

Council

**Wednesday, 24 September 2003
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

PART B

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

**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, 24 SEPTEMBER 2003,
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

GE MORATORIUM AND WAITAKERE

Following the last election this City Council voted overwhelmingly to become "GE Free in field and food". It was a bold and appropriate decision, fitting our eco-city direction and our vision for sustainability, with an awareness that there were too many unknowns about Genetic Engineering.

This decision was not taken lightly - it was debated and many community groups and individuals took place in the debate and the advice. The decision was applauded, and opened up the opportunity for Waitakere to create an economic zone around the GE-free agenda.

Now, within weeks of this report, the government intends to lift the moratorium on GE (now referred to in legislation as Genetically Modified Organisms).

I feel disappointed that this decision seems to be absolutely cut and dried, and that the government are quite determined to lift the moratorium and proceed to become a GMO nation. It seems so counterproductive to our international image - especially with the clean green 100% Pure campaign hailed as one of the most successful in the history of national promotion.

Two weeks ago I stood with a team of "personalities" at Britomart and at the ferry buildings handing out postcards that urged Aucklanders to text a message of concern to the Prime Minister and Cabinet under the heading "Take 5", meaning "take another five years before lifting the moratorium". I have never been part of a more positive protest - everyone seemed to acknowledge what the postcards symbolised. There was the odd person who said no thanks - but there was no abuse or sour words passed between the givers and the receivers. Clearly most New Zealanders feel that all of this is a little early.

I have urged Local Government New Zealand to put this matter on the agenda and I have worked carefully to lift the awareness both in Queenstown at the Local Government New Zealand conference and in the media along with the Council for Sustainability.

One clear area of concern is the interface between the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act and the Resource Management Act, or more generally, the rights and responsibilities of local government. In two crucial aspects, HSNO is weaker than the Resource Management Act. The first area of concern is the degree of precaution required. While the Resource Management Act has generally been interpreted as embodying the precautionary principle, the High Court rejected arguments from appellants (to an ERMA decision) that HSNO contained the precautionary principle.

The second issue is liability. HSNO contains no liability sanctions for ERMA approved activities. Yet, should a contamination incident occur, the Resource Management Act makes local authorities responsible for cleanup costs and if thinly capitalised companies are used by applicants, the chance of any recovery of significant spending is remote.



It would seem fair in those circumstances for local authorities to be at least given the option to decline a GM release in their area as a means of protecting against any development that could not provide sufficient financial surety.

Local authorities will hold a responsibility for the release of GMO's into the lands we administer. As a consequence I propose the following:

THAT this Council requests a report to the November Council meeting on its liabilities and consultative responsibilities for the consequences following release of Genetically Modified Organisms under the various Acts it administers.

THAT this Council requests a report to the November Council meeting on sustaining our competitive advantage in organic food production beyond the introduction Genetically Modified organisms into the City, and that this report be prepared in close association with Enterprise Waitakere.

We must take a firm and realistic position on what we stand for. After being sprayed with \$90 million worth of chemicals for two years, I would say that we have suffered enough through bio-security cleanup programmes. We do not need any more clean-up programmes following the release of GMO's. It is now time for this Council to indicate strongly the way we feel GMO'S can be regulated in Waitakere City.

M1-M30 I for one do not want to hear that we cannot do anything; that we do not wish to advocate against the moratorium, or that what we vote for is simply a set of token gestures. We are better than that. There are things that local government has to stand up for. I enclose the paper from the Sustainability Council concerning the possible impact of GMO releases upon local government, along with a release on the subject I issued recently as attached at pages M1 to M30.

WHEN THE WHITE HOUSE TURNS BRAUN

In 1999 at the swearing in of the Labour Government and the new Prime Minister Helen Clark, I sat in the Speaker's Chamber of Parliament with the American Ambassador to New Zealand Ms Carol-Moseley Braun. I had met her only briefly before, and been asked to look her up by the American mayors network, who held her in high regard. A Clinton appointment, Carol had a rough passage to New Zealand through the House of Representatives who had questioned the appointment and some of her financial dealings with foreign governments and investors. But finally she was given the ok to represent the American Eagle in Aotearoa.

Moseley-Braun fell in love with the country and toured extensively, combining delightful oratory with a strong presence and a great sense of fashion. I liked her enormously and invited her to Waitakere. When she arrived I threw a morning tea in the Mayoral lounge and was somewhat desperate for audience as only Councillor Nash turned up. Staff and assistants weighed in to bulk up the numbers, and then we were off to Arataki and to the Marae.

The marae laid it on and I was pleased that our impromptu stop off in the Mayoral Jeep was such a good call. Peter Sharples was demonstrating Taiaha and Mosely Braun and her group of Chicago women friends became not only a great audience but also terrific fans of the Maori renaissance. They bought much of the works from the carving group and after a cup of tea we left for a tour of the rest of the City.

On the way to Arataki she told me that Hillary Clinton was urging her to stand for the Presidency of the United States and she intended to do just that. I do not know if I thought that this controversial black woman would ever make it to first base given the American selection process. But I promised to keep an eye out for her and we have corresponded regularly since that last visit to Waitakere.



Well true to her word she has entered the race for the presidency of the United States, with the support of the Clintons and with the Democratic elite of Georgetown and Washington. She is very much a Clinton find; she fits the stylish mode that they brought to the White House.

Her time in New Zealand and Waitakere obviously influenced her, and her speech to the Democratic Convention is full of reference to Maori spirituality so one could only guess that that invitation I made to visit Arataki and a chance call to the marae has blazed a trail all the way to the American presidential campaign. On Salon.com a few weeks ago, reporter Michelle Goldberg noted at a recent Democratic convention:

Carol Moseley Braun, a former senator from Illinois and an ambassador to New Zealand, was a snore until she hit the crowd's sweet spot. She began, speaking softly and slowly, by going on a strange, longwinded tangent about the way the Maori people of New Zealand conceive of time. The point, she finally said, is that "progress is not linear. It moves in fits and starts. The question is whether progress will be towards a vision that we embrace or a vision embraced by someone else." In the room, already a quarter empty, a young woman in a red cardigan nodded off.

Midway through her speech, though, she, like the other candidates, tapped into the boiling frustration of liberals stunned by Bush's post-9/11 right-wing audacity. This administration, she said, "is using our pain over 9/11 as a smoke screen for an extreme political agenda." Speaking about the way the war in Afghanistan dispersed al-Qaida without bringing America any closer to catching Osama Bin Laden, she said, "It was the functional equivalent of someone having a crack house down the street with murderers in it, and going and blowing up the crack house and letting the murderers get away." And the crowd really went nuts when she referred to the "un-elected president" who is "pandering to fear to keep us at war until the elections are over.

Councillor Nash thank you for coming to the morning tea for Carol Moseley-Braun. I'll see that you get an invitation to the White house with me!

MILESTONES

Died - Eve Laing Of Huia

Beloved wife of Norman Laing, and one of the most respected women of the Manukau foreshore. Eve passed away on Sunday, 7 September 2003 at North Shore Hospital after a long illness against which she battled courageously. She was the deeply loved wife of Norm, mother of Glenys and Lesley, mother in law of Rob and Nana to Tristan, Daniel, and Sonia, and a co-founder and hard working Committee Member of the Huia Settlers Museum. This great link with Waitakere's past will be sadly missed by us all and I was pleased to be able to represent the Council at the funeral.

Awarded To Chief Executive

The International Judo Federation at its Congress on 9 September, carried out a number of awards to various dignitaries. High among the awards was Waitakere City's own Chief Executive Harry O'Rourke, who was awarded a Silver Medal for his services to the sport of Judo on national and international level.

Harry is currently the President of the New Zealand Judo Federation. He is the President of the Commonwealth Judo Association and recently retired from the executive of the Oceania Judo Union after some 26 years in that role. He received the International Judo Federation's Bronze Medal for services for Judo in 1982. He also served on the International Judo Federation's Audit Committee for 15 years.



Harry has been involved in Judo for 35 years, occupying many roles from Club Instructor to President of Auckland Judo Association and was one of the Sports Commissioners for the 1990 Commonwealth Games. He helped form the Commonwealth Judo Association in 1984 and has been the President unopposed since 1986. He was instrumental in bringing the Commonwealth Judo Championships to Waitakere City where it will be held in the new stadium in November 2004. I am sure that the Council joins with me in congratulating Harry.



A WEEK OF FESTIVALS

Pacifica Festival - Corban Winery Estate

The Pacifica festival yet again came onto our agenda somewhat hurried and unfortunately clashing with the opening of the Going West literary festival. Nevertheless it was attended by the MP Taito Philip Field, who praised greatly the Waitakere initiative, and was joined by his colleague the Member of Parliament for Waitakere Lynne Pillay and John Tamihere Member of Parliament for Tāmaki Makaurau. This festival provides a real niche for Pacific people in Waitakere, and I feel it has enormous potential to grow throughout the community and the commercial sector of Henderson. At present it is confined to mainly a Pacific audience and many of us feel that it could reach more people with the development of other events around it.

Early September - often unpredictably cold and wet - seems a strange time to hold a Pacific festival. It could be scheduled to complement the Style Pacifica of Westfield. I would think that although we want to have a Waitakere feel, it tends to not have an overflow into the mall or other retail areas, and it lacks a civic focus.

These are small issues considering the strength of the festival, but it would also make sense to me if on the Saturday we could feature a major Pacific sports event. All of these things need to be thought through, because the festival has a perfect theme to grow in the years ahead.



Going West

This festival of books and the written word, is one of the sheer gems of the nation's literary calendar. This year's event was superbly promoted across the whole spectrum of media, and the audience built because of it from the extraordinary powhiri that greeted a coterie of literati, to Titirangi and the community hall where the festival was held over two days. Conceived and driven with a superb programme by Murray Grey and Naomi McCleary supported by a team of workers, sound, light and caterers, its respect in the world of publishing and writers is enormous.

I would like to compliment the team for the programme, although it had a slow start with Geoff Park. Geoff is a giant of environmental research and landscape writing, and one of the most esteemed of environmental speakers. However his keynote address was academic and lacked a certain spark for a Friday night lift-off. Nevertheless I enjoyed his presentation, together with CK Stead reading his homage to Allen Curnow.

Perhaps the "find" of the festival was Sam Sampson, who opened the Saturday programme. The amazing interview at the end of the festival with James McNeish in dialogue with David Baragwanath, around his new book *The Dance of the Peacocks*, was a powerful way to conclude proceedings.

Between Stead and McNeish was a wide and extraordinarily varied programme; the intensity of engagement with the audience, fun, good humour, poetry mixed with fiction, and mixed with fact.

This festival will be complemented by the steam train excursion to Helensville and a line-up of the brightest and best performing at each station along the way.

It was good to see Cr Lawley fresh off the plane from Turkey and Cr Hulse with us on Friday night. I would like to see more councillors support this important Council sponsored forum.

INAUGURAL WAITAKERE ORCHESTRA

If you want to know how a great idea can flourish, ask Brigid Bisley, who eight months ago emailed me with an idea of a Waitakere orchestra. Her energy and passion combined with a talent for conducting and composing, brought the orchestra into being with a rehearsal in March and a truly dazzling performance to launch the first Waitakere Orchestra at the Glen Eden Playhouse.

M31-M33 The programme consisting of Mozart, Sibelius, Rossini and Verdi, included two magnificent artists singing a duet from *La Traviata*, and the remarkable Titirangi tenor Paul Chappory and former staff member Ann Cheng (Soprano) as attached at pages M31 to M33.

This refurbished theatre showed off its solid acoustic properties and proved an ideal venue for a packed audience. It is rare to find people being turned away at events in Waitakere, but on this occasion the box office closed 30 minutes before the performance started, every seat being sold.

It was disappointing to see no Councillors in the audience, but Elizabeth Franke was acknowledged for her presence. The Rt. Hon. Jonathan, my co-Patron, made a very complimentary speech on stage to Brigid and she deserved it all. I have helped Brigid with applications for funding and it is with the generous support of the Portage Trust (and hopefully soon the Waitakere Trust), this orchestra will grow from strength to strength. I look forward to Brigid Bisley performing and complementing the Waitakere City Trusts Brass Band and bringing the orchestra to our major events in the future.



SCULPTURE AND ART AWARDS

This event sponsored by the Waitakere Trust and held at the West Wave Aquatic Centre, has grown in strength and quality, with exceptional range of media and number of works. It is now difficult to choose because of the wide and sheer scale of this exhibition, but everything is of great merit and at a reasonable price. I was stunned by the talent and commitment of our local painters and sculptors. Congratulations to the Waitakere Trust who have sponsored this group and seen it grow over the years.

I was delighted to join the new President of the Trust, Warren Flaunty and former Deputy Mayor Bob Stanic on this occasion and to praise the work and open the exhibition.

AWARDED - ART SCHOLARSHIP

As a further signal of their support for the arts, I am pleased that the Trusts Waitakere City Art Scholarship has been awarded to Jesus de Lester of Liston College. This award entails \$5000 towards the fees at any visual arts institution in New Zealand, and \$500 to the art department of the winners' school. My congratulations to both the winning artist and the school. A strong display of secondary school art from many secondary schools is current showing in the foyer of Waitakere City Council's main building for the next few weeks, and is a demonstration that art in Waitakere City has a strong future ahead. I would encourage everyone to take the time for a good viewing of this display.

DON OLIVER AWARDS

The "full house" sign was also up for this event at the Lincoln Green. Next year the dinner will move to the events centre, and this was a great overture to next year's main event. The extraordinary benefactors of sports and young people Brian and Pat Heron bring this event together, and this year they excelled themselves by selling most of the tables through their own industry. The good news was that the plumbers of Waitakere and their partners were exceptionally generous, and the event raised nearly \$12,000 towards scholarships for young achievers in the west. This year's crop of our most promising young men and women were awarded the Don Oliver Scholarships and I wanted to particularly single out for praise the New Zealand under 16 100 metre title winner and long jump champion Massey High School athlete Jeffrey Thumath.

His story of achievement and challenge after being diagnosed with cancer is one of the most moving and compelling and it was great to see Jeffrey receive his award. I am including the North and South profile of this promising young man. The rest of the winners were no less impressive and we will see much of the in the years ahead. They are:

Diving

Tony Donaldson aged 16 of Te Atatu South. \$3000 results so far for 2003 1 New Zealand record and 3 New Zealand championships at both age group and open.

Shaye Boddington age 17 of Henderson. \$2000 results so far for 2003 3rd Australian open champs. Aim is to qualify for the Athens Olympic games.



Swimming

Kelly Newcombe age 15 of Oratia. \$3000 results so far for 2003 have put her 3rd in the world for her age group: 50 and 100 metres backstroke age group champion both in New Zealand record times. 200 metres backstroke and 200 metre Individual Medley gold. Australian age groups champs; 2 gold medals for 50 and 100 metres backstroke again breaking her New Zealand records.

Mark Herring age 19 of Massey. \$3000 results so far for 2003 have also put Mark to 3rd in the world for his age in this event. Broke New Zealand age group record for 100 metres freestyle in the youth Olympics in Sydney against top age groupers from America, Japan, Australia and Canada bronze for the 50 metre freestyle.

Melissa Ingram age 18 of West Harbour. \$3000 results so far for 2003: youth Olympics in Sydney gold and bronze for the backstroke (just missed by .02sec in making the world open champs).

Athletics

M34-M41 Jeffrey Thumath age 18 of Massey. \$2000 results so far for 2003 New Zealand under 20 long jump champion at 6.98 metres 3rd in the men's open. set a new New Zealand record of 7.26 metres at the Auckland Secondary school champs. 7th in the Australian long jump champs, article attached at pages M34 to M41.

Simon Bucknell age 17 of Glendene. \$2000 results so far for 2003 8th in the under 18 North Island country champs and 16th in the national champs. Used these events to build strength for his 800 and 1500 metres specialist distances. Came back from injury to achieve: 2nd in the 1500m at the nationals Auckland titles for both 800 and 1500 metres.

Netball

Francie Stacey age 18 of Kelston. \$2000 results so far for 2003 New Zealand Secondary schools Netball team. Ultimate goal: selection for Silver Ferns. Immediate goal: selection in the Diamonds franchise team for next year.

ADULT EDUCATION WEEK

I was honoured to be asked to make a keynote address to the Adult Learners breakfast that kicked off this important week, celebrating re-learning and re-inventing the self. Led by Dorothy McGray and her team of workers and educators, the Waitakere breakfast was an important event not to be underestimated in what it does for our community. I was moved to meet one of the Council's security guards who I have got know over the years, who told me that he has just learnt to read and write, and the pleasure that that has given him.

M42-M50 The room was full of achievers that had reinvented their lives and found new purpose and strength. I enclose my speech notes as attached at pages M42 to M50.

THE YELLOW PAGES

As a team-building exercise the West/Central Sales Team for the Yellow Pages undertook some community projects in the Waitakere area. Nothing deterred their enthusiasm, and on a wet, rainy night when most people were relaxing, they upgraded the path at the Man Alive men's Centre. In pouring rain they dug out the path, lined it with weed mat and covered it with white chip, all in two hours. It was an awesome effort, and in between times while waiting for trailers of chip they squeezed in a game of Touch Rugby. Man Alive, and the City, thanks the team for their commitment and contribution.



FURTHER IT INITIATIVE

A new organization, know as Work Raft, has been formed in Waitakere City. Work Raft is a charitable trust established to provide a flexible and responsive approach to developing models for community-based technology projects. Although the Trust will be working to support initiatives throughout New Zealand, many of its initial projects are likely to complement and support Waitakere City's eco-tech campaign.

M51-M52 Work Raft is the brainchild of Bevis England, Waitakere City's Ambassador for information technology. I am excited by the development of Work Raft and would urge Council to examine how the Trusts work fits with Council's goals in this area, as attached at pages M51 to M52.

CHINESE MOON FESTIVAL

M53 The face of Waitakere City is changing - and it is a wonderful thing. In New Lynn, community and Council leaders got together to stage the first ever Moon Festival, as attached at page M53. In the northern hemisphere this is timed to celebrate the harvest in late summer and early autumn. In New Zealand, it is intended to be at the first signs of spring. Spring however was not in evidence on the night. Certainly the moon was nowhere to be seen - but the 2,000 strong crowd which attended this wonderful celebration were not put off by the wind and rain.

It felt for a moment like Hong Kong in the middle of a late tropical storm, with swirls of colour, banging gongs, tightly packed markets and food stalls, silk banners, costumes and great performances all around.







The Chinese Consulate General Yang Xui Ping, Mr Kazuaki Kameda, Senior Consul, of Japan, His Excellency, Mr Ho Joon Moon, Consul General, of South Korea, and the Hon. David Cunliffe Member of Parliament joined us.

This was a celebration of everything that we know and love of the East Asian cultures, a spectacle of dances, of firecrackers, of sheer energy. There is a powerful sense of community as Chinese, Korean, Japanese and other east Asian communities form and join communities and sports clubs, from Churches to Tai Chi, from Karate to Thai Dancing. We are all far richer as a community for the food, the language and literature, the music, the East Asian sense of style that you have all brought.

This is a city that welcomes new migrants. Over 20% of the population of New Lynn is Asian. No other area in New Zealand apart from Howick has more Asians, and we welcome them all.

I want to pay a particular tribute here to Peter and Audrey Chan. Together they have brought a much stronger sense of the Chinese cultures into the City Council. Through Audrey and Peter the Council saw its first dragon dance, in the middle of a Council meeting, which is quite a formal affair. At the full Council meeting I am very pleased to see that the fundraising efforts of the Cantonese Opera Society donated most graciously to the Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club, and due largely to the efforts of Audrey and Peter. Congratulations to you both.

They have also brought to us the joys of Chinese opera, and have joined together the Chinese community - with its celebrations including Chinese New Year - right into the heart of everything that we do.

This was the greatest Asian celebration that we have ever seen. And it will be the first of many - I want to see this festival occur every year. So let's see it bigger and better next year, the Year of the Monkey. I will be asking for the support of the New Lynn Ward Councillors to ensure that this occurs. It is also a celebration of New Lynn. Asian businesses are here to be a success, and it was important that we as a Council get behind them and supported them.

Elizabeth Franke has had a dream of a regular Chinese market and this is coming closer to reality with this event.

UNITEC SCHOLARSHIP

Following the joint signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between this Council and UNITEC, I want to see the partnership extended into more than bricks and mortar. I have liaised with Dr John Webster the President of UNITEC over the proposal for a scholarship. I would like the Council to consider an annual scholarship of \$5,000 towards the first year's fees for a full time degree course for a student of Waitakere City to study at UNITEC Waitakere, with the terms to be agreed by both UNITEC and the Council. Our commitment to providing resources to students for life-long learning through our massive library expansion programme. But the cement to the relationship between UNITEC and the Council must be greater than the completion of the one library project. And so I would propose:

THAT a report be brought back to the November Council meeting on the process for establishing an annual \$5,000 scholarship towards the first year's fees for a full time degree course for a student living in Waitakere City to study at UNITEC Waitakere.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Report of the Mayor be received.
2. That this Council requests a report to the November Council meeting on its liabilities and consultative responsibilities for the consequences following the release of Genetically Modified Organisms under the various Acts it administers.
3. That this Council requests a report to the November Council meeting from the Council and Enterprise Waitakere on sustaining our competitive advantage in organic food production beyond the introduction Genetically Modified organisms into the City.
4. That a report be brought back to the November Council meeting on the process for establishing an annual \$5,000 scholarship towards the first year's fees for a full time degree course for a student of Waitakere City to study at UNITEC Waitakere.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY