

TO: COUNCIL
FROM: HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, MR T SHADBOLT
MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, 7 MARCH 2017

MAYOR'S REPORT

Report Prepared by: His Worship the Mayor, Mr T Shadbolt

SUMMARY

List of engagements and current issues.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

IMPLICATIONS

1.	<i>Has this been provided for in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan?</i> N/A.
2.	<i>Is a budget amendment required?</i> N/A.
3.	<i>Is this matter significant in terms of Council's Policy on Significance?</i> N/A.
4.	<i>Implications in terms of other Council Strategic Documents or Council Policy?</i> N/A.
5.	<i>Have the views of affected or interested persons been obtained and is any further public consultation required?</i> N/A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

ENGAGEMENTS

- SIT Southern Performance Hub launch
- Invercargill Premier of Pork Pie
- Joint Otago/Southland Mayoral Forum
- Air New Zealand Mayoral Forum
- Meet with U.S Charge'd Affairs Candy Green
- World Shearing and Woolhandling Championships
- Meet with French Ambassador Florence Jean-Risler
- Newfield Kindergarten 50th Jubilee Celebrations
- Meet with riders for Charlee's Journey
- SIT O-week Powhiri
- Mayoral Reception for students visiting from Tacoma, USA
- Mayoral Forum
- More FM/Transport World "Night at the Museum"
- Gold Southland Annual Awards Breakfast

- SIT O-week
- Opening of Volkswagen Dealership
- Outreach Singing
- Meet with Southland Boys High School Senior Debate Team
- RNZB – Carmen
- Southern Seabird Award Handover Ceremony
- Invercargill Airport Limited Board Meeting
- Infrastructure and Services Committee Meeting
- Finance and Policy Committee Meeting
- Rotary – Dictionaries in Schools
- Tania Dalton – Live Stream of Funeral

REPORT

Population

Increasing our population has been a high priority for all Councils as well as economic development groups such as Venture and SoRDS. Judging from 2016 estimates the news is looking good. In 1956 Invercargill's population was 37,500. Thanks to the Manapouri Power Project, the smelter and the diversification of agriculture the city was booming and the population peaked at 59,000 in 1986. Then the great slump began. Despite the white gold rush our population dropped to 55,689 in 1994 and 51,900 in 1999. As the people left, house prices crashed and schools were closed. Then the bold counter revolution began. The City Council and local trusts spent \$100 million on Splash Palace, the Civic Theatre, an inner city upgrade, Stadium Southland, the Velodrome and a new airport terminal. The Southern Institute of Technology launched its innovative Zero Fees Scheme which increased student numbers from 1,000 to over 4,000. The smelter started producing the purest aluminium in the world. We made movies, staged international events and tourism boomed. Now our schools are crowded and the value of our homes is increasing yet they are still more affordable than any other city in New Zealand. It is estimated by Statistics New Zealand that our population increased to 54,660 in 2016.

Tania Dalton

A critical factor is often overlooked when analysing Invercargill's renaissance is the role of sport. The Stags winning the Ranfurly Shield for the first time in half a century. Joseph Parker, World Shearing Championships, our Olympic champions and the Sharks all made a valuable contribution to our revival. However, I believe it was the incredible victories of the mighty Sting that provided the catalyst for real change in Southland. We were virtually the smallest city in New Zealand, yet time after time we defeated the large cities of the North. They gave us confidence, pride and respect. That's why so many of us cried and laughed and sang and prayed at Stadium Southland during Tania Dalton's live streamed funeral. It wasn't just Tania's effervescent personality or the love of her devastated family that drew us to her. We wanted to celebrate her tragic yet glorious, fun filled life. And yes we can say thank you. I'll be recommending that our Council contribute to the Family Trust set up to honour her memory.

Bluff

The other news item of interest is the clash of views between South Port and the Bluff Community Board. As yet we have not been requested to support our Community Board but if the conflict expands we probably will be. I will keep Councillors informed of any developments.

Sister Cities

Invercargill will be hosting a Sister Cities Conference on the 4th, 5th and 6th of May 2017. Our first Sister City Agreement was signed by Mayor Eve Poole and the Mayor of Kumagaya. Prior to that I presided over a Sister City relationship between Waitemata City and Huntington Beach. In both Invercargill and Waitemata there has been a minority of Councillors who oppose the Sister Cities movement. The reasons I support the relationships are:

- 1) They foster student exchanges.
- 2) The concept was founded by President Eisenhower who believed friendly community relationships would help prevent the slaughter he witnessed in two world wars.
- 3) Our Government also encouraged Sister Cities because it helped with Free Trade negotiations. We have often needed Government help in the past to fund projects like the Velodrome, the Stadium, aquaculture etc, so it pays to maintain a co-operative spirit when they make requests of us.

The last Sister Cities conference I attended was hosted by the Governor General in Wellington
