

Council

**Thursday, 14 December 2006
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT
WAITAKERE CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD, HENDERSON, WAITAKERE,
ON THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2006, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

2006 - A GREAT YEAR FOR THE CITY

The headline says it all really. This has been an absolutely stunning year for this Council and this City and I couldn't be more pleased with the progress we have made. At this December Council meeting I am showing a montage of photographs taken throughout 2006 and they too speak for themselves. But I do just want to record here some of the highlights.

In January Waitakere and The Trusts Stadium hosted a section of the Queen's Baton Relay as part of the lead up to the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Our outstanding stadium had outstanding sportspeople visiting and everyone was very impressed with what we had done in terms of the building itself and the sports and events programmes in place. I truly believe our stadium is the best in New Zealand and while I didn't put my hand up for it to host the Rugby World Cup in 2011 we have registered an interest in being the host of the 2007 World Netball Champs which is in jeopardy because of the coup in Fiji. Indeed by the end of the year the stadium had seen a huge number of events including the Carole King concert. Carole's a very famous dame and here she was, in our City. I felt the earth move!

Hot on the heels of the Queen's Baton Relay came the first ministerial visit of the year to our film studios. The Minister of Economic Development, Trevor Mallard, wanted an update on how things were going and we took great delight in telling him just how well everything was going. At that meeting we indicated to him we would seek funding for a new studio. We were hopeful that could be brought together and we were all feeling very optimistic.

This year a number of movies and television series have been filmed here in Waitakere - *30 Days of Night*, *Power Rangers*, *Tattooist*, *Outrageous Fortune*, *Shortland St*, *New Zealand Idol* and *Bridge to Terabithia*. It's an impressive list and has brought at least one famous actor to our shores. Indeed 2006 has been a big year for the film industry and Waitakere.

Big too when you think about the size of what's been floating down Henderson Creek. Alloy Yachts launched two superyachts this year, the 52m (170ft) sloop Kokomo in July and the 41m (134ft) motor yacht Como in November. Kokomo's construction began in August 2004 and Como's in March 2005. Como is the largest motor yacht built at Alloy with an 8.5m (27.9ft) beam. Kokomo was the company's third yacht over 50m and there are another two currently under construction. She has a Southern Spars 63.4m (209ft) carbon fibre mast and the rig includes a crow's nest which travels 30m (98ft) above the deck. Alloy Yachts is now recognised as one of the top three superyacht builders in the world and in the past 15 years has won 16 international awards.

Just down the road at Sensation the company tells me it has just signed a contract to build a 55m (180ft) vessel for a European client who is planning leather walls and ceilings, real gold taps and hand basins and semi precious stone floors. It will be completed in 2009. Before the end of this year the company will launch the 50m (164 ft) M/Y Sensation which weighs 490 tonnes and features very opulent furnishings.



Other companies such as Vaudrey Miller and Salthouse Marine are doing equally as well and as I said it's big stuff for the industry and Waitakere. Clearly we are getting a great reputation around the world as first class boat builders. Indeed I know from experience that the Chinese certainly know all about Waitakere and its boat building industry. When I was in China earlier this year I talked to one of China's major manufacturers who was moving into superyacht building in Hong Kong. He seriously wanted to partner a Waitakere boat building operation and we were able to open the door for ongoing negotiations but like many China deals they wish to start at a very high level of delivery which is impossible in the superyacht business because it is crafted excellence and not mass production. I still am very hopeful that the boat building industry from this city will grow enormously in the emerging wealth and wonder of both China and India.

And speaking of China. Our sister city Ningbo invited us to take part in the 8th Investment and Trade Symposium held in a massive complex on the outskirts of the city in the middle of the year. It was a truly serious trade fair and I led a delegation of 17 Waitakere business people around education, importing, boat building and tourism. Our stand was incredibly popular and we were literally swamped by exhibition visitors and media.

As an aside, in March I had the pleasure to attend the investiture of Mr Seiichi Kinoshita who was mayor of our sister city Kakogawa from June 1986 to June 2002. He was in New Zealand to receive his New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for his services to international relations between New Zealand and Japan.

As part of my trip to China I also visited our sister city in Ireland, Galway. It was opening its new Civic Square and this was a great opportunity to talk about the future of the relationship between Waitakere and this medieval town. I also attended a state dinner at Dublin Castle with the mayor of Galway to farewell Dame Sylvia Cartwright who was visiting Ireland and the UK. It was, as you can imagine, a pretty magnificent affair. As we are the only New Zealand city with a signed agreement with an Irish counterpart, this has become a very important link between Ireland and New Zealand and vice versa and I think we should make more of it.

In London we were part of the official party from New Zealand attending the Chelsea Flower Show. The centre piece of the exhibition was a New Zealand garden designed by Xanthe White and inspired by the coastal rainforests of our own west coast. This was a stunning entry and although it didn't get gold it packed in large audiences. The wonderful spin-off is that Waitakere will now own the exhibit's beautiful glass front and sculpture which we are looking at placing somewhere around the new building. As well as hosting a function at New Zealand House I also attended a number of meetings to promote Waitakere as not just a tourist destination but as a great place in which to do business.

A strong economy is an absolute must for a 21st century city and really, we've all been working hard on this throughout the year. We must, and we can, attract new business so our citizens don't have to travel into Auckland to work. Thanks to the new Unitec / Council library in Ratanui Street we know our kids can receive a tertiary education close to home.

2006 was indeed a year for infrastructure. The library, opened in March, was just the start. We also moved into and officially opened the Waitakere Central complex. Waitakere Central is a shining example of all that is Waitakere and all that is the very best. It symbolises a new heart for the west, lifts our vision and showcases our aspirations. The complex opening also completes a decade of achievement and extraordinary infrastructure for a modern city putting Waitakere in its rightful place as a city of New Zealand – not just a suburb of Auckland.

Not long after the Waitakere Central opening we helped organise the official opening of the new Henderson (Waitakere Central) train station. It was a brilliant day weather wise and success wise. The event saw a number of dignitaries including former New Lynn Mayor Bruce McNaughton and our very own Janet Clews and Assid Corban wearing their old mayoral chains especially dusted off for the ceremonies.



But as well as providing infrastructure we as the Waitakere City Council also have a firm focus on the environment and its care. Unlike others who have only just now jumped on the bandwagon as they say, we in Waitakere have been proactive in this regard for well over a decade. A good example of our commitment to this is the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Protection Bill introduced into Parliament in January and which had its first reading in February. In July, the select committee considering the bill held a session at The Trusts Stadium and I think it is fair to say we wowed members with our presentation and pleas to further protect the ranges and foothills from death by a thousand cuts. Parliamentary consideration of the Bill has extended into 2007 but hopefully early 2007. The Bill is at present going through a process with officials and this is coming back to council. I urge all councillors that are of a mind to support this Bill to make sure they are well aware of the changes, both minor and major, being made by officials. Personally I feel this Bill has been well crafted by this city and its partners and I am not of an opinion it needs to be meddled with to fit a mould of Wellington bureaucrats.

Most importantly, Waitakere City is all about its people. Waitakere is a city on a roll and while the council has played a significant part in that, so too have Waitakere's citizens. They have supported our initiatives and they have continued to have pride in the place where they live. The input they make to this city is nothing short of tremendous and for that our citizens must be thanked.

I was particularly pleased with the way the Laureates concept grew over the past two years and I thank councillors for the support allowing budget to make it a reality. Photographs of the Laureates selected by the panel are in the Waitemata Room. They are our creative best and brightest and they will be added to in the years ahead. Next year in March I will bring together the Laureates who wish to contribute to ideas and wisdom. It will be an open forum with topics and subjects that will give this council a creative cultural guidance and in the best possible, positive way give us some new ideas for the work we do and our future. I make this suggestion respectfully because when you ask cultural advice it's got to be tempered with a common sense and practical approach. Wasn't it Goebbels who said "when I hear the word culture I reach for my revolver"?

The dazzling Laureates dinner, held as part of the Waitakere Central opening celebrations, gave us a chance to formally recognise our inaugural Laureates in wonderful surroundings. It was a special night, like the opening the following day which signalled a new and positive beginning for the city of Waitakere. The dinner, with its A list of influential and strategic business and funding partners, clearly indicated this city was hell bent on a stunning future of enterprise and productivity. That was the reason for gathering them together to show them by demonstration how this city was determined to be a true environmental business eco tech high tech city of the 21st century. A bonus was the extraordinary overture commissioned by the city to open the complex. We were the first city since 1948 to commission a piece of music and it was brilliantly composed and performed by Titirangi composer / conductor Brigid Bisley and our own city orchestra.

M1-M3 And so there you have my highlights for 2006, my 'year in review'. As you know, I like to finish things on a high note and things couldn't have got much higher when it was announced Waitakere was the most "liveable" city in the world (population 200,000 to 750,000). The accolade came from the United Nations backed LivCom Awards and Councillor Penny Hulse and directors Graeme Campbell and Sue Bidrose were in China to collect the beautiful glass trophy. Our win was all about smart thinking and innovative ways of dealing with the effects of population growth, crime, increasing waste volumes, stormwater, traffic etc. Smart planning and involving communities in everything we do. And it's about recognition of the fact Waitakere is a world leader in sustainability. I have attached more congratulatory letters at pages M1 to M3.



Indeed, Waitakere is a world leader in many respects including our World Health Organisation's safe city reaccreditation. Waitakere was the first New Zealand city to be accredited in 1999 and last week I signed the new 'contract'. While we are far from being a safe city, especially with our shameful family violence statistics, we are all working very hard to make it a safer city. We have some very strategic partnerships in this regard and no-one could doubt this city's commitment to making Waitakere a city for peace in every respect. There's still much to be done but I feel confident we are making progress and that that progress will continue.

We should all be proud of what we achieved this year and in the years before. 2006 has indeed been a stunner and I am sure 2007 is going to be even better. At the time of writing we have yet to meet with Michael Cullen, the deputy Prime Minister to discuss New Lynn under grounding but I am very optimistic we will see this come our way.

And so in conclusion, thank you to each and every councillor. I am pleased to have such a committed team working with me. I would also like to thank Chief Executive Officer Harry O'Rourke and his team, especially those who oversaw the move from Waipareira Avenue to Waitakere Central. Logistically that could have been a nightmare but it all went incredibly well.

I would like to thank the directors personally in this report for their support and advice. I'd also like to thank my personal assistant Vanessa Sherer for her dedication and Fiona Cunningham for speeches, support and her constant hand on the mayoral office.

Thank you to the Deputy Mayor Councillor Stone for her amazing resilience in handling the endless and obviously protracted Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Act 2004 process.

The Prime Minister Helen Clark has been an amazing supporter of this city and should be thanked too. She opened our building and has attended many events in the city, more recently the Korean Film Festival and the Babich 90th anniversary. One of our hardest working Prime Ministers in living memory she has a great affection of the west and this city.

I would also like to acknowledge the support we get from our other political friends. I think we are assisted greatly by a wide group of people elected to represent us nationally. Although we do not see some often, I would like to especially thank the ones we do - David Cunliffe, Lynne Pillay and Chris Carter, Paula Bennett, Tau Henare and lately Tim Groser. I would like to see Hone Harawira, Dover Samuels and Pita Sharples more often. And I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Mr John Key on his elevation to leadership of the National Party.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

PASSING PARADE

Our much loved and respected kaumätua Fraser Delamere died in January and I dedicated my February Mayoral Report to him. There will be an unveiling at the graveside at Te Kaha on January 13 next year. Councillors and friends of Fraser, and there are many, are welcome to join me and our group from Waitakere who will travel down. Accommodation will be on the marae on the night of the 12th.

In March we lost Jure (George) Garelja who lived and worked in Oratia orchards since he set foot in New Zealand in 1940.

The beloved wife of former Waitemata Mayor Ian McHardy, Carmela died in April.

In May the west lost a true pioneer with the passing of Audrey Fenton.

Ruth Cole's mother Joan died in July. She was an integral part of the local Titirangi and Huia community.



Also in July we lost Lorna Sunde of Oratia, wife of the late Councillor Gordon Sunde and mother of Rex and Lance.

Also that month the husband of former Community Board Member Betty Hanson, Bill, died aged 92 years.

In August one of New Zealand's leading artists, Peter Sauerbier, died having made an amazing gesture to leave his art collection and estate to the people of Waitakere.

Tinai Hancock, one of the founding active members of the Waitakere Pacific Board and Rosie Blake who had spent more than 15 years as secretary of the Paturua Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association also passed in August.

In September the mighty totara and distinguished Ngati Whatua elder, Sir Hugh Kawharu, passed on.

Brian Slater, Waitemata City Councillor for 12 years before amalgamation died in October as did Ian Gibson, President of the Te Atatu RSA from 1998 to 2006.

At Onsdorp (Dutch Village) the following people passed away this year:

Hazel Rawlinson
Cherie Zwart
Irene Valentine
Maria Cryns
Toni Primus
Nelly Graamans
Jo Piet
Kath Grinstead
Tom Finer (in his 101st year)

FINALLY

And just so you don't completely relax over the holiday period I am finishing this Mayoral Report with a quiz question. Please let me know when you have the answer. The deadline is the end of January. All correct answers will receive a bottle of wine and I will print the answer in my February report.

Question: What do the following have in common - the Andrew sisters, Gregory Peck, Gary Cooper and Waitakere?

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY