

Media Release

May 8, 2009

Does Rakaia need an airport or swimming pool?

“Should we stay the same, or become an international leader in dairy farming?

“Do we want our own specialist area of tourism?” asks local businessman Neil Pluck.

Whatever your views, remember to come to the **Rakaia Rugby Club rooms on May 13 at 4pm.**

Enterprise Ashburton is holding meetings to help it prepare an Economic Development Strategy. Enterprise Ashburton and Rakaia Community Association chairman Neil Pluck is looking for bold ideas.

“Someone or some group had a rush of blood to the head back in the 1930s and came up with the diversion race. The economic proof of that idea is still being felt today – it's said this district would be a quarter of the size had it not been put in place.”

Whether business people and residents feel the district should continue to grow, and if so in what areas or direction, is the topic of the meeting.

“From the turnout at the District Council meeting here last week we know people care about this place,” Neil says.

“So, where do you want this town to be in 2029? should we have an airport, or an Olympic-size swimming pool, to grow the economy here?”

“We don't know what the answer is – we need the community to tell us.”

End

For more information please contact

Rob Brawley
Chief Executive
Enterprise Ashburton
(03) 308 0290