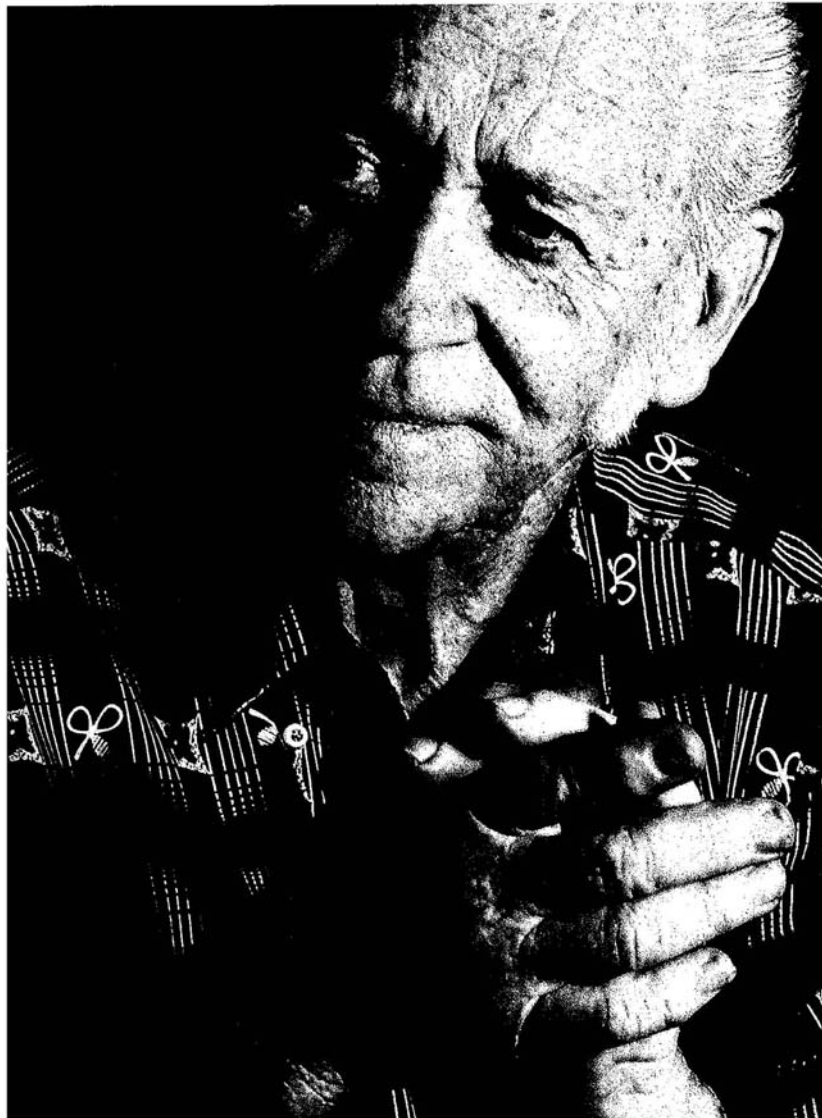


Council

**Wednesday, 30 August 2006
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

**This Report is Respectfully Dedicated to the Memory
of Peter Sauerbier**



Photograph by Arne Loot

**“Artist, creative spirit and generous
genius of the west.”**

1927 - 2006

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 WEDNESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2006,
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RESPECT

Peter Sauerbier - Amazing Gift and Obituary

Peter Sauerbier was one of the early Dutch settlers of the west and he brought to his new homeland great bread and coffee and an enormous spirit of creativity. It was with great sadness we heard the news of his death on 16 August 2006 just a few weeks after he had made his amazing gesture to leave his art collection and estate to the people of Waitakere.

Peter, one of New Zealand's leading artists, created a world of magic, humour and extraordinary craftsmanship with widespread appeal. Everyone loves the quirky creations of his fantasy and imagination and yet the engineering that went into them is equally admired. While these fantasy works are made from recycled materials they are true sculpture of the very finest quality.

Peter was one of Waitakere's true treasures and his gift to us is extremely generous and valuable. I was very humbled to acknowledge Peter's donation at a small ceremony at the private hospital where Peter was staying and where he also took the opportunity to present Waitakere City with an intricate and beautiful key I commissioned him to make. The key will be integral part of our opening celebrations on 2 September 2006. Peter's collection will eventually be placed on permanent display at the Corban Estate Arts Centre and I am sure Waitakere's citizens will revel in its beauty and splendour.

Peter was the dearly loved husband of the late Corry and much loved dad of Douglas, Carla, Romy and Ludwina and father in law of Garry and Ric. Our thoughts are with Peter's children, his grandchildren and great grandchildren at this very sad time.

Welcome to Waitakere Central



This is our first meeting of the full Council in this new chamber, our new building. By now it has become more user friendly and more familiar to many Councillors and Community Board members. I'm delighted at the way the building has proved to be a functional addition to our political lives and it's great to see Councillors using the building and its new facilities. I think personally it's a culture shock. It's certainly a change, not only of location but one which enhances our political lives with greater expectations and energy.



This is a significant building in local government terms. It is beautifully designed and appointed and in the 21st century of the west it will become the hub of what I would hope will become a bigger and more encompassing region. I make no secret of the fact Waitakere has the capacity and the ability to do more than it is empowered to do at the present time.

I think we should be ambitious and indeed show absolute leadership in the North West Sector of local government. I have talked with Mayors John Law and George Wood about forming a closer alliance that would link the two cities and Rodney District in a closer working partnership for the future.

I am impatient about the lack of progress over the past few years around Whenuapai, Hobsonville and the MUL. Anyone that is in local government is frustrated by long delays, procrastination and the inability to see the bigger picture – not by this council but by regulatory officialdom that stifles growth and prosperity.

Its not that we don't know how to create new futures because we do but the endless deliberations are a minefield. I think this city, from this new building, needs to show absolute commitment to a different, more prosperous west. We haven't just moved to Henderson – we have brought with us our commitment to our community with vigour and a strategic vision.

I'd like to thank the staff and in particular Chief Executive Harry O'Rourke and the Directors for making the transition from one building to another so seamless. It has been an amazing exercise of logistics but staff have now settled in and it's a pleasure to see everyone under the same roof.

It's also a pleasure to gaze out from our offices and decks at breathtaking views of our glorious Waitakere Ranges. From the overbridge we are getting a look at the way the transport hub, the whole reason in many ways for us being here, is evolving.

The move has been a successful transformation despite the degree of sadness, and I thought deep emotion, in leaving the old building which was familiar and much like an old shoe – comfortable.

A culture change is needed to adjust but believe me the future will be even bigger and more challenging. Like Peter Blake I'm obsessed with making the boat go faster and when the history of the west is finally written the move to Waitakere Central will be applauded.

This building is more than a tool of the trade. It brings its own culture, its own sense of worth. Its design and spaces are important to me and I hope to all Councillors. The carvings represent our partnership with the indigenous people. The art throughout the building gives us a sense of place and the creativity of the west and the Japanese Garden is tranquil and serene and that centres us. We are a world city and we need to recognise that our role is wider than angry letters in local newspapers.

Right now local government in the Auckland region is suffering from a rates' "punch up". I'm pleased Waitakere does not seem to be a focus of anger but we are still drawn into the debate and the backlash reaches all the way to central government. I think there is a deep and rising concern that the Auckland region needs to rethink itself. As I have said before, if the powers that be see fit to make the region more accountable I would not be reluctant in offering a leadership role. I am more than happy to be a leader here in the west but maybe the future needs a wider view. For too long I have seen other cities that haven't committed the work and time that we have being rewarded with funding and infrastructure.



M1-M71 Driving the agenda is the clear need to have the region ready for the next Americas Cup and the Rugby World Cup in 2011. While recently in London I met with Greg Clark – former secretary to the British Prime Minister and one of the Architects of the Metro Report commissioned by the Auckland Chamber of Commerce and the Auckland Regional Council which is attached at pages M1 to M71. Clark and his colleagues worked to prepare the report which was presented to the Mayoral Forum. I was inspired by my meeting with Clark in and by the possibilities of the report. It's inspirational and I believe it's a map for the future. As Brian Rudman said in the NZ Herald "it might take Pol Pot or a volcanic eruption to make it happen" but I believe common sense and the report's articulate detail is a blueprint that, for the first time, leaps off the paper and begs to be delivered.

So these are the maps on my radars. They are not earth shattering, they are simply directional indicators of how collectively the Mayors and Councillors of the Auckland region could start preparing their legacy.

To all Councillors I wish you and future generations in this chamber well. I hope the ambiance in this room with the Matariki constellation is both inspirational and enhancing of good will and good debate. In the months ahead I intend to add to the Mayoral Chains, with your permission, the names of the previous borough chairs and Mayors of this city since the inception of local government in the west. In this small way I will also be respectfully acknowledging on behalf of all of us those who have come and gone before us. When we look on the wall and read the names on the beautifully presented and inscribed roles of honour we can only acknowledge names from our historical past. There will be others that are still at school or unborn that will add their names – future men and women who are prepared without fear or favour to stand for local government and serve the west. I hope they look back with favour on those of us who have built this chamber for them to meet, to gather and to deliver a better community and future.

Mayoral Boot Camp

M72-76 Let me firstly give you my disclaimer – I believe I'm pretty knowledgeable about disaster. I spent six months in the 1980s researching an article called "The Destruction of Auckland – are we ready for the big one?" for Metro Magazine and when it was published I felt pretty much an expert on the topic. See attached at pages M72 to M76.

My research was centred around Auckland City – the centre of the universe in those days - and one George Michael, its Civil Defence Officer at the time. George was a wealth of knowledge and he told me Auckland was one of the most dangerous cities in the world because the buildings and masonry were deteriorating. The old theatres were regularly dropping pieces of plaster on people's heads and the ferry building bells were being removed and the building completely re-strengthened. George felt the Auckland Harbour Bridge and its then authority would be up against it as it would probably be one of the first major structures to fail. The war room in those days was in Vincent Street and Robbie as the Mayor conducted the city's first major civil defence operations from the old Epsom bunkers under the training college's carpark. They remained right up to the 80s as Auckland's civil defence control room.

Everyone in those days answered to District Controller Jock Elder who in turn answered to Wellington. He was complementary about Rodney and the North Shore but very critical of others. He told me that if an earthquake came at night, with say an epicentre just out of Waihi, 500 would die. If it happened during the day that number would rise to 3000 and the back streets of Auckland would be death traps as all the old brick buildings would collapse. I found the entire exercise fascinating and horrifying as I talked to geologists, anthropologists and a whole group of elderly, well being but very "Dad's Army" civil defence workers and committee members. All had a fascination for a critical situation that may or may not happen. Councillor Firth told me that he thought a major fire in the Waitakere Ranges was the next big disaster waiting to happen. He was the man who had his finger paused on the "red button" which he wisely said would lead all the way to a royal commission – that's after the dust had settled he added. My article concluded with two rather bizarre columns of advice – 'How to survive a Tsunami' and 'How to survive a volcanic eruption'. I don't know if anyone took my advice seriously but I did finish the article with a good luck wish.



I recently had an opportunity to do a survey of my thoughts on the preparation for a civil emergency. I was given a day to prepare for it and a few hours to indicate how I was feeling about the region's ability to cope in the face of disaster. I thought about the questions which I was given to consider and I wanted to indicate my attitude had changed considerably following the disastrous and terrible Christmas Tsunami and the New Orleans disaster.

M77-M94 At that time both George Wood and I felt that given all the best will and intentions we would probably not be able to deliver the emergency plan. Why would we feel this way you may ask? With everything that we already have in place? With good and well trained individuals who regularly meet and discuss what they would do if faced with an emergency? Well it seems to me the very nature of these emergencies cause their own chaotic and often inconceivable destruction and that human beings, being what they are, will make the wrong decisions. The New Orleans scenario is a perfect blueprint for failure. It is for that reason I asked Councillor Derek Battersby to give of his valuable time and travel to both New York and New Orleans to give me and this council a first hand report of how the American civil defence effort coped under the spotlight of the world. Here in the world's most powerfully regulated and resourced country the system failed. I felt it needed someone with Councillor Battersby's knowledge and background of emergency management to bring us up to speed with what happened and how it could possibly be avoided in the future. Derek's report follows mine. I have also attached at pages M77 to M78 a relevant excerpt from the Emergency Services Special Committee agenda and a brochure entitled Ready New York, at pages M79 to M94 that Councillor Battersby brought back to NZ with him.

M95-M96 Just last month in what became a frightening re-run of the Boxing Day Tsunami, on a smaller scale and a mere 18 months after the world was galvanised into action, the system failed again. See article from Time Magazine at pages M95 to M96.

The questionnaire also asked if I was comfortable with what was in place. A catch 22 question if ever there was one. As Mayors we will be held accountable and responsible by the media and the public. They will demand answers if we fail. And so on completion of the questionnaire the researcher asked me if I had any thoughts.

They were as follows:

Most people live normal regulated lives. It seems years since we saw on television small towns playing out disaster scenarios with ambulances, first aid officers and school kids lying around with fake blood and bandages. But that idea inspired me to suggest that we need to be put in situations where reaction, no matter how horrific, is normal. In the same way that pilots, fireman and rescue officers need to be lowered into the very heart of the disaster. It needs to be close to our psyche and if its not we will instinctively panic.

The first hour is where a disaster is resolved. Where the mind seeks survival and commitment. I feel that the first failure will be communication and that of course was apparent when recently the power failed in Auckland. Two small clips failed on a transpower link and yet the City was brought to its knees. Communication failed but here is something even more telling, so did the emergency exits on major public buildings in Auckland as did lifts and let me also inform you that many people behaved badly. Why? Because they thought the power was going to be off for just 10 minutes. I could rest my case on that alone. Officials in the affected cities discarded all their advice and training. By believing something they took for granted would not fail them, if the power had failed during the evening when performances were being held in large public buildings the audience would have been plunged into darkness and indeed trapped for four hours.



So the concept of Mayoral and CE boot camps was what I have suggested – by this I mean Mayors and Chief Executives working together in a created environment, so easily done thanks to digital technology. In the disaster Boot Camp war room decisions could be made while looking at North Shore and the Hibiscus Coast engulfed in a Pacific Tsunami, Rangitoto or Taranaki erupting or any scenario that needed answers quickly. The powers that be would be hard pressed to find earth moving equipment for an earthquake in the region. If you want to look at damage watch television each night.

The Israelis and the Lebanese seem to be able to demolish their cities quite spectacularly and I'm not suggesting for a moment that war heads are needed. Mother Nature is quite capable of delivering a savage blow.

The Boot Camp would simply raise the questions that need to be answered and scenarios at random that need out of the ordinary responses could easily be created. After all 747 pilots in training at the simulator in Mangere while in situ are given engine failure signals or “plane on the runway”. My game would be less complex - Tsunami one hour from Queen Street. I want to turn our responsible world into responsible action.

Finally, can I say how much I appreciated the warning of the weather deterioration over the weekend of August 5 and 6. I felt very reassured that we were on to it – the weather forecast was spot on and the Saturday morning briefing via mobile alerted me and put me totally in the picture.

Cronulla – Could it Happen Here?

New Zealanders always believe the best and look in horror at the way the world dissolves into conflict and self destruction. The news media is built around disasters and conflict. In fact there is not much good news around at all. I have always believed conflict can be avoided but it takes a long lead-time to avoid the consequences which seem to be unable to be resolved. I am not talking about the firing of rockets, bombings and terrorism but the disharmony and unrest that lies beneath the surface of successful and often enlightened countries and communities. I personally feel that in these prosperous times of unprecedented employment levels in this successful country the level of violence is staggering but my contacts in the world of conflict resolution and social behaviour tell me this is deep seated and very long term in its origins.

So when I was asked to chair a session at the recent Local Government New Zealand Conference about Cronulla and its devastating shock to the wellbeing of Australia I started to dig a little deeper closer to home in New Zealand. Firstly I researched our own unrest in the last century and the major disquiet was around unions and politics. The Queen Street riots in the 1930s came out of depression, unemployment and stand over political tactics. Later in the 1980s the second Queen Street riot was simply fuelled by booze and dope and a youth culture wanting to burst out. But when it did it shocked New Zealand with its ferocity and determined destruction of property and the police. We have been lucky we have not had race riots which fuel their own hatred but we came close with the marches against the Swedish cartoons and with the occasional neo Nazi outbursts we certainly are aware that there is a dark underbelly lurking in our society.

In our lifetime the memory is always drawn to the Springbok and the deep commitment of the protest movement to halt this offensive 1981 tour. It split families and divided the country. Now in the 20th century there are other pressure points I believe could come out of nowhere and split communities and shock this country again.

M97-M104 On the panel during the session at the conference was the esteemed aboriginal Tom Calma who is the Acting Race Discrimination Commissioner. He was one of Howard's men but he certainly isn't now and trawling through his website gives you a picture of a very bold, courageous and committed man. I have attached his speech at pages M97 to M104. Also on the panel was Chris Carter and in the audience Joris De Bres and other Mayors and Councillors from the local government sector.



I prepared an opening DVD which I will show at tonight's meeting. It traces the recent riots and protests throughout the world and in New Zealand and will give you the feeling we should not rest easy on a perceived reputation or belief that New Zealand is beyond car burning, looting and destruction. It would be wrong to say where and who could be the perpetrators. Youth clearly are stropo and energised and passionate about causes but so are the new ethnic minorities who have made this country theirs as much as we have.

There is also the growing unrest about marginalised communities and there are plenty of them. Asian, African and Pacific people often feel they get and continue to receive bottom end treatment. But we should also ask ourselves as city leaders and town planners how we are working to ensure people feel included in our communities, not disenfranchised. Only last year in Manukau City the seeds of Cronulla were apparent. Lawlessness, crime and violence broke out on the streets. The media blamed lack of police numbers but my research showed it was more than this. It was communities feeling marginalised and unwanted in the bigger scheme of things. As Deputy Mayor Anne Candy pointed out Manukau, with its mass of different ethnic groupings and social problems, is a cosmopolitan view of the New Zealand and indeed if Manukau could be sorted so could New Zealand. We often talk at council about not building ghettos and yet when we build medium and high density housing areas and pass these on to the future are we taking into account what they may become in the next 20 years? As we build motorways dissecting our communities and continue to criss-cross the whole of the Auckland Isthmus with great sways of concrete with 100km traffic lanes - what are we asking for? How will communities on either side cope with losing touch with their neighbours and reality?

It's my belief New Zealand is not beyond this kind of conflict. On the DVD you will see not a riot but a protest by young people against youth rates. Look closely and you will see a very near riot situation.

Tom Calma's analysis of the December Cronulla riots which saw Lebanese, Arab and the great Australian icons, volunteer surf life savers, battling it out was that this had been simmering for years and that no one had looked at the situation objectively and attempted to diffuse it. Tom feels the origin of this is in the changing of the Australian nation from comfortable to concern. I think this is also happening in New Zealand. A recent letter I received from Tony Holman (a senior Councillor on the North Shore) touched on the changing face of New Zealand and what we are or are not doing about it. To be honest I felt somewhat uncomfortable about Holman's letter but I certainly understood where he was coming from and I think many others did also.

It is now in our hands to ensure that beyond roads, rates and rubbish the social infrastructure of our city is acknowledged with care and attention. We are more than aware of social and cultural sensitivities as we move forward. If we don't take care and handle with care believe me Cronulla will happen here.

It's often about respect for customs and traditions and I feel that in Waitakere we have made a real effort to make new migrants welcome and nowhere do we do this more than at our citizenship ceremonies, something we all take great pride in. As Councillors will be aware the Islam Awareness Week from Monday 7 August 2006 to Sunday 13 August 2006 was a major New Zealand wide attempt to lift the New Zealand perception of the Muslim world. It was successful in raising greater understanding between the community and the Muslim world. I found out two things which I would like to pass on to Councillors.

The first Muslims were indeed Chinese gold diggers working in the gold fields in the South Island in Dunston and were recorded in the government census of 1874. The Muslims now number around 40,000 which of course includes 40 different ethnic groups. They also include 4000 Muslims that embrace Maori and Pakeha the other important area which I think we should be aware of is that at citizenships when Councillors take part in the ceremony you will note many Muslim recipients are reluctant to shake hands, particularly with female Councillors and Members of Parliament. Can I ask respectfully you note that this is a major concern for Muslim people. Whether to shake hands or not? Shaking hands in a western sense is easy and in fact tradition but not so in the Muslim world.



As part of the deen of Islam there is a sense of protection and responsibility and a guarding against situations that permit easy intimacy between any man and woman who are not married. So the convention is that Muslim men only shake the hands of other men and women only shake the hands of other women. Can I ask Councillors to acknowledge this and to ensure the mutual respect that the Muslim world expects is a slight bowing of heads. Some Muslims prefer to place their right hand over their heart and bow slightly to indicate the respectful recognition of Councillors. With Chris Carter and Councillor Peter Chan I visited the Ranui Mosque on Saturday August 12 as part of Islamic Awareness week. I also want to acknowledge this city's respect for the growing Islamic culture.

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill

On 20 July, I was delighted to welcome the Local Government and Environment Select Committee, chaired by Steve Chadwick, to Waitakere to hear two days of public submissions on the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill. In a busy schedule, the committee heard more than 90 submissions, and spent two hours on a field inspection, including a helicopter trip that covered the foothills, parkland and the coastal areas in Rodney and Waitakere – Te Henga, Piha, Karekare, Whatipu, Huia, Laingholm, Titirangi and Green Bay.

The three joint promoters, Waitakere, Rodney and the ARC, started proceedings with a presentation from me, Rodney Mayor John Law, and ARC Chair Mike Lee. Speaking in support of our much longer and detailed written submission, we outlined the importance of the ranges and foothills and the need, indeed the urgency, for their further protection in the manner set out within the bill.

The submissions that followed captured the full range of views held by residents of Waitakere and Rodney and the public generally. Different views were often expressed with familiar westie passion and a robustness that, I think, surprised even the 'old hands' on the committee. The committee listened and questioned and learned. It was good to see participatory democracy at work.

From The Trusts Stadium where the hearings took place, the ranges were a constant and changing backdrop, emerging into bright sunshine from morning mists and showers, breaking with rainbow on rainbow: picturesque, enchanting, inspiring.

I would like to thank and acknowledge all those submitters who assisted the committee through their presentations. In our case, I would like to thank in particular, John Law and Mike Lee for their fulsome support in this legislative step that is so important to Waitakere. Thank you too, to the officials for their support and to Wayne Thompson, Rewi Spraggon and Ricky Bennett whose mihi and music grounded the committee in this place, in these wonderful Waitakere Ranges.

The committee has continued its work on the bill with a further session of hearings in parliament, and a further session with our officials. The time for the committee's report back to parliament has been extended to 20 November, meaning that the parliamentary consideration of the bill is now likely to extend into 2007.

Waitemata Harbour Clean Up Trust

In 2002 I was approached by a young environmentalist Hayden Smith with the view to cleaning up the Waitemata Harbour. Hayden and I saw increasing amounts of rubbish making its way to sea via roadways and stormwater channels often clogging up streams and estuaries along the way.

With the support of local councils and corporate sponsorship, funding was obtained to commission a company to raise awareness about litter issues and to carry out litter removal in the inner gulf. The Ports of Auckland provided a 6.5 metre boat, the *Phil Warren*, for litter retrieval and removal. The boat was named in recognition of the environmental initiatives led by the late Phil Warren while he was chairperson of the Auckland Regional Council.



The Waitemata Harbour Clean up Trust was formed and has been running successfully for the past four years. Our city, together with our neighbouring cities signed a three year sponsorship agreement for \$30, 000 per annum which has now expired.

I am seeking to renew our commitment to the Trust for a further three years and seek you agreement. The budget currently sits in Solid Waste and has been approved through the Long Term Council Community Plan 2006-2016.

Milestones

Dame Te Atairangikaahu (1931-2006)

It was with much sadness I travelled to Turangawaewae with a large council contingent on Friday, August 18 including Councillor Hulse, members of the Taumata Runanga and staff to pay tribute to revered leader and Maori Queen, Dame Te Atairangikaahu and while it was an extremely sad occasion there was also a celebration of her wonderful life. The Maori Queen's death was a huge loss and she was much loved and respected. I had known her for many years and she was a woman of great integrity and humility. Some years ago I presented her with a Dean Buchanan painting of Halley's Comet over the Waikato which was huge. I always enjoyed seeing her to either talk or just sit and watch whatever was going on around us. Dame Te Ata propelled the Maori cause and provided calm and strategic leadership.

Obituary

It is with sadness we acknowledge the passing of Tinai Hancock. Tinai was one of the founding active members of the Pacific Islands Advisory Board in representing the Fiji community in Waitakere and the South Pacific region. Her support for Pacific communities was renowned locally, regionally and internationally and she was well known for her role in mentoring all Pacifica nations.

Obituary

Titirangi Beach's Rosie Blake passed away recently after serving more than 15 years as Secretary of the Patauroa Bay Ratepayers and Residents Association. Rosie was one of those quiet, tireless community workers. She was on a myriad of committees and incredibly well liked. She will be sorely missed by a huge number of people.

Congratulations

To former Community Board member Georgia Ball who was made a life member of the international Toughlove organisation. Georgia is one of only four New Zealanders to be honoured this way. She has been involved with the organisation for 20 years. The Council congratulates Georgia for her extraordinary dedication to this organisation, its aims and principles.

Congratulations

To Gordon Turner of Huia who was awarded life membership for the Huia – Cornwallis Ratepayers and Residents Association. At the annual meeting on July 29 Gordon had served 16 years on the committee and will continue to make a contribution to that community. Gordon, of course, is a member of the Turner family of Huia, one of the historic founding families of the west.



Congratulations

M105

To Sue Scott and her team from Waitakere Libraries who played a major role in a project to install a single library management system across five councils in the Auckland region which won two major awards at the 2006 Computerworld Excellent Awards. The project dubbed 'Smarter Systems' was developed by Waitakere, North Shore, Auckland, Manukau and Rodney councils in a collaboration known as eLGAR (Libraries for a Greater Auckland Region). It won the ward for the year's successful project implementation and also the Excellence in the Use of IT in Government Award. Well done team. I have attached at page M105 the celebratory photo.

Congratulations

To Geoff Wheeler from Henderson who competed at the FINA Masters Championships in San Francisco earlier this month. It's always great when you hear about someone you see at the pool most days standing proud and tall for his city and indeed his country.

Congratulations

Violinist Jenny Lui from Hobsonville is a member of chamber music group Farr from Russia which this month won the instrumental performance section of the 2006 New Zealand Community Trust Chamber Music Contest held in Wellington. Each member of the group received the James Wallace Price of \$1000 and our sincerest congratulations go to Jenny and her colleagues, cellist Sarah Lee and pianist Somi Kim.

Congratulations

And last but certainly not least a huge congratulations to Dan Greig who completed a 100 mile run. The 47 year old competed in the tough Western States Endurance Run, in the United States, and finished in 26 hours and 45 minutes. The race attracts hundreds of ultra-distance runners from around the world and saw Dan run through the snowy Squaw Valley, California and the Sierra Nevada canyons and mountains reaching altitudes of 2590m and temperatures of 40 degrees. Dan's off-road training in the Waitakere Ranges apparently came off and he finished 87th in a field of 399. Congratulations Dan, this is a major feat.

Survived – Constable Colin Murphy

Constable Colin Murphy is a lucky man. He was involved in a nasty incident in Henderson while he and his partner were trying to stop an offender's vehicle. Colin was injured but was lucky to escape with his life. The drama unfolded when the police officers attempted to stop the driver of a vehicle thought to be one of two involved in a high-speed accident in Massey earlier in the day. The four occupants of the car had fled the vehicle after the earlier crash. The offender's vehicle was seen driving through Henderson and crossing to the wrong side of the road where it eventually rammed into a police car. Constable Murphy saw an opportunity to immobilise the car through the driver's side window and as he reached in the driver drove off dragging Colin for 50 metres. Colin managed to extricate himself and roll away from the vehicle to avoid being run over but suffered injuries to his legs and knees. I am sure you join with me in sending Colin our congratulations and our pleasure on his survival.

Eco city Global Platform

M106-M111

I have attached at pages M106 to M111 a long awaited article in the prestigious Brazilian magazine Ecologica which contacted me through our friend the Mayor of Curitiba, Cassio Taniguchi. More proof that our eco city status is a major player on the world stage.



New Principal

We welcome Gary Moore as the new Principal of Rutherford High School. He has big shoes to fill after the departure of Cliff Edmeades who lead the school for 18 years but I am sure he is up to the challenge. I plan on inviting Gary to a full council dinner later in the year so we can all get acquainted with him properly.

Saving the Kereru

M112-M113 The Waitakere Ranges are home to the grand and very beautiful native pigeon the Kereru. I was surprised to find that it is now on the endangered species list. Attacked by stoats and other predators its future is uncertain and that is a disaster. A campaign has been launched endorsed by Te Papa and Kiri Te Kanawa to raise the awareness and attention to the fate of the Kereru. Please see attachment at pages M12 to M13. I would like this council to display in our libraries the material relating to this campaign and to lift the awareness of its uncertain future.

A World First

Carl Evans, a 15 year old champion sailor and pupil at Green Bay High School this month claimed the World Championship title in the 420 class in Las Palmas Gran Canaria (the Canary Isles).

This amazing achievement was against some of the best sailors in the world. With Carl at the helm and Peter Burling as crew the pair won the championship with a huge 25 point margin.

This is a first for New Zealand and the first World Champion for the Waitakere based Don Oliver Youth Sports Foundation. Carl is a 2005 and 2006 Don Oliver Scholarship winner and a fine example of what can be achieved through diligence and a focused and disciplined approach (not to mention Waitakere support).

And on a Closing Note...

Here is some advice on the media and its affect on your political future:

The Pastor's Ass (never doubt the power of the press)

The pastor entered his donkey in a race and it won.

The pastor was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in the race again, and it won again.

The local paper read:

PASTOR'S ASS OUT FRONT

The Bishop was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the pastor not to enter the donkey in another race.

The next day, the local paper headline read:

BISHOP SCRATCHES PASTOR'S ASS.

This was too much for the bishop, so he ordered the pastor to get rid of the donkey.

The pastor decided to give it to a nun in a nearby convent.

The local paper, hearing of the news, posted the following headline the next day:



NUN HAS BEST ASS IN TOWN

The bishop fainted.

He informed the nun that she would have to get rid of the donkey, so she sold it to a farmer for \$10.

The next day the paper read:

NUN SELLS ASS FOR \$10

This was too much for the bishop, so he ordered the nun to buy back the donkey and lead it to the plains where it could run wild.

The next day the headlines read:

NUN ANNOUNCES HER ASS IS WILD AND FREE

The bishop was buried the next day.

The moral of the story is....being concerned about public opinion can bring you much grief and misery...and even shorten your life. So be yourself and enjoy life. Stop worrying about everyone else's ass and you'll be a lot happier and live longer!

Visit to New York by Councillor Derek Battersby as part of the Regional Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Study Tour

Introduction

I was lucky to have the opportunity to join a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEMG) study visit to the United States in July. The study group consisted of Councillors Neil Morrison (Manukau City and Chairman of the CDEMG), Wyn Hoadley (ARC), Ivan Dunn (NSCC) and myself, accompanied by Jane Olsen (ARC) and Bill Morley (Waitakere). The visit took in locations in New York, New Orleans and San Francisco.

Since 9/11 the words emergency management have taken on new meaning, particularly in the United States. Rather than meaning natural disasters, the words now relate to emergencies arising from all hazards. Terrorist attacks are front of mind in the U.S., and happen around the world on an almost daily basis.

Just one day in New York made me patently aware that America is on high alert, 24/7 as they say. Police worked in threes many of them just street blocks apart. Private security guards were present in all public places in numbers not seen in this country. Government offices looked like prisons under armed guard. Coming from a country distant from the many conflicts facing the world today, these heightened levels of security were to me frightening, unnatural and unnerving. Whilst New Yorkers accept this as part of their daily life and feel safe, to me it's an unnatural environment to live and play in.

The scale of emergency management in the United States is vast. On any given day a number of natural disasters occur, and usually there is a loss of life. In line with this, federal and local government funding of emergency management is of a scale not seen in New Zealand. However, you get what you pay for, and we need to look at whether we are doing enough in terms of funding in the Auckland region. The forthcoming Capability and Capacity Assessment report of emergency response preparedness in Auckland will provide a useful basis for doing this.



As part of this report a number of items of interest are attached. An extract of the report from Bill Morley (the Manager: Emergency Management) to the meeting of the Emergency Services Special Committee and a copy of a household guide to emergency management published by the New York City Office of Emergency Management. Something like this would be of enormous use in Auckland/New Zealand, and would go further than our existing Emergency Plan brochure.

I have not commented here on all aspects of the trip. Instead, I have commented on issues that I think elected members need to grapple with. Issues of a more detailed and technical nature will be picked up by officers in their reporting and system reviews.

New York City Office of Emergency Management

The New York City Office of Emergency Management EOC (Emergency Operating Centre) operates 24/7. The centre is staffed by volunteers from all relevant city and government agencies - Police, Military, Prison Service, Fire and Rescue. The centre is equipped with state of the art technology and communication systems, and monitors hazards and emergencies in real time including:

- Aircraft movements from all airports in the State of New York;
- All utilities via closed circuit television;
- Weather data from around the world by satellite;
- Movement of hazardous waste all around the world.

The centre is equipped with:

- Direct phone link to the State Governor;
- Direct phone link to the White House;
- Direct phone link to the Commander National Guards;
- Direct Phone link to all Emergency Operating Centres within the USA;
- World Satellite uplink;
- VHF uplink to all of the USA.

The Centre is currently temporarily located in a modified 2 story warehouse as it was destroyed in 9/11. However, they are due to move to a new, purpose built \$(US) 38 million facility in the near future.

While on a much grander scale than New Zealand or Auckland could afford, there were some lessons to be learnt from the centre. The integration with emergency services across levels of government, and the specialised regional facility are lessons Auckland could learn from. The 24/7 staffing is also perhaps something that would be worthwhile exploring here.

Meeting With FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

We also had the opportunity to meet with Federal Emergency Management Agency in their New York based regional office.

During and after Hurricane Katrina, Federal Emergency Management Agency was heavily criticized for a slow response, particularly in getting emergency supplies out into the community. Whilst it's not practical for me to comment on all of these issues, valuable lessons can be learned. One major issue for Federal Emergency Management Agency was the inability to get bottled drinking water to those in need. Having learnt from that, Federal Emergency Management Agency has now negotiated contractual arrangements with bottling companies (breweries, soft drink companies) to switch production within hours to bottled water, and to supply to drop zones. This approach is being instigated throughout America so that all key manufacturers will be able to react within hours to a serious event and supply emergency supplies.



We also learnt that the Department of Homeland Security, of which Federal Emergency Management Agency is a part, is moving toward introducing an alert system using a 'ping' to all cell phones, TV, internet sites and satellite radio. This will be used for all emergency events including war, terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and all hazards to public safety, and is designed to reach as many people as possible before a catastrophic event. It has obvious similarities to the Cell Broadcasting proposal that the Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups is proposing to the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM).

Actions for Auckland and Waitakere

It is clear to me from the trip that the region needs its own Group Emergency Operating Centre, and that the inadequate sharing arrangement with Auckland City needs to be abandoned as soon as possible. Ideally, the Emergency Operating Centre would be fully integrated with emergency services and staffed 24/7. However these improvements may take time, and we need to get on with the construction of a centre in the near future. Funding will be an issue, but it is one that the Councils of the region (and possibly the government) need to tackle. I look forward to the Group Controllers report to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups on this issue.

We need to continue to push Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management to introduce the cell broadcasting initiative as part of a broader national warning framework and system. We can introduce local systems (such as sirens) to augment the national level initiatives.

I also think that the idea of contractual arrangements with suppliers, both in New Zealand and around the Pacific Rim, is a good way to provide for the supply of emergency rations and equipment. I will be pushing for this through the Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups and with Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Visit to New York by Councillor Derek Battersby as part of the Regional Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Study Tour report be received.
2. That Waitakere City Council support the establishment of a stand-alone Group Emergency Operations Centre for the Auckland region, and that if necessary a report come back to Council at the appropriate time to formalise this support.
3. That Councillor Battersby, in his role as Council representative on the Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups, be supported to explore and push for emergency supply contracts for goods and equipment in an emergency.

Report prepared by: Councillor DQ Battersby

CHAIRMAN

EMERGENCY SERVICES SPECIAL COMMITTEE



Snippet from Scandinavia and Elsewhere By Councillor Janet Clews

It is truly said that travel broadens the mind. Fortunately, the additional physical activity means that is all that broadens! Perhaps some of those who keep advocating for one huge monolithic city for the Auckland region should also travel more widely-at their own expense as I did- and look, listen and learn.

I'm all for consistent pressure for efficiencies at every level but except for the oft-quoted Brisbane, which as I understand it was always a single entity and is the recipient of huge amounts of state and federal funding, I have yet to find any major western city which is all-encompassing. Certainly, many have a regional as well as a local system, as we do. But London, for instance, has many separate boroughs. Is it not a competitive city?

The same applies to the USA and certainly to Scandinavia. The people really believe in "local" government. One could hardly say that one city for a third of the population of New Zealand, or any other country, could be considered "local" but the concept of "local" government is understood and valued elsewhere.

Grant Kirby's recent opinion piece in the Herald presented a bureaucrat's perception which is perhaps understandable from a purely administrative stand point but it completely ignores the real basis of local democracy. Of course "bigger" would mean greater prestige and security for the top bureaucrats but would not benefit "local" people one iota. I doubt there would even be a financial benefit.

DENMARK with a population of approximately 5.2 million has 14 counties/regions at present. There are 384 regional councillors who collectively elect a representative board every 4 years. There is talk of reducing the regions to 5 but that is yet to occur. Also, there are 275 municipalities, some of which have populations of 5000 or less with only 11 of them having 60,000 or more. The vast majority are under 20,000 people. You may have noticed that recently, the good citizens of Denmark were deemed to be the happiest in the world. Could this local factor be part of the reason?

Copenhagen has a population of a little over 500,000. The City Council consists of **55 members** and the mayor has been in that position since 1989. There are 7 committees to handle the issues. Much urban renewal work has been undertaken as well as large areas of social housing particularly in the outskirts of the city. The underground rail system was opened in 2002 and more than 50% of workers cycle to work with some 17,000 cyclists passing through central Copenhagen every day. Greater Copenhagen (population 1.8 million) is home to more than one third of the population of the country.

SWEDEN with a population of some 9 million has 20 counties and 290 municipalities. Many of these are further divided into boroughs and then there are 2512 parishes. But since the changes in 2000, the church is now separated from the state and is no longer funded through the tax system. Greater Stockholm has a population approximately the same as greater Auckland with some 772,000 living in the central **City of Stockholm**. Its City Hall is a major tourist attraction sited at the waters edge on one of the many islands which make up this area.

Built in the early part of the 20th century, it is a striking building. The "Blue Hall," (which is actually brick-lined after the architect changed his mind) on the ground floor is where the Nobel Prize dinner is held on 10 December each year. Up the wide staircase, one enters the fabulous Golden Hall which has more than 19 million 23.5 carat gold mosaic tiles as well as murals of the "Queen of the Lake", famous Swedish people and activities. The columned "Gallery of the Prince" outside the hall has a huge mural along its length painted by Prince Eugene. It represents 5 year's work. Apparently the prince sent an account to the city when he completed his work but it was ignored. So, he sent a further one which was eventually paid. He then tore the cheque up and returned the pieces with a note saying: "I have no need of your money but good art by good artists is valuable." The whole building is actually a work of art.



The Council Chamber, also upstairs, houses **101 members** (65 of who are female) all elected for a 4 year term. The Council meets every second Monday. It is at present headed by a coalition of Social Democrats and Greens. There is an Executive Board of 13 representing various parties. The Mayor (a lady), and 7 Vice-Mayors as well as 4 opposition Vice-Mayors constitute the Council of Mayors. The majority parties appoint them and each heads one of the city's divisions. They are full-time professional politicians. The City's corporations also fall under these divisions. In terms of seniority, the executive officer of the finance division takes first place and he/she becomes the Mayor who also chairs the executive board which monitors administration matters and prepares the budget.

The Council of Mayors expresses its opinion which is taken to the Executive Board which then drafts and/or delivers its opinion to the City Council. The Executive Board is also responsible for implementation of Council resolutions.

Gothenburg, the second largest city in Sweden, has a population of some 460,000, 10% of whom are students at the two universities. The city council has **81 elected members**. It is also the main centre for the new super county that was formed in 1998, consisting of 49 municipalities and 1.5 million people (17% of Sweden's population.) It was here we saw the grass growing between and beside the light rail train lines which was mown like the parks.

NORWAY with a population just a little more than New Zealand, has 19 counties, 18 of which are divided up into 432 municipalities. Oslo (population 560,000) is the other region. All municipalities other than Oslo and Bergen are governed in the traditional manner by the board of Aldermen. Oslo and Bergen use a parliamentary system with an executive board which implements policy.

Oslo also has an imposing City Hall which faces the harbour. It has much art work in, on and near it. It even has what appear to be organ pipes high in one corner but there is no organ! However, in 2000, Oslo was celebrating its 1000th anniversary and the City Hall its 50th. So it was decided to install a new carillon in the eastern tower. This now provides time bells followed by classical music on the hour.

The mayor is elected for a 4 year term and presides over the **59 member council**.

All these cities are vibrant, clean and competitive places with the people enjoying a very good standard of living. The public transport systems are well developed and the usage is growing. There are many beautiful parks (some of which have an entry fee just to walk through) and practically no graffiti. There are many immigrants there now and there seemed to be a number of adopted African children.

Norway has deliberately chosen not to build extensive motorways but to stick mainly to two-way roads such as we have in most of this country. There are good reasons for this of course. It is expensive to build roads in mountainous terrain so while tourists are very welcome, they must accept the conditions they find. Driving is extremely courteous and there is an expectation that one vehicle will give way to another in difficult spots even if that means backing up. The engineering of the huge tunnels is wonderful to behold. We travelled through 47 tunnels in about 2 hours on our way in to Bergen including the second longest in Europe (11 kms). Many of them curve through the rock so that the exit is only visible once you are nearly upon it. Some are one way but many are dual carriageway.

The 19 km long bridge joining Funen to Zealand in Denmark is now operative and funded by tolls. There were a number of toll roads on our travels. Every city seems to have a pedestrian - only main shopping street, there has been huge resistance to mall development to protect the strip shopping and there are subsidies for those who live in and maintain historic properties. We could learn so much from this area. While folk are highly taxed they also benefit from good urban developments, excellent roads, and much social housing, most of it in apartment blocks. While the summers are short, as are the nights, the land is very productive especially in Denmark so it is easy to understand why the Nazis occupied the country.



We visited the Resistance Museum in Copenhagen and in Norway visited the heavy water plant at Rjukan (now an industrial museum) where the resistance movement failed to sabotage the plant but succeeded in sinking the ferry which was transporting the train carrying the product to Germany where it was needed to produce uranium. This story was told in the movie "The Heroes of Tellemark" with Kirk Douglas, Michael Redgrave, Geoffrey Keen etc.

Enduring memories are of the many electricity generating wind farms, of the wonderful public art work in almost every place of any size and of the national pride and rivalry among the three countries so closely linked through their history of conquest and defeat. The national flags and pennants fly almost everywhere even in rather remote farmyards. Perhaps we should do the same to remind us of who we are and just how lucky this country is to have had such a relatively peaceful history. Maybe when NZ is as old as Scandinavia is now, the people of the day may at last value what they have!

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Report of the Mayor be received.
2. That Waitakere City Council empowers Mayor Bob Harvey to sign a sponsorship agreement with the Waitemata Harbour Clean Up trust for \$30,000 per annum for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008.
3. That the Snippets from Scandinavia and Elsewhere report by Councillor Janet Clews be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP

MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY