

# **Council**

**Wednesday, 26 April 2006  
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 APRIL 2006, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

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**PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

**WAITAKERE CITY - PEACE CITY**

As I told the Western Leader and talked about in my Anzac Day speech, my going to the Gallipoli Peninsula and the war graves was a life changing experience, as it would be for any New Zealander. As you walk through the vast cemeteries you notice most the young age of the fallen. It is deeply and tragically moving.

In itself the Gallipoli campaign was also a tragedy in that it failed in its objective with an immeasurable loss of young New Zealand and Australian lives.

So what have we learned from this sacrifice, sorrow and grief? I think we have learned to appreciate the futility of war and gained an understanding that conflict rarely achieves anything more than disillusionment and devastating sadness.

When I address Anzac Day services I feel a great deal of sympathy for the men and women who served this country so valiantly, believing they were setting the world free of tyrannical rule, dictatorship and oppression. And then one turns on the television and you realise war continues to wreck countries and lives as well as the future hopes and aspirations of generations.

As you know, last year I was in Hiroshima as one of the global Mayors for Peace attending a conference held to coincide with the commemorations of the bombing of that city 60 years earlier. I was part of the New Zealand delegation that invited Hiroshima's Mayor, Mr Tadatoshi Akiba, to come and visit this country and speak on the issues of global conflict and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. I am pleased he consented and will speak in Wellington on 12 May after meeting the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

This is a tribute to New Zealand and our initiatives against what I regard as the most serious threat in the world today - the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the countries that insist on holding them (Iran, Pakistan, North Korea, China and America).

I urge all New Zealanders to be mindful and vigilant that peace is a fragile state and that at any time the world could be engulfed in a nuclear holocaust. Thankfully, through the sadness and memory of Anzac Day, we can perceive hope and a better world.

Peace is a subject dear to my heart and very important. I believe it's the small things that count and matter and we all have the ability to do small things that can make a huge difference.

When I spoke at the Hiroshima conference I dedicated my speech to former Prime Minister and nuclear free godfather David Lange who was at the time ill in hospital and who of course has since passed away. The former Prime Minister was the man who had the vision and passion to declare this country nuclear free. Admittedly our very own Tim Shadbolt had declared Waitemata nuclear free a few years earlier but it was Lange who really put this country's stance on the global map.

Now I want to do that for Waitakere. I mentioned in my August 2005 Mayoral Report I was looking at extending our peace activities; we've always been a Peace City at heart, but we haven't actually formalised that and I think the time has come to do just that. With our move to Waitakere Central in just a couple of months this City is going to be reborn as a City with heart and as a City with a bright future. Part of that future needs to be a formal commitment to peaceful communities and peace in general.



To that end I want to declare Waitakere an official Peace City. By being a Peace City Waitakere will be able to celebrate its history of peace and means we will effectively show our city's commitment to actively contributing to a more peaceful future. The Peace City declaration also paves the way forward to create an atmosphere for the development of a Culture of Peace as promoted by UNESCO and will encourage other Cities.

This Council's friend, Marion Hancock from the Peace Foundation, couldn't agree more. She says that not only does becoming a Peace City produce practical results; it means we will be adding to the growing number of Peace Cities around the world and that can only be good.

As you would expect, Marion is excited and pleased about this initiative and during our conversation she pointed out that 4 June next year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Nuclear Free New Zealand Act. The Peace Foundation is currently gearing up to invite local Councils to consider how they might best mark that historic occasion. Indeed, that needs to be part of our thinking and it can be a focus for our deliberations and deliveries.

The first step is for our Strategy Unit to prepare a report for the full Council. I don't want to pre-empt that report but it will include a number of initiatives that we will need to set up and undertake such as a Peace City homepage on our website, peace displays and signs and maybe a Peace Festival. By doing this we will pull all of our peace activities together and give them a format and focus. I intend to talk to Christchurch Mayor Gary Moore because Christchurch has been a Peace City for several years now and also our friends in Wellington who are going through the process at this moment. Ideally, I would also like to see a Peace Park established featuring a Peace Bell which we have been promised as a gift from Japan.

Speaking of that gift from Japan, I am very pleased to report the sculpture commissioned by the Government and financially supported by a small number of New Zealand cities, Waitakere included, as a gift from this country to Nagasaki's Peace City, has recently left our shores for Japan and will be installed in August and unveiled in October at the Citizens Assembly for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons Conference.

Called The Cloak of Peace - Te Korowai Rangimarie, the sculpture is the work of Kingsley Baird and is a gift to Nagasaki from the New Zealand Government and the Cities of Christchurch, Auckland, Wellington, Napier and Waitakere. It is a gift of friendship from the people of New Zealand and a token of the deep sympathy we feel for those who died, and continue to suffer, from the dropping of the nuclear bombs.

*M1-M8* I have attached at pages M1 to M8 a copy of the letter to Nagasaki's Mayor Mr Itcho Itoh from the Prime Minister Helen Clark and the Mayors of the Cities mentioned earlier as well as Mr Baird's design proposal submitted to the judging panel which explains the sculpture, its relationship to the site chosen and some details on the artist himself.

**Recommendation:** That the Strategy Unit prepares a report for Council looking at how to progress the proposal to declare Waitakere a Peace City.

## CATCH UP

*M9-M20* Since my last report in which I advocated for solar energy and for Waitakere to lead the way in this sustainable domestic power, I can't believe how much publicity has started to appear on this very topic. In the same issue the Western Leader published an article on my report there was a middle section devoted to local suppliers of solar panels urging new home buyers to seriously consider the option. Now, I am reading it everywhere. With rising energy costs and the possibility of oil shortages, it seems solar power is about to enter our lives very seriously. I have attached a very interesting Listener article on the energy topic at pages M9 to M12. I have also attached at pages M13 to M20 another Listener article called Condition Critical which talks about the top environmental danger zones and concerns. It's a must read.



I have been working on this project for about three years and I am very committed to seeing how this City can help families resolve escalating power bills and have sustainable water and energy sources. But now other Cities are catching on rapidly. There is now so much out there being offered to the public I am in awe of the communication that has just taken off like a rocket. I think it is the tip of a very big and positive movement towards communities such as Waitakere taking a major lead in future management of energy and resources. Please support me and our community to find new ways that will pay dividends for our people.

## **MILESTONES**

### **Obituary**

Carmela McHardy, the beloved wife of former Waitemata Mayor Ian McHardy passed away on 5 April after a short painful battle with cancer at the age of 67. As well as raising her children and encouraging her grandchildren to be strong, ethical and hard working, Carmela quietly and effectively contributed a great deal to her community. She was involved in many activities including Plunket, the Te Atatu Garden Club and Church and was instrumental during her 20 years of work with the Western Districts Community Foundation in organising the purchase of Cranwell House as a community facility and a base for the newly established Waitakere Sports Trust. Carmela was directly involved in securing sponsorship for Olympic rowing champion, Eric Verdonk, to go to the World Championships and was a charter member of the West Auckland Soroptomists Club, its president, the President of its Australasian Federation and New Zealand North Representative to its international conference.

Carmela was directly involved in securing a Women's Refuge safe house in Henderson and instrumental in establishing the Women's Refuge network throughout New Zealand. She had a great empathy for the women (and men) in violent situations. She was also on the original steering committee for the Falls Hotel Preservation Project and in 1993 was awarded the Queen's Suffragette Medal.

Among all of this Carmela found time to be a practice manager at her husband's legal practice, a Justice of the Peace and a marriage celebrant. She is survived by Ian, six daughters, 11 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Our thoughts are with them all, as well as Carmela's friends, at this very sad time. She was a woman who will be sadly missed.

### **Congratulations**

There's not too many people around who you can congratulate on becoming 100 but that's what we are doing to Connie Schnauer from Titirangi. Connie now lives in a New Lynn rest home but is still fit and well and full of the joys of spring from all accounts. I am sure you will join with me in congratulating Connie on achieving something most of us only dream of and, believe me, probably won't reach.

### **Retiring # 1**

Karel Witten-Hannah, after 32 years as a teacher, mentor and innovator at Massey High School. At a magnificent farewell at the school on Thursday, 14 April, this much loved and respected teacher was farewelled by former teachers, the Principal, staff and members of the community. Karel was instrumental in assisting with the building of the school's marae and the difficult task of having the spectacular carvings done at Paremoro Prison over a seven year period.

The powhiri was held in this marae and Karel was presented with a feathered cloak by the school. Later in the staffroom memories of his many achievements were recalled, including the annual trips he led to the Nelson Lake District, as was his commitment to computer studies and the fact he even learned to repair the early machines.



Karel's working life at the school, his only job since finishing training college, has been one of total commitment to the pupils from kayaking, abseiling and fitness to mentoring and leadership. His has been an outstanding life committed to the children of the community.

Mention of course was made of his role in Surf Lifesaving at Karekare, the fire party and first response work. All of us who were there gave some thought to whether this man ever slept. The answer is probably no. He was joined at the farewell by his wife Caroline and his daughters Shalema and Rebecca. Karel is retiring to become a full time grandparent and carer as well as continuing his study of Te Reo. I am sure all Council colleagues will wish him well and we will farewell him ourselves at our June Council meeting.

### **Retiring # 2**

Te Henga resident and long time historian of the Auckland Regional Council, Graeme Murdoch has retired from that institution after nearly 25 years. Graeme is one of the great local historians of the west and I believe the Auckland Regional Council will feel his loss deeply. Graeme has been an extraordinary asset with his understanding of Maori history in the west and his epic research and recording of the early builders of the Waitakere dams. Fluent in Maori, Graeme has been able to translate and research the history of Te Kawerau A Maki and has been a valuable asset in the building of partnership with Councils and the Maori community. He has been a contributor to many publications including West Auckland Remembers, Rolling Thunder and the new book on the Waitakere Ranges mentioned later in this report. A Masters' graduate in history from Auckland University, Graeme's moving farewell was attended by me, Warahi and Linda Paki and Rewi Spraggon. We wish Graeme well in his retirement and he too will join us for dinner at the June Council meeting.

**Recommendation:** That Graeme Murdoch and Karel Witten-Hannah be invited to the June Council meeting and dinner so they can be farewelled appropriately by the City.

### **Back in the Job**

As the local media has told us John Tamihere is back in the driver's seat of Te Whānau O Waipareira. After his role as Labour MP, John returns to the west and his original job as Chief Executive Officer of the trust, replacing Reg Ratahi and taking on the responsibility of bringing the trust back to its former glory. I am sure all Councillors will welcome the news and we wish and extend to John every success.

### **Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs**

Councillor Lawley has recently taken my place on the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs. This is a very important role because the taskforce's aims are noble ones - to see all young people under 25 in paid work, training, education or useful activities in our communities and to see all adults who are long term unemployed have the chance to be encouraged to be in paid work, training, education or in useful activities in our communities.

*M21-M23* Councillor Lawley attended a Core Group meeting in Wellington last month and has filed a comprehensive report on the meeting which is attached at pages M21 to M23.



### **The Waitakere Ranger - New Rag**

*M24-M25* If you live in the ranges, into your letterbox would have appeared the most extraordinary piece of journalism disguised as the Waitakere Ranger. You really have to read it to realise its woozy, pseud's corner and mishmash of stories have nothing at all to do with the price of fish. The front page copy about the Parihaka Festival and talking cats makes no sense but when you turn it over you find the real purpose for publication is to get you to read a rave by National MP Paula Bennett about the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Bill. Paula, who never seems to have a good word to say about the City or the west, had earlier organised a public meeting, addressed by that well-known out of town Nick Smith, to whip up a fury against the bill and to suggest her idea about turning the ranges into a national park despite the fact she has been repeatedly told this is unacceptable and will simply not work. Paula seems to be slightly deaf or has selective hearing. So for the record here attached at pages M24 to M25 is what Paula has been told repeatedly but refuses to hear. The editor of the rag, Marianne Mawhinney of Swanson, is clearly looking for a future in journalism. I think she'll be disappointed.

### **Waitakere Ranges Book - At Last**

After more than 20 years in the preparation, Waitakere Ranges - Ranges of Inspiration will be launched on 7 May at the Titirangi War Memorial Hall. This book though, compiled by Bruce and Trixie Harvey, commissioned and published by the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society and dedicated "to all the conservationists past and present who have contributed to the preservation of our heritage", is well worth the wait.

As the book's prologue says, the Waitakere Ranges and their parklands of forest create a unique area adjacent to a major urban community. The western area, from the foothills of the ranges to the coastal settlements of the west coast, is the subject of the book, a celebration of the society's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Formed in 1973 to stop a part of the ranges becoming a rubbish dump, the society has grown with a vision to protect and conserve the whole of the ranges. So it is significant the book is being launched as our Waitakere Ranges Heritage Bill is making its journey through Parliament.

The book, sponsored by this Council, is divided into several sections covering the natural history, the human history and the inspiration that artists and writers have found in the ranges. It features a number of essays and articles covering a wide range of topics. I was honoured to be asked to contribute a chapter and another essay was provided by Council's own Chris Ferkins.

I am sure that as well as being a very valuable resource the book will be an inspiration for many as it gives a strong appreciation of one of New Zealand's greatest environmental assets.

Waitakere Ranges Protection Society President John Edgar has written the book's preface and its foreword is by the Rt Hon Jonathan Hunt, a long time Waitakere Ranges resident and now the High Commissioner in London. "There is nothing I enjoy better to escape the hurly-burly of Parliament and city life than to come home to the Waitakere Ranges and enjoy all it has to offer - its bush, dramatic landscapes and spectacular coastline," says Jonathan. "May the ability to do this continue for many generations to come." I couldn't agree more and I congratulate everyone involved with this book on all their hard work. The effort is much appreciated.



## Commodore Keith Jowsey

M26

Congratulations must go to Glendene resident, tomato grower and historian Keith Jowsey who has dedicated a big part of his life to the Orpheus and its wreck on the Manukau Bar on 7 February 1863. Keith has landscaped a magnificent sculpture, in his magnificent grounds, representing the signals which helped send the ill fated vessel to its destruction. Each year Keith invites a number of prominent Aucklanders to join him on the 'poop deck' to celebrate and commemorate the tragedy of the Orpheus. Keith, not surprisingly, calls himself the Commodore after Commodore (2<sup>nd</sup> Class) William Farquharson Burnett C.B. who was on the vessel and perished like the other 188 sailors and officers. Keith has a very fine period outfit for the occasion as does his good lady, Mrs Cheril Jowsey. The Commodore is a fine host and an excellent wit and he presented a number of Waitakere residents with certificates of appreciation making them honorary members of the Orpheus crew. You will see from the attachment at page M26 I was made Honorary Vice Commodore.

The gathering was attended Mr Mike Lee of the Auckland Regional Council, Mr Rudy Sunde who entertained us with his Orpheus ballads and the Orpheus Sea Scouts who came in for the final lowering of the colours.

Keith would like the City to commemorate this important maritime disaster and we will work with the Auckland Regional Council to see if such an event, possibly at Huia, would be worth exploring. You'll hear more of Mr Jowsey and his ideas before the next commemoration comes around.

## Our Wonderful Stadium

From 6 to 8 April The Trusts Stadium hosted the OZ Talk NZ 2006 travel show and it seemed every state of Australia, and every small town, was represented. It was right up with the best trade shows ever held in the region. The stadium was absolutely transformed, as you can see in the photographs and the show definitely proved our stadium can handle huge events. Exhibition space was at a premium and it was a pleasure to be there really. More than 300 retail, wholesale and corporate travel agents attended OZ Talk NZ and I think we can all be very proud they had such an amazing facility, and City, in which to ply their wares. I am sure we will continue to see many more of these classy events at the Stadium and congratulations to all involved.





### And Our Wonderful Athletes

You may not know but 25 of this country's athletes at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games were from Waitakere or had strong links with the City. Definitely something to be proud of that's for sure. All of our medals came from teams and the mix of medal winning sports directly relates to the first class facilities we have in this City - the Trusts Stadium (basketball and netball), West Wave (swimming), Waitakere Badminton Hall Massey (badminton) and our high schools for their developing strengths in rugby.

The athletes were:

Daniel Shirley and Sara Runesten - Badminton Mixed Doubles and Silver  
Lauren Boyle and Melissa Ingram - Swimming Women's Relay and Bronze  
Lindsay Tait and Paul Henare - Men's Basketball and Silver  
Lisa Wallbuton - Women's Basketball and Silver  
Maria Tutaia and Jodi Te Huna - Netball and Gold  
Teresa Borell - Shooting Trap Pairs and Bronze  
Josh Blackie and Amasio Valance - Sevens and Gold  
Kahakura Bentson - Boxing  
Lianne Shirley - Badminton  
Geoff Bellingham - Badminton  
Rebecca Bellingham - Badminton  
Daniel Sharp - Swimming (athlete with a disability)  
Rowan Brassey - Bowls  
Jamie Hill - Bowls  
Krystal Forgesson - Hockey  
Campbell Grayson - Squash  
Beatrice Faumuina - Discus  
Teegan Metcalfe - Rhythmic Gymnastics  
Angela McKee - High Jump  
Martin Knight - Squash

A big congratulations and thank you to you all.



## **Waiatarua Fire Brigade 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Forty years ago the Waiatarua Fire Brigade came into being and at the anniversary celebrations much credit was paid to the two founding fire fighters William Beveridge the former ARA Ranger, and John Isaacsen of the bamboo farm in Waiatarua. Bill and John brought together a group of locals and an old engine and they were in business. Two of the biggest fires in the Waiatarua district were the new restaurant, the Dutch Kiwi on Scenic Drive, in 1973 and then the old Dutch Kiwi in 1976. The new restaurant was just below the current Elevation Café and the old one, further down the road. These were massive fires seen all over Auckland. The current Elevation Café site was originally where the first dance restaurant stood and that had burnt to the ground in 1948. This small area not only saw some of its heritage going up in flames but a number of houses were also destroyed by fire between 1960 and 1969.

Well, all of that changed when this remarkable brigade came into being and it has gone from strength to strength with members getting themselves involved in all kinds of fires and mischief, writing and performing very funny plays and producing a very credible film on the brigade's deeds and misdeeds.

The celebration dinner was held at the Elevation Café and was attended by Councillor Hulse and myself and Mr and Mrs Assid and Miriam Corban representing the Trusts. Needless to say a great night was held by all and I am sure all Councillors will join me in wishing the brigade well for the years ahead.

## **Matafetu Smith**

*M27-M36* I have attached at pages M27 to M36 a moving report from Matafetu Smith. Matafetu is a Henderson resident who took up a weaving residency in Western Australia last year. The report is a record of her time and efforts there and is great reading. I am sure you are all as proud as I am that this amazing woman is doing such wonderful work. Matafetu, at the end of the report which includes some glowing testimonials, asks for our help in getting a small group from Australia to visit us at the time of the Corban Arts Centre Festival later this year and I have replied to her she should contact Tanya Wilkinson or apply for some funding via the Annual Plan process.

## **Glen Eden Celebrations**

Barbara and I gladly attended an afternoon tea party at Glen Eden Kindergarten to celebrate Clifford's 20 years of wonderful service. Clifford volunteers his time everyday to help wash dishes, make the tea and coffee and to work and play alongside the children giving them a much loved and valued role model. The Prime Minister Helen Clark attended the event which also featured on TVNZ's news bulletins. On behalf of the Waitakere City Council Barbara and I presented Clifford with a citation as a small token of our appreciation. It really was a wonderful occasion and a fantastic way to say thank you to a very special man.

## **Bio Blitz**

BioBlitz 2006, a 24-hour quest to find as many different non-human life forms as possible, was a truly fantastic event which I attended along with local MP Lynne Pillay. About 50 biologists from Auckland and as far south as Dunedin descended on the 28 hectare area around Corban Estate and nearby reserve land and, helped by students from local schools, recorded every species they could find.

*M37-M38* Co-sponsored by Waitakere City Council and Auckland Regional Council the event was organised by us and Landcare Research and was a really fun way for children, and adults, to get in touch with nature on the back doorstep. And there was certainly plenty of it to be had. See an excellent Listener article on the topic attached at pages M37 to M38.



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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Report of the Mayor be received.
2. That the Strategy Unit prepares a report for Council looking at how to progress the proposal to declare Waitakere a Peace City.
3. That Graeme Murdoch and Karel Witten-Hannah be invited to the June Council meeting and dinner so they can be farewelled appropriately by the City.

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