Wairoa has a long list of projects, programmes and an academy designed to prepare young people for the workforce.

Mayor Bryan Cadogan [Clutha] spoke of the challenges of being a new Mayor and his concerns for the young people in Clutha who at the age of 14 are seen to be disengaging from society. Bryan has a firm commitment to work towards zero unemployment in 12 months – and he is aware this is a big ask. But he and his team are working hard with employers in the Clutha region to help make that goal a reality.

DEPUTY MAYOR NONA ASHTON [GISBORNE]

Nona expressed her thanks to the Taskforce for helping to make things happen in Gisborne. She spoke of their pilot scheme around 'truancy' and how lack of transport is one of the main issues identified. There is a commitment in Gisborne from both the Council and Youth Council to work with the young people and put in place programmes and support systems to help them build themselves into positive, vibrant and valuable members of the community.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mayor Jenny Rowan welcomed Hon Rodney Hide to the meeting and thanked him, on behalf of the Taskforce, for his involvement and interest in the Taskforce and for taking the time to come along to the meeting.

Jenny spoke of the work currently being done by the Taskforce and that we are dealing with the reality of our future. It is vital to bring young people into that future in a strong, positive and prepared way.

The Mayors were reminded that the Core Group is self selecting and invited any Mayor with an interest in being part of the Core Group to join. New input is vital in keeping the focus of the Taskforce relevant and fresh. Mayor Tony Bonne [Whakatane] indicated he will be stepping down from the Core Group due to current commitments which do not allow him to be as involved as he would like. He was thanked for the time he gave to the Core Group.

A review of the direction of the Taskforce needs to be undertaken, given recent events. A special meeting will be arranged for this purpose.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Alistair Sowman

Alistair closed the meeting firstly by acknowledging Hon Rodney Hide and thanked him for making time in his busy schedule to attend the meeting.

He also acknowledged all the new Mayors [25] from the last Local Body elections and urged the Core Group members that the message of the Taskforce needs to be sold constantly as youth unemployment is a huge issue which makes the Taskforce more relevant than ever. The Taskforce needs to ensure that traction is not lost. Repeating the words of Mayor Frana Cardno, "Things can be achieved without the input of Government". Through the collective power of the Mayors a real difference can be made.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.