

OUT AND ABOUT



Presenting my petition for a third lane southbound over the Waimak Bridge to the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy Implementation Committee.



Honouring the work of our volunteers at the opening of Coastguard Waimakariri-Ashley's new lifeboat station in Kaiapoi.



Putting up my signs for my Drive Fresh Easter Road Safety campaign.



Supporting community leader Bob Bolanos at a Filipino community event.



Celebrating the launch of Good Night, Sleep Tight Charitable Trust.



With my father-in-law diagnosed with cancer, my family were glad to support the Cancer Society's Relay for Life.



On the judging panel for Papanui High School's BP Business Challenge. I was impressed by the students' innovative ideas.



Celebrating Kaiapoi Children's Day with the Trustees of the Reflections Community Trust.



Joining our community at the re-opening of the Rangiora Toy Library.

RANGIORA OFFICE

A 130A Percival Street, PO Box 765, Rangiora 7440
P 03 310 7468
E waimakariri@parliament.govt.nz
Facebook.com/MattDoocey

KAIAPOI OFFICE

A 156B Williams Street, Kaiapoi 7630
P 03 327 0514
E kaiapoi@parliament.govt.nz
www.mattdoocey.co.nz

BELFAST OFFICE (Mon & Wed)

A 731 Main North Road, Belfast, Christchurch 8051
P 03 327 0514
E belfast@parliament.govt.nz

National **MATT DOOCEY** MP FOR WAIMAKARIRI AROUND THE ELECTORATE



With the committee of Cat Care Incorporated to officially open their new purpose-built cat accommodation unit.

Volunteers provide an invaluable service to our community and many of you will have had your lives impacted by a volunteer who has been there when you needed them. Working and living in the electorate, I often get to see some of the work that happens behind the scenes, whether it is attending the opening of our new Coastguard building, speaking at a Fire Service presentation, opening a new accommodation unit for rescue cats or supporting the Cancer Society with my family by participating in Relay for Life.

In April I brought Veterans' Affairs Minister David Bennett to meet the hardworking men and women of our local RSAs, who provide

valuable support to our veterans. The Minister enjoyed talking to our young people and our seniors, and was impressed at our community's involvement.

I have been supporting our commuters with my petition for a third southbound lane on the Waimakariri Bridge after being appealed to by constituents to get something done. The number of signatures we received in such a short period showed how many wanted the Waimak voice heard. Being aware of the issues on the ground brings relevance to my role and it is by keeping connected to the local issues that MPs are most effective.

Thank you to everyone who attended my Keeping Connected Evening Meetings in May. In our busy lives we are increasingly communicating via email and social media, and many of my constituents choose to engage with me this way, but nothing beats connecting face to face.

If there is an issue you would like to raise with me, or if you would like to share some of the work you or your organisation are doing, please contact me through my offices – details on the back page.

Matt

SCHOOLS ENJOY NEW LEARNING SPACES

A number of Waimak schools are benefiting from new learning spaces to futureproof our schools for roll growth.

It was great to be at the opening of Rangiora High School's new modern learning environment with Associate Education Minister Louise Upston, who came to the electorate for this important event. I enjoyed a preview of the building while it was being built and the enthusiasm of staff and teachers for this new, state-of-the-art learning space was infectious.

The hammers have also been pounding at Kaiapoi High School and I enjoyed visiting the school's new cultural learning centre. This new centre was built by Year 12 building students who were able to obtain real-life building skills and experience, as well as confidence and the satisfaction of leaving behind

for others a wonderful legacy. Well done to the school for believing in their students and giving them this opportunity.



At the opening of Rangiora High School's new building with Associate Education Minister Louise Upston.

VOLUNTEER COASTGUARDS IMPRESS WITH THEIR COMMITMENT

When our Waimak-Ashley Coastguards invited me onto the water in May to learn more about the important work they do, I welcomed the opportunity.

The team is made up of 29 highly trained volunteers who, between June 2015 and June 16, dealt with 155 radio calls and brought 27 people home safely. Our coastguards show huge commitment in responding to emergencies and also committing themselves to ongoing training, and their pathway for young people from our local high schools to be trained as volunteer coastguards is an exciting opportunity for our youth.

Their lifeboat, Kaiapoi 1, utilises the latest technology to support a more efficient response but the team



Gaining insight into the great work done by the volunteers of Coastguard Waimakariri-Ashley.

told me there is still a need for specialist skills and experience in dealing with the Kaiapoi bar and boaties who might be injured or sick.

BREAKFAST CLUB HOSTS FINANCE MINISTER

The Northwood Breakfast Club enjoyed a lively debate with Finance Minister Steven Joyce ahead of Budget 17. Bringing relevant ministers into the electorate is part of my commitment to ensure our residents have opportunities to feed their views to Parliament. It was great to have the Minister in Waimakariri ahead of this year's Budget to chat to residents about some of the issues in our area, and get feedback on Government policies.



KEEPING CONNECTED EVENING MEETINGS

I received such positive feedback following last year's Keeping Connected Evening Meetings that I decided to run another series of meetings this year. I enjoyed a range of conversations about the issues that are important to our residents, and would like to thank everyone who attended these lively meetings. MP offices are traditionally open during business hours but I am aware that for many of you it is difficult to meet with me during the day because of work and family commitments. In our busy lives we are increasingly communicating via email and social media, and many of my constituents choose to engage with me this way. However, nothing beats connecting face to face. These meetings enable constituents to come and talk to me directly.



Having a conversation about what matters to you at my Keeping Connected Evening Meetings.

WAIMAK VOICE HEARD THROUGH THREE-LANE PETITION

Waimak commuters who backed my petition for a third lane southbound over the Waimak Bridge were thrilled with the news that their voices had been heard.

I presented the petition to the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy Implementation Committee (UDSIC) with over 1000 signatures, which showed how many wanted the Waimak voice to be heard.

Waimak commuters had contacted me about unreliable travel times in the mornings when travelling to Christchurch. A third lane northbound was already included in the Northern Motorway projects, and I believe a third southbound lane is also needed as part of an integrated traffic solution to ease traffic flow issues. Doing it now will be at significantly less cost than doing it later.



Following my presentation, UDSIC recommended to the New Zealand Transport Agency construction of a third lane, subject to conditions. Now we look forward to NZTA's decision.

WE REMEMBER...

Our veterans enjoyed meeting Veteran's Affairs Minister David Bennett ahead of Anzac Day at a meeting of our combined RSAs. The Minister laid a wreath at the Kaiapoi Cenotaph and heard a moving presentation from student Ruby Spark based on her great-grandfather's experiences in the Great War.

My wife and I were humbled to join our community on Anzac Day to commemorate our veterans, and it was great to see so many young people attending the services.

