



Moanataiari Primary

Moanataiari School
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Principal: David Brock

Letter of Thanks – Thames Coromandel District Council

4 April 2012

Dear Glen and the TCDC team,

Please pass on my thanks to the Thames Coromandel District Council Team members who have been working on the issues surrounding the soil contamination issues relating to arsenic and lead in the Moanataiari suburb.

Thank you Glen and Peter for the policy approach you have taken in tackling the issues in an open way which has led to a steady stream of information being made available to the general public when it becomes available. This approach in my view has given the current council credibility with the rate payers and stakeholders who have a vested interest in Moanataiari and it has removed some of the fears associated with this crisis. It is always much easier to face a situation when you know what you are dealing with and what the key issues are. Thank you for being as factual as you can be and for dealing sensibly with emotive issues.

We appreciate you for carrying the extra workload and meetings over and above the normal expectations of your job descriptions and remuneration packages. You are dealing with a hospital pass that you have received from previous decades and generations.

Ben Day has done a fabulous job in keeping us up to date with information. All those involved in the TCDC website need to take a bow. The purpose made booklets that have information dealing with arsenic are very appropriate and are readily available to any one that needs it. The public meetings that have been held in the town hall with Ministry of Health – Doctor Dell Hood and the then Minister of the Environment Nick Smith etc. were very important in letting people know the main issues.

Francois, Jackie and Sam have now been fronting a public meeting every week at Moanataiari School for the past five months or more. This must be very draining and yet the council have regularly fronted to answer as best they can the tricky questions and the emotional concerns that are legitimately being asked by residents.

I would particularly like to thank Chris Howell and his council team for their significant contribution to making the Moanataiari gardens and grounds safe for the children who attend school here. The speed and decisiveness of Chris and the team gave our parents assurance that the issues were being dealt with and that their children were safe. The reinstatement of our gardens has been particularly important. Early next term we will be able to replant them and again have them in production. Parents can know with certainty that their children are working with safe soil.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Brock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'B'.

David Brock
(Principal)

(P.S When our next community breakfast is held, possibly around the time we re-open the gardens we would like to invite all those associated in dealing with this crisis from the council to join us. Date yet to be confirmed. Please let us know approximate numbers.)