

Council

**Wednesday, 23 February 2005
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN
THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN, WAITAKERE CITY,
ON WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2005, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART C - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

THE NEXT THREE YEARS - THE VISION AND THE REALITY

I would like to wish all Councillors the very best of the New Year. I know it's late but it's never too late to wish people well. We don't get enough of it and in this business you don't get too many thanks. So I would like to thank the Councillors who took the time to spend the day planning our way forward in some of the directional areas that are so important to strategy and delivery.

Bringing together newly elected and long-time Councillors was an attempt to look at what map could we might follow.

I wanted to also acknowledge that our working relationship is of huge importance and in order to facilitate the understanding of the process of public management in Waitakere we needed to evaluate the key programmes that we could handle.

For the past 12 years Waitakere has produced huge innovations within the framework and principles of Agenda 21 and we have gained local, national and international recognition for our initiatives in urban planning and social and environmental management. For all the disappointments we have bravely continued to forge ahead.

If I think back on the water crisis, the painted apple moth and the Whenuapai Airport decision I think I can be forgiven for feeling a little disappointed but these are often the simple trials of Local Government. What we have achieved, thanks to an extraordinary group of individuals that work with us as officers and colleagues, are a wide range of initiatives, decisions and solutions.

We have had something that is missing from most other cities - a vision for the future - and around it we have adopted practices I believe will be recognised in the future as fundamental in dealing with the urban question.

I opened the conversation at Alleley House while recalling our recent submissions on the moving of the Metropolitan Urban Limits. I felt we had not received the recognition for the work we have put in over the past 12 years. But my spirits lifted somewhat when I heard the comments of my colleagues about what they wanted to achieve and the goals they were setting themselves and the Council.

I always believe that at the beginning of a new term and New Year it is important to look where we have been and to clearly set a focused vision for what we want to do in the years ahead.

This is an extraordinary time for this Council. It is in our term of office that we will move from Waipareira Avenue to Henderson. This Council will have as its legacy the transport hub and the realisation that Henderson is and will be Waitakere's heart. I know that in some quarters this is not popular but is hardly a riot fuelled opposition and the move to Henderson confirms a straightforward commitment to making a heart of a modern 21st Century city that is still considered by some a leafy borough of Auckland.

After returning from Parramatta in December 2004 I felt totally charged. Here was a like minded regional city that had transformed itself in social terms, in investment and in quality of life, in many ways parallel to the Waitakere Way. Here was a mirror city of Waitakere's strong citizen participation and the integration of ideas and process. The Parramatta experience gave me great heart as it showcases the rational use of resources, the strong public profile, the preservation of historic and cultural assets and a commitment to social equity.



We are a long way down the track with the move to Henderson and to our goals. Sometimes it takes a visit to Parramatta where you can talk with the Mayor, Councillors and officers to realise what you are doing here is not only right, it's long overdue.

The Parramatta experience clearly indicated a concentrated effort in one area was more productive than playing with other sub-regional centres, often because it was felt necessary to develop voting or community support. I do feel that Waitakere is guilty of this. As much as we want to try and please everyone the next three years should be concentrated on making Henderson work - in transportation, walkways, cycle ways and business investment.

I know more than anyone you are elected by wards and the pressures of local and individual communities are often high. However the next three years must see total commitment to Henderson. Believe me, it won't be hard. Double tracking will come right to the base of the new council building. New trains will follow and hopefully electrification. The new library and Unitec complex will give us a university town. Cafes, people, safety and flow of movement throughout the area is assured. The new hospital will also generate its own energy. Hopefully the retail will quickly improve adding the much needed attraction of stylish fashion and entertainment. These are the missing ingredients at the moment and we urgently need to lift the game plan to make Henderson, and therefore Waitakere, hum.

One of the great aspects of Parramatta was one I think we must explore and attempt to emulate here. I wish it was my idea but it's not. It was originally conceived by Barry Shaw and it seemed such a brilliant, innovative idea that makes sense I want to introduce it through this report to the minds of Councillors.

The Henderson and Oratia Creeks should be looked at for a weir system, thus restoring a water access and recreational centre as it was in the early days of Henderson. The simple lifting of the water level by a weir system will clarify the water, allow wildlife to proliferate, allow boating to return to the area and give the area another significant visual attraction. The Parramatta weir is not only beautiful but enhances the city's walking, biking and driving environs against a user friendly and extremely attractive.

It is this kind of thing that delivers greater investment opportunities for business and retail - the greater the beauty of the city the less crime and graffiti there is. And that means a better investment flow.

This was the lesson of Parramatta and in a way it was echoed at the Vision Workshop where Councillors also advocated for better communication. I couldn't agree more. Better communication with our ratepayers and better communication between the Council and the media. Many Councillors were clearly able to articulating their vision and thought through issues that were personal to them and indeed that they were committed to seeing through. I would like to thank these Councillors for the effort in articulated their thoughts for how we can progress together a city that is admired, applauded and appreciated.

Waitakere is not a 'destination' city and it could and should be. Around us are destinations of enormous interest - the Waitakere Ranges, the beaches and vineyards. There could be more and there should be more. I pointed out that places like Matakana, Waiheke and rural areas have taken an absolute turn for the better. I was surprised at the energy of rural New Zealand on a recent trip. Town centres are alive and kicking and we need to harness this kind of energy.

We need to do it by delivering not only clean streets and less crime but also retail that offers more than \$2 bargains. We need to deliver street cafes and bars, we need to encourage youth and music and we need to maximise the wonderful resources we already have around the city. We seem to miss out on so many opportunities. It will be a test on 5 March 2005 to see how much our community appreciates the free concert of the amazing group Stalker in New Zealand to perform at the AK05 Festival. This is our first venture in a large city festival at Corban and I would like to thank our good friends Mark Franklin (Vector), Murray Jackson (Genesis), Mark Gunton (IMS Westland), Tim Ford (Fulton Hogan) and Peter Babich (Babich Wines).



M1

This is a major event, our equivalent of Cirque de Soleil, and I urge all Councillors to attend, as attached at page to M1. This is the kind of event we should be having more often. It gives the City a place as a destination and will follow my commitment to creating a city where all kinds of musicians have access to good venues and facilities.

In future mayoral reports I will develop the music city idea.

These are the ideas I have to make Waitakere an extraordinary, liveable and exciting experience. I also feel we should look at re-branding our EcoCity. I believe Agenda 21 has served us greatly and so has the eco-city philosophy and I do not intend to recommend changing such pillars and foundations of success however, to return to my old world of marketing philosophy, marketing is only as good as its life and liveability. In the months ahead I will offer suggestions as to how the EcoCity can move up a notch taking with us our vitally young community.

As an example, we cannot encourage our young people to take transport that is second rate and not on time. We must give our youth a place and places to stand and be proud. They must be able to have an opportunity in their own city to live, work and play and be the best they can be. This means they don't have to spend a lifetime angry in cars trying to move to their place of employment. They must have venues for music, for enjoyment and recreation. I think no city has done this better for sport minded young people than us but now we need to feed and fuel the creative juices.

The next phase, which will last another decade, will see Waitakere flourish with the realisation that this community is unique. Not edgy or extreme but simply taking the natural style of youth at its best and most positive and giving it a platform. This is what we are failing to do. The potential is there - we just need to rise to the challenge and get on with it.

The Vision Workshop talked of a consolidated Council, a consistent Council and one that felt satisfied with achievements in libraries, town centre, sport and leisure facilities. The next three years will not be about building new infrastructure. They will be about sustainable growth and delivering to our community a lifestyle that is appreciated and respected. This to me was a Council that had thought through carefully a realistic timetable and approach and although we can never stop I am mindful we need to evaluate the amazing progress of the past 12 years and not continue to pursue a programme of building and change that will not deliver a quality of life for our citizens.

Graeme Campbell and Anne Magee touched well on the social issues we face and these present real problems. Auckland and indeed Waitakere are growing weekly and the gap between rich and poor is widening here. For all our achievement in employment the number of beneficiaries is still enormous. The number of young people unable to buy their first home has grown unbelievably large and there is a growing level of poverty in some of our suburbs that is completely unacceptable to me.

These are issues that will come to each Councillor in the next few years and they cannot be ignored. They need to be confronted, not swept aside, and dealt with. I have made it clear I am committed to the wealth of this community by the creation of work opportunities and social understanding. The task is large and is not an easy one. It is not going to be diminished by government through delivery of social and health services alone. I think that governments simply do not think like this any more. I suspect it will be up to us to resolve many of our local problems locally.

Funding for this sort of issue is going to be a priority in my life as Chairman of the Metro Sector of Local Government New Zealand. Funding, or the lack of it, for Local Government and Councils like Waitakere needs to be addressed honestly and openly with our political masters. We cannot continue to live on rates alone, delivering more but getting less. It's a widening gap - a crack all of us, both the community and the Councillors, could fall into - that must be closed.



I would like to indicate I am very optimistic in this regard. Local Government has never had a better relationship than we do with this Labour Government and so I believe the future, if not assured, is certainly looking better in terms of meeting our hopes and needs.

M2-M4

I have attached a copy of the media release from Local Government New Zealand that was distributed on this issue and Brian Rudman's Herald column from 14 February 2005, as attached at pages M2 to M4. It always helps to have Rudman on your side!

These thoughts are what I present to you as we start this year. They form a concise pattern in my thinking and I will not develop new projects that move from these core ingredients. I might mention I spent time with my staff also on a full day with a vision workshop and my conclusions were the same as the Council's - delivery is everything. This is not about under promising and over delivering - it's about focus and clear thinking that will ensure we promise and we deliver.

MILESTONES

It's been two months since our last mayoral report so there are many to acknowledge in this one. The milestones are made up of people and events that are not covered by our local media or who have connections to the city that are not often recognised. They also trigger events and ideas that I would like you to know about.

Arthur Lydiard - Former Titirangi Resident, Sport Revolutionary and Great Fan of the Waitakere's

The death of Arthur Lydiard in December 2004 brought one of the most distinguished careers in athletics to a close. Lydiard died in Texas while watching television. He was there on a mission (as usual) to spread the word on the joy of running.

Lydiard was one of the most colourful and successful international athletic coaches but sadly he felt disappointed that in New Zealand he was always considered less than that. It is often forgotten Lydiard himself was an incredible athlete winning the 1953 and 1955 national marathon titles. We went to the same school and in my early teenage years we ran competitively at Eden Park, coached by teachers who kept referring to their favourite recent superstar Arthur. Later when I got to know him we would reminisce about his Kingsland days and the running circuit that he developed in the early 1950s.

Lydiard went on to be one of the finest coaches of New Zealand star athletes. His pupils Ray Puckett, Barry Magee and Jeff Julian were the greatest New Zealand marathon runners of the last century. But it was the 1960 Rome Olympics that put Lydiard firmly on the world athletic stage. Using his method of discipline and raking up the hours the combination gave us two gold medals with Peter Snell and Murray Halberg. The technique was called 'catch me if you can'.

By now Lydiard had started to work a training circuit from his home in Mt Roskill up through New Lynn, Waiatarua and down Scenic Drive through Titirangi and home. This regular Sunday run is one of the finest training runs ever conceived and it is at the resting watering spot that I wish to address the tribute to Lydiard. There is a small water course that comes out of the catchment known as Bendell's Creek which flows under the drive and down into the Oratia Valley. At this refreshing spot all of Lydiard's pupils, the greatest New Zealand has ever known, would stop for a drink. Last year Arthur and I met at that site and planned a tribute memorial to him. I would like to pursue this memorial in partnership with the Auckland Regional Council, the New Zealand athletic family and his family, all of whom have shown a great interest in acknowledging the site, Arthur and his boys.

The project will be planned over the next year with resource consent applied for but there are no major changes to the falls or surrounds. The retaining walls have been badly battered by a landslide so will need to be re-configured and the tribute sculpture designed in this situation. A design will be prepared and submitted to the partners and the community. It is hoped it will be unveiled in the spring of 2006.



It will be a lasting tribute to this great man and the athletes who brought credit to themselves and New Zealand under his tutorage and coaching philosophy, a link with the golden age of running.

Two excellent young men - Lydiard disciples if you like - are planning a road race around the Waitakere route for later this year. It will start at Shadbolt Park in New Lynn and wind along West Coast Rd and Scenic Drive. They have already presented the idea to both the New Lynn and Waitakere Community Boards and achieved their support. I sincerely hope Councillors see fit to give tangible support through the Annual Plan for this wonderful idea.

The Council would like to record Lydiard's passing and acknowledge his wide circle of family, his children and grandchildren.

Mick Shanahan

The hugely loved Mick Shanahan passed away between Christmas and New Year. A New Lynn identity that gave his business career to the people of the west, Mick's endearing Irish Westie wit will never be replicated or forgotten.

I was honoured to be asked to make a tribute at Mick's funeral at the Requiem Mass held at St Patrick's Cathedral on New Year's Day.

Mick Shanahan had water in his blood. A school and university swimming champion, Mick was born in Dunedin in 1922, one of eight children. His policeman father rode shotgun on the miners' gold coaches in the Central Otago region and the family lived in various places around New Zealand.

Mick started school at Oamaru Convent in 1927, from there went to Christchurch Cathedral Convent then to St Benedict's and Marist Brothers in Auckland. From there he went to Christian Brothers in Dunedin and finally spent four years at Timaru Boys' High School.

Mick graduated with a BA and LLB from Auckland University.

In 1955 he set up his own legal practice in New Lynn and remained there for 50 years. He became prominent in local body affairs as Chairman of the Western Suburbs Liquor Licensing Committee in the late 1960s turning the dry west to wet.

Mick and his brothers Pat and John were exceptional swimmers and so water became a big part of his life. In 1946, with his brothers, he brought the Karekare Surf Club out of recess following the war years and held every position over nearly half a century. He was patron for the past 20 years and was made a life member in 1961. Mick was also involved with the Auckland Swimming Association for more than 50 years and was awarded Life Membership in 1968.

As a member of the Returned Services Association, Mick acted as honorary solicitor to a number of RSA clubs in west Auckland and just a couple of months ago was the recipient of the prestigious RSA award, "the Certificate of Merit and M Badge" in recognition of his outstanding service to the Auckland District RSA in general and the New Lynn RSA in particular.

Well known for always wearing a bow tie and his razor sharp wit, Mick was elected the west Auckland representative for the Auckland Harbour Board in 1974 and became its Chairman in 1980.

Mick was awarded the Order of British Empire (OBE) in 1987 for community services, followed by the Waitakere City Council Millennium Medal in 2000 and key to the city in 2002. He was inducted into the city's Hall of Fame the same year.

Mick was an invaluable member of the Waitakere community. He made a huge contribution in many, many ways and will go down in Waitakere's history as someone who was larger than life and who really made a difference.



Arthur Brake

It is with much sadness I note the passing of one of Waitakere's larger than life characters from cancer.

Arthur Brake was the longest serving diving coach at our pool and I am told he was there working until a week before his death.

Hundreds of young west Aucklanders now know and love the art of diving thanks to Arthur who was also involved in the sport at a national level having represented the Auckland region at all levels of the sport's administration.

A highly respected international judge who adjudicated at the Commonwealth and Olympic Games, Arthur was instrumental in encouraging coaches from Australia, China and the United States to come here to run coaching clinics for coaches and divers.

A rather quirky character, Arthur found the diving board from the 1950 Empire Games in a pony club paddock in Henderson Valley Road and carved the Waitakere City Shield which was presented to diving to be awarded to the winner in the one metre competition in the annual Swedish Flag International Competition.

About 250 people gathered to celebrate Arthur's life at Morrisons' Chapel in Henderson including his beloved wife Jill, his partner of 18 years who he married just a few days after being diagnosed with terminal cancer.

This Council notes his passing and acknowledges Jill, his three children from an earlier marriage, his two stepchildren, their partners and his four grandchildren. Arthur will be sorely missed.

Bryce (Briz) Mills

The west lost one of New Zealand's top skateboarders and one of the most charming and legendary young riders in a tragic motor accident on the infamous Maramarua straight of State Highway 2 on 7 January.

Killed also with Briz (24) was his partner Philipa Robertson (23) and the couple's baby daughter Mercedes (21 months).

Philipa was one of New Zealand's top hairdressers working for Tony and Guy and had recently returned from an international hairdressing competition in Milan.

Their tragic death ended a lifelong friendship and 1200 people attended the service at Glenora.

Briz and his family lived in Wooley Avenue, New Lynn and Briz attended Arahoe Primary, Glen Eden Intermediate and Kelston Boys'. He played rugby league for the New Lynn Stags and cricket for All Schools and Suburbs New Lynn. He was a regular daily skateboarder at the Bob Hill Park, one of the most difficult and complex of the skate bowls.

Briz was greatly admired and liked by his friends and fellow skateboarders. He was sponsored by major clothing and shoe manufacturers in his sport which he developed to an art.

At a request by his friends, and with the permission of council, there will be a tree planting and a memorial plaque to Briz put up at one of the city's skating parks later in the year.



Lisa Tremewan - Waitakere's Newest Judge

At a moving and highly significant ceremony last month Judge Lisa Tremewan of Titirangi was sworn in as a judge of the Waitakere District Court. The tributes flowed for this remarkable woman. Married to musician David Parker, Lisa has four children aged between four and 14.

A phenomenal worker and committed advocate for the socially oppressed and justice, Lisa for many years worked out of the Papatoetoe Law Practice but has always been committed to the west and this community. She was a member of the Glen Eden Intermediate School Trustee and Chairperson of the Titirangi School. In 1995 she established the annual lawyers for famine campaign raising \$90,000 from the New Zealand legal community for aid and development by World Vision. A committee member of the Titirangi Kindergarten and the Waitakere Chapter of AFS, she is one of the founding trustees for the Waitakere Women's Self Help Trust and has served on the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Lisa has an incredible track record with her professional life. She has held office on the Auckland District Law Society, the Auckland Women's Lawyers Association and in 1998 was the inaugural member for the International Association of Refugee Law Judges.

She has written a number of articles around the status of refugees, violence against women and case history.

In all, Lisa Tremewan is remarkable and her colleagues paid great tribute to her on the occasion of her swearing in. This Council wishes Lisa, born in Te Atatu Peninsula, every success in the future.

Leaving Town - Wayne McKenzie - A Legend of Laingholm

It seems if you read the Roundabout that Wayne McKenzie was absolutely everywhere and everything. Fireman, fisherman and citizens' association member, Wayne was the voice and mentor to many. One of the great fishermen of the Manukau, whose knowledge and advice was sought by many.

Wayne has secured a top job with TVNZ Avalon editing and video tape editing, his profession, and is moving to Wellington so we will need to look out for his name in the credits.

This council wishes Wayne all the best in the south. Wayne will be missed as he seemed to be in charge of the annual raft race, the fireman's ball and producing videos and submissions on 'things' in Laingholm.

He was a member of the Breakfast Club with his eight great mates that met every three to four weeks for 16 years. We wish Wayne well and look forward to his return.

Leaving Town - Jonathan Hunt - Heading for London

It's now no secret Jonathan Hunt has got one of the great plum diplomatic posts New Zealand can offer any citizen - the role of High Commissioner in London. Following the sad farewells to this icon of the west Jonathan will leave for the UK in a couple of months. At a parliamentary farewell on March 1, I will pay a tribute on behalf of the City and this Council to Jonathan. He has served the west for many, many years and is New Zealand's longest serving MP. Jonathan lived at Karekare for more than 20 years and would hold weekly clinics in New Lynn. He taught English and languages at Kelston Boys' where he is still respected and renowned for his skills and amazing ability to remember every pupil he has taught. A former quiz kid, Jonathan's knowledge is extraordinary only matched by his collection of wine and Mozart LPs.

Jonathan will be greatly missed by the Karekare community. His support for the local Lone Kauri School enabled it to be set up on his property and for the fee of a bottle of wine Jonathan ensured its growth and success.



Entering parliament at an early age, Jonathan was a Minister of Broadcasting, Deputy Speaker and in this fifth Labour Government he was given the role of Speaker in the House, a role he has filled with style and huge respect. One of the most popular members of parliament he will be greatly missed. We wish him well in his future role representing New Zealand in London.

A rare and never before published photo of Jonathan in his university Segovia days. Photographer and source unknown.



Visiting

If you studied the world of environmental Local Government management sooner or later, and it's often sooner, you will come up with the remarkable achievement of the city of Curitiba. Its transformation from absolute poverty to a city of transportation excellence is legendary throughout the world. Held as an example of how Local Government can deliver success despite real challenges of poverty and apathy the Curitiba experience is one of the great milestones of modern history and although it is mainly credited to the leadership of Jaime Lerner who visited New Zealand last year, Cassio Taniguchi has been the one to take Lerner's legacy to fulfilment.

I met Cassio first in South Africa when we shared a platform at a conference combining our presentations on two different but committed cities and we formed an instant liking for each other.

The secret of the success has been strategic management like Waitakere following the protocols of Agenda 21. But the development of the health card, and the incentives for innovation, have proved to be the phenomenal success. The programmes brought in by the city to fight nutrition, develop education, to assist disabled people by the delivery of unique transport system through the tube stations above ground have given Curitiba renowned acclamation.



Curitiba has designed housing policies linked to its urban planning process for nearly 30 years beginning with the shanty town removal programme in 1976. They have continued through to develop environmental policies second to none and sanitation and a programme of food stamps for recycling.

When Cassio came to Waitakere last month I was proud to introduce him to Waitakere City and what we are trying to do here. Through his eyes I found that our success was acknowledged globally and although we may not have achieved everything we had tried we had at least tried more than any other city in New Zealand often against all odds to change attitudes and communicate widely our policies and planning.

Cassio was delighted at the way we have attempted to hold subdivision and I was able to brief him on the debate of the ranges and foothills legislation. I was also able to show him mature Kauri and regenerating bush in the Ranges as well as Arataki, where in partnership with the ARC we held a welcome and presentation. I then took him to Piha and introduced him to Karekare, the surf club, the beach and New Zealand beer. He was travelling with his wife Marina, his son Gustavo and his daughter in law Luciane.

Opening

M5-M7 After a very, very long wait Waitakere City now has a real hospital. I spoke at the opening on 12 February 2004 and I must say it was a true celebration. The new buildings and facilities look fantastic and I think the hospital and we, as its partner in the project, can be very proud. I have attached a copy of the speech I gave for your information, as attached at pages M5 to M7. Our gift of a bright and brilliant Dean Buchanan painting was very gratefully received and will look fantastic adorning the new buildings' walls.

Awards

It is with great pleasure I list the full list of New Year's Honour recipients bestowed on our local community leaders.

New Zealand's list of New Year Honours was headed by the Rt Hon **Jonathan Hunt**, Speaker of the House, for services to Parliament. Mr Hunt received The Order of New Zealand (ONZ) and as a Member of the Order becomes one of only 20 living people who share that honour.

Professor **Richard (Dick) Bellamy** has long championed conservation efforts at Bethells - Te Henga and O'Neill's beaches. He is now a Companion of the Order for his services to science and education.

Gary Taylor JP (former ARA Chairman and Chairman of the Environmental Defence Society) received the Queen's Service Order for community service as did **Beverley Harris** JP.

Iris Donaghue became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to the environment and Squadron Leader **Ian Mower** of the Royal New Zealand Air Force also became an officer.

Elizabeth Malo and **Matakite Malo** each received the Queen's Service Medal for community service.

Kenneth Catt (Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society) received the Queen's Service Medal for public services.

I've written on behalf of the Council to each offering our sincere congratulations.



Triple Success

The National Bowls Championships were held in Henderson over the New Year period. With the support of the Chief Executive and other staff, this Council assisted in the bid for the championships, beating off Manukau City who were also keen to host it. The champs attracted more than 2000 bowlers, with crowds of hundreds every day at the tournament. The icing on the cake was Henderson being named the country's "Club of the Year".

And wasn't it great to see Metro Magazine's announcement that West Wave Recreation Centre was the Best Public Swimming Pool in Auckland. Metro raved about the centre's vaulted ceilings, the sculpture, the waterfall and the winding river saying the centre was an object lesson in how to make a facility work for the whole community.

More Film Success

Currently being filmed at the Henderson Studios, and studios in Glen Eden, is the New Zealand production "Number 2". This is a \$4 million feature film, funded by the New Zealand Film Commission, New Zealand on Air and TVNZ. It is a relatively small production by film standards, but is still employing more than 30 cast and crew, full-time, through until June.

Fighting Talk

Two events you should be aware of that may have slipped under your radar.

Firstly, on 21 January 2005 John Webster and Unitec announced it would be filing papers in the High Court in Wellington claiming a government block on its application to become the country's ninth university broke multiple laws.

This strong stance from Dr Webster, Unitec's Chief Executive Officer, followed on from the November 2004 submission this council and I made in support of Unitec before the Education and Science Select Committee.

M8-M28 I thought you would like to be aware of this presentation as I felt very positive with the response. I was unaware at this stage that Dr Webster was planning his legal challenge but I certainly have no problem with the action as it will certainly bring to a head what has been a difficult situation over many years for Unitec. The submission is attached at pages M8 to M28.

The David Tua comeback fight is scheduled for 31 March 2005 at the Trusts Stadium. It may be a sudden conclusion or it may be the start of this remarkable fighter's second wind. I have to confess I'm not up with these things but I am very pleased our stadium is being used for a wider audience and one that will help balance the books in the forthcoming months. The stadium is about to welcome its new Chief Executive Officer, Simon Wickham who comes to us from Yachting New Zealand. Councillors will have a chance to meet Simon who will be introduced by Councillor Dallow, the chairman of the stadium, on his taking up of the reins. We wish Simon and Tua the very best for the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Report of the Mayor be received.
2. That the Council approve a tree planting and memorial plaque for Briz at a venue to be decided.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY