

Council

**Wednesday, 30 May 2007
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 WEDNESDAY, 30 MAY 2007, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

It gives me great pleasure and pride to report that Waitakere simply shone at the ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability Accelerate Now conference in Melbourne earlier this month. I received incredibly positive feedback to my presentations from mayors and councillors from all over New Zealand and Australia who attended the conference. We've got it right and it's very nice to have that affirmation. But boy, is there some work still to be done! Climate change is the monster in the living room now and I think everyone at the conference expressed grave concerns about the state of the planet. However, the presentations, the networking and the ideas that were generated meant shared information and knowledge, and by the end of the conference the 400 or so delegates were like a family, united in a common concern and commitment.

Let me tell you a bit about ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. It's an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. More than 550 cities, towns, countries and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programmes.

Founded in 1990, ICLEI's World Secretariat has been hosted by Toronto since 1991 and the Secretariat's mandate is to oversee international activities, including regional expansion, advocacy, programme development and governance among many other issues. ICLEI's vision is to be a growing association of local governments, dedicated to sustainable development and with worldwide presence, whose voice is heard and which it is attractive to be a member of, work for and partner with.

As a movement, ICLEI develops and runs a broad range of campaigns and programmes that address local sustainability issues, while protecting global common goods (such as air quality, climate, water) and linking local action to internationally-agreed goals and targets. It helps local governments generate political awareness of key issues; establish plans of action towards defined, concrete, measurable targets; work towards meeting these targets through the implementation of projects; and evaluate local and cumulative progress toward sustainable development. ICLEI provides information, delivers training, organises conferences, facilitates networking and city-to-city exchanges, carries out research and pilot projects and offers technical services and consultancy. It was against this backdrop the conference was held.

Melbourne's Lord Mayor, John So, welcomed delegates to his city on the first night. He acknowledged the strong partnership between Melbourne and ICLEI Oceania and praised ICLEI Oceania as an important guide in Melbourne's development as a climate conscious city. At the welcome, delegates assembled among exhibitors' stalls, showcasing products and services from the participating sustainable industry representatives.

What an interesting mayor John So is. He is much loved and adored by the good people of Melbourne. He has been on the council for a number of years and clearly loves the role of Lord Mayor. He has investment properties in Auckland which he is very proud to talk about, including the Dragon Boat, that excellent Chinese restaurant in Elliot St, and I understand he is also a serious investor in the large carpark property on the corner of Elliot and Victoria Streets.



The following morning at the conference there was a Triple Bottom Line/Capacity Building Programme. I would have thought the welcome would have been started by the indigenous people but somehow they seemed to have got delayed in the traffic and didn't appear. In what was an outstanding conference, I thought this was something overlooked generally. Indeed to my knowledge only one speaker acknowledged the original landowners of Australia and it made me proud and pleased we take our race relations so seriously in Waitakere and New Zealand.

The meeting was attended by the Cities for Climate Protection - New Zealand representatives, featuring a keynote speech from Rachel Depree from the Ministry for the Environment. Rachel, a good friend of Waitakere, outlined government plans and programmes and it was all very positive stuff. I was proud to accept on Waitakere's behalf, our Milestone Two and Three awards for our work in the programme and as I said in my acceptance speech, we are lucky to have such capable and committed staff to ensure the work is done.

Then the conference was addressed by Parliamentary Secretary, Steve Herbert, who was representing Minister John Thwaites. Mr Herbert noted the scientific evidence on climate change compels us all to act and act quickly. He also stressed the need for solid targets which required strong programmes to underpin them. We also heard from ICLEI Oceania Chief Executive Officer, Wayne Wescott, who affirmed the strong international reputation that local government in New Zealand and Australia has for climate change action.

Later in the day, I was one of four guest speakers at a session called Beyond Hurdles: A Showcase of Sustainability in Action. My DVD presentation focused on the formation and success of this country's first eco city and it was very, very well received. I talked about this city's history, its eco city vision and our partnership with Maori. As well as our history, the DVD, which most of you have seen I think, covers what we have done to improve our town centres and our focus on art, music and culture. It also showcases our local film industry success and the fabulous end products of our boat building sector. I also told the audience about our wonderful new and environmentally-friendly civic centre and believe me people were impressed with what we have done and what we have achieved.

Before closing for the day, Dr Derek Cox, from the Institute of Climatic Affairs, a self-professed climate sceptic, took to the stage (he's either very brave or very stupid). He attacked Al Gore and Howard Stern as "green fundamentalists" and argued Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* was a marvellous work of science fiction. The tongue-in-cheek presentation did little to sway the crowds' determination to act on climate change in their communities but did provide some light relief after an intense day.

Melbourne's National Gallery was the venue for the conference dinner and featured, as the keynote speaker, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, Australia's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources. The Minister said that a decade of action by local governments participating in the Cities for Climate Protection Australia programme, had helped reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 8.8 million tonnes, the equivalent of taking two million cars off Australian roads for a year. "This year marks the 10 year anniversary of the Australian government's investment of close to \$20 million in CCP Australia and during that time 218 local governments, representing 16 million Australians, have become world leaders in reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the local level - an exceptional achievement", the Minister said.

Waitakere was one of the cities to receive a special Decade of Achievement 'globe' award for our work in the programme and it is now sitting next to the LivCom award in the foyer outside my office for people who would like to have a look. We were also presented with two certificates for the milestone awards and these will be displayed accordingly.



The conference was also the venue for the launch of the Australasian Mayors' Council for Climate Protection. The initiative was launched by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser. The role of the AMCCP is to build capacity of the local government sector to undertake a non-partisan approach to action on climate protection and advocacy.

At a panel discussion on the Friday, called Mapping a Pathway for the Next Decade - New Zealand's Sustainable Future, I paid tribute to Helen Clark and her government's commitment to the environment. As she said in her statement to Parliament earlier this year, New Zealand's future is dependent on long-term sustainable strategies for our economy, society, environment, culture and way of life. She said the quest for sustainability had taken on a new urgency because of the scale of the environmental challenge the world faces.

I told the audience of more than 300 delegates that Local Government New Zealand supported the need for a greater focus on sustainability. Analysis of Council's 10-year plans shows three quarters of spending over the next decade is going to be on ensuring our infrastructure, such as roading, water and wastewater systems, are managed sustainably. And that means taking into account the impacts of climate change on our infrastructure. This gives us, as the leaders of local government, clear direction to focus on.

So far 26 New Zealand councils have joined the Communities for Climate Protection programme. These councils are showing great leadership in terms of this issue and indeed Waitakere has made a stand-out effort. The Waitakere goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent per capita by 2051. It's an inspirational goal, because the per capita inclusion takes it to a very personal level and is not skewed with population changes. As I told the conference, it is important we as CCP councils encourage our colleagues elsewhere to join up and do likewise. I've been banging on about the environment since I first stood for mayor in 1992 and I'm going to continue to bang on about it - as we all should. That's leadership. But we also need to, as was very obvious at the conference, incentivise our communities and our businesses. We need to work collaboratively with all of our stakeholders and partners and we must, we absolutely must, communicate the climate change and sustainability message to our community.

I was heartened to hear one of the other speakers encourage councillors to show courage in terms of climate change and sustainability, and to use the mandate we had to forge ahead. Local government can address the climate change issue with its local communities, and as I say, that was one of the main themes that came through from the conference. We need to let our people know just how important this issue is and provide practical solutions. We need to educate our community on the issue and all that it involves and how it affects them, and more importantly how it affects our future generations.

Our legacy was roads, rates and rubbish and they are important but as I told the conference, in Waitakere we do that in a day. The other six days of the week are spent doing the very important job of working towards the future. In Waitakere we do things locally but we think globally and our strong eco city vision was in place long before Al Gore came along. It wasn't about tree hugging, it was about smart people, passion and push, on a legacy second to none, and we need to continue on that track. I was very pleased to see so many young people at the conference, because their legacy is sustainability and the environment.

Auckland Mayor Dick Hubbard and I prepared and distributed a media release at the end of the conference entitled Climate Change - the Monster in the Living Room Now. It said mayors and councillors from across New Zealand returned from the conference reinvigorated about the need for serious action. Each of the councils who attended the conference were already taking steps on key issues such as public transport, waste reduction and the promotion of green and sustainable buildings but the message from business, from energy to insurance companies, was crystal clear - councils need to intensify their efforts to ensure the survival of the planet.



Mayor Hubbard said there was a unanimous message that councils had to up the ante. Carbon pricing is imminent, like it or not, and once there is a price on carbon, the need for all of us to move quickly and effectively will sharply increase. We must be prepared. We need not only to measure our own emissions as councils, but know what each sector emits. Then we can work collaboratively on reduction.

In this, political leadership is absolutely critical. Those of us in local government have to show leadership, to practise what we preach, so we do not ask more of our communities than we are prepared to do ourselves. The entire New Zealand contingent agreed community education was a key role for local government. People must have simple steps to take and then it won't seem so overwhelming. And when all of these individual actions are put together, the cumulative effect can be surprisingly powerful.

As ICLEI Chief Executive Officer Wayne Wescott said, the conference timing, in the 10th year of Cities for Climate Protection in Australia, was proof local government had the political mandate, community support and the practical solutions through new and emerging technology and methodologies. In short, we know what we need to do. The conference helped us all focus on how we pull these together and move forward. We need to show leadership but we also need to show courage because, while I don't want to be a pessimist, we are at a critical point. If we don't take action we are heading for disaster and we will be annihilated by our own stupidity. We simply cannot let that happen.

As a result of my attendance at the conference, I will be arranging a meeting with the Minister for Climate Change, David Parker, to ensure a close working relationship between local and central government on this issue. Both need to be aware of what the other is doing, so that initiatives can be effectively implemented and funded.

I wore two hats at the conference - one as the mayor of Waitakere and one as a founding member of ICLEI. So while my presentations were based on Waitakere City, I was also acting as an executive member of Local Government New Zealand and at the final session I was representing the issues for local government generally. These are two important hats and I feel proud of this City's continued agenda, but I am somewhat disenchanted about New Zealand as a whole and its rapid falling behind the rest of the world's cities in sustainability and in creative solutions. I have recently sent you all, the astonishing ABC television clip about San Francisco and its 'green' efforts. If New Zealand could reach this level of commitment and delivery, I would gladly feel we have achieved so much.

SAMOAN STATE FUNERAL

I was really pleased to receive a phone call from the Prime Minister's office, asking me to be part of her delegation to Samoa to attend the state funeral of the Head of State, His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II.

I have to say that if I had known the transport was the dreaded webbing seats of the Hercules that would shudder its way up to Apia over six hours, I might have declined and grabbed an Air New Zealand flight. But I found myself on the Friday at Whenuapai, being loaded into cattle class in the huge cavernous interior of the plane - strapped in tightly for the rattling take-off.

These lumbering giants are fantastic. You just trust them. But they are wretchedly cold and as soon as the plane reaches altitude you feel you are flying over the Antarctic. Blankets are quickly handed out and we fly off into the night. And into the day before! Before we touch in Apia, the Hercules starts to leak badly - condensation flows freely from the hundreds of pipes above us, covering us in a cold shower. The blankets, which have been so closely coveted, are now used as umbrellas. But to be honest it's quite a thrill.



We bus into the grand Parliament House, which is a giant fale with a magnificent dome ceiling. In the centre, and with an honour guard, the casket is draped with the Samoan flag. It's been there for three days and around the whole perimeter are floral tributes from governments around the world. I would think you could buy a couple of islands with their cost. They are truly splendid. After all, state funerals don't come cheap.

I am accompanied by Koroseta To'o from Waitakere. He's a local and so he knows the protocol and he tells me he will make an ancient call which he does beautifully, lifting his voice to the ceiling and dome with resonance. Then we both bow and then he tells me we should sing the Waitakere Waiata, as the whole ceremony and event is being recorded for television. Our rendering I would think is better than passable. We are both old hands at this waiata and it is predictably good and very well received.

By now it's 1.00 am and it's still Friday! We are dropped off at our hotels for an early morning start. Dawn is absolutely glorious and signals a hot, sticky and humid day. We arrive at the parliament grounds again to find five huge tents have been erected for heads of state, members of parliament and other VIPs. The world's media has turned up with thousands of cameras, but we get front row seats because of the close relationship between New Zealand and Samoa.

Nobody gets a breeze. It must be around 40 degrees when the casket is brought out down impossible steps and onto a dais in the middle of the field by 10 strong Samoans, where it will rest until the end of the service. God it looks a really difficult task - heavy and with the flag precariously hanging.

The service is very emotional and backed with 500 singing voices - a truly grand and glorious weaving of sound. No one except the Tongans can do better harmony. The VIPs are really out in force - Prime Minister Helen Clark, Governor General Anand Satyanand, Aussies by the score and Chinese and Japanese sweltering and nodding off. The mayors have turned up - me, Dick Hubbard, Sir Barry Curtis, Jenny Brash and then there's the Samoan MPs, dignitaries and speakers.

I think there must be 3,000 people in the tents. The roads are lined with Samoan warriors in traditional matting. The service is conducted by a number of Samoa's religious leaders and the PM makes a beautiful eulogy to obviously a close friend and colleague. Malietoa was 95 and had lived a very full and interesting life. Clearly he was adored by the Samoans. He was referred to as the King and he held together parliaments in good and bumpy times. He seemed to hold the collective wisdom of Samoa and indeed I reckon his sandals will be hard to fill.

After two hours of ceremony the service is concluded and we all follow the carried casket to the grave site. In fact there is no grave. Rather it is a massive tomb - a very big structure in the small cemetery. The size of a small house really. And after a thundering three-gun salute, the great doors are opened and the casket taken in.

We decide we'll walk back to the hotels. There's a state luncheon on at Old Aggie Grey's, that fantastic and legendary waterhole on the waterfront. I hadn't been to the hotel or Samoa before and it was as I expected, simple but lush. The villas are all named after famous movie stars who have stayed there while doing their movies - William Holden, Gary Cooper, etc.

The luncheon is jammed with VIPs - the King of Tonga and his entourage in pith helmets, who need to be seen to be believed in these troubled times. There are priests and cardinals and a smattering of New Zealand delegates who opt for hamburgers around the pool.

By 5.00 pm we're back at the airport. The Hercules is roaring to go, its four massive engines thundering as we clamber on board. The trip back into Saturday is predictably unbearable but somewhat fun. No ears survive the ringing long after we've disembarked. It was quite a trip.



M1-M25

I have inserted a couple of photographs below and attached at pages M1-M25 is the background information members of the delegation received.





STOP PRESS - WE ARE DOING IT RIGHT!

Last week we had a visit from Phil Hughes, the ICLEI Chief Executive for Sustainable Reporting, who presented an update to the Directors Group on international progress, especially in Australia and New Zealand, of sustainable reporting for businesses and organisations such as council. At the Chief Executive's instigation, we have been involved with ICLEI for several years on this particular project with the Director of Finance, Andrew Pollock, being intensively involved.

During his presentation, Phil Hughes advised that the three leading organisations in Australasia in the field of sustainable reporting were Melbourne City Council, Hornsby City Council and Waitakere City Council.

To find ourselves to be a leader in this field is heartening and shows that we are well up in the sustainability reporting area. I understand Auckland City and the Auckland Regional Council have just agreed to also become involved.

OUR FUTURE

As I often say, the next generation is our future and I've been thinking about how we can encourage younger people to take an interest in local government. Clearly there's a need when you look around our table, and I wouldn't even start to try and put our collective ages together because I'm just not that good at maths! And so, as you will see at this our May meeting - and following closely after Youth Week - we are now going to be joined by a Waitakere Youth Council representative at our meetings. The representative is sitting with our Community Board Chairs and the Youth Council's minutes will be on our Council agenda. At the very least, this new arrangement will mean a much better level of communication between the Council and the Youth Council and I think it will also give us an insight into our youngsters. Let's face it, this is an incredibly young city and our youth should have a voice. They will also get to see what it is we do.

This initiative brings our youth into this chamber, and I am proud to welcome them into this wonderful space where much is debated and decided. I don't think this happens at any other council in New Zealand and it's good to know Waitakere is once again at the leading edge of strategic thinking and innovation. I understand the Youth Council members are delighted with this move and I look forward to a very productive and mutually beneficial relationship. To our Youth Council representative and our Youth Council members - welcome. It is good to have you with us on our journey into the future and a 21st century modern Waitakere. Councillors, I urge you to take the opportunity to talk to these wonderful young people over dinner and as often as possible in the future.

The Future # 2

M26-M29 And speaking of the future and the new generation, I have attached at pages M26-M29, a feature article from NZ Life and Leisure on Rewi Spraggon or should I say 'Renaissance Tane'. It's an excellent piece, a preview of the July 2007 edition, and I think one which describes Rewi brilliantly. It is great to know the future is in the hands of young people like Rewi and I think we are very privileged to have him working with us in Waitakere.

LEAKY BUILDING UPDATE

M30-M36 Well, we called on the government to do something about this issue and it has. I received a letter from the Minister for Building and Construction, Clayton Cosgrove, at the end of last month outlining the implementation of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act and I have attached that correspondence at pages M30-M36.



The act is designed to get leaky homes fixed sooner, settle disputes faster and enhance consumer protection for homeowners. It provides both claimants and respondents with a more speedy, flexible and cost-effective pathway for resolving leaky home disputes as an alternative to the courts and includes a more comprehensive assessment so people can claim for potential as well as actual non-weather-tight damage.

It also provides a coordinated approach to resolving multi-unit claims, a new streamlined lower-value claim process and a more effective and efficient dispute resolution, including time-limited mediation. Consumer protection is included through territorial authorities placing Weather-tight Homes Resolution Services notices on Land Information memorandum (LIM) reports. In particular, a new Weather-tight Homes Tribunal has been established to provide complexly independent adjudication for leaky home claims with enhanced powers to settle claims faster, new offence provisions when parties fail to appear when summoned or disobey an order of the tribunal, a more investigative approach and more active management claims.

The government also announced a two-year financial assistance pilot scheme so eligible claimants can fix their homes first and argue liability second, by accessing either a guarantee of support for a private loan or, as a last resort, a direct loan from Housing New Zealand.

I agreed with the Minister when he said the success of the reforms depended in large part on the healthy working relationship developed between central and local government and the building and construction industry. We must all work together to put an end to this nightmare quickly and once and for all.

M37-M39 I have attached at pages M37-M39 the chilling report that was delivered to the Metro Sector of Local Government New Zealand. The news predictably is very glum. Eighty thousand New Zealanders need to fix their more than 30,000 failed or failing homes and that's probably just the tip of the iceberg. Not to mention the bill of \$4.5 billion.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING AMBASSADOR

On a more positive note, it is with great pride and pleasure this month we appoint Beatrice Faumuina as this City's inaugural Health and Wellbeing Ambassador. Beatrice was inducted into our Walkway of Fame in 2003. A very proud westie, that the west is very proud of, Beatrice has achieved international success and recognition and to have her as a Waitakere Ambassador is a real coup.

A discus thrower and gold medallist at the 1997 World Championships, Beatrice has represented New Zealand at three Olympic Games and at the 2004 games was placed 7th with a throw of 64.45 metres. Beatrice qualified for the Beijing Olympics next year following a throw of 62.2 metres at a qualifying meet in Christchurch.

Of course as we all know, Beatrice has also achieved fame on the dance floor. She appeared on *Dancing with the Stars* last year and made it to the final two couples with some stunning steps and moves.

Beatrice is an incredibly busy woman, but as an ambassador she has kindly agreed to work with the Council and Sport Waitakere on the Active Waitakere programme. Her role will involve speaking engagements, school visits and a variety of other activities. It's just great having Beatrice on the team and she will be a great ambassador and role model for the children and future generation of this City.



MILESTONES

Child Flight

When 20 percent of our kids are being bused or driven out of our City to attend non-local schools there's something wrong, and that's why I was pleased to be able to attend the Sunderland School and College official opening ceremony last week. Sunderland should be cheered on. Already it has 100 pupils enrolled and is striving to have 1,000 within the next two years. It was the Chairman, Alex Findlay, who spelt out the seriousness of the situation and I agree with him - 20 percent is an appallingly high number. It's totally unacceptable and thankfully the opening of Sunderland has gone a little way to reducing the figure. They didn't have an easy road though. The whole process was complex and difficult, with the ARC challenging them at every step. It was only by UNITEC on-selling our old council building that enabled them to come to Waitakere.

This Council should advocate with Waitakere principals to stem and reverse the trend in this regard. It is a sad indictment that this community fails to understand the level of excellence and commitment in local schools. We need to get that message across. Congratulations Sunderland on your official opening and welcome to Waitakere. We wish you every success.

Human Rights Declaration

What a triumph the evening citizenship ceremony on 15 May 2007 was. More than 200 people attended to witness the 'making' of 100 new citizens to Waitakere and New Zealand. It was a marvellous occasion, made even more memorable by the unveiling of the Declaration of Human Rights, which was another example of Waitakere City leading the way into a better future for our citizens.

Our special guests from the Human Rights Commission were Commissioner Rosslyn Noonan, two former commissioners Merimeri Penfold and Warren Lindberg, Sam Sefuiva - a principal advisor for race relations, and Shona White, the executive assistant to the Commissioner. The two framed pieces that were unveiled by the youngsters in the crowd, some of whom had just been recipients of citizenship along with their parents, was a moment I am sure they will never forget and I am proud we are the first local authority to show its commitment to human rights in this way. Our relationship with all people in this city shows we know how to do it in the Waitakere. By hanging the declaration, we are promoting and encouraging the people of this City to respect and appreciate one another.

Eisenhower Fellowship

M40-M46 As you know, I am on the Eisenhower Fellowship, an organisation which chooses the best and brightest as recipients. We are currently in the process of selecting the next New Zealand recipient from a variety of incredibly talented applicants and will keep you posted, but in the meantime I wanted to share the report from American 2007 recipient Rick Sauer, who visited New Zealand and Australia. It's attached at pages M40-M46. I am sure you will find it very interesting reading.

Mr Matt Casey

I have, on Council's behalf, sent our heartfelt congratulations to our good friend and illustrious barrister Matt Casey, who has been made a Queen's Counsel or QC. A personal friend, advocate and advisor, I have also worked with Matt, a true professional, many times and he is a most deserving recipient of this accolade. Our warmest congratulations Matt, and thank you for all your hard work for this City in the past and all the best for your new life as a QC.



The Falls

Congratulations also to Falls Restaurant, which was awarded a 'Copper Ladle for Excellence' in the Corbans Perfect Match awards. This is the biggest wine and food matching competition of 2007 and selected restaurants were asked to create a perfect match menu, matching dishes with a range of Corbans Private Bin wines. One hundred and fifty restaurants were judged in six regions, and there was also a chance for customers to be involved by voting online for their favourite matching, which saw the Falls achieve 'People's Choice for New Zealand'. Congratulations to Garry Bates and his team. A well deserved accolade and I am sure business will be even better as a result.



Rueben Shadbolt

I heard about many innovative and new environmental schemes at the Melbourne conference, but I can also report many of our residents and ratepayers are coming up with their own ideas. EcoMow is the new environmentally-friendly way to do the lawns, the brainchild of former mayor and entrepreneur Tim Shadbolt's son Rueben. The company is the country's first cordless electric lawn and garden care company and Reuben is very pleased to be doing his bit to save your property, and indeed the planet, from unnecessary noise, smoke and chemical pollution. Good on you Rueben. I am sure your business will be a huge success. Rueben can be contacted on 0800 SAVE PLANET or ecomow@orcon.net.nz.

BurgerFuel

One of the best parts of being the Mayor of this City is welcoming new business. Economic growth is a priority if we are to continue to create a modern, 21st century City. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Chris Mason and his second BurgerFuel store to Waitakere. The New Lynn store is the company's 20th and many of the others are in 'exotic' places such as London and Sydney. The Lincoln Road BurgerFuel has been operating since 2004 and the first BurgerFuel opened in Ponsonby Road 11 years ago.



The 100 percent New Zealand-owned and operated gourmet burger chain is known for its irreverently named burgers and we're talking here about 'Bastards and Bacon Backfires', 'Ford Freakouts' and 'Peanut Pistons'. I guess you could call it westie heaven. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Chris and his team all the best and every success.

Now, my PR people might not like the idea of me climbing into fancy fast cars or walking planks as did Don Brash (and looked what happened to him), but in this case I just couldn't help myself. The black and very cool Dodge Monaco was just too tempting to walk away from. All I can say is that it wasn't easy to get into but once I was in there it felt surprisingly comfortable, not to mention incredibly powerful and noisy.



Allie Eagle's Heritage Painting

When we decided an art work honouring the European migrants to the west was a critical part of the cultural fabric of the new Civic Centre, there was really only one choice of artist. Allie Eagle, whose heritage painting has graced the Massey Library for some years, has a passion and energy for unpicking the tapestry of the past that is unique and extraordinary. Add to that an enormous ability to produce art that is exquisite and layered with allusion and meaning.



The seven metre by two and a half metre work that now hangs on the main wall of the Council Chamber foyer is almost certainly the largest water colour painting in the world. The encaustic wax finish, which protects and gives it a glow and lustre, is a medieval technique which is in keeping with the painterly references to the work of the old masters. More than 30 contemporary descendants of early settlers appear in the painting as their settler ancestors and there are literally dozens of objects, small and large, which evoke those times.

Allie works with an atelier of other artists; some young and learning, others mid-career and supporting. This classical approach allows for a focused community of researchers and artists all working together with one goal in mind. The result is a work of great beauty and meaning which will delight the residents of Waitakere for many years to come. Really the painting entitled 'Child Jesus in the temple - a community parable for Waitakere City' is a total treasure and the delight of those who have seen it since the opening on 30 April 2007 is very apparent. Thank you to Allie and her team for this wonderful offering and thank you also to Naomi and her team who also worked incredibly hard on its delivery.

Tanya Wilkinson - Corban Estate Arts Centre

This month saw the departure of Tanya Wilkinson from her position as Director of the Corban Estate Arts Centre (CEAC). Tanya has been the founding director of CEAC and has done a remarkable job for more than five years in establishing this vibrant and successful arts precinct for the City. Her vision and leadership have been quite extraordinary and the quality of the exhibition and education programmes, studio arts incubator, shop, events and many other activities has been inspirational.

As with all founding roles, the time and dedication that has been demanded is ultimately not sustainable and late last year the trust made the decision to split Tanya's work into two full-time positions. This has coincided with her decision to take a well-earned break and to launch herself into the world of freelancing in the arts' sector. We know she will be brilliantly successful in this and any other direction she chooses to take in the future. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well and to offer our heartfelt thanks for all that she has contributed to our City over her time at CEAC. Martin Sutcliffe has now taken over the role of director, along with Lisa Rogers as curator, and we look forward to working with the new team.

Romancing the Waitakere Ranges

M47-M49 Sometimes we forget why we have put such a huge amount of work and effort into protecting our glorious Waitakere Ranges and then you read something like the attachment at pages M47-M49. Stephanie Brookes' story, which appeared in the Jakarta Post, is wonderfully written and brings the Ranges to life. Indeed she does a wonderful sell job on Waitakere and on your behalf I will write to thank her for a great job done.

Thanks

M50-M52 I have attached at pages M50-M52, letters from the Chief Executive of the Department of Internal Affairs, Christopher Blake, and the Honourable Mark Burton, Minister of Local Government, regarding the Commonwealth Local Government Conference. The letters are self-explanatory and I think we should all take the pats on the back. Thanks to all involved for their hard work, which clearly paid off.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE