

# **Council**

**Wednesday, 30 June 2004  
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

**This Report is Respectfully Dedicated to the  
Memory of Peter Allen, Educator and Mentor  
to Many Westies and a Truly Fine Man**



**13 August 1922 - 21 May 2004**

**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, 30 JUNE 2004,  
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

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**PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

**HOW TO WRITE A MAYORAL REPORT**

Most Mayors, sad to say, give a thirty second verbal report to their Council (if that). Some present a list to the monthly meeting of meetings they have or have not attended and some Mayors don't even attend the Full Council meetings at all. So I was really pleased to see Elizabeth Francke commenting about the Mayoral Report in her New Lynn Community Board report last month, and I would like to thank her for that.

Not long after I was elected in 1992, the CEO Mark Dacombe suggested that for each Council meeting if I had the time or the inclination, I could write a report about what I had done in the previous month.

It seemed a good idea to pen a few notes on my thoughts on the job and current issues. I have spent my life writing anyway.

In the world of advertising every client meeting is carefully noted and all aspects of research and marketing are bought together before any assignment is commenced. I had also written a huge number of magazine articles for metro and the like. It's something I enjoy doing, so decided to take it on as a project once a month.

In the past 12 years, the Waitakere Mayoral Report has drifted away from reporting on kissing babies and attending Rotary meetings. It is more than a simple re-hash of the month's activities and I enjoy reflecting on the City, the nation, the world, our place in it, and pretty much everything that scope encompasses.

So let me tell you how a typical Mayoral Report comes together. I am a destroyer of magazines and newspapers; no matter where I am, I'm always tearing out columns or articles. No doctor or dentists waiting room is safe!

Newspapers from foreign countries are a real target so I am always travelling with a large stash of cuttings and tearings. These often form the basis of my next report or thoughts and if they have a relevance to Waitakere they start gelling into a report to you, the Council, sometimes three months in advance. I don't have to tell you that often the Mayoral report in itself generate media coverage as well.

It also finds its way into the hands of both friends and critics and of course Cr Clews, whose grammar and quality control check each month I appreciate greatly.

I am obsessed with the subjects of town and city planning from all ends of the world, ideas about other Councils and what they are doing and not doing and I have a wide range of friends and colleagues who send me articles and cuttings from overseas. I start thinking on the first week of each month about where I need to lead a Council point of view or to plant the seed of a new idea and out comes the cutting box.

Milestones are also an integral part of my report - where we, and the City, honours achievers and those who have passed on. The monthly presentations we make to members of our community are an extension of that section of the report and are a fixture at council meetings that are, I believe, unique in this country.



The biggest exercise in twelve years was last month's Mayoral Report which was written in hotel rooms in New York and London in long hand and faxed back to Vanessa and Narelle in the executive suite who typed it up, faxing me back the draft copy to Japan and China. The final copy with corrections was then done on buses and planes and became the Mayoral Report a few days before printing.

I try and work around articles or subjects that have not been dealt with by our two local papers. The Mayoral report is drafted by me in note form and then either dictated or as they say, cut and pasted. I have had three great Mayoral Executives during my time as Mayor, Wally, Matt and Alan who have been able to grasp my style and been fantastic at getting the Mayoral Report "clamped" together - but finally it comes down to me to bring it to you as I would wish. I am always surprised when people say "oh it sounds so like Bob". Why wouldn't it? It is my thoughts, brought to you in, I would hope, my own style.

Having said that, I would value your input colleagues. If you think there is a topic awaiting discussion - bring it on! It would be great to hear your ideas.

### **POSTCARD FROM LONDON**

Before I left for my recent trip I tried to get an appointment with Ken Livingstone - the Mayor of London. But with local elections pending for his office it proved somewhat difficult. Not that he was reluctant to see visitors but rather that time for campaigning was a real issue.

So it was a remarkable stroke of luck that I met Councillor Jenny Jones, the Deputy Mayor of London at the Mayor's for Peace delegation at the United Nations. Jenny and I really hit it off and I was delighted when she offered to set up a meeting with the man himself.

I was particularly interested in the re-development of London, a city that I have always held in high regard and a city that has been able to keep transforming itself for the last 500 years without missing a beat. Although my favourite city is of course Waitakere you've got to keep an open mind in these things and London is always full of surprises.

As a city it is very assured in its planning and its strategic vision. In 1984 Prince Charles delivered his infamous carbuncle speech in which he rubbished contemporary architecture. Charles's statement that some planners and architects have consistently ignored the feelings and wishes of the mass of ordinary people in London was unacceptable. He then went on to name names.

He suggested that it would be a tragedy if the character and skyline of London was ruined and St Paul's dwarfed by yet another giant glass stump. That was enough to see a number of extensions and buildings scrapped and architecture and city planning took a serious step backwards.

But things are moving again. Over the years I have become a friend of Lord Richard Rogers, the architect whom I first met in Istanbul and whose wife Rose is a part owner of the River Café where my daughter Celia worked; so it is a kind of an "in the family" connection. Rogers is probably the greatest European architect of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His dazzling work for the Lloyds Building, the Pompidou Centre as well as work in China is truly historic.

Now in 2004 the skyline of London is changing by the month. The proposed Leadenhall Building will match the re-developed docklands at Canary Wharf and the erotic Gherkin looking structure with its curved shape is a 40 storey building on the Thames, designed by Norman Foster for the Swiss Re insurance company. It's a wonderful looking building, but I am sure it's not the kind of thing that Charles would like.

Mayor Livingstone champions tall buildings as part of his controversial plans to make central London as a denser, more urban place with greater reliance on public transport.



Councillors, will I am sure, remember that he angered many drivers by charging them a toll to enter the city centre on workdays. He claims it has been one of the most successful of any transport schemes in Europe to sort out congestion. Now, "Red Ken", finds himself opposed by preservation groups desperate to keep London's character as a low rise city. The buildings planned for London are enormous.

A new 306 metre high tower to be known as the London Bridge Tower designed by Renzo Piano, another great architect and the former business partner of Rogers would be the tallest building in Britain (Europe in fact) and would surpass the 264 metre high Triumph Palace in Moscow. I might mention that the tallest building in the world right now is the 509 metre Taipai 101 tower in Taiwan. It makes our stadium look somewhat small.

Still, if I am not stretching the point, London and Waitakere have similarities in our general urban planning themes and our utter commitment to better public transport, denser housing and business districts and yes, a desire to go up and not out.

Remember the outcry when a 10 story residential block was planned for the Carter Holt site in Henderson? In my view, something like that gives a City true character; it shows that you're "grown up" (as Bryan Mogridge said to us during the Annual Plan deliberations).

It is interesting to pick up a brochure from a North Shore based development company who built the impressive Nautilus Tower at Orewa and is now planning others along the East Coast. Their expansion plans include medium density housing plus malls and theatres in Waimauku and around Whenaupai. So our Western skyline is very definitely about the changing town-scape in the next ten years.

With these thoughts in mind, I turned up at the Lord Mayor's office, for morning tea and an invitation to join the Mayor at the launch of the London bid for the 2012 Olympics. The conversation was very flattering. The Londoners had obviously checked out our website and were highly complimentary Waitakere's Eco-City planning, greening and thinking.

They asked how we were going to slow down the urban sprawl of Auckland City. How interesting, I thought, that here in London I was justifying with some pleasure what we were trying to do with the Ranges Protection Project.

I should mention that the Deputy Mayor's Secretary had spent a few years here working in Auckland and so knew the Ranges and the Coast well. I did have a sense of pride in talking about our city's progress and how we were also in the middle of a major consultation around the Ranges. The Mayor's team wanted to know about our relationship with Maori and the environment.

We also talked about Manchester, which I had visited in 1993 and the stunning turnaround of this previously dreary, dull, work house of a city. Here is a snippet of its progress - Manchester has transformed itself from a mill-factory town into having 20,000 living right in the centre of the city and prides itself on being able to give them the very best of what they ask, transport, city apartments and leisure facilities. They also find that 120,000 people descend on the city each weekend to enjoy its nightlife (serviced by at least 550 licensed premises). It is truly alive and is now one of the most sustainable cities of Great Britain.

The love affair with city living in Manchester and in London is reflected by the proliferation of cranes and the re-development of old warehouses, hotels and facilities for younger, inner city residents. It's a worldwide trend and after ten years we must not take our mind off the task to continue our planning for high quality residential dwellings situated close to rail and bus transportation.

It's no longer what we think should happen. It's what people actually want.



In many ways, Ken Livingstone, reminds me of Mayor Banks; very assured, up-front with the task of changing attitudes and what you see is what you get. You can't ask for more than that in any politician. But above all they both stand for positive action within their cities.

In Waitakere we have had the courage to lead our people into the future and see what the possibilities are. Waitakere Central and the creation of Henderson as the true heart of Waitakere City is the only option that makes sense.

The profile of our new city centre must be communicated clearly as triumph of good planning and not political ego or as a memorial to living or dead politicians. That's not the way it is. Waitakere Central is a clear, positive signal that we are the heart of the region.

As with all journeys I have come back inspired by what I saw; one of the really beautiful surprises was at the National Portrait Gallery, one of the finest exhibition areas in the world. I went to see the dazzling exhibition by Cecil Beaton with my daughters who were more than happy to tag along with me as they wanted to catch the 67 - minute exhibition video "David". David who I asked? I was told that it was Sam Taylor-Wood's extraordinary video of David Beckham sleeping. Here projected in their national gallery was the soccer star enjoying a post training siesta in his Madrid hotel room. I am pleased to tell you he was alone and since the room is dark we see only his head and torso. It's no secret, he's not wearing pyjamas. It is truly intimate and after a while it is clear that you and the 200 others are also curled up with this man.

A little bizarre, but true - it is one of the greatest exhibition hits of London. I was able to meander in and stay about fifteen minutes before I became bored but maybe it would make a nice election video. Any volunteers??

Anyway, a day later I read in the English press that a new portrait was unveiled. It showed Prince Philip bare chested and very old with a blue bottle fly on one shoulder. This portrait drew no blushing teens or worshippers but at least London is open to art and fun.

### **POSTCARD FROM JAPAN**

Well, here I am in Kakogawa, our Sister City of almost fifteen years. The relationship between Waitakere and Kakogawa started because a Titirangi resident, Chiko Breeze, who had married a New Zealander, felt that a relationship would benefit both cities. Well, Ms Breeze (great name) got it right.

Mayor Corban opened up the relationship with a visit and I have continued it, building on a friendship with the former Mayor Seichi Kinoshita, who served four terms and whose management of the city was only excelled by his passion for good whiskey and karaoke - both of which I share with him at his favourite bar "The Piano Bar" whenever I am in Kakogawa.

*M1*

The new Mayor, whom you all met on his recent visit to Waitakere, Mayor Tarumoto, has continued in the same vein as his predecessor, enjoying the friendship of New Zealand and in particular Waitakere. See newspaper report of our formal meeting as attached at page M1.

I have always been fascinated by the Japanese ability to re-design, build and craft something that has been invented by someone else. We now live in a Japanese world of consumer goods - from house wares to computers and hi-tech, a world where once this country only made sand shoes for the western world. But in more recent times, Japan has dominated our consumer goods with diligence and cleverness while still remaining culturally insular and inward looking. While their products go global the Japanese world is still reserved and is now getting a serious economic shake up for the first time in twenty years.

Quite simply Japan has lost its cutting edge - it's being beaten in technology and manufacture by the new powerhouses like Korea, China and India.



This change is felt right across Japan and in our Sister City. So how did this come about? It could be put down to the fact that having shifted hundreds of plants to South East Asia and China since the 1980's many Japanese companies are now kicking themselves at having had such short-term cost savings, but at the same time they exposed their technology to the copy-cats abroad.

The Japanese have long spoken of "the three sacred treasures" which from the 1960's included the washing machine, a refrigerator and a television. These three gems plus the car which they shared with the European market have always been at the very core of Japanese technology. The three treasures now encompass the digital camera, the DVD recorder and either a plasma or liquid crystal display television.

They have been forced to diversify just to keep up and it's not easy for this focussed country. Tourist numbers are also down. Japan is not quite the exotic holiday destination it once was for many people - in three days in Kakogawa I didn't see another European face.

Kakogawa is a unit in its own right and I'm pleased to report they are very happy with what they have learnt from us. It's not about hi-tech or new products but more of a simple plan for a modern city environment. Waitakere's "finger-prints" are there for all to see - the logo of the city is in the "raindrop" image which we used extensively during the water crisis and it is used on much of the Kakogawa advertising image and Council publicity material.

*M2-M3* They had recently opened a state of the art "Clean Centre" for rubbish disposal. A huge concept to burn the city and districts' rubbish. I am including a couple of pages from the brochure for the complex which show the special features of the plant, as attached at pages M2 to M3.

Unfortunately it is not as "clean" as one would think. Whilst emissions into the air are almost nil, the highly toxic "slag" that is left over is buried at sea in huge concrete coffins. We can only hope that the lids are never lifted by high tides or heavy seas.

Our Japanese Sister City is as enthusiastic as ever for student exchange and to increase the number of visits of disabled students from here. In particular they would like to see an exchange for the deaf student - and that is something, I too, would like to see our staff work on.

It is at this level of student exchanges that I think the value of our relationship lies. Then young people see other countries and other cultures first-hand it changes their lives so positively. Besides, we are increasingly becoming globalised, so this kind of exposure gives our own students something of a head-start into the big wide world.

The new Mayor Mr Tarumoto will be bringing a delegation here in November. This will be Mr Tarumoto's second visit and at this point the Council will host a dinner in his honour.

As you are aware on my visit to New York I made a very close association with the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and regardless of whether I am re-elected or not, I intend to go to Hiroshima on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb. This commemoration will be held on 6 August 2005 and in Nagasaki on 9 August.

## **POSTCARD FROM CHINA**

Well, here I am in Ningbo, Waitakere's third Sister City and probably one of those which will benefit us greatly if we wish to take up the potential of China and its economic future.

Our association with Ningbo came on the recommendation of Mr Woo (the Chinese Consulate General in Auckland) who I met when I first became the Mayor in 1992. He felt that Ningbo, one of China's mid-sized cities would be just perfect for us. When I first visited I was surprised at his choice; it seemed an industrial city with a large and very polluted river flowing through it, home to four million people and is two hours drive from Shanghai. Well, what a transformation in the last twelve years, not only for Ningbo but also China itself.



The Asian tiger has awoken and Waitakere, like New Zealand, is one of the favoured cities of their western relationships. Believe me, good news travels fast in China and when you become a friend of China, as we have, then you can do no wrong. Our friendship, sincerity and our environmental stance has not only been well received but has been the cornerstone of this friendship.

Visiting their museum we were confronted with vision statements like: "Improving quality of our precious waterways", and "Creating urban environments for the benefit of our diverse peoples". Phrases like this they have clearly plucked from Cities like Waitakere. And more importantly, they are delivering on that vision. I would never have thought that in the eight years since I was last here that China would have seized the clean green agenda like no other nation on the planet.

When China decides to do something nothing gets in their way. Consultation is not part of the programme. When something needs to be done, it needs to be done and when great and momentous changes are necessary then take my word for it, it will happen.

It is this scale of development that is truly mind-boggling. One garment factory we visited (Youngor Group) produced 50 million suits a year and has 9000 staff. And they are about to expand!! And because of electricity shortages they do all this with no power for three days for every week!

M4

When I last visited, you would have to look hard to find any sort of fashion produced by the Chinese for the western style. Garments were often in checks and plaids that went out in the 70's. Now they are making shirts, suits and shoes for Gucci and Armani and all the major fashion brands of the west. This year China will see seven Armani boutiques followed by Versace, as attached at page M4. Companies like Youngor also own newspapers, private hospital and even a zoo.

One afternoon I looked at the Ningbo education park (a series of university campuses) which will accommodate 60,000 students - that's a campus the size of New Lynn, Glen Eden, Henderson and a good chunk of Massey!! The complex will include a 4200 seat Stadium which, interestingly, is being built for about the same cost (\$24 million) as our own. And just five years ago, in 1999, this site was nothing more than paddy fields.

In the week that I was there the press and television commented on the massive programme to preserve The Great Wall of China, a wonder of architecture, from vanishing. The great wall has been disappearing said the Chinese Daily, for a number of years, due to lack of environmental protection and also because farmers for centuries have been dismantling it for housing and fences.

The Great Wall has been classified as one of the world's most historical architectural features the Chinese Government has pledged four billion dollars for the survey work alone. Not bad, and the surveying will begin within a month; that is how fast they move. Although it was hard to find an internet café in China it's no secret that internet usage continues to surge. Government statistics site 80 million regular users; this is up from 20 million in 2003.

Now the Chinese government have announced that the internet technology will cover the entire nation including the far reaching regions by 2005. Believe me - they will do it.

But let's not fool ourselves; the Chinese government is still very strict. In one province they have instituted a \$225 (NZ) fine for chewing gum in the train station.

M5

Another example is of a lake restoration project on the outskirts of the City which we visited. The regional government has decided to turn Dongqian Lake into a tourist attraction. So the 22,000 people who live in the vicinity (and have done for generations) are being moved, lock stock and bicycle, to new government-subsidised accommodation miles away, as attached at page M5.



No questions asked - this is still, after all, a very communist country and you do what you're told.

The issue of basic human rights still needs to be addressed. This year has seen a 60% increase in the number of people detained or sentenced for internet related offences (god knows what they did or what they were trying to look at). Just before we arrived, 10 officials were executed for corruption and 40,000 people have been "reprimanded" and 20,000 have been sacked, with massive growth and capitalism comes greed - and crime.

Another visit was to the Geeley car manufacturing plant. Here they are making 20,000 small, compact, cars a year, mainly for the domestic market.



As you can see, our visit caused quite a media stir and we were trailed around by four photographers and two camera crews from various press outlets. The visit reminded me of what it must have been like visiting, say, the fledgling Toyota company in the 1960s.

Who could have imagined how huge they would become. China and the likes of Geeley are heading the same way. I am attempting now to find a dealership in Waitakere for this new sports car of the future. This is the beginning of our new business relationship with China and Ningbo. Second up is to try and develop a manufacturing partnership in fashion fabrics, clothing and technology and through the Waitakere Enterprise Board we will now be asking for expressions of interest with the giant and expanding Chinese economic machine.

So you may say you read it here first, it is my belief that the Chinese will, within five years overtake the Japanese in grabbing a significant share of global markets. I say this in light of the fact that Japanese wages caught up with the west within fifteen years but with much larger labour pools. Wages in China will take at least thirty years to raise that high and that is thanks in part to the out-sourcing boom. While we are considering economic development as our number one strategic priority, consider this - China's GDP is growing at an annual rate of around 9% - and Ningbo's is rollicking along at an incredible 15% per annum.



For China and to a slightly lesser extent India, the development of super nationals for global servicing, married to the servicing of western brands such as computers, high tech software and the development of pharmaceutical products has the ability to create totally new markets or overtake existing ones.

The old ways are changing rapidly. Our good friend Winston who worked at Council a number of years ago talked to me about his marriage and the changing role. For centuries the Chinese lived with the Confucius ideal of four generations under one roof. But now in Ningbo like many other cities, with later marriages and lower birth rates, the reality is more likely to be two or three generations. Divorce is on the increase and women are finding new freedom to choose a partner and not be forced into medical examinations and countless signing of health certificates before they are able to be liberalised and married.

Winston told me that a growing number of young couples are opting to not even have one child so that both spouses can focus on their careers and maintain independence from their parents. Unlike New Zealand teen pregnancy is not an issue and is incredibly low by international standards. Chinese receive their first sexual education at twelve years of age and before May of this year couples intending to marry and taking the premarital health exam were made to sit in front of a 45 minute video which covered the whole field of marriage, sex and pregnancy. So here in this rapidly changing country there is a growing gap between the old ways and the new.

All those that I spoke to agree that the upheaval that the Chinese Government fears is already underway and certainly discouraging discussion, banning books and supervising access to the internet is not going to make it go away.

While I was there, the environmental movement got a kick start with the announcement of a national commission to promote clean development. The commission will promote environmentally friendly practises that reduce emissions of green house gases and encourage the use of renewable resources and energy. The new commission will be set up in July and has used as advisors the Resource Future Institute of Canada. The institute grew out of the Kyoto Protocols.

China and Canada plan to train up to 500 professionals and turn them into experts for future projects; developing small hydropower wind farms, energy free refrigeration, municipal waste incineration and waste based organic fertilisation.

The river that winds its way through Ningbo was like many rivers when I first went to China - heavily polluted. Everything seemed to have finished up in the river, but this was no more, On the first day of my recent visit the Chinese version of the Phil Warren cruised along channels swooping up rubbish in nets and later in the day as we walked down through the city it was a joy to see the enormous clean up projects going on every kilometre.

Such action is desperately needed in a country which is gobbling up green fields land at an alarming rate. We visited an "Eco Village" which several years ago won a United Nations Award. Naturally I was excited to see cutting edge sustainable building a living practices.

I have to say I was somewhat disappointed. The "village" was merely upmarket homes, albeit in an organic garden-park setting. But they did not recycle rainwater for the gardens and greenhouses and sewerage and storm water continue to be pumped straight into the local river. So whilst the intentions are good, in practice, China has a long way to go.

The people of Ningbo have obviously had to make some great sacrifices along the way. They have needed to be relocated to the new housing developments which stand further back from the rivers edge and along the river new parks are flourishing with sculpture and landings for ferries and river transportation.



M6

Traffic is a major issue, as attached at page M6 and the driving is truly frightening. There don't appear to be any road rules at all. Very few intersections are controlled by lights and it seems at times like the entire population of 7 million are coming at you at once. The congestion and associated air pollution is something that I think China is going to struggle to come to grips with.

But what truly staggered me were the massive buildings that this city is bringing together for the future. It is mind boggling. Great stadiums, theatres, education parks (mentioned earlier); billions of US dollars, most of it paid for by the central Beijing Government.

These extraordinary buildings and massive, beautifully designed town squares are planned through international design competitions. Most often the contracts are won by Italian or French designers and the European influence is everywhere.

I have to say that standing in the town square amongst 10,000 people at night and watching the 1960s cartoon version of Snow White (in Mandarin) being projected onto a wall of water 20m high is a once in a lifetime experience.

Another highlight was the visit to their new, grand, conference centre and theatre. This amazing building had a forecourt that could take up to 2000 people. Flower pots in the colours of the communist ideal were busily being grouped together to make the famous hammer and sickle motif, for China has not lost its communist roots. They believe in the common good and the common well being.



One of the greatest challenges that will affect China in the next decade is the massive relocation of the farming communities of China not only because of the massive dams which will inundate ancient cities on the Yangtze River but in the massive restructuring of uneconomic lifestyle of the Chinese population. We are talking here about 780 million people and this project is not going to be an easy one. As for the drama around relocation of the ancient cities this is really heartbreaking stuff and much television coverage was given to the moving of the 90,000 Fengjie residents who make up the urban population and are part of the 1.17 million who have already been moved out of the reservoir areas to make way for the world's largest hydropower plant.



## DEVELOPING REGIONAL EVENTS - V8 STREET CAR RACE

The Council has been approached by Auckland City Council to express its views on the proposed V8 International Street Race, as Auckland City Council is required by Transit New Zealand to obtain the approval of other Auckland councils.

The V8 Supercar street race series is proposed to start in 2006 and to be run each year until 2012. Use of the circuit in the Auckland Central Business District will be over three days, Friday - Sunday. The Friday will be for practice with Saturday and Sunday being actual race days. The roads of the circuit and the roads within the circuit will be closed and generally not available for vehicular access to properties during the period 7.00 am – 7.00 pm for each of those days, except for emergencies or special needs.

Installation and dismantling of the safety features (eg. barriers and fencing), ancillary racing facilities (eg. pits) and spectator facilities (eg. grandstands and footbridges) will occur over a period of 4-6 weeks before and after the event. Much of the infrastructure that will directly impact on the movement of traffic will be installed and removed in the 24 hours before and after the event. However, this will mean that the above circuit roads will also be restricted from 7.00 pm Thursday through to 6.00 am Monday on either side of the event. It is currently estimated that the event will attract some 150,000 people during the three days, approximately 30,000 on the Friday and double that number on the Saturday and Sunday.

Preliminary studies indicate that Auckland V8 International race traffic issues can be managed by developing a Traffic Management Plan with the following objectives:

- Give people reliable journey times;
- Allowing people to travel into and within the central business district; and
- Travel past the city on the motorway system.

Council officers will be involved with Auckland City Council in the preparation of the Traffic Management Plan with regular reporting to Council to provide guidance and feedback.

A key to the success in managing the traffic effects of such an event is the preparation of comprehensive traffic and transport plans which bring all the traffic, parking, pedestrian and transport elements together and define protocols for the delivery of a safe and effective event. In addition, there need to be plans that set out the mechanisms to respond quickly and effectively to any more urgent or unforeseen issues which arise requiring prompt action.

A major component of the race will be the communications strategy aimed at getting people to change their travel habits on the critical days. This obviously requires the co-operation and support of people who travel to, from and past the Central Business District. Nevertheless, it is considered that the levels of traffic reduction that are required to avoid additional delays being generated can be achieved and that people who still need to make trips can be accommodated.

Having regard to all of the above, clearly, the only option to maintain an acceptable level of service on the roads is to reduce the demand for trips to, from and past the Central Business District in particular, on the critical days. This is similar to what was done during the APEC conference, in 1999.

Likewise, for the Sydney Olympics a travel demand strategy was introduced. One of the most successful messages at the Olympics in deterring the use of private vehicles was the threat of congestion and long delays.



Aucklanders have always embraced large events and the city has showed it can host them in style. Events like the America's Cup created a huge buzz. Everyone was caught up in the carnival atmosphere - even people with no interest in yacht racing. A V8 Supercar street race is more than a motor sport event. The 30 or more associated entertainment events would bring back the carnival atmosphere, while contributing significant economic benefit to the Auckland region. Unlike the America's Cup this is one race that we don't have to win to host every year, so the benefits would be guaranteed year after year.

There are no direct costs for Waitakere as funding is provided by Auckland City Council and the event organisers IMG.

Expected benefits of a V8 Supercar street race held in Auckland City include the following:

- 150,000 race spectators spread over the three event days;
- A world-wide television audience of nearly 600 million;
- Corporate attendance of 20,000 people, generating 550 jobs for trained casual staff;
- Work for 60 event supply companies, with more than 1000 jobs; and
- 30 to 40 associated community events. These could include concerts and entertainment, a school go-kart competition, charity ball, street parade, yachting regatta, celebrity golf tournament and a host of smaller community-style events.

## QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONOURS

There were a swathe of Waitakere residents - or those associated with the City - in the Queen's Birthday honours list. Congratulations in particular to:

Our own **Harry O'Rourke**, who has been made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Judo. Harry is the New Zealand Judo Federation president and the Queen's Birthday Honour comes just eight months after he received the International Judo Federation's Silver Medal for services to the sport internationally.

Harry has been involved in Judo for most of his life. A black belt and a former instructor, he was the architect of the successful bid to stage the 2004 Commonwealth Judo Championships in November, at soon-to-be-opened stadium.

**Te Warena Taua** receives the same award for services to Maori and conservation. As we all know, Te Warena heads the Te Taumata Runanga. But more important, he has also led Te Kawerau a Maki from strength to strength in recent years. His commitment to the environment and protection of historic places of cultural significance is borne of generations of kaitiaki (guardianship), handed down to him through his ancestors.

**Warren Flaunty** of the Massey Community Board is also to be congratulated for his Queen's Service Medal for public services. Warren has given a lifetime of civic service, be it on Council, Community Boards, Licensing Trusts or service clubs.

Others who were recognised:

The Honourable **Noel Anderson** of Titirangi was awarded a D.C.N.Z.M for services to the judiciary.

Those who were awarded N.Z.M.N's were **Ian Gibson** of Te Atatu Peninsula for services to the Returned Services Association. **Cecil Renwick** of Henderson for services to cricket, **Geoffrey (Geoff) Sinclair** also of Henderson for services to journalism.

**Heather Alford** of New Lynn was awarded a Queen's Service Medal for community service. Raymond Coleman of Henderson was also awarded a Q.S.M for public service as were Mrs **Whetu McGregor** of Te Atatu, **Mere Tunks** of Henderson and **Gerald Rowan** of Te Atatu Peninsula.



## MILESTONES

### Matariki - the Maori New Year

M7

The celebration of Matariki is going from strength to strength. Just five years ago few people, including most Maori had no knowledge of it whatsoever. But this year saw more than 90 events held throughout the Auckland region attracting many thousands of people. Matariki is not merely a Maori celebration - it is the celebration of our natural environment and the world we live in, as attached at page M7. I was delighted when asked to join with Rewi Spraggon from our Libraries to stage a performance of ancient sounds as part of the Matariki programme. Instruments ranging from ancient flutes to didgeridoo, Nothumbrian bagpipes, the Jewish Shofar, native American drums, Indian Tabla playing and much more created a unique and spine tingling sound. Rewi and I had been working on the concept for the past twelve months and I was a little nervous about how it would be received. Suffice to say we played to a sell out audience at Lopdell House.

Our second concert will be recorded on CD and made available through our libraries collection. Special thanks to Rewi Spraggon and Kristal Rogers our Arts Co-ordinator, and Shannon Hanrahan for their creative input and organisation of this great event. I would also like to place on record my thanks to all the performers; Fraser Bruce and his drummers, Ricky Bennett, Antoine Bruhl, Matt Reece, Zhang Yangzhi (Zoe), Basant Madhur, Ian Bartlett and Antoine Gasperini and Matthew Coburn who directed lighting and stage set up.

## CELEBRATED

### Henry Norcross - 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Well known Waitakere City patron Henry Norcross celebrated his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday this month with family and friends. I attended Henry's birthday on behalf of the city and I was greatly impressed by an audiovisual presentation showing the Norcross family and its six generations that have created a legacy for Waitakere City. I would like to acknowledge Henry's support for the Falls Hotel both financially and as former Chair of our Heritage Trust. So Happy Birthday Henry from your city.

## OPENED

### Eve's Pantry - Lincoln Road

Eve's Pantry first opened on the ground floor of the Victoria Arcade in Shortland Street in 1948 and quickly became the place for cakes of all kinds. When the arcade was pulled down in the 70's they moved to Epsom where their reputation has grown. I've been known to drive 40 minutes just to get a taste of their delights, so I am pleased to announce that their second retail outlet is now open out west. From gourmet savouries to the most decadent gateaux combined with great coffee and wonderful hospitality this is part of the new mini retail cluster of upmarket eateries and cafes on Lincoln Road. Also part of the same site is a new "Hells Kitchen" - the franchised pizza, pasta and salad operation. So if you are looking for a taste sensation - you know where to go!

## FAREWELLING A FRIEND

It is with real sadness that we have said good bye to Barry Fisk who for a number of years headed up Work and Income in Waitakere City. Barry was no grey government bureaucrat - he thought creatively about the issues of unemployment and poverty and was an integral part of the partnership project which along with this Council and other social agencies is a model for the rest of the country. Barry is off to Wellington on a long term secondment and we can only hope that he will return to us.



## **CRASHIN' CRAIG**

Former Kelston boy Craig Spearman, literally, smashed his way into sporting record books. Craig, whose father Murray we all know well from the Trusts, broke one of world sport's longest standing record playing pro cricket in England. Craig plays for Gloucestershire and hit 3412 runs in a game against rivals Middlesex. That eclipsed the record of the legendary WG Grace - known as "the father of cricket" - which had stood for an incredible 128 years.

## **OFF TO ATHENS**

Well done Daniel Sharp who has qualified for the 2004 Paralympics in Athens in August. Daniel who is blind - will swim in the 50,100 and 400m freestyle as well as the 100m breaststroke, at the Games. Daniel qualified at the Blind Sport World Games in Canada.

## **COMING TO A TELEVISION SCREEN NEAR YOU!**

The dazzling Audrey Chan is soon to feature on our screens in upcoming episodes of Shortland Street. Audrey will play the role of a former Chinese medical practitioner from Ningbo named Winsome Lee. So if you see Audrey walking around the Civic Centre with her head buried in a script you know she is learning her lines. Audrey is not the only Council Officer to grace our living rooms, superstar of the "Filth Files" Mr Dean Nuralli is returning to the small screen in a follow up series later this year. I am sure you will all join me in wishing both Audrey Chan and Dean "Mayor in Waiting" Nuralli well.

## **OBITUARIES**

Sadly, this month saw the passing of a number of people important to this City. I would like here to pay a tribute to them individually:

### **Les Pratt**

Councillors will remember Les Pratt with great affection. Community Board member of Massey and later Chair of the Board, Les was a great fan of what we did and at times also a harsh critic, matching his cynicism with humour and goodwill. Les and Bev were always part of the Herald Island Community and he was to me the unofficial Mayor of Herald Island. At his funeral service many spoke fondly of Les and his love of the island, the tree planting on the causeway - removing the willows and replacing them with pohutukawa. You should know that Les was not one of the world's environmental greenies but he appreciated the beauty of the island.

Les and Bev both came with us to Kakogawa and formed a friendship with the Mayor and Councillors and on reciprocal visit Mayor Kinoshita and Mr Tamagawa stayed with Les and Bev. I would like to record our thanks for the work that Les did for Herald Island and Whenuapai and we sincerely record our deepest sympathy Les's extended family.

### **Peter Allen**

*M8-M11* This Council would like to extend to the family of Peter Allen our esteemed respect for Peter's commitment to the west. Peter was one of those remarkable men that we are all poorer with his passing. His huge farewell held at Henderson High School where he was the founding principal was a tribute and a celebration to his remarkable life. His impact on many of the pupils was apparent; he was one of life's most enjoyable characters. I was deeply moved by the eulogy read by his son Bernie and I would urge you to read this tribute, as attached at pages M8 to M11.



### **Myra Gilmour**

All of us have such respect for Dr Ritchie Gilmour and sometimes the “other half” of these wonderful individuals are not recognised. It is therefore sad to record the passing of Myra Gilmour, the beloved wife of Ritchie and this Council records its sincere sympathy to Ritchie and his family.

### **Jay Scott**

This month saw the tragic death of young Jay Scott, aged just 8. Jay died when a stack of gib board fell on him whilst he was playing in a half-finished house in a Ranui subdivision. Jay’s father, Darren, describes him as “just a typical boy” - out on his bike, playing with his mates, when the accident occurred. Cr Hulse and I visited the family to express our sympathies and the Mayoress and I later attended Jay’s funeral. In the next month or so we will arrange a tree planting ceremony in his honour at the local Ranui park in which he spent a lot of his spare time. We send our deepest sympathy to the family.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Report of the Mayor be received.
2. That, in view of the broad economic benefits for the Auckland region and that traffic impacts can be managed, Council advises Auckland City Council that it supports the proposal to hold a series of international V8 car races from 2006 to 2012.
3. That the Chief Executive provides Council with regular progress reports on this issue.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP  
**MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY**