

# **Council**

**Wednesday, 26 October 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, 26 OCTOBER 2005, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

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**PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

**IT'S IN THE GENES**

I know many people like to keep how they vote secret but those days are seemingly gone. I can tell how you vote. How? New American research published in the New York Times from a report in the American Political Science Review (the professions' premiere journal) shows people's voting habits may well be etched in their genes.

I aired this new theory on the Agenda television programme and although the time constraints meant I didn't have time to give it its full worth I had very impressive feedback from people asking me what I was on about.

Well, I thought I would share it with you first. After all, every three years here in Waitakere we have to strut our stuff and if only we knew what we were getting into it would either make the job easier or I hate to say, after reading this research, a possible nightmare.

Let me explain.

On the basis of a new study, a team of political scientists is arguing that people's gut-level reaction to issues is strongly influenced by genetic inheritance. The new research builds on a series of studies that indicate people's general approach to social issues - more conservative or more liberal - is influenced by genes.

In the study, three political scientists combed survey data from two large continuing studies including more than 8000 sets of twins. They selected 28 questions most relevant to political behaviour from an extensive battery of surveys on personality traits, religious beliefs and other psychological factors.

The questions asked people to indicate whether they agreed with each topic or were uncertain on issues such as tax, capitalism, unions and porn movies. Most of the twins had a mixture of conservative and liberal views but overall they leaned slightly one way or the other.

The researchers then compared fraternal twins who, like any biological siblings share 50 percent of their genes, with identical twins who share 100 percent of their genes. Calculating how often identical twins agree on an issue and subtracting the rate at which fraternal twins agree on the same item provides a rough measure of the influence genes have on that attitude.

For example, on 'school prayer' the identical twins' opinions correlated at a rate of 0.66, a measure of how often they agreed. The correlation rate for fraternal twins was 0.46. This translated into a 41 percent contribution from inheritance. In the twins' overall score genes accounted for 53 percent of the differences.

Now I don't know how many twins there are in Waitakere but I wouldn't mind doing our own survey here. In fact I wouldn't mind getting Waitakere twins to tell us if we should have Maori wards or how we should deal with graffiti. Is three years in jail a just sentence for taggers or should we let them off with a warning? And what about the closing of the Te Atatu South Library? Do you think the Te Atatu twins, as opposed to the Ingham twins, would have a more conservative or draconian view of how Council behaves? I'm definitely a starter for getting an indication on genes in the west.



But back to the American study which goes on to differentiate between political ideology and party affiliation. The twins' self-identification as Republican or Democrat was far more dependent on environmental factors like upbringing and life experience than their ideology. Inheritance accounted for 14 percent of the difference in party.

The study suggests an inherited social orientation may overwhelm the more subtle effects of family dynamics. Many people who are genetically conservative may be brought up with a more left leaning ideology and some who are genetically more liberal may be raised as 'right-wingers'. Some 'mismatched' people remain loyal to their family's political party but circumstances can override inherited bent.

I found all of this particularly interesting, especially in the wake of New Zealand's general election. Perhaps in the near future we will see political parties and ideologists going forth to multiply to ensure their own 'politically correct' future. Or we multiply with the intention of making the country or world more bipartisan.

Maybe not! The study's researchers are not optimistic about the future of bipartisan cooperation or national unity. That's because men and women tend to seek mates with a similar ideology so the two gene pools are becoming, if anything, more concentrated. And anyway in New Zealand, with our MMP system and numerous party and coalition options, that might just be a bit too hard to arrange.

So for those of you brave enough to stand for one more election, at least you now have some ammunition for statements and pamphlets that take more considered views on our community. Clearly, the ones that live in Titirangi are all from a gene pool of liberals, painters and artists of tree hugging persuasion and that goes for Piha and Karekare. The Te Atatu Peninsula people are interested in different things, more focused on delivery and rate reduction.

I think areas certainly change as people buy houses and gravitate to communities similar to their natural behaviour and mating patterns. But I digress, and this is of course another survey I read where voting patterns were more along the Richard Florida model which says cities can only survive with like cultures - music, race and sexual persuasion.

In that regard I think Auckland or Ponsonby has got it right. But these are the people that gave Auckland, in the first instance, John Banks and then woke up one morning to realise what they'd done and quickly voted for Dick Hubbard. If that's confusing it leaves little hope for working out how the hell people vote anyway.

I will leave the final judgement and word on this to my firm follower Brian Rudman from the New Zealand Herald who seemingly hangs on my every word in these reports and who narrowly missed an egg thrown from a car. Surprisingly Mr Rudman asked his readers "who could it have been" as he'd missed getting the car registration number.

I could easily give him a list of people who would have gladly delivered the message - John Banks, Christine Fletcher, David Hay, the Eastern Corridor architects and those in charge of the Mt Roskill motorway extension. And of course, my good self, who has been referred to by Mr Rudman as everything from would be Lord Mayor to Noah and much in between. But it clearly wasn't me - I am a very accurate shot.

## **MAORI OUTCOMES**

As you will have seen in the New Zealand Herald following the Finance and Operational Performance Committee's rejection of Te Taumata Runanga's recommendation the Council introduce a Maori ward or wards, I am disappointed. However we still have to consider and decide on the possibility of appointing Maori representatives to each of our standing committees. And I would like each and every one of you to consider this very, very carefully.



As the *Fulfilling the Promise* DVD I had commissioned (and which also featured in the Herald story) demonstrates, we have had a great working partnership with Maori here in Waitakere and that is something I am very proud of. The DVD showcases our journey and what can be achieved in local government. But we can't stop progressing, i.e. we can't just settle for the status quo. We need to keep forging ahead. Having a Maori ward was one option however that has now unfortunately been disregarded. But all is not lost. If we agree to Maori representatives on the committees we will again be leading the field in a forward thinking and ground breaking initiative and a vital one at that.

Maori can and must dictate what happens for them and who are we at Waitakere City Council to halt that just process? We need to get with the programme and realise, as New Zealand has had to realise as a result of the general election and the Maori Party's success, that strong and prolific Maori representation is very rightly the future.

I encourage all of you to think through this issue. We've been talking the talk but the time has come to walk the talk. If we don't go with Maori representation on the committees we will be second rate in our dealings with Maori and I definitely don't want to see that happen. Let's not go backwards in our thinking and let's not jeopardise the equal partnership we have had with Maori to date. Te Taumata Runanga is excellent and has served this Council well but the time has come to up the ante and really commit to and demonstrate our willingness and desire for an even greater and more effective partnership with Maori, a partnership that is truly just and honourable.

## **MILESTONES**

### **Event Successes**

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to the organisers of recent events, the Moon Festival and the Going West Literary Festival.

The latter was I think the best yet and Murray Gray and Naomi McCleary did an absolutely fantastic job. They put in hours and hours of hard work and effort and that certainly paid off. A huge thank you Murray and Naomi. It was an astonishingly good programme and everyone who attended had nothing but high praise. Simply outstanding.

An integral part of the success was the presence of Maurice Gee on the train trip and the organisation for his induction into our new Hall of Fame at the new Civic Centre. Thank you and congratulations to the Henderson Community Board for organising this aspect of the festival. It went very smoothly and was a tribute to a good idea being handled well.

Thanks also to Councillor Judy Lawley for joining the train trip (shame you had your car towed Judy!) which may or may not be our last. Hiring the train has become incredibly expensive and new very strict health and safety regulations don't make it easy for the rail enthusiasts who help us out. Not to mention no-stopping restrictions, Sunday train services (at long last) and double tracking. However, you never know your luck and we may be able to work something out. I hope so. The steam train trip really is a huge part of the festival and it will be sorely missed but if that's not an option I am sure our event organisers will come up with something equally as enjoyable and inspirational.

Sadly I could not attend this year's Moon Festival but I hear it was absolutely wonderful. This event has a great reputation (so great that the Prime Minister, on the eve of the general election, had to attend) and for that we have much to thank Councillor Peter Chan for. Peter pushed for this event to take place on an annual basis and each year he, and wife Audrey, rally the troops to ensure a blockbuster attendance, fantastic festivities and rave reviews. Thank you for your dedication to this event Peter and we look forward to many more. It's festivities such as the Moon Festival and the people involved that make Waitakere such a vibrant, diverse and interesting place to live.



As did the inaugural Waitakere Ethnic Board's magnificent Diwali Festival at the Stadium on Sunday, 16 October 2005. It was nearly a full house and there was an amazing programme from 1.00pm through to the fireworks at 10.30 pm lighting the sky with the culmination of a festival of hope, peace, glorious music and festivities. I would like to acknowledge the City's ethnic board, Council's Monica Sharma and Ann Pala who brought much of the event together. Thanks also to sponsors, Radio Tarana.

The event was attended by a large number of new MPs, Chris Carter, Lynne Pillay, Councillors Stone, Chan, Dallow and a number of Community Board members. It was a dazzling event and I've run out of superlatives to describe its sheer enjoyment.

Diwali in Waitakere started as a small idea growing out of a willingness by this Council to work with the Indian and other communities. When I invited a small group to come three years ago to Council and present a concept I did not realise how it would flourish but it has and it's a tribute to the nurturing and assistance you have been willing to give our ethnic communities. I thank you sincerely for that and once again congratulate the Waitakere Ethnic Board and the organisers.

### **The Eyesore Award**

*M1* Hardly a milestone that I like to acknowledge but the latest Metro magazine at attached at page M1 gives Waitakere City and Transit a joint "award" for the greatest eyesore in the region. For years I have tried to convince Transit to beautify our motorways with planting and so on but it seems its priority and its limited funds are instead directed to asphalt and concrete.

So instead we are stuck with what Metro rightly describes as an eyesore at the entrance to the EcoCity.

If Councillors will recall, the Massey straight leading to Westgate once had rows of flowering bushes. Now there is nothing. While we spend ratepayers' money working on libraries, stadiums and the enhancement of the city our entrance gateway statement from Te Atatu is a couple of grassy knolls with ill kept and tatty flax and bushes under huge power pylons - hardly something to be proud of.

I would think the west Auckland motorways are by far the worst in the region, if not New Zealand. They were devastated by the painted apple moth felling of foliage and nothing remotely green or alive or interesting exists there now. I have continually asked for a planting programme that would give a distinctive feel of welcome reflecting our city's green heritage. All I have had is silence.

However as Councillor Hulse says in the article, we need to work with Transit to at least get some screen planting in place and I have already put a couple of people here 'on the case'.

And while I'm on the subject of eyesores I have to make mention of the rail corridor. On the recent Going West trip with 250 locals and visitors I felt like pulling the blinds down, or at least apologising for the appalling outlook along the tracks. I hear south Auckland is worse as if that was some consolation for us.

We just have to get this cleaned up. At the moment it's nothing short of third world - covered in graffiti and littered with wrecks and debris. It's just not good enough and we will be talking to the government agencies responsible about the situation.



## Cheeky George

Mayor George Wood showed this month that not only is he a fiercely loyal rugby supporter - he has a sense of humour too. On the eve of his North Harbour team travelling to play Southland he sent the following to Waitemata's former Mayor (now Mayor of Invercargill) Tim Shadbolt:

*Dear Tim*

*As a former Waitemata man, you'd be delighted by the way our North Harbour lads are cementing their rightful place in the upper reaches of rugby's NPC.*

*North Harbour's been performing like high quality concrete this season: a fine mix of sand, stone and cement blended from North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney. It's a rock solid foundation for building the best rugby has to offer: dynamic backs and tough forwards doing the hard yards around the track and putting the points on the board.*

*Allan Pollock, Rua Tipoki and the boys will be visiting your neck of the woods on Sunday for what will be anything but a day of rest.*

*Any match against Southland is a mighty battle indeed, but our team will be doing everything it can to bring back five points to keep alive our dream of a home semi final at North Harbour Stadium.*

*If you still have a grain of Piha sand coursing through your veins, give the Harbour boys your best this weekend and wish them well for the play-offs ahead.*

George would have been pleased with the result of that game - North Harbour 31, Southland 22 but total victory was not to be. North Harbour lost to Auckland in the semis. Chin up George, there's always next year.

## Sign of the Times

This sign was recently spotted in Vera Road, Te Atatu. Do you think that locals have got the idea yet??? How on earth can we expect a decent public transport service when the powers that operate our buses are running 22 years late!





## **World of Difference**

Kylie Bentham from Henderson has been announced as one of four exceptional New Zealanders who will benefit from the 2005 World of Difference programme.

The Vodafone programme brings people and their passions together by paying the salary and expenses of four people for a year so they have the freedom to work full time for their favourite courses.

Kylie, a registered nurse, will spend her 12 months on board the M/V Africa Mercy with international charity Mercy Ships which operates a fleet of hospital ships in developing nations. She will be responsible for running six operating theatres and a sterilisation unit on board which will deliver free operations and improved health care to the people of West Africa.

What an amazing opportunity for Kylie and all credit to Vodafone for this great programme. We congratulate Kylie for being the wonderful person she is and wish her all the best in making a world of difference.

## **Congratulations # 1**

Mike Bristow of Bristow, Barbour & Walker has been made a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Valuers and New Zealand Property Institute. The Council has a good working relationship with Mike and the company and I have extended congratulations on behalf of all of us. Mike is based in Henderson and does a lot of work for the city so it's nice to see that effort recognised.

## **Congratulations # 2**

Congratulations to Rutherford College's Ashley Old who has been selected to compete in the Junior World Karate Championships in Cyprus next month. All the best Ashley.

## **Herald Island Election of Officers**

A big thank you to Fran Bromhead who has been President of the Herald Island Residents and Ratepayers for the past two years and welcome to Noel Rugg who was elected unopposed at the organisation's annual meeting last month. Noel is an old advertising colleague of mine and a supporter of much that we have been trying to do in Waitakere over the past decade. Noel will be a great advocate for Herald Island and our city but he will also have a very fair mind about the way things should shape up. I would like to welcome Noel to the job as President of the ratepayers of this extraordinary and beautiful part of Waitakere and one that never lets its thoughts go unheard.

## **What to Read**

As we all know, balance is a very important part of life so I am always on the lookout for it. And generally I don't have to look too far, as in this instance which is all about balancing the need for dams and water with damage to the environment.

Firstly I received Watercare's interflow magazine which had several articles to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the railway through the Waitakere Ranges to build Auckland's first concrete water supply dam. The Waitakere Dam was finished in 1910 and its height was raised to increase storage in 1927. The articles are full of interesting facts and figures about the railway and the dams and therefore well worth a read. The magazine is testament to Watercare's excellent work.



Then I recently came upon a new book by journalist Jacques Leslie called Deep Water which unveils a new theory and says the world's dams have shifted so much weight that geophysicists believe they have slightly altered the speed of the earth's rotation, the tilt of its axis and the shape of its gravitational field. Leslie is certainly no fan of dams and warns of the global inherit damage they are capable of doing and indeed do. Dams he says have resulted in the displacement of millions of people, depleted thriving fisheries and caused the degradation of entire riparian and wetland ecosystems.

When I finished the book I went for a read of our own local history and of course one only has to look at the flourishing Te Henga community of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century to see a fishing village with canoes and crops and a rich farmland stretching inland. This of course was the Te Waiti settlement of Te Kawerau A Maki - all destroyed by the building of the Waitakere Dam and the change of the Waitakere River which destroyed the community and altered the landscape irreparably. It also of course took away one of the great natural waterfalls of the ranges, the Waitakere Falls. I'm sure there's much more that vanished with the building of our own dams and Leslie's timely well-written book Deep Water is well worth a read.

### **Where West Meets East**

A guest column from a recent traveller, Councillor Janet Clews. It sounds like an amazing trip Janet and Ernie.

*Turkey has for ever been the link between East and West with the major part of the country actually in Asia Minor. But we approached it from the west, from Singapore in fact, which provided a stark contrast, with its ordered society and cleanliness.*

*We arrived in Istanbul first thing in the morning and as New Zealanders need no visa and there are no cards to fill in, we were soon through the formalities, although we were captured on web-cam. Our transport was waiting and we were at the hotel in half an hour. Some tall young men were checking out. It transpired that they were basketball professionals who had played a match there the night before. (Turks are basketball and soccer mad.) As we travelled in, the first thing that struck us was the litter and dust everywhere. Here, we complain and try to eliminate it but there, it seems to have overwhelmed the system. It is easy to be critical, but greater Istanbul has grown from a city of a little over one million to a population now close to 20 million in less than fifty years. Even so, it does have a rail system serving parts of the city!*

*It was a learning experience to realise that not only were we "illiterate" here but we couldn't even understand the spoken language of those other than the hotel staff! Everyone should face that occasionally as it feels a little like watching a movie without the sub- titles. You are on the margins of life which proceeds around you.*

*There are 81 provinces in Turkey, the governors of which are appointed by the central government. However, local mayors are elected by the people. In contrast, the President is elected by the 550 members of the General Assembly for a term of five years.*

*Mustafa Kemal Ataturk is revered as the father of the nation-which is what the name he was given actually means. A statue or picture of him is never far away in any large town and the Turkish flag is everywhere, even coloured into the ground on hillsides. There are very large military installations all over the country which are security fenced and where any photography is forbidden. All young males spend 16 months in military training, less two months if they are university graduates. To make a career in the forces, candidates must pass the entrance exam for the academy where they spend four years before moving for a further four years to a unit. There is no choice which arm of the services you are posted to. It is a compulsory placement.*



*The country is virtually self-sufficient in food. We saw huge expanses of wheat, beet (all sugar there comes from beet) sunflowers, (the seeds are stored a little like we store silage, in the ground on plastic which envelopes the huge piles of seeds which are then taken as needed to either produce oil or to be roasted). Onions and tomatoes are in abundance and fields of melons supply the markets and roadside stalls. It was quite usual to see seven different varieties of olives at breakfast even. One variety of squash is grown only for its seeds which are roasted and salted. The rest is used as cattle fodder. Turkish cotton is among the finest in the world and the silk and wool industries are still hugely important. Dairying and goat herding is done much as it always has been with herders minding the flocks, many of which seemed rather scrawny. The farm workers all live in villages not on their own plots of land and the most noticeable feature of the countryside to us was the lack of fences. People seem to just have tiny landmarks or features which indicate the end of their land. We did see some concrete fence sections in a few places but these were only to prevent animals from straying on to the main highways.*

*Turkish bread is wonderful, there's always plenty of it and there were eggs, cheese and apricots available for breakfast every day. The apricots are the best in the world remaining soft and succulent even when dried. But meat is generally very expensive so is used sparingly. Chicken is frequently on the menu but with the bird 'flu there, goodness knows what carnivore tourists will be presented with! However, vegetables are plentiful and the tomatoes are sweet and juicy. We learned to enjoy eggplant and now know what okra and sesame look like in the fields. Fish is also common especially in coastal areas. Turks eat well and even the peasant food is tasty and healthy. The rice is fluffier than what we can buy and comes with every meal.*

*There are huge road works all over the country. Large "v" shaped drains beside some main roads were being lined with concrete. This was being mixed on site and alternate boxed squares were being filled. The spaces were then filled with concrete when the first pour had set. There were places on four lane highways where half the road width was opened up and huge box drains had been poured in situ. In Bergama (Pergamon) the main street had new drains being built along one side. These were what seemed like deep trenches lined with concrete but covered at road level with a continuous metal grill more than a metre wide. I could only wonder if this is to cope with the winter snows as they melt. All this activity is no doubt linked to Turkey's application for membership of the EU but we could not help but be envious of all the evidence of construction. There are huge housing projects underway, but a number appear to have been abandoned when the developers ran out of money. There are for sale signs on these and a sameness about all the buildings in each development but I guess that can be said about most places.*

*Highlights for us were the history, not just in the recognised old heart of Istanbul with the Hippodrome, the Sultan Ahmet (Blue) mosque, Hagia Sophia and the Topkapi Palace but everywhere. It is difficult to comprehend the timeline when looking at antiquities from 4000 years BC and to realise we were treading where the Hittites once trod. Biblical references abound and the links to Roman and Greek history are apparent in varied architectural styles as well as literature, religion and art.*

*Bursa, which was the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, has a population of 1.1m. It sits below Uludag, also called the Mt Olympus of Mysia, where there are ski fields and it now has a number of car factories which serve the whole country. It is the main silk centre too but there were no blouses for big girls! Not even in the ancient bazaar. We visited the Green Ottoman complex, the exterior of which was once covered with greenish blue tiles and which houses the mausoleums of a former sultan and family. The actual bodies are buried in the ground below according to Moslem rites.*

*On the way to Ankara we headed for Gordion which was the capital of the kingdom of Phrygia, where Alexander the Great cut the proverbial knot and opened the way to Asia. Nearby, we walked into the huge earth mound (or tumulus) which is believed to be the burial place of King Midas.*



Ankara is a relatively modern city with a population greater than the whole of NZ. It was here we saw the same advertising bollards which caused some concern in Waitakere recently! The Museum of Anotolian Civilisations with its unique collection of Hittite sun discs, stag cult figures and reliefs as well as Phrygian metal work was fascinating. The Anotolians developed cuneiform writing 4000 years ago and there are examples of a bill of debt, the sale of slaves, a tablet which is a border agreement and one of friendly correspondence from the Egyptian Queen Naplara (wife of Rameses I) to the Hittite Queen after the signing of a peace treaty in the 13<sup>th</sup> century BC. It shows the close relationship between the two nations. Somehow, e-mails do not have the same attraction nor will they have the endurance! The museum itself was built in the 1920's as a bazaar.

The Ataturk Monument is striking with the Mausoleum above a large plaza atop the highest point in the city. (The sarcophagus of Inonu, the second president, is at the opposite side of the plaza.) The associated museum is full of memorabilia of the man and of his struggle to free his country from domination by the sultans. To us it had another dimension as we looked at the huge dioramas, with sound effects, depicting the Gallipoli campaign from the Turkish perspective. Ataturk and Inonu served together there.

We visited the Seljuk Caravanserai of Agcikarahan, which might be described as a 13<sup>th</sup> century inn, on our way to the Cappadocia (Kapadokia) region. Here we saw moonscape-like Goreme with its rock chapels carved out by the early Christians and decorated with frescoes from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Byzantine complex at Zelve and the underground city of Ozkonak. We stayed in a hotel which had been designed to reflect the unusual landscape. Consequently there were comments about the architect's eyesight!

Passing the great salt lake "Tuz Golu," we reached Konya and saw more Seljuk museums: the Mevlana Monastery of the Dervishes, the Karatay theological school, now a tile museum and the elegant Ince Minaret stone and carving museum. Light rail ran past our hotel and elsewhere at the side of the streets. (Very easy to access.)

Antalya is on the Mediterranean Sea but the only way to reach the water from our hotel was down the steep cliffs or by an elevator built by the hotel. With a population of 604,000, it boasts the second busiest airport in Turkey and is an area recently discovered by the tourist market, especially those from Russia.

We visited Pamukkale where there are spectacular white limestone cascades formed by the hot springs and the fascinating archeological site of Hierapolis, a thermal resort founded by a Pergamon king in 190BC and later enlarged by the Romans. After travelling through the lush Menderes River valley, we sweltered in the heat at Ephesus, once the capital of Asia Minor, saw the restored library (formerly a monastery which is said to have been linked to a brothel), the marble road and one of the best preserved ancient amphitheatres. We were taken up a pine clad mountain to the chapel where the Virgin Mary is believed to have spent her last days and then stayed overnight in Izmir (Smyrna), Homer's birthplace on the Aegean coast.

Pergamon, once one of the most graceful cities of the world, dates from about 300BC and the acropolis there was based on the Athens model. It is above the town, now known as Bergama and nearby is the shrine to Aesculapeus, the Greek God of medicine, where folk came to be cured. Here dreams were analysed 2000 years before Freud. In Bergama we came upon the celebrations marking the day the city was freed from the Greeks in 1921.

There was much more at Troy than we expected. Excavations show nine different layers of development each with distinctive styles of stone work. The walls of the first layer are older than the Great Wall of China and date from 3000BC. Work is continuing and is sponsored by global industries and universities. We stayed overnight in Canakkale where the wooden horse from the movie "Troy" is installed on the foreshore near a display of what ancient Troy is believed to have looked like.



*Our tour of Gallipoli was special. The six Anzacs were all deeply moved not just because of the place the campaign holds in the maturing of our two nations but also because of the respect which the Turks show for their former enemies. Of course it is a sacred place to them too as it was the same campaign which made Ataturk famous and enabled him to lead the country into the modern world. While the Allies losses were huge, the Turkish casualties were much larger but they held out and won. There are 31 Allied monuments plus many Turkish ones as well. The New Zealand monument on Chunak Bair is plain but imposing. It is very fitting that it is close beside the huge statue of Ataturk who was saved near that spot when a bullet was deflected by his cigarette case in his breast pocket. Nowhere else could we think of, where enemies are now commemorated and respected side by side. The whole area is a national park and is beautifully maintained. We were impressed by the area now used for the ANZAC dawn service and which has a comprehensive series of interpretive panels and were relieved to find that there is little to criticise about the recently completed road works despite comments in the media.*

*OSH would have a fit at some of the sights we saw: a man on a motorbike carrying two children behind him and one in front; a bike rider pulling a primitive cart full of children.*

*City traffic is chaotic. It is nothing to see road markings ignored so that an extra couple of lanes can be squeezed in on the main roads while driving through the narrow "streets" in older parts was hair-raising. There are cay (chai) cafes frequented just by men and we wondered what those men did for the rest of the day. Smoking is a favourite pastime and no legislation prevents it anywhere! Children wear school uniforms- blue with white collars for primary schools. At high school boys wear longs, shirts, ties and jackets while girls all wear tartan skirts of different kinds for each school! Memories will always remain of a friendly people in a country of extremes: of wealth; expectation; religious observance; climate; where there is a mix of ancient races melded into a new one.*

*This sign at a pilgrimage spot produced chuckles - "Silence and an appropriate dressing will be appreciated" - and it wasn't referring to the salad!*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

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