

Council

**Wednesday, 25 June 2008
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, 25 JUNE 2008,
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

1. **Receive** the Mayor's Report for June 2008.
2. **Agree** that Waitakere and North Shore enter into a joint working party to look at a strategic alliance for the Royal Commission and undertake a serious research project across Auckland, Waitakere and North Shore cities.

Making Big Changes through Real Leadership

Firstly I would like to congratulate the council on its deliberations and subsequent presentation to the Royal Commission on Regional Governance. It was an excellent and well considered presentation and I was somewhat disappointed the chairman Peter Salmon criticised Waitakere and other councils for 'minding their patches'. That's what we were elected to do and no city has been more generous I believe than Waitakere over many years at working regionally. But when it comes to survival well I'm afraid that's what it is about – survival. And we have to be as good as anyone when it comes to manning the lifeboats.

This city's future is very much in the hands of this commission and my feeling is that it has come to favour the one and four city models. I do not believe a two city or three city option is valid or indeed given any credence. I think the four city model stacks up. It's more sustainable and it brings the benefits of what the commission is seeking. The one city model will not deliver the economies of scale and it certainly will not bring the benefits of reduced rates. I don't think the die is cast with the commission and so the door is still open and council needs to think strategically on how its position of four cities can be reinforced, to persuade the commission that the Waitakere Way is more than an eco city concept. It's smart thinking that will deliver a better future for the region. If we fail in this then we will hear our fate in December and there will be little left for us to do but put the chairs on the table and turn out the lights. I am recommending that a small working party look at some strategic alliances and ways to capture (and that's what we must do) the Auckland audience who will take things such as one city in their stride. There is a mood for change around. The Labour Government has the same problem; to convince the populous that there is a better way than radical change. We have to gauge the mood quickly and I would like to know right now by research (which we are always light on) how Auckland and Waitakere people feel about all of this. And I don't mean one of those mindless, meaningless vox pops of five dozoz in Catherine Mall. I mean a serious research package that we can base our thinking and strategic direction on.

M1-M9 As you know, I made a personal submission to the commission on having an empowered mayor, elected at large and on a four year election cycle. I know they are interested and I have attached my submission and speech notes attached at pages M1 to M9. In this report I want to share with you some further thoughts on this topic.



So, what would good leadership for Auckland look like? The commission asked me if the leader should have to have local body experience. My short answer was “god, no”. But now I want to answer some of the leadership criteria. Many people feel that the job of an empowered mayor would be filled by celebrity types such as Judy Bailey or Jonah Lomu. I don’t have any concerns in that regard. They couldn’t do worse than what we’ve had or got. The stuff that has been delivered by the voters over the past 10 years is hardly inspiring.

Firstly the leader will need to have a clear manifesto with clear policy objectives when they stand for election. The role of empowered mayor would be an empowered mayor or leader. I take my lead from the Great London model and I note with interest and some pleasure the Greater London Council has looked at this role again and have given it the “thumbs up” to continue. Later this year I will be in London on a private visit and I intend to meet with Boris Johnson and talk about the role as he sees it. I had a few minutes with Ken Livingston a few years ago on the occasion of the announcement of the London Olympics but we mainly talked about transport. With Johnson I’d like to get an hour or so and to scope how the job fits.

An empowered mayor would have the power to act and take things forward, subject of course to reporting back and at all times assuring an agenda of balance, accountability and contestability. I am mindful it should never be possible to rate without representation but I believe an empowered mayor would understand and act accordingly. Therefore the person would ensure there were no surprises and no ambush. The role would be one of conciliation, consultancy and smart local government best practice.

The person should be aware of ongoing consultation and ensure Auckland leaves no opportunities to go begging and be able to think long and hard, developing not only the historical background but also the vision. In other words, an all encompassing, empowered leader. They will also need to have the demonstrated confidence of key ethnic groups and of tangata whenua within the Auckland region.

I think the person should meet with the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance at least every 48 hours. Cabinet needs to register the importance of Auckland leadership and be in regular contact with its number one economic instrument. This will ensure key policy differences between the Auckland leadership and central government are discussed. There will be a clear media protocol to “agree to disagree” when issues are not resolvable. In this picture the chief executive will have similar experience so they can wire into a bureaucratic system but not be drowned by it.

The new leader must and will demonstrate he or she has the confidence of the government. There is simply too much at stake for them to permanently fall out as in the Bruce Jesson (ARC Chair) - Jenny Shipley (Prime Minister) conflict in the 1990s. If they no longer have that full confidence from the government, not only will it be difficult to lead Auckland, it will be difficult for central government to govern Auckland or to have its confidence. That indicates the interdependence between Auckland and New Zealand in operation.

The leader will meet with central government cabinet in Auckland at least once a year with the whole council. The agenda will be formed as part of the central government budget round and it will be a managed negotiation. In effect, the leader will manage the Ministry of Auckland, on behalf of its entities, on behalf of the people of Auckland, and on behalf of central government. He or she will also meet with cabinet four times a year to discuss specific Auckland-focused cabinet papers and to advocate at the cabinet table for Auckland budget priorities during January and February of each year.



The person will be the lead negotiator for a joint investment programme for Auckland that has mutual central and local government agreement. Without this Auckland and the government are generating separate visions of what is achievable for Auckland. This means establishing what is called “common accountability platforms” between the Auckland region and specific departments to ensure that what is promised is delivered, and delivered in partnership. He or she will address each of the main Maori iwi on their marae at least once per year, together with urban authorities, and Maori development corporations. They will also be responsible for hosting yearly conferences with the senior business leadership and the senior social leadership of the Auckland region, and expect them to come up with their own priorities to be fed into the budget process.

The council will be conducted along similar rules to those governing cabinet and there will be collective cabinet responsibility for decisions as a condition of being sworn in. At least one month a year will be spent seeking overseas investment together with the Minister of Trade, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister. I would think about 20 percent of the executive mayor’s time will be spent with the media.

As you can see, a lot will be expected of the leader of New Zealand’s commercial centre. This need not mean the leader has “hire and fire capacity” other than over his/her own staff. But this kind of leadership requires a lot of servicing and a lot of integration with central government.

If the objective really is to transform Auckland with all the public and private levers integrated and operating efficiently, what you need to generate is a civic version of the West Wing. The office of the leader of Auckland should be filled with the best and the brightest who understand the Auckland region intimately.

It will need:

- The capacity to quickly analyse the large scale developments in order that they can be easily “bundled” into the regulatory system in the most efficient way possible and provide a pretty clear “red” or “green” light to large scale developers rather than being pecked to death by regulatory ducks. Such staff should be gutsy and bold and can quickly analyse transformation projects with skills including:
 - Legal and land resource
 - Planning
 - Civil engineering, Three Waters, and air
 - Governmental project and priority with relevant requiring authorities
- A certain ruthlessness about implementing the One Plan for Auckland, including the expectation of a single coherent District Plan across the region.
- Communications staff that speak on behalf of the whole council rather than having separate communications for each department.
- Government relations staff who are hooked into every major ministry and ministerial office, at deputy secretary or chief executive level and not below. The key ministries that they integrate with should be:
 - Ministry of Transport
 - New Zealand Transport Agency
 - Ministry for the Environment
 - Department of Conservation
 - Treasury
 - Ministry of Economic Development
 - Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet



- Office of the Prime Minister
- Office of the Minister of Finance
- Office of the Governor-General
- Maori Development Corporations
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

GUEDO should be co-located within the Regional Entity.

Other Crown entities that should have permanent liaison staff co-located within the office of the leader of Auckland are:

- Ministry of Social Development
- Ministry of Health (particularly the Public health team)
- Housing New Zealand
- New Zealand Defence Forces
- Ontrack
- Vice-Chancellors Committee
- Treasury's Crown Company Monitoring Unit
- Crown Law
- MED's Infrastructure and Energy teams

I think the government should give serious consideration to co-locating all government departments other than hospitals in one precinct within Auckland. A key part of the effective functioning of Wellington and of central government is their close proximity. This ensures each parallel official is in easy reach and that there are strong social and informal networks enabling the market of political information to flow freely. It will also ensure a speed and depth of policy contest as each new idea is tested and budgeted.

A large part of the performance indicators of the staff in this office is how efficiently they are tracking the network of relationships between Auckland officials and relevant officials in ministries. They should meet every day with the people who control the levers of capital and land within the region and clearly understand what matters to them and how policy objectives can be achieved with them. And they should be sufficiently respected that the chief executives of relevant government departments pick up the phone when the Auckland staff call. Auckland should be part of the drafting of every relevant bill before it goes to select committee and major decision of the council should be communicated clearly to the public. The office must have the capacity to form and push new policy ideas that go into the budget round.

I want the commission to seriously consider the executive powers of this leader. A leader on this scale should not be kissing babies and statutorily reduced to ceremonial use other than in committee. They are there to work.

The leader should be elected to be a professional with significant executive authority. In my view this means clear recognition of the position and its function in any change to legislation, a casting vote in committee and a budget sufficient for staff to have a strong engagement with central government and the major sectors of the Auckland region.

Central government's priorities for Auckland must be largely the same as Auckland's priorities insofar as they affect Auckland. Auckland and New Zealand now exist in a completely interdependent relationship.



Auckland must generate a separate briefing to incoming ministers and it must be treated on the same level as another other departmental BIM (Briefing to Incoming Ministers). And Auckland must generate a separate budget that is fed into central government's annual budget and it must be contested with Treasury on just the same basis as a department or core government function.

M10-M11 Indeed, shouldn't there be an Auckland embassy established, as per Bryan Mogridge's idea from a couple of years ago? Local Government New Zealand felt it served this role but with all due respect I don't think that's the case. There needs to be an independent office in whatever reconfiguration the commission comes up with. That's a must on the agenda. And why not take that even further, as I did with my suggestion Auckland become the capital again and parliament return to its natural home. I think the return needs to happen in the next 10 years. Reaction to this one was clearly mixed but the idea certainly wasn't ridiculed. As you will see in the attachments at pages M10 to M11, Brian Rudman was balanced as was Jane Clifton. For the record there was also television and radio interviews.

As you will also see from my attached submission I think mayors and councillors should serve four terms. Getting things done in three years is just too hard. New councillors have to 'learn' the job in the first year, the second year they fall in love with it and get down to the nitty gritty but then in the third year they are into election mode. It's just not long enough.

Anyway, those are my thoughts. I welcome any feedback you may have.

The Waitakere Ranges - Where to Now

On Sunday last week, in the Waitakere Hall, the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society gathered to celebrate 35 years, to cut a cake and to acknowledge those who had contributed to decades of protecting the ranges over literally hundreds of issues. What a fantastic organisation it is. The society was formed when the Waitemata County Council decided to put a toxic tip in the Duck brothers quarry site at Bethells, Te Henga. The council said it would only affect the streams and rivers slightly and that the beach was hardly used anyway. And only in summer. The judgement was so wrong and the time was moving towards an environmental climate. The protest both at the site and at the council was overwhelming. I was one of the protestors and on behalf of Surf Lifesaving, of which I was the public relations director, put together a very robust submission. I remember being rather pleased with it and my commitment to the ranges was also established.

The society has shown enormous courage - taking on everyone and everything without fear or favour. They've had some great patrons - Lucy Cranwell and Jonathan Hunt. At present the patron is Dr John Morton and the long-time chairman is John Edgar. While celebrating their birthday it was also a time to reminisce on the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill and present some awards to council. Myself and Graeme Campbell were given honorary awards which I acknowledge with gratitude. And these proceedings of course allowed much conversation about the future.

Gary Taylor announced the society was concerned about the future of the Auckland region and wisely mentioned the new shape and configuration of the region may differ greatly from what now exists. That Waitakere may in fact become a different entity and where does that put the ranges act. As hard as that is to consider it's a possible reality. The society is therefore bringing together a new trust to be known as the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Trust and this will pull together long term issues and concerns and will ensure the act cannot be undone. Greg Presland the society's solicitor also warned government changes in the next election could also have adverse effects on where the act goes. So although we may be holding our celebrations it's in no way assured the ranges or this city will stay the same as they are at this moment in time.



M12-M15

So what do we do now with our foothills? I believe they must be nurtured and urged to create living environments that simply thrive. And to do so I believe they need to be treated as very special and creative spaces. I was inspired while recently in America about how food and markets are giving neighbourhoods makeovers. You will recall I talked about this in my last mayoral report and included some clippings. I am adding them again at pages M12 to M15 so you will see how my thinking is going. I believe a number of the properties could link with either the Oratia Farmers Market or a creation of a new western market which will see a boom in organic or even normal green markets developed in the west. Mixed with small boutique wineries, which I am simply crazy about, I think we can see a future that's viable and sustainable for this area.

The market scheme is collective and works along these lines. For between \$100 and \$200 you are guaranteed food, produced winter and summer, from these gardens and hopefully orchards. In other words the gardens become your supply and you can walk, cycle or use public transport to pick the fruit and veg up at the weekend. It's surprising how little you need but it's not surprising how much you pay. The recent poll on vegetables showed an increase of 15 percent and like oil it's going to continue to grow. So this suddenly makes sense - those who grow and sell food will be the new retailers.

Through what we've created this is a real possibility but wait there is always more. I believe the area could do with a couple of very good cafes and art galleries. Simple to say but difficult to do unless this council is prepared to not put people through hoops of fire as we have done with Rex Sunde. But that's in the past and the Oratia market continues to grow in popularity. So it's in the right direction. I know a couple of sites are already under consideration around the Oratia area and I'd like to see them happen. I'd also like to see some of the old orchard sheds used for artists in residence, not unlike the artist colony being organically grown in the Span Farm area by John Edgar and Ann Robinson, another project I'm cheering on.

M16-M21

Finally a huge thanks to all those who attended the excellent party in the chambers to celebrate the passing of the bill into legislation. I'd like to thank the team at council who made this very impressive civic function a treat as well as the speakers - the Prime Minister Helen Clark who spoke fondly and well of Waitakere and the bill, Jonathan Hunt who came to council and who ironically has an apartment in the building that once housed the Waitemata County Council and where the protest movement created the ranges protection society, John Edgar and Gary Taylor. I was delighted Ngāti Whatua, who had had a small traffic accident getting to the event, arrived to give us a blessing and I'd like to thank Jane Sherard from Nga Rima o Kaipara Charitable Trust. It is great to have Ngāti Whatua with us on this issue. We have a great future together. The speeches are attached at pages M16 to M21.

I have also included below a letter from Waitakere MP and bill champion Lynne Pillay.

"Dear Bob

I am writing to say how fantastic it was to attend the celebration of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act at Waitakere City Council yesterday.

The passage of this Act was the culmination of much work and commitment by so many over more than three decades. It showed the ability for councils to work together for a common goal.

I know the Prime Minister and my Parliamentary colleagues, including Hon Chris Carter, Hon David Cunliffe and Darien Fenton, thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It was a privilege to welcome Helen as an "honorary Westie" for the day, as the celebrations were at the end of a full day of commitments "out west" for her.



It was fabulous to see so many of the people who have supported this legislation gathered in one place for such a happy occasion.

The Act is a further endorsement of Waitakere's commitment to being an eco-city under your leadership – something that all Westies can be proud of.

Thank you once again for a great evening.

Kind regards

Lynne Pillay
MP for Waitakere

Milestones

Colin Kay - October 1926 - 5 June 2008

It was with much sadness we greeted the news of the passing of former Auckland mayor Colin Kay. Colin was mayor from 1980 to 1983, served as chairman on the former Auckland Regional Authority for a time and was a man who dedicated his life to public service and civic duty. Quite simply Colin loved Auckland and was always an active community member.

In 1961 Colin formed the Auckland Joggers' Club and was the founder of the annual Round the Bays run in 1973. He represented New Zealand in athletics at the Empire Games in 1950. I worked with Colin on the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games and his enthusiasm and input was exceptional. In 2000 Colin founded the Peter Snell Institute of Sport which he established to help identify and develop a talent based pool of young sportspeople who might become world class athletes for New Zealand in Olympic and Commonwealth games sports.

Colin was also chair of the former Auckland Regional Council and received a CEB in 1990 for his services to sport, politics and the community. He had a major stroke just over a year ago and had been suffering health complications since. Colin died aged 82. He will be remembered for his many, many achievements.

Queen's Birthday Honours

I have on behalf of all of us written and congratulated our local honour recipients and I would like to congratulate them again here. It's always good seeing locals, or very good friends of the west, recognised for their hard work and achievements.

Ross Jewell, MNZM for services to business, Va'aiga Tuigamala, MNZM for services to rugby and the community, Peter Posa, MNZM for services to entertainment, Beverley Ann Magee, QSO for services to local government and the environment, David Lawrence, QSM for services to the community, Ronald Pennell, QSM for services to the New Zealand Fire Service, Vaoga Lelefua Watts, QSM for services to the Pacific Islands community and Sharon Young, QSM for services to the community.

Four of these people I consider "our very special own" so I am going to pay special tribute to them.



Ross Jewell

Ross is a director of Waitakere Properties Ltd, our property development company and he is also a director of Prime West Ltd, a joint venture film company potentially owned by Waitakere. He was chairman of Waitakere Properties and was also a director of ARTNL and the Public Trust Advisory Board. His business acumen is outstanding. He has held a variety of seriously important company positions including general manager of various New Zealand Insurance offices and services, Mobil Oil New Zealand, Tasman Pulp and Paper and the Sydney Stock Exchange. His current position is Director - JMIS Limited, which is an investment advisory company that provides advice to superannuation funds, trusts and private clients. We are incredibly lucky and well off to have a man of Ross' calibre working with us in this city.

Ann Magee

Ann was with us for 12 years as the general manager of strategy and development and it would be impossible to list all of the initiatives she was involved in however the most obvious are the declaration of Waitakere as New Zealand's first eco city and the development of the first sustainable subdivision in the city. When she left us, Ann became head of the chief executive's office at the Auckland Regional Council and was guiding the development of the Auckland Regional Strategy before her much deserved retirement just a few weeks ago. I think half of Waitakere was at the farewell! All up Ann was involved with local government, in particular sustainable development in the Auckland region, for more than 20 years. She was a member of the Task Force on Environment 2010, the Northern Regional Sustainable Land Use and Research Committee, the Waste Minimisation and Management Strategy, the National Science Strategy Committee for Climate Change and was the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Working Party on Urban Sustainability. Ann was also a member of the Local Government Association of New Zealand and the Sustainable Development Working Party. She was involved with the development of the academic discipline of human geography in New Zealand, including being an examiner for the former School Certificate, Bursary and Scholarship Geography and Social Studies programmes. Ann's contribution to this city, this region, this country and indeed the world is not to be underestimated.

Peter Posa

While Peter now lives in Te Awamutu he started his life of music as a youngster in Henderson. As the Western Leader said, his guitar was made out of a piece of wood and wire from his mother's clothesline. Peter's career spans almost 60 years. Peter learnt to play by ear, listening to recordings of Sinatra and country and western star Hank Williams. This mixture of influences is what created the unique Peter Posa sound. In the 1960s he shot to fame and spent time in the United States with Hollywood A-listers including Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. In the years that followed he never reached those dizzying heights again but he never stopped making music and he still performed, albeit at a "slower pace" following a car accident and a battle with depression and alcohol. Peter's lifelong dedication to music was recognised through this Queen's Birthday Honour and it is good to know his "greatest pleasure" these days comes from teaching and mentoring young guitarists, passing on his musical talent to a new generation.

Va'aiga Tuigamala

I am just so proud Inga's face appears on our latest Domestic Violence -It's Not OK in Waitakere billboards. Inga is someone who is truly respected and his Queen's Birthday Honour is just more proof of that. Inga had a long and distinguished rugby league and union career. The Henderson resident played for Ponsonby-Kelston schoolboys and made his debut playing for Auckland B in 1988 against New South Wales Country. He had a successful All Black rugby career from 1989 to 1991. He became widely known as Inga the Winger and played 19 tests and 20 other matches for the All Blacks before continuing his career overseas. Inga is now a motivational speaker and I just know that anyone who hears him speak will be



more than impressed and indeed motivated. He is just such a fantastic role model for Pacific Island youth, and indeed all youth, and he takes that role incredibly seriously.

Licensing Trusts Conference

M22-M30

I was very pleased to open this conference on 13 June and my speech is attached at pages M22 to M30. The speaker following me was National Party leader John Key who also spoke about the situation in south Auckland with its proliferation of booze shops and outlets. We are just so fortunate out west to have The Trusts and such a fantastic bunch of really responsible trustees. The national media have been brutal on Manukau's liquor outlets and nobody is disagreeing. Indeed at the time of writing the Prime Minister is calling for a crackdown on the number of liquor outlets in poor areas of New Zealand. She wants parliament to revisit liquor laws to cut the number of outlets.

The sheer availability of alcohol in Manukau is a huge part of the problem and someone is going to have to do something about it. You will note in my speech I talk about our awful domestic violence figures out here but tempering that is the fact that because of the Trusts our figures show a lower rate for alcohol related incidents.

Former deputy mayor Bob Stanic told the conference he was disappointed council is supporting a sinking lid policy in terms of the number of gaming machines but I explained why we are doing that. We are taking a very serious and I think balanced view on both gambling and liquor in our communities. I realise there are many councillors who are trustees and this of course cannot be an easy situation with the current grave concerns about alcohol in our communities. Mark O'Connor complemented the trusts on a recent visit I made to the police station. He said that the trusts in the west had really made a serious effort to control the outlets and drinking and I applaud them for that. Barry Curtis used to tell me that the council was greatly concerned about kids left in cars while parents gambled and I dread the day when this may happen in the west. I'm going to talk with George Hawkins about attitude. He's obviously very determined to try and get the south in line with us out here which I think is a commendable model. I was glad Waitakere was able to host this important conference. The members could see the progress that had been made in the west and the partnership that exists with our communities and the trusts. I think John Key made an excellent speech and his answers to questions were honest and direct.

United Nations Visit

It was indeed an honour to have one of the United Nations' top officials for the environment, Achim Steiner, visit Waitakere on 3 June. Mr Steiner, the executive director of the UN's Environment Programme, specifically asked to visit Waitakere. I was proud to welcome him and to give him the low-down on Waitakere's eco city journey. It was a privilege to host him because he is one of the world's top officials working on behalf of the environment. That he came here shows that what we are doing has developed an international reputation for leadership and I hope the interest being shown us from around the world will be reflected locally. Sustainability is the way of the future and not only is it good for the environment; it's great for the economy and business. It opens almost limitless new opportunities to harvest energy from inexhaustible sources like the sun, the wind and the tide - to use water much more wisely, to replace plastic products with vegetable starch equivalents, to restore public transport and find new ways to power personal vehicles and many more. In Waitakere we do everything we can to urge people and businesses to get involved and take advantage so it is rewarding to have our efforts recognised in this way.



Congratulations

Titirangi designer Christine Hafermalz-Wheeler has won the fine jewellery award in the 2008 AGR Matthey National Jewellery Awards held in Wellington. The artist goldsmith won the award for a necklace made using coloured diamonds, 18ct gold, Indonesian semi-baroque golden pearls and a pounamu pendant carved by noted carver Donn Salt. The winners were announced at the gala preview of the National Jewellery Showcase at the Michael Fowler Centre and the award carried a prize purse of \$2000. I have, on your behalf, written and congratulated Christine who is a very good friend of the city. The judges said that all of the fine jewellery finalists demonstrated high quality of workmanship and skill and showed an excellent choice of materials and technique and that while making the final overall winner choice was difficult Christine had "that extra edge". She sure does and this is a huge and well deserved accolade for Christine. Congratulations.

Henderson

On May 28 I attended the event to celebrate the re-opening of Coronation Bridge which had been closed for several years for earthworks, repairs to the concrete, the addition of stone wall abutments, new handrails and upgraded stormwater drainage. It was a great day and the children from Henderson Primary were fantastic singers. The bridge is part of the Henderson Heritage Trail and it was really good to see it open after so much time closed. Henderson is definitely getting there but boy, it's taking a long time and local businesses are not best pleased with the disruption. I have fielded several complaints and sadly I haven't really been able to console them. They are losing a good deal of money and saying 'it will be worth it in the end' isn't helping them at all. I know this work needed to be done but I fail to see the rationale behind the timing and the length of time it's taken.

The other suggestion has been that so we can get our cafes bringing their chairs and tables out onto the street. Well I couldn't agree more with that concept but there's only four or so cafes, the rest are takeaways. And now there's a lot of shoe shops and \$2 shops which have a fantastic road footage to put out their tables and chairs. Pardon me being cynical but I think Henderson has had so many do ups people are suffering from do over exhaustion. I know I am.

Walkway of Fame

What an honour it was to induct writer / actor / comedian / television celebrity Oscar Kightley, international fashion designer Karen Walker and race car driver extraordinaire Paul Radisich into our Walkway of Fame. These three join Neil Finn, Pita Sharples, Assid Corban, June Mariu, Beatrice Faumuina, Maurice Shadbolt, Roy Williams, Michael Jones, Jonathan Hunt, Dame Sian Elias, Sir Tom Clark, Graeme Douglas and Maurice Gee on the walkway which attracts a lot of foot traffic attention. Unfortunately Karen and Paul couldn't attend the opening however they sent their support via letter and Paul's parents Frank and Robyn Radisich were there to do the honours on Paul's behalf.

I had wanted to present a certificate to Barry Shaw who instigated the idea many years ago but Barry couldn't attend, hence my invitation for him to attend tonight's meeting to receive the certificate.



World Environment Day and Awards

As you know we celebrated this day in true eco city style and with two Green Ribbon Awards from the Ministry for the Environment. Waitakere Central won its 11th major award by taking out the award for urban sustainability and Te Piataata Trust received the 'community action for the environment - young people's green ribbon or its work in engaging young people in Project Twin Streams. The judges agreed that Waitakere City Council had made an outstanding contribution to urban sustainability and they were also impressed with the trusts' efforts. Since 2005 rangatahi (young people from Te Piataata) have been actively involved in PTS devoting four hours a week to restoring the banks of the Swanson Stream. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Exhibitions

Three exhibitions are worthy of note in this mayoral report - ey! Iran - contemporary Iranian photography and Sam Sampson's 'everything talks'. Both are absolutely marvellous and I was honoured to be part of the openings. Lopdell House curator Kate Wells wanted to show the Iran exhibition because she believes that through art we can make a difference and break down prejudicial barriers that exist between cultures. I couldn't agree more. The exhibition is a stunning collection of work and it links artists in Iran with audiences in New Zealand in a spirit of cultural exchange. This is the first exhibition of its kind to present recent contemporary photography from Iran in a major exhibition in New Zealand and is a must see. It takes us beyond our stereotypical images of Iran, those of conflict, into the lives and experiences of ordinary people.

Sam Sampson's new book and exhibition, everything talks, is also a must see. To Sam everything does talk - from railway lines to waves - and Sam's words simply leap from the page to echo his thinking. His prose and power is imbued with the salt air of the roaring Tasman Sea and the mists of the Waitakere Ranges. This book is a journey, an experience, and I am very proud of Sam, a true son of the west.

Assignments by John Chapman is superb. He's one of the world's best photo journalists I would say and he lives right here in the west. Originally from America John lived and worked in London from 1980 until his recent move to New Zealand and as a contributor to The Guardian and The Times he documented many of the major news stories of our time, from the Palestinian Intifada to the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. John's black and white images are absolutely stunning and I recommend everyone goes to have a look. The exhibition runs until July 27.

New John Edgar Sculpture

Isn't Red Cross just outstanding? I was absolutely delighted to see it being carefully put in place in the civic square and then a week later to see it 'unveiled' and blessed. Red Cross complements John's earlier piece, the obelisk like 'transformer' sculpture by the Japanese Garden. Together they represent important steps forward in John's art practice with the 2.5 tonne transformer being the tallest and the 3.2 tonne Red Cross the largest he has created to date. Both sculptures are made from the same material - grey-black basalt from South Canterbury and red sandstone from Rajasthan, India. And both are beautiful pieces of work which will indeed stand the test of time. It really is a privilege to have artists such as John contributing to the city's public spaces. Thanks to Naomi McCleary and her team, to you my colleagues for having the vision and also to Waitakere Properties which helped with funding.



How they do it in the USA

M31-M35

Brilliantly in many ways! Have a look at the clippings at M31 to M32 from the San Francisco Chronicle that Councillor Lawley brought me. If only we'd been able to do that with the Painted Apple Moth spraying campaign. And there's also a clip from the New York Times at M33 to M343 about the San Francisco Recycling Centre and the city's mayor which makes for interesting reading. I have also attached at M35 a letter from the Mayor of Alexandria, William Euille thanking me, and therefore you, for my eco city address in that city in May.

Question of the Month

Have you tried going to a funeral in the west lately and getting a seat?

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE