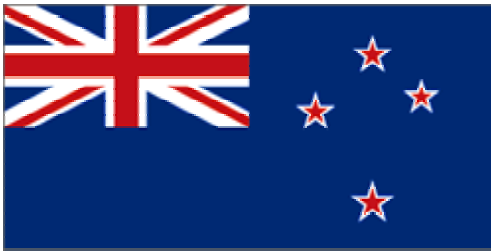


Council

**Wednesday, 30 October 2002
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

PART A

REPORT OF THE MAYOR



**This report is dedicated to the visit of Her Worship Mayor Debbie Cook,
the first Mayor of Huntington Beach to visit Waitakere City
and we are delighted to welcome her to this
October meeting of the full Council.**

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN,
WAITAKERE CITY, ON WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2002,
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART A - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

In February this year, I set myself personal targets to achieve for the City:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Tertiary training facilities. | <p>✓ The Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNITEC and Waitakere City has pushed this into effect and provided the Council with a strong, innovative partner for the future.</p> |
| 2. Two more foreign direct investments in the order of Sovereign Yachts. | <p>X Continuing uncertainty from central government over the future of Hobsonville has left many investors unimpressed with its earlier promise.</p> |
| 3. The Waitakere Stadium. | <p>✓ While further fundraising is slower than expected, Council's commitment has seen that it is now well underway.</p> |
| 4. Film studios, soundstages, and other film infrastructure. | <p>✓ Council's investment in major sound stages adds a major missing element to the film industry in Auckland. The launch of the locations dvd will have a growing impact as well.</p> |

Three out of four is not bad.



PLACES IN THE HEART

MI-M8

In October 1985 my good friend Warwick Roger the then-editor of *Metro* magazine wrote what was then thought of as the definitive article on The West. He called it simply *Out West* and it was included in his best seller *Places in the Heart*, as attached at pages M1 to M8. I was interviewed for the articles as were many of my colleagues, and his comments and indeed the article make such interesting reading, as he places the west in context of the times.

Roger wrote with a clear, concise freshness about “the west”, and how Shaboldt’s west was applauded, normalised and troubled.

West Auckland - a place where the Mayor of its largest city lived in a group house indistinguishable from that of his most financially strapped constituent; a Mayor who this year dressed in bra and knickers at the RSA on ANZAC Day.

Four tigers and 23 lions.

6680 hectares of remaining bush; where the northern and central geographical and botanical zones merge.

123,950 people and 12, 058 “known” dogs, most of them woofers, very few poodles.

14,698 tonnes of apples harvested last autumn.

14 teams of marching girls.

[...]

Where councillors worry about the spread of the ginger plant and imagine that stray dogs are the West’s greatest problem, while their fellows challenge one another to fist fights in car parks.

When he talked to me, I was an advertising man, a writer and a surfer. I had been writing for *Metro* since its inception, and like many, I was happy to inform Roger that I had gone west because I loved the beaches and it was Auckland’s last frontier, and besides, land was cheap and few of us had any choice. But we’ve stayed because we’ve come to like the place a lot. Roger said of me:

Advertising man, writer and surfer Bob Harvey came to Glen Eden from Ponsonby in 1969 for all the above reasons, but mainly to be closer to his beloved West Coast beaches. “Back then the West was all rural and uncared for,” Harvey remembers. “It still is. Nothing’s changed and I love it still. It lacks the pretensions of many of the other parts of Auckland. No one cares who their neighbours are or what they do. The rest of Auckland worries itself sick about the neighbours.

“And,” adds Harvey, “the Glen Eden fish and chip shop still does the best fish and chips in Auckland.”

I never guessed when I was talking to Roger, who I invited down to the truly terrible Potter’s Wheel to show him a bit of local westie culture that I would one day be the Mayor and in time he would anoint me Sir Robert.

He asked me who else he should talk to and I suggested the Herald columnist Barry Shaw who he had worked with at the Auckland Star, and who lived in Glendene, where he still resides. Barry, now a Henderson Community Board Member, said:

“The people in Howick are like foreigners to me. I feel like applying for a Visa every time I cross the harbour bridge. West Aucklanders are battlers a completely different breed to the rest of Auckland.”



He had come from England with four kids and no money. It was 1964.

The west was all he could afford. Shaw scraped together a £650 deposit, secured a State Advances loan and moved into a group house in Waitaki Street in Henderson, a move he has never regretted. "I don't regard myself as an Aucklander," says Shaw today. "My community is the West."

By way of illustration of Barry's point, Roger was able to pick a random page of the Waitemata City electoral roll and find the following occupations:

Married, clerk, airman, mechanic, plumber, foreman, printer, typist, painter. At the time of the last census 11,922 males (of a total of 29,700 in Waitemata City) earned between \$10,000 and \$17,999 annually. Only 948 earned over \$25,000. Most women - 21,400 of the 30,255 then living in the city - earned less than \$7999. The picture from those figures is one of dad going to work with his hands and mum at home looking after the kids; all on the average wage. It is a picture of middle New Zealand.

The west had a certain image of lawlessness, or burglary, and of crime. The Herald and indeed metro profiled many of the truly awful crimes that blighted the west, reducing property values and creating an air that the west was not a location of choice to many, but a location of cost. The local Police Chief was Superintendent Ross Dallow, and he said in the interview:

"I love the style of this place. In my time I've worked in Rotorua, Panmure, in the city and at Otahuhu, and of those the West of Auckland is most like Rotorua. It's a down to earth sort of place where the people do a good day's work for good pay and then go out and play hard and enjoy their lives."

It was clear that in the 1980s many people were hurting. Massey's west harbour district had been singled out for a government health assistance programme:

In a suburb where half the people are under 15, it isn't surprising that researchers have found a desperate need for more facilities for early childhood education (there is only one play centre in the area, one mobile pre-school unit which operates once a week, the nearest kindergarten is at Hobsonville) and for better health and recreation facilities for adolescents.

I had spent a great deal of my life helping in the community at that time. My kids were going to Oratia School. I was working on the school's 150th year celebrations. I was contributing to Hoani Waititi marae fundraising and I was trying to get a local radio station up and running with Ralph Maxwell, I had been drawn into local politics with Maxwell and worked with Chris Carter and Jack Elder, and I had worked as a strategist and advertising advisor to Mick Shanahan and the small group that had set up to get a license for the "dry" west. In those days:

The Waitakere Licensing Trust (three hotels, all small, all good; 10 bottle shops) didn't open its first pub until 1974.

There is less unemployment in the West. In mid-year there were 2013 people out of work in the west compared to almost 4000 in Auckland central, 3676 in South Auckland and just 733 on the North Shore.

At New Lynn, the McDonalds were boasting that they had just served their 100th customer of the night and that this McDonald's had the highest drive through business of any in the world. Said Chief Inspector Ross Dallow, who had already lived in the west for thirty years,

"Sure, there are still elements of the old wild west a number of people who like to get dressed up on a Saturday night and go to a party and who think nothing of coming home at 4am with a torn shirt and a black eye. It's man's country."



The media said Warwick had got it wrong. If the Western Leader and the Sunday News could convince people that the west was not a great place to spend much time alone, that it was dangerous country, it was in fact a law-abiding place.

In the first three months of this year the western Police division had the lowest number of reported offences of the city's four divisions - 3080 compared to 3314 in the North, 8441 in the South and 13, 464 in the centre of the city. Compared to the Police's Northern Division which covers the largely middle-class area of Devonport up to Warkworth, the only other area in Auckland with a roughly comparable number of people and police, the West was positively staid; just 167 violent offences compared to 195; 16 sexual offences compared to 41; and 338 acts of anti-social behaviour in the West compared to 479 in the North. Only when it came to crimes of dishonesty did the "violent" citizens of the West match their Northern cousins, and then not quite.

And then there were the Mayors - and like now they were an interesting bunch. Mayor Shadbolt was the most known. But Jack Colvin who had been the County Chairman, was still around, and when Warwick interviewed him he was 87 and still mowing his own lawn:

[A]ctive in local body affairs in the west from 1946 to 1980 when he stood down as Mayor of Waitemata City, first came to Henderson as a railway fireman. In those days the township was just a post office, butcher, grocer and the boarding house where Colvin lived until he could afford first a £110 section and late a £685 house. Colvin remembers the early Dalmatians as the true Dalmatians as the true pioneers of the West, prodigious workers who would rise before dawn to catch the train to work on the city wharves while their wives and families laboured in the family orchard or vineyard. Others worked on the pipelines and dams being built in the ranges.

Mayor Tim had just deposed Tony Covic, and he was somewhat bitter about the way it had gone. But he was an enormously successful story of survival in the west and success in business and in local government. Tony impressed Roger and when we talked last week about this story, he told me that he had seen him recently at a function and was impressed by his dignity and sense of place. He considers him one of the better leaders in the Auckland region. Tony went on to the Auckland Airport Authority and later to Chair our Enterprise Board.

The story of Tony Covic, Mayor of Waitemata before Tim Shadbolt, is typical of the second generation of Dalmatians. His earliest memories are of living in a tent on the northern gumfields. The family moved to West Auckland when young Covic was five, to land on Lincoln Road that is now the home of the Covic automotive empire. Tony Covic went back to Yugoslavia to do his motor mechanic's apprenticeship and returned to Henderson with his certificate and a wife. Today the couple have three children and live on Alwyn Avenue in Te Atatu South in a house with a view across the mangroves and down the harbour bridge and Auckland city. Covic built up his thriving business from a back yard garage, working on the steel superstructure of the buildings aided only by his sons. Today he is a rich man, some say a millionaire. He drives a late model Daimler and owns a 40 foot launch which he also built largely by himself, but his lifestyle is hardly one of a man without money worries. That would not be the Western way.

I wanted to talk to Warwick about how he saw the west now, and if he was writing out west again, how would he put it and in what context would he see what would be an undoubted success story.



He said the last section of my story summed it all up. The piece is really about the future, not only of the west, but of New Zealand's future. Warwick and I both agreed that in fact it was true, and apt. I have used it twice in my election campaigns and I unashamedly say that anyone who wants to stand for public office to use it, and it is s true now as it was in 1985. But it is interesting to see the other players and where their lives have taken them. Shaw and Dallow are involved now in the Council and so am I. But the City and the region has evolved and changed for the better, and for the best.

I think that in West Auckland we can see new Zealand's future. You can see it in the faces of the kids who hang out at Henderson Square on a Friday night. They have the dark eyes of the Dalmatian coast, the cheekbones of Polynesia, the accents of Aotearoa. They come from Juillian Drive in Ranui, levy Road in Glen Eden, Garelja Place in Henderson and Kervil Avenue in Tat North where their parents came without very much, worked and made good. The kids will do better. That's how it has always been.

October 1985

In the 10th anniversary of Waitakere City Council ecocity, these narratives are stories from almost another world. Whenever things appear not to be moving as quickly as they could be, it is worth reflecting on how much has changes for the better in just 17 years.

MILESTONES

DIED Esmā Gordon

One of this City's most interesting characters and a truly charming and wonderful woman, Esmā was a woman who devoted her life to guiding and became internationally renowned because of her service. I used to see her at many of the Lopdell House openings, as she loved art and the creative spirit. She was enthusiastic with folk dancing and I am told she was dancing right up until her passing at the age of 90.

Esmā was the matriarch of the Gordon family, who have lived on the Scenic Drive for half a century. This City would like to record a tribute to her life and her commitment to Guiding, which the New Zealand government awarded her a Queen's Service Medal, and a Millennium Medal by Waitakere City Council.

She was buried in the Settler's Church in Titirangi and will be greatly missed.

DIED Fred "Buddy" Lucas of Piha

M9-M15 Swimmer, lifeguard, custodian. I have known buddy Lucas for most of my life, one of Piha's legends. Buddy died on Sunday the 21st following a stroke. One of New Zealand's most renowned champion swimmers, Buddy was in 1950 the first New Zealander to be awarded an American college scholarship, which took into consideration his outstanding swimming. Lucas returned to New Zealand after marrying, and worked in his father's business, the Queens Street menswear store of FDR Lucas, one of the great All Blacks of the 1930s. Buddy Lucas has been the stalwart of the Piha Surf Lifesaving Club for almost fifty years. A mentor and friend to many lifeguards, and his life in many ways revolved around the surf club and the Piha community. A large funeral was held on the forecourt of the Club and addressed by myself and Club life member Roger Curtis and Dennis Black. This City extends itself heartfelt sympathy to members of the Lucas family and his children Greg, Brad, and Liane. Attached at pages M9 to M15 is the eulogy from Rodger Curtice, Buddy's good friend and a stalwart lifeguard.



DIED Dr David Lewis

Long time resident of Herald Island and is one of the greatest navigational seafarers since Captain Cook. Lewis was awarded a Millennium Medal by the City of Waitakere for his lifelong commitment to Polynesian navigation knowledge. His essays and papers delivered over the years set a milestone in the way that navigation of the ancient Polynesians found their way around the vast Pacific. Lewis was able to define the methods used in the sailing voyages, setting course by evening and morning stars. He became a world-renowned figure following his publication *Polynesian Navigational Methods*.

He wrote extensively for *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, and sailed extensively in his boat *Icebird* around the Antarctic continent. His book following this amazing journey that saw him capsize three times became a best seller and he is considered with Thor Heyerdal one of the most renowned seafarers of the 20th Century.

I paddled down the Waitemata Harbour with him alongside his ill-fated Voyage to the Caroline Islands to return a sacred navigational barnacle that had been given to Bligh by the Caroline Islanders. Both his boat and the barnacle ended a very brief voyage after striking a rock off Great Barrier. The barnacle was retrieved but not the case of wine the City had donated to him.

M16-M21 He has been recently based in Australia, and he passed away following a stroke, as attached at pages M16 to M21.

The following was provided by Cr G Russell on the passing of Dr David Lewis:

David at the age of 87 finished his final voyage in Brisbane last Monday evening after a stroke. David a New Zealander with family ties to the West from his mothers connections with O'Neils beach and in recent times lived on Herald Island preparing his boat *Taniwhai* for his next voyage of research and adventure.

David is a medical practitioner, adventurer, researcher, scientist, author, mountaineer and sailor who grew up in New Zealand and his latest book *Shapes on the Wind* was a best seller and is in reprint around the world. David was single-minded in his achievements having first third in the first singled-handed Atlantic race and then built a catamaran and was first to sail a multi-hull around the world with his family.

He then took up the research and as a scientist he became the first navigator in modern times to sail a cross the Pacific without modern instruments using traditional Polynesian navigation methods. This academic research was written in a best seller book 'Navigator' and changed much of the thinking at that time on the exploration of the Pacific, proving that the Polynesian people were traders and not just settlers of Pacific islands. As a research-fellow of Australia National University and Director of the Polar Research Institute he undertook research in human endurance in cold climates.

His most famous solo voyage was in his boat *Icebird*, which circumnavigated the Antarctica and was an account of survival and courage. He was a modern-day explorer and acknowledged by National Geographic Society as the explorer of the decade. He was the recipient of numerous awards and citations, a few were the Gold medal of the Royal Institute of Navigation, and was recently made a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigators, only one of five recipients to be awarded in its history. Chichester Award, Blue Water Medal, RYS Award for single hand sailing, plus many NZ research and maritime awards.

Quote from T.E.Lawrence as found in *Icebird*.

All men dream: but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act out their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible.



The following obituary is provided by Harper Collins publishers on the death of Dr David Lewis:

RIP Dr David Lewis (DCNZM)

It is with great sadness that HarperCollins Publishers announces the death of Dr David Lewis, one of the world's greatest marine explorers and navigators, author of twelve books, and much-loved friend, father and grandfather.

Dr Lewis, whose autobiography, *Shapes on the Wind*, was released by HarperCollins in 2000, was, in the words of the late Sir Peter Blake, 'an adventurer second to none'. In 2001, he was made a 'Sir' after being awarded New Zealand's highest honour, the Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Born in England but raised in New Zealand, Dr Lewis took his medical degree in Leeds, England, and during the Second World War was a Parachute Battalion Medical Officer in the British Army. After the war, he became a port doctor and a physician in a leper colony in Jamaica and then returned to England to set up a general practice. But sailing was Dr Lewis's real passion.

In 1960, he placed third in the first single-handed transatlantic race, won by Francis Chichester, and raced again in 1964. That same year, he quit his practice to sail with his wife and two children around the world in a catamaran, *Rehu Moana*, the first multihull circumnavigation. In the 1970s, he made the first-ever single-handed voyage to Antarctica in a yacht, the subject of perhaps his best known work, *Ice Bird*, which was re-released by HarperCollins in 2001, and led several subsequent expeditions in Antarctica, the Pacific, Central Australia, the Soviet Far East and Alaska. In late 2000, aged 83, Dr Lewis fitted out a new yacht, *Leander*, and sailed up the east coast of Australia.

On 23 October 2002 he passed away in Gympie Hospital, Queensland, with his family by his bedside. He will be much missed by the staff of HarperCollins, where he made many friends and inspired us all with his grace, wit, style and boundless energy. In the months leading up to his death, Lewis wrote a new chapter for *Shapes on the Wind*, the updated version of which will be released in Australia and New Zealand in December.

MARCHED The People of Waitakere City Against the Spraying

October saw the confirmation and the commencement of the massive aerial spraying for the Painted Apple Moth. While it is appreciated that the purpose is to protect the environment, the process is causing unnecessary anxiety and stress in this community.

Over the past ten years Waitakere City has stood up for biodiversity, and since the Painted Apple Moth invasion seriously endangers that biodiversity, the moth now stands as the greatest immediate threat that the eco city has yet faced.

On Saturday, 13 October, over 600 people marched up Waikumete Hill to the Kelston Community Centre. Some Councillors marched with them, including Greg Presland and Annette Fenton. I was pleased that they and Councillors Penny Hulse, Carolynne Stone, and Judy Lawley stood with me as the Deputy Mayor and I addressed the crowd.

M22-M24 It is clear that, while people are not yet angry, they are certainly fearful and anxious for the health and safety of themselves and their families. I support the eradication of the Painted Apple Moth. However it is simply appalling that the largest single pest eradication programme is being conducted over a highly populated area without releasing for public scrutiny what the ingredients of this spray are, as attached at pages M22 to M24.



RETURNED From the People's Republic of China

I noted in the previous Mayoral Report that Massey Community Board Member Peter Chan and his wife Audrey were given the great honour of being invited to the annual celebrations. I enclose below a report by Peter on his travels.

The Beijing Experience

I have been asked to give my impression on my 7-day stay in Beijing.

It is indeed a great honour for myself and my family to be invited to the National Day Celebration by the Chinese government on behalf of the Chinese Community in New Zealand.

I am also much honoured that Audrey and myself were asked by Mayor Bob to act as official envoys from Waitakere City.

The year 2002 is significant; not only does it mark the 53rd anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China, but also marks the 30th anniversary of the beginning of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and China.

It was our first trip to Beijing. We arrived at the Beijing International Airport in the late afternoon on the 26th. We received VIP treatment on arrival. Two Audis took us to the Beijing Hotel. On the way, we saw that the roads were packed with cars. We were told that there were around 800,000 vehicles on the road every day.

Both Audrey and I have enjoyed a wonderful time, from touring the Great Wall and other United Nations recognised heritage sites, to having a state dinner at the People's Great Hall, and a very nostalgic banquet with the Beijing Municipality at the 5-star Beijing Hotel. The State Dinner at the People's Great Hall was hosted by Mr Li Rui-huan, the third top Chinese leader and Mr Wang Zhao-guo, the Minister of Propaganda.

The banquet hall of the Beijing Hotel can accommodate 200 tables. It was also in this hall that the inaugural banquet of the establishment of the People's Republic of China was held. Together with other overseas Chinese leaders from other parts of the globe, we attended the banquet hosted by the Beijing Municipality on 30 September. I was seated with the no. 1 Deputy mayor at Top Table no. 3 (There are altogether nine deputy mayors in Beijing because of the size of its 13 million population). Prior to the banquet, arrangement was made for the Maori greenstone from the Waitakere City Council to be presented to the Deputy Mayor and the "wooden bowl" to the Director of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office. Mrs Ling, the number one deputy Mayor, welcomed me and sent her best wishes to the people of Waitakere City on behalf of the Mayor. The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office is reading up on New Zealand, and preparing for some future trips to New Zealand.



Beijing has been the capital of China for 800 years, and there are over 7,000 sightseeing spots.

Perhaps the most lasting impression was the relaxed atmosphere and the astonishing qualities of the majestic and magnificent buildings in the Forbidden City. The Forbidden City - which is called the Palace Museum now - was the royal palace of the Ming and Quing dynasties. Its construction began in 1406. In the years after its completion, 24 emperors ruled the country from the site, for nearly 500 years.



On the cultural side, we were invited to see the Beijing opera. Though shared with a common origin, the Beijing Opera is different from Cantonese Opera. It is even more elaborate in make-up and acrobatics.

Another tour worth mentioning is our visit to the Mutian yu Great Wall. Built in the mid-6th century, the Mutian yu Great Wall lies in the northeast of Beijing. We rode up the hill by cable car and walked down hill to see the spectacular view.

Finally, I am grateful to both the Chinese government and the Waitakere City Council. On behalf of the Chinese community in New Zealand, I welcome the growing friendship and understanding between the two countries.

Peter Chan
Massey Community Board

REOPENED The New Lynn Police Station

The venerable old icon of New Lynn, its red brick Police Station, has been given a new lease of life recently. New Lynn Community Board Chairperson Elizabeth Francke attended the opening and filed this report:

Anybody who goes into Senior Sergeant Ray Smith's office at the New Lynn Police Station with a grizzle would easily come out in a better mood.

It's hard to imagine a more benevolent-seeming small room. Sunny, with pot plants all in flower, ranged along the windowsill. Fussy teddy-bears and stuffed toy puppies on every surface; photos, photos, photos, of friendly coppers, smiling citizens and a great many radiantly beaming Alsatian dogs with their tongues hanging out (Sergeant Smith was formerly a dog-handler).

New Lynn's tiny police station has recently been spruced up with a more convenient layout and fresh paint, and staff marked the occasion with a very well catered morning-tea for various friends and associates. The Senior Sergeant's Cosy office was a surprise to someone whose idea of a police-station interior is taken from The Bill. But make no mistake; he's every inch a policeman and there are about 77 inches there, I should think. Only a fool would mess with the kindly and courteous Sergeant Smith.

SIGNED The UNITEC Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNITEC and Waitakere City is a significant milestone in the transformation of Henderson as a town centre, but more importantly, in the transformation in the aspirations and hopes of Waitakere citizens.

This Memorandum of Understanding acknowledges:

- Our joint commitment to people building through education.
- Our shared resolve to enhance the prosperity of Waitakere communities and business.
- The vision we each have for a sustainable future.

The protracted negotiations over some years that have brought us to this point are something of an epic, but it is clear that we have in UNITEC a progressive partner whose understanding and empathy for sustainability and the environment are very similar to ours.

This significant partnership arrangement and the projects that are under way will proceed irrespective of whether merger talks between UNITEC and AUT proceed further.



LAUNCHED AND LUNCHEd The Waitakere City Film industry

The launch of the locations DVD and the announcement of Council's backing of film studios in Henderson have seen Waitakere City ride the national wave of publicity over the film production industry in New Zealand. On Friday, 11 October, Enterprise Waitakere and I hosted a Mayoral Breakfast on film which was well attended and brought the local industry players together. The demand for film production studios has always been there, but it has long been the case that while we have always been a locations magnet, the vital interior shots - and their budgets - have often gone elsewhere. Now demand is so high that even with Council managing a large facility, interest from even larger projects has meant that demand still seems to outstrip supply. For bookings, contact Brian Saipe at Enterprise Waitakere.

Alongside this boom in the production industries, come the pressures upon the employments markets for skilled workers in such diverse occupations as pattern makers, sample machinists, electricians, grips, lighting technicians, engineers, plastics and composites manufacturers, sculptors, set designers, financial expertise in production and executive production, and so the list goes on.

With a similar shortage in skilled trades people due to the surge in boat building, crossover courses are needed that allow, for example, electricians to make the jump into becoming grips. For this to occur, industry coordination is vital. So it was with real pleasure that I called.

SIGNED AND ENACTED The Te Araroa Trust

In previous Mayoral Reports I have mentioned the work of this Trust, and some of my own sojourns in helping it along the way. Led by the doughty Geoff Chapple, this Trust aims to fire the imagination of those who wish to see their country from the top to the bottom.

In a variety of sections from Cape Reinga to the Bluff, using existing Department of Conservation, territorial authority and regional authority tracks, the Trust aims to establish a seamless network right throughout the country. Earlier this month, in a simple but important ceremony, the Trust members and the Minister of Conservation the Hon. Chris Carter signed a deed of cooperation and recognition in the Council Chambers.

Te Araroa - The Long Pathway - is an adventure that every kiwi should undertake once in their lifetime. Geoff red extensively at our recent Going West festival from the chapter where I guided him through the Pariraha wetlands and through Whatipu linking the pathway through the Auckland isthmus.

The book will be launched on 18 November at 6.00 pm at the Stardome Observatory in One Tree Hill and Councillors are cordially invited to attend.

BEGUN The Waitemata Harbour Cleanup Trust

What began as simply a good idea for two men and a boat, has grown into a regional project with the full backing of the major local authorities in the region. Just as the Police have dedicated teams out on the harbour keeping the lives and security of the America's Cup flotilla safe, it has been clear for some time that the environment of the harbour must be maintained. For too long the rubbish that has accumulated around the Waitemata Harbour has been hidden simply by its great size. But now, with a marked increase in usage from pleasure craft, and in the future by increased ferry usage, the cleanliness of the harbour is absolutely vital to maintain.

The Harbour Cleanup Trust will be funded to travel the Waitemata's inner harbour, taking up the trash and debris and bringing it back to the Waitakere City Refuse Transfer Station. This is a wonderfully innovative project led by Jon Roscoe the Manager of the City's cutting edge solid waste unit. This new service will be launched by the end of the year. The boat will be called *The Phil Warren* in honour of the great environmental initiatives he undertook while Chairperson of the Auckland Regional Council.



CELEBRATED The Annual Deepawali Festival

This astonishing sacred festival celebrating the Festival of Light grows year by year. Over 1,200 people filled the Big Top this year, where Councillor Fenton and I were garlanded with flowers, feasted royally at a banquet, and were treated to the most exquisite dancers and performances. It is fortunate that the new Waitakere Sports Complex is underway, because it will take an events centre capable of holding thousands to accommodate the growth of this strong, vibrant sector of our community.

CONSULTED On Work in New Lynn

On 15 October I held a small and informal gathering of New Lynn opinion leaders concerning the future of retail in New Lynn, and of Council's work processes. While of course the speed of progress has not been as quick as hoped, I still believe that I would rather do it right even if that takes time.

The Council will continue to hold further meetings through to the end of this year, as a variety of work-streams converge, including; the exciting new Todd Triangle redevelopments and concept plans, the completion of the new level crossing from Veronica Street taking some pressure off the Totara Avenue roundabout, the way forward for the new library, the new train station, ongoing traffic engineering work, and landscaping.

RUN The Waitakere Fun Run

On Sunday, 13 October 2002 at the Waitakere Stadium, At the beginning of the Push Play week, the fifth annual Waitakere Fun Run organised by one of this City's most enthusiastic and well known competitors Nick Schouton of Henderson Valley, brought together a new course that was an absolute winner and with the Council cooperation who made sure that the run home along the Opanuku Stream was a dream. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Nick on an excellent run (11.5 km marathon). Nick's enthusiasm and determination to make this a major civic event is starting to pay off. I was delighted to join in the race and later with Councillor Dallow present prizes. The City gave two cup to the Best Secondary School male and female winners.

LAUNCHED The Auckland Regional Economic Development Strategy

M25-M39 The launch by the Prime Minister of the Auckland Regional Economic Development Strategy on Wednesday, 16 October was a significant milestone in the recognition that - for better and for worse - the Auckland region is far and away the driving commercial centre of the country. Its dominance is likely to increase, and so is its required share of the resources needed to keep its people housed, educated and skilled, employed and with hope and aspiration. The launch by the Prime Minister signalled clearly that central government is now for the first time recognising the infrastructure needs that the Auckland region needs help with if it is to achieve its economic potential, as attached at pages M25 to M39.

RETURNED Councillor Clews

M40-M59 Councillor Clews always returns with interesting ideas and I am pleased to include her thoughts following her recent visit to the United States, as attached at pages M40 to M59.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Mayor be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY

