

Introduction

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Message from the Mayor3



Message from the Mayor

Tena koutou katoa.

'Tatou tatou – we together.' This is the motto on our district's coat of arms. And it's the cornerstone of a fresh new approach for fulfilling our responsibilities to the community - and for building a strong and sustainable future for Rotorua.

Rotorua district has unlimited, but as yet untapped, potential. However we can't realise that potential on our own. So genuine community partnerships - with iwi, with business, with community groups, government agencies, other organisations and even other councils - will be the hallmark of this council.

The recent local government elections came with a strong call for real change. Within days of taking office councillors and management joined me in a series of workshops where we started crafting a new vision and key goals for our district for the next 16 years – we called this simply 'Rotorua 2030.' At the same time we identified the key priorities we want to achieve, in partnership with the community, by the end of this term in 2016.

Our Rotorua 2030 vision is a response to the community's clear expectations for change. First on the list was a change to our governance structure. But we also need to change the organisation to align with our Rotorua 2030 vision. We need to change the way we deal with debt and become financially sustainable. And we need to address other critical issues for our district, such as lack of growth, unemployment, low family incomes, housing needs and an under-performing local economy.

At the end of 2013 we took our Rotorua 2030 draft proposals out on the streets. Over a busy two week period we talked to hundreds of people about our vision and goals for the future. And you overwhelmingly told us we were on the right track. Thank you for that support and encouragement.

This Annual Plan is the first under my stewardship of Rotorua District Council. It's a transparent and realistic start towards Rotorua 2030. Achieving that vision won't come without real challenges, and some pain. Already we've had to take some tough and decisive action to support debt reduction and to meet budgets. And there are more tough decisions ahead.

I'm energised and I'm extremely proud to be leading our new council team. And we're all committed to working in close collaboration with our community to make a real difference. We know Rotorua is a great place to live, to work, to play and to invest - and we're determined to make it even greater.

We share the same waka for the exciting journey ahead. If we paddle in unison, if we each contribute what we can, and if we have a shared vision of where we're going, the destination will be a rewarding one for us all.

'Tatou tatou – we together.'



Hon Steve Chadwick JP
Rotorua Mayor



Left to right: Cr Trevor Maxwell MNZM, Cultural Ambassador; Cr Mike McVicker; Cr Janet Wepa; Cr Rob Kent; Cr Dave Donaldson QSM, Deputy Mayor; Cr Peter Bentley; Cr Glenys Searancke QSM; Cr Karen Hunt; Her Worship the Mayor Hon Steve Chadwick JP; Cr Mark Gould JP; Chief Executive Geoff Williams; Cr Charles Sturt; Cr Merepeka Raukawa-Tait; Cr Tania Tapsell

