

Good evening and welcome. Before we start I would like to make some special acknowledgments.

This will be Councillor Margaret Craig's last meeting tonight as the council appointed representative to the Greytown Community Board. Margaret has been a councillor for 4 Terms and this is the 6th year that I have worked with Margaret as a community board member. Her extensive knowledge of council procedures, local government legislation, corporate history and attention to detail is extraordinary. Her work load is legendary however she has always made time for any advice I may have sought from her over the years. I have no doubt that her sage advice has left The Greytown Community Board in a very strong position. I count Margaret not only a colleague but also as a friend. On behalf of the current and past board members of the Greytown Community Board thank you so much for all you have done for us. We wish you and Bruce all the very best for your exciting new move to the Kapiti Coast.

I would also like to acknowledge Mike Gray. In the wake of Paora Ammunson's resignation late last year Mike has been appointed as councillor for the Greytown ward. He will be sworn in on the 18th March at 1pm. Mike brings a wealth of knowledge to this role. He served on the council from 1992 until 2004, then again from 2007 to 2013, and was deputy South Wairarapa mayor from 2001 to 2004. We have no doubt that he will very ably serve the interests and people of the Greytown ward.

I would also like to welcome Bryce Neems tonight. Bryce is the new Amenities Manager at council, a role community boards have always traditionally worked very closely with. Bryce tells me he has a significant number of very old oak trees at his home so he is a perfect fit for us in Greytown! Welcome Bryce we look forward to working with you.

Finally I would like to acknowledge our outgoing CEO at SWDC, Paul Crimp. Under his watch the council is now in a healthy financial position. A great deal has been achieved on large projects, getting the wastewater to land initiative well under way, refurbishing Featherston's ANZAC Hall, opening the Waihinga Centre in Martinborough, developing a progressive long-term plan for the future, and all this during the discussions of council amalgamation. We wish him well for the future and thank you for everything you have done for the Greytown Community Board.