

Let's Chat : 29 November

Personal thoughts and observations by Garry Jackson, Mayor, Hurunui District Council.

Hello everyone

Last Saturday we saw the culmination of three years hard work and tireless effort by the Cheviot community with the opening of the substantially enlarged, enhanced and refurbished St John Ambulance Centre in Cheviot.

This project has involved many, many people, and a wide range of invaluable contributions to make it all possible. Notable amongst those are Jane Maxwell, who provided so much of the overall leadership, focus and motivation for the task from start to finish and the Cheviot Lions. We salute you all.

The occasion and celebration of this opening brought home once again the vital role that St Johns plays across our District, as an emergency lifeline and network for us all, and as perfectly captured in their motto "The First to Care".

Again we thank them, all the members of the St John Order, and all their wonderful volunteers and supporters.

My column in the previous issue touched on the issues of the pressures on local government and the need for assistance from Wellington. My comments preceded the apportionment of Rodney Hide as Minister of Local Government and Minister of Regulatory Reform. I wish him well and commit our full support for all his efforts to achieve lower costs and greater efficiencies and effectiveness for us all.

Maybe it is timely to extend this discussion to give you all a clearer picture of some of the issues, at least through one example. Two weeks ago we were required to sign off the audit agreement terms for the audit (required by Auditor General) of our Long Term Plan process. Please note, this not just an audit of the financials contained in the Plan, but the process by which we have done our job to develop it. If you are interested, I am attaching a copy to this column on our web site <http://www.hurunui.govt.nz/News/Letschat.htm>.

Please have a look and let me know your thoughts.

Sincerely
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