

Council

**Wednesday, 24 February 2010
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

This report is dedicated to Len Johnson

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WAITAKERE CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD,
HENDERSON, WAITAKERE, ON WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2010,
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM**

6 REPORT OF THE MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council resolve to:

Receive the Report of the Mayor.

We have entered the auspicious Chinese Year of the Tiger. Tigers are incredibly stealthy. They are not like the great cats of the savannah that run their prey down or simply await the scavenged wrecks from other kills.

They are the stealthiest of all. They may disappear into the forest for most of the time - plotting, scheming, watching you.

And then they attack, kill, win. The Year of the Tiger is characterised by those who specialise in planning and strategy; in politics, research and development, long-range and grand campaigns international, domestic, or commercial.

Just in case you haven't joined the dots, a few in the Council will remain by year's end, but most will have fallen to the depths of the forest, never to return again. We are in the land of deep strategy. This is tiger country.

So to survive you will need to be tough, generous with allies, friends and family, and work relentlessly to make your plans come about. See the world through the eyes of a tiger. Truly in this year, it's a jungle out there.

The world comes to Piha

The story of New Zealand surfing began at Piha in 1958. That year, the American surfing pioneers Bing Copeland and Rick Stoner arrived at the local surf lifesaving club carrying what they called 'Malibu boards'. Clubbies waited for disaster as the pair paddled into the swell. Their fear turned to awe as they rode the waves on their feet.

In January, the world's best young surfers followed Rick and Bing's footsteps back to Piha. At the World Junior Surfing Championships, they added their own passages to Piha's fifty year surfing story.

It began with a haka from the New Zealand surfing team. That challenge was sent out to teams from every nation as they marched into the opening ceremony at Mission Bay beach, flags in hand. The event was streamed live around the world on the Quiksilver website.

I headed out to the beach nearly every day of the championships. The skill on display was incredible, as was the co-operation and camaraderie between teams. Brazilian Gabriel Medina was incredible in scoring a near perfect 19.9 out of 20 to win the under-18 men's division, while Australia were the deserving winners of the overall team award.



I spoke to the International Surfing Association (ISA) president, Fernando Aguerre, often during the week. He was impressed with the warmth and hospitality of the west. I stood alongside him as the winners were announced. It capped off one of the greatest events in the history of the West Coast.

This competition focussed the world's attention on Piha. International media covered it around the clock. At the height of coverage, more than 7 million people were watching the action on live web streaming. It gave the town a global flavour. In a visit to the Piha Café. I sat among the Ecuador team, the USA team and ISA surfing officials. The blend of local and overseas voices was a joy to hear. It sounded like the future for Piha.

I want to celebrate that future. With these surfing championships and the recent opening of four day Hillary Trail, Piha has been introduced to the international stage. It has put on a show to remember. Every kind of surf rolled in off the Tasman Sea in eight days of competition - rough, flat, clean, messy and everything in between. Pictures of the contest revealed great athletes and an amazing location. Just like when Bing and Rick rode their Malibu Boards 52 years ago, it marked a new beginning for Piha.

I know there have been some concerns from locals about events in Piha and I'm sympathetic to many of them. The Council needs to be sure that promoters are able to manage event issues, such as parking, drink and crowd control and numbers. If there's any chance that these events will get out of control or cause mayhem they should be cut from the calendar.

This championship was not one of those events. The unfounded protests about it came from a small group who are trying to create a culture of complaint in Piha. Every day this Council gets calls from them about everything from music playing to the sight of beach umbrellas at the Piha Cafe. They are following a tradition that dates back to the 1980s, when noise complaints put the rescue helicopter service to Piha at risk. In truth, these people don't care much about preserving Piha. They simply don't want to share their village.

Soon they will have to. When Auckland moves to a super city on 1 November, Piha will be treated as a regional asset. It will be opened up to the world as a uniquely beautiful and wild destination. More sustainable and people friendly international events will be set against the backdrop of Lion Rock and the Waitakere Ranges.

I want to advocate for the first international surfing event the new Auckland Council hosts at Piha to be the World Surfing Games in 2012. I know President Fernando Aguerre loved the idea. He has gone on record saying Piha is one of the best surfing locations in the world. This event would bring millions of dollars and international exposure to Piha while staying true to the West Coast's surfing heritage. The stage would be set for preparations for the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

A new beginning for New Lynn

When commuter trains start rolling through the New Lynn rail trench on 1 March, it will pass four brand new bridges, a new rail station and two grand stairways. Its path will be a channel carved from 100,000 cubic metres of unforgiving clay. The journey will mark a new beginning for one of the most exciting new town centres in New Zealand.



We have been waiting for this new rail line since 2007, when Council decided to support a plan to overhaul the New Lynn town centre, provided it could be done in time for the Rugby World Cup in 2011.

So when that inaugural train comes through on 28 February, think of what it represents. New Lynn is a tangible testament to what this Council and its eco-city ideology has achieved. It is our legacy.

This is a milestone that takes us a significant way towards completion of this project.

Getting to this point has taken 300 construction staff, more than 80 consultants, more than 100 staff from Kiwirail, the Auckland Regional Transport Authority, the Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency, 100,000 cubic metres of clay, 60,000 cubic metres of cement, and thousands of tonnes of hard steel laid down.

It has also taken over \$300 million of taxpayer and ratepayer funding, five years of hard advocacy and commercial brokering between all the parties, and total commitment to the project from all involved.

At this point, we have put one set of tracks down in the trench as part of the track duplication and the second set of tracks will go down over the next couple of months.

It is without doubt the trickiest and most expensive part of the entire Auckland rail duplication project.

It is the largest project ever done within the whole life of Waitakere City Council.

It is only in February that we can now see works come over the road surface, after three years of preparation and construction.

The journey of the first train will mark the beginning of one of the most exciting town centre revitalisations in New Zealand.

To achieve our target of getting the trench and major roading works completed within the life of this Council, contractors are working non-stop for six days and five nights a week, and up to 24 hours a day on weekends and public holidays when the tracks are shut down and no trains are running.

A second stage of construction will begin as soon as funding is approved from the New Zealand Transport Agency.

Kohu Road Icecream Launching

I will announce in the next few weeks a commercial partnership between Waitakere and Infracore concerning New Lynn, but I thought I would give you a taster of what focussed economic development can do.

On the 26th of February I will open the new premises for Kohu Road Icecream – icecream provider to Air New Zealand and indeed to discerning palates right around the world from Myers in Sydney to Queenstown's restaurants.

It started life, as the name suggests, from Kohu Road in Titirangi. It was sold for many years at the Titirangi markets. But success meant that expansion into new premises was inevitable.



It is housed in the old Astley Building on Portage Road, New Lynn. This had been a tannery for well over 120 years before the manufacturing operations were finally shut down about five years ago.

In its place is a wonderful new enterprise going from strength to strength.

It is a strong signal that with all of Council's arms working together – regulators, Waitakere Enterprise, Tracy Mulholland and team - with local enterprise, we really can generate a little magic.

At around \$18 per litre, you will want to just treat yourself to its richness. Trust me you will be converted on the first mouthful.

I want to congratulate Greg Hall and family, Tom Densem, and the whole crew for working with us to keep the revival of New Lynn going from strength to strength. Impressively, all of the staff are shareholders. Now there's a way to beat a recession!

I have little doubt that with your quality products you will be taking on much more of the site in future.

Launch of Logo for Auckland

In case you haven't already heard, I am convening a panel of judges to determine the new logo for the Auckland Council, as requested by the Auckland Transition Agency.

You have until 19 March to get your entries in. Make them succinct, make them snappy, and make it mean something.

Entry is open to everyone in New Zealand, and it is a huge opportunity for someone to really make their mark on the future of Auckland for many, many years to come. So that's my challenge to everyone today.

Economic development conference

In early February, Council hosted the New Zealand Community Economic Development Conference, which brought together hundreds from across New Zealand and with a number of speakers. They represented in turn hundreds of local government and NGO community-based organisations all focussed on making a difference in their communities. They ranged from Ray Dart from the Canada Social Research Hub to Peter Quarmby of Community Sector banking Australia, to our very own Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse.

We are privileged not only to have hosted such a major gathering, but also to have seen shared the massive local expertise Waitakere has built up in this area over the past 19 years. In particular, I would pay special tribute to Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse for her efforts across her entire professional life to lead the many communities in Waitakere in articulating and resolving their concerns and dreams.

A copy of my speech given at the dinner session can be found at the end of this report.



Thanks to Chongming

Waitakere has found a kindred spirit in Chongming County.

A delegation from the Chinese county toured here last year. They have written back to commend the eco-city projects and principles they saw at work. Our culture and ideas are going to help them as they prepare for internationally significant growth and development.

Chongming County is made up of three islands under the jurisdiction of Shanghai. It is about to be one of China's biggest construction sites with the build of the \$2.3 billion Yangtze tunnel and bridge. The project will open the area up to easy access from the main city. Chongming will become one of the prime development spots in China. In fact, it's going to be home to a whole new city.

That city, Dongtan, is being built according to eco-city ideology. It will be the only place in Shanghai designated as a 'National Eco-Demonstration Area'. Environmental protections will be put in place. Conservation of the area's natural assets will be a non-negotiable. In an area known for its pollution and dense population, Dongtan will be a city of the future.

Building a sustainable city isn't just significant – it's internationally important. That some of the ideas and principles guiding the development were picked up in Waitakere is a ringing endorsement of what we have achieved here. I hope we can keep our close ties with Chongming as we transition to the Auckland Council.

Milestones

Brad Cameron

Waitakere has lost a hero.

Brad Cameron died on a solo hang gliding flight near Karioitahi in December, age 39. His death robs the Waitakere community of a great mentor to our young men. For three-and-a-half years, Brad served with Man Alive in Henderson, doing one-on-one consultations with clients and helping run the Boys Alive programme. He performed his task with passion and creativity, investing in the lives of young people and his fellow staff.

The support he gave was vital. Too many of our young men grow up with abusive or absent fathers – men who don't teach their children how to be a good man. Brad showed those young men the character and qualities they need to survive in society, helping them believe in themselves and treat others with respect. He was the only positive male role model many of them had ever had. By being a good man, he showed them how to be good men.

Brad was the much loved son of Pam and Brian Cameron and brother and brother-in-law to Blake and Mel Cameron and Marcus and Kristin Cameron. He will be missed greatly by the Man Alive youth staff and the hundreds of people he touched through his work. His legacy is a lasting impact on their lives.



Len Johnson

Long term resident of Glen Eden and president of the local Returned Servicemen's Association (RSA), Len Johnson has died at age 77. Len was an irrepressible and likeable man with a huge passion for his local area. He and his wife were the glue that held together the Glen Eden RSA for many years. Together, they saw it grow and become one of the most successful branches in the Auckland region.

Len was born near Newcastle, England and evacuated as a child during World War 2. His entrepreneurial spirit inspired him to leave school at age 12 to pursue his first business venture - selling firewood. It set him up for his trade later in life, when he turned to woodwork and cabinet making. That was interrupted when he enlisted in the army and served in Korea despite being underage.

Len came to New Zealand in the mid 1960s, followed by his sister and five children. He built a home in Glendene, before moving to his longtime residence in Glen Eden. There he drove the redevelopment and upgrade of the local RSA, where he later became president. He was a forward thinker, opening membership to associates before that was formally accepted by the wider organisation. His unbreakable commitment to the RSA, its members and the Glen Eden community were commendable.

Among his other achievements was supporting a successful campaign to move the Glen Eden heritage railway station to its new site. Len advocated for an RSA grant to support the shift.

A fine family man who never stopped talking about his grandkids, Len received tributes from many of his children and grandchildren at his funeral. As his casket was carried from the building, a haka rang out. It was performed by his immediate family and his second family – the members of Glen Eden RSA. At the end of the funeral, following the musical tribute, a man placed a Larry Adler harmonica on the casket

It was Len and the great Titirangi RSA stalwart Matt McMillan that worked to put a resplendent avenue in Waikumete Cemetery for the great ANZAC Day march to march down to the main memorial cenotaph, lit well so that they can all march easily in the darkness before dawn. From that point on, ANZAC Day memorials every year have been impressive and well-managed affairs.

Len was president of the Glen Eden RSA for many years and he opened membership there to associates in the community, before that practise was accepted across New Zealand's RSAs.

Every year I have been Mayor, my wife and I have been privileged to be welcomed by the fine men and women at the Glen Eden RSA with bangers and mash and a bevy. Len, along with the many others, was a huge part in the feeling of welcome and warm remembrance at Glen Eden RSA.

I would like to acknowledge Len for the support he gave this council in bringing the unique candlelight ANZAC Day service to the west. Len was the first person I sought the opinion and approval of when I came up with this concept. The event has grown amazingly over the years and it's to the team at the Glen Eden RSA and Len's leadership that we owe much of its success.

Thank you to Councillor Clews for providing material for this tribute.



John Lifton

John was one of those incredible characters who gave everything he had to the community, and left behind a legacy. He served for several years in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was a well-known vet in Henderson and served this area for many years from the 1960s. When he had semi-retired he also set up a smaller, less intense practise at Cornwallis.

He wrote a history of the area simply called "Cornwallis", which was a record of the area from Maori origins to early Scottish settlers to abandoned planned settlements, all the way to the reconstruction of the Cornwallis wharf in 1999.

More recently he had moved to the Bay of Plenty. But here was a man who achieved a lot in his lifetime, and left a real mark. I would like to simply acknowledge his life and work, and the contribution that he made to the City.

Settlement of Te Kawerau a Maki Treaty of Waitangi Claims

It is with massive relief that I can confirm that the government has concluded negotiations with all tribes of the Auckland region, including our own Te Kawerau a Maki.

It has been my strong desire that these be concluded before Waitakere closes shop in November this year.

I want to give thanks not only to the current National and previous Labour governments for wrestling these negotiations to a reality, but perhaps more importantly to the leaders and ancestors of Te Kawerau a maki who have pushed it all along from the very beginning.

In particular I want to record again at this time the passing of Auntie Sally, the statesman of the clan. I am confident that all her descendants will look at this moment both with pride and also with some grief that she got so far through the process without seeing the settlement finalised.

Indeed my own house on Watchman Ridge in Karekare has pretty dark history, and these terrible stories from the past are absolutely part of my life at Karekare, and will never be forgotten.

This comprehensive settlement will see the new Auckland Council able to address and relate to Māori across the region with a sense that they are starting again, and starting together, working in co-management of the leading reserves of the Auckland region.



Address to New Zealand Community Economic Development Conference 2010

Auckland's Leadership in New Zealand's Future

The merger of our Councils will be the strongest test of New Zealand's very constitutional foundation since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

This is because Auckland absolutely dominates New Zealand, whether we now like it or not.

Auckland already has a third of the population and a third of the economy. In thirty years Auckland will have half the population and nearly half the economy.

In political terms, we will have half the members of Parliament.

Whether New Zealand as a whole likes that, I can only wonder.

I couldn't imagine Barack Obama saying that reforming New York was as big as the Civil War. That just shows how important Auckland is to New Zealand.

Local government in Auckland will be bigger in New Zealand than California to the United States.

Not many people outside this room can say that the merger of our Councils will really shake New Zealand to its foundation. I am telling you that it will.

But when I am at the swimming pool as I am every day, or at a retirement village in Glen Eden, or just on the street, everyone is asking me the same thing:

This super-city, is it going to happen?

In December 2009, the Mayor of Auckland City, John Banks, door-knocked 200 people around Sturges Road in Henderson. You know what they asked?

Oh are you going to be our new MP? I thought our MP was John Key.

In fact their MP was Paula Bennett.

Very few people take notice of local government, if they take any notice of government at all.

So long as things work, then why take any notice of anything local government does?

So this super-city, is it going to happen?

I have gone before Cabinet, I have gone before the Royal Commission, I have gone before Department heads, parliamentary Select Committees, the Minister of Local Government, and two Prime Ministers.

And they have all said, despite every protest we have made:
Yes, this Super-City is happening.



There is no stopping, deviating, changing, slowing down or altering it. There is nothing we can do about it.

And that is the first part of my message to you and to every in Waitakere. The time for weeping is over.

Over the last 18 years, I have led Waitakere as if the local mattered. As if you mattered.

In 1989 local government was at a similar juncture to where we are right now. That restructure was right throughout New Zealand.

That restructure and forced merger put an entire nationwide industry into chaos and fear.

Thousands of people feared for their livelihoods. The proud histories of boroughs, and the community groups that supported them, the town halls, the chains, the photographs of Councillors who had served – gone in a heartbeat and no-one missed them.

Does that ring any bells to right now?

But let's just remember for a moment that in fact we have faced similar historic moments throughout the development of our nation.

Some say we have that society is weaker and beginning to break apart.

I'm telling you that's not true.

The old moral certainties are gone, true.

But think back to when the first settler ships hauled up the beach in Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin.

It was panic and confusion, something straight out of Deadwood or indeed any other frontier western. Just short of chaos.

Yet people in New Zealand are relentless joiners, fixers, doers. We have had no choice.

We got organised and generated sewerage systems, footpaths, societies, social order, community agencies.

In the course of my lifetime, Auckland for example has gone from a series of little disconnected villages, to a massive organism, a connecting grid fuelled by petrol and deals and muscle and order.

Go back in your own mind, and speed up the development of your own town, your own city, and feel the surprising order that we and our parents have pulled out.

Local government did not just recover from crises and restructures – it has thrived. At least those with a vision did.

In Manukau twenty years ago, they set out an ambitious agenda for constant and relentless motorway-driven development. They focussed on economic development, and that's what they got more than anything else. It became the manufacturing heart of the whole of New Zealand, and tripled in size.

They had a clear strategic vision, they went for it, and they got it.



Of course it's had a whole lot of unintended consequences, but they delivered, and it made a massive difference for New Zealand.

That was the vision of Sir Barry Curtis, a legend and one of the few who will not be forgotten.

The same applies to Waitakere, and all the community groups and initiatives who have grown up within it over the last twenty years.

We had a vision, with a team that I led since 1992. What has been delivered was within the reforms, and it has had a clear legacy.

It simply amazes me that sometimes it's the smallest heroes that really knock your socks off.

There's a great Leunig cartoon, and it's just a guy with a speech bubble over his head saying: *what can one man do?*

And yet right next to his is a woman, and the speech bubble says: *what can one woman do?*

And they both look tired and distressed, milling this way and that.

But they're in the middle of the company of thousands and thousands of people, all with the same speech bubble, *what can I do?*

It's amazing what happens when you get 500 people in the same room, like right now.

We are saying the same thing: we know what a few people can do, and look at all of us, we are an army.

Tonight, we are a movement, we have something to believe in and we are, we truly are going to make it.

In 1969, 7,000 people joined hands around the Pentagon and hoped that by chanting together it would lift off the ground.

But I do know that with 2,000 people in Project Twin Streams, we altered an entire ecosystem in the space of five years.

We didn't lift the Pentagon, we lifted nature herself.

So in that sense this restructure has no fear for me.

We succeeded. Leaders will rise to this. And we will succeed again.

Not many others in local government in New Zealand can say: we had a vision. We were united. It didn't matter what government was in power. We have delivered for the people and for the future.

Along the way we had some wonderful accidents.

We learnt to work honestly and from the heart with Maori. And with the impending settlement of the Tamaki Treaty Claims, I can say that the new Auckland Council will face the people of the land like a new day. Ka Awatea.



We learnt we could invest in town centres. In fact in places like Hobsonville we could reinvent whole towns from scratch, with doctors, schools, police, industry, public and private house, the works.

I would encourage you while you are in town to drive up to Hobsonville and see how the really big pieces can be put together.

In President Obama's words, it really is *change you can believe in*.

We learnt we could make an industry out of nothing, like film and television. Henderson is now the capital of Auckland's screen production.

As we can see from Disney's Legend of the Seeker at Henderson to Avatar at Miramar, we are totally out-competing Australia and all other Southern Hemisphere competitors.

The consequences have been huge. Out of almost nothing, we can see over 20,000 jobs just in the North Island devoted to an industry that we would never have thought possible a few years ago.

What the last 20 years has taught me is that with vision and planning you can take on the really transformational tasks.

You can join together as little parts of capital and really surprise yourself and the world.

We did. That is exactly what we did.

The new Auckland will have created five or six new companies to run things. Each of these will be as large as some of the government State Owned Enterprises.

That is the new Auckland.

These companies will not be content to just sit around and deliver the basics.

They will be commercial companies, looking for suppliers, looking for partners.

Why not you. What can one woman do? Amaze me. Amaze yourself.

On the front page of the Herald this week the Government announced it was devolving even more health services.

I hope to see local government spreading its wings to cooperate in this area.

The government is also devolving massively in social services.

This moment is, once you sweep aside all the uncertainty and change, a really powerful historic moment for local government right across the country.

I am telling you all, *step up and meet history head on*.

And this economic change to get everyone in Auckland to pull themselves up to a greater, more powerful platform – this is exactly what the government wanted from us.

To take on a broader vision. To play a harder, more competitive game with the world. To win. To succeed.



To grow our own faith in ourselves.

That's what 500 people in a room look like tonight.

New Zealand will from November this year witness the birth of state government similar to that we have seen in Australia.

For 160 years, local government have fulfilled its duty to develop Cities and sustain their citizens. We get on with the job, build and maintain things, cut ribbons.

We have done so during periods of prosperity and tranquillity.

We have done so in times of great strife and struggle.

And this time, as we did 20 years ago in 1989, we must answer history's call.

18 years ago I assumed the Mayoral Chains. They have lived with me, sometimes as a garland, sometimes as a bind.

From October this year, all that changes. I will leave office. Everything of our current political order will be swept away.

What we have delivered will stand and it will stand the test of history.

Just as the great dams of the 1920s and 1930s have. Just as Auckland International Airport has. The seaports, the great motorways and railways.

I don't expect every grand scheme to always win. I've had a few losses in my time.

And yet campaigns based on a positive vision have the best chance of winning, because it really is change people can believe in.

In 1972, I picked that one of the great trends of the future would be the environment. I based the Labour Party's entire campaign around it. People wanted to be taken away from an old era of deprivation and fear about the old wars and the Cold War, into a positive future that really did ask for harmony and a higher expectation of human nature itself.

So expect of yourself that you can generate a vision.

You know in each of your communities who your historical heroes are: Sir Miles Warren and Fran Wilde in Wellington. Wait for it Peter Chin will be remembered in Dunedin for his bold moves. I can guarantee that Peter Tennant in New Plymouth will be up there.

I campaigned for Sir Dove Myer-Robinson. But before him were giants who delivered dams and parks, schools and kindergartens.

These mighty works took simple people-power. The capacity of each of them to say, what can one man do? What can one woman do, and assume they could do almost everything.

So it is with our film studios, Queen's Wharf, rail double tracking, Hobsonville, Eden Park.

I defy you to dream small when we are surrounded by scale and ambition.

You may come from a small town, a small institution.



Who was I but a teenager on Karekare beach? And I got to a point, after advertising had finished, I looked up at the Karekare hills and I said: *I know how we can completely lead this town as if we owned the world with it.*

I said to myself: *I think we can lead this place.*

If my legacy teaches you anything, it is risk big, give your life to it, it will transform yourself and everyone around you, it will transform Auckland.

And indeed it will transform New Zealand and its entire place in the world.

After 70 years of experience, I have some advice: the best way to predict the future is to make it happen. Go and do it.