

Council

**Wednesday, 25 June 2003
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

PART A

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN,
WAITAKERE CITY, ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2003,
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART A - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

HOW TO SURVIVE WINTER

It has been such a mild winter until last week that any advice I might give for surviving it would hardly match Shakespeare's line *Now is the winter of our discontent*. Instead, while it is cold and maybe dark outside, it is time to start enjoying life again. Here's how.

My advice: do not read too many newspapers including the local ones - they only make you depressed. Never read the letters to the editor - have someone read them to you. Visit the McCahon House - it is going to be a pleasure. (When a friend of mine stopped in Titirangi last month and asked where the McCahon House was, a friendly fireman told him "He lives down the end of Otitori Bay Road but he does not like to be disturbed.") Spend a lot of time cooking in the kitchen with family and friends on a Sunday afternoon. Go to the second half of a local Rugby or Netball match and scream for both sides - it is just the screaming that works. Drive to the top of Mt Donald McLean with a hot thermos of coffee before the dawn and watch the sun hit the summit of Mt Taranaki on a really clear morning - a tip: do not look south; this astonishing view of the Summit glistening in the winter sun is mid-way between Whatipu and Karekare. And go to the movies lots.

But before I let you in on which movies will cheer us all up, I want to tell you why I have been working hard to get one of Rialto's small, cosy complexes in this City. It has been a ten-year ambition to have good art-house movies in theatres near us all. We tried hard for Henderson - but it fell over, as we could not find a site. Then the giants of the big screen pulled up their New Lynn tent and camped in Henderson, where - out of sight and out of mind - attendances have never been great, leaving New Lynn's loyal local community bereft of a screen.

Now they are keen on Titirangi, and so am I. I pray that Council planning processes do not slow down Rialto's very enthusiastic movie-buff Kelly Rogers, who has made such a success of the Newmarket and Bridgeway movie houses. So if you like movies as much as I do, somewhere in the cracks of my diary will be some chances to escape the complexities of the Annual Plan and in general the winter.

I always let people know what I have found worth looking at, listening to, or watching through the Mayoral website www.waitakere.govt.nz. I wished I could tell you the website was my idea but it came from a lunch with Jerry Brown, former Governor of California and Mayor of Oakland, who said "Get a website and tell them everything you are doing". That's what I have been doing for the last year, and although the feedback has not been what I would call extraordinary, a lot of people are interested in what I do outside of Council. So here is my winter advice.

In Auckland City, from April to August there is a growing variety of film festivals, including the Incredibly Strange Film Festival, the Italian Festival, the Chinese Festival, the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and the largest of them all, the Auckland International Film Festival. There has got to be a festival of westie films, and I am talking to Village to do just that. It would be great following our film summit in July to see a celebration of filmmaking in the west.

But before we even start on these, there are some terrific films already out on the popular screens. I am not going to review them by telling what is dodgy or not outrageously "wow" about them. I am simply going to say why you should go - why you will not regret it on balance.



IF YOU LIKED *BATMAN*, TRY *X-MEN 2* (now on in all Village Cinemas)

There are movies like the original *Batman* that make dressing up in tights with shiny leather and lots of makeup and running around in fabulous steel sets look just amazing. *X-Men* the first time round was one of these, and there is no holding them back the second time. Nothing really goes wrong except in an heroic and eminently fixable way, the romance is pretty much as sweet and dry as the kiss that Luke Skywalker gave to Leia Organa as he swung them both over the Death Star's cavern, and you just know that everything is going to work out fine in the end. And of course if you really feel the need for a little intelligence with your eye candy, just watch the furrowed dome of Patrick Stewart and the Shakespeare-repitory nuanced lip quivering of Ian McKellen work their subtle magic one more time. All this and some great, grand explosions and not so much as one exposed nipple. Watch out for *The Hulk*.

IF YOU'RE WANTING TRADITIONAL AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY, TRY *NICHOLAS NICKLEBY* (showing at the Bridgeway only now)

For some reason there is quite a similarity between the lead for this one and the son of Sean Connery in the television series *Robin the Hooded Man* - a kind, blond, non-threatening young guy running around doing good in the world and may guest star in *The Batchelorette*. And of course there is nothing wrong with that. Moving beyond the hair, the real interest is the ensemble cast - with some great set pieces particularly from the travelling troubadours. There is something to be said for a film in which the badly wronged women are avenged, and the bad guy (Christopher Plummer) really gets it right at the end. The costumes are fantastic although restrained so it is not like a Merchant and Ivory "chick flick". For at least the first half the film really captures the grit and texture of the conditions of mid-Victorian England, so the spirit of Dickens survives well intact from the book. If you have seen the ending to the late-1990's adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing*, well, there's a scaled down version of that which is simply sweet, and beautiful. For even the most cynical, we could do with seeing a few more happy endings in the middle of a cold winter. Take your mother, if she is still around.

IF YOU LIKED *TOY STORY* AND *TOY STORY II*, YOU'LL LOVE *FINDING NEMO* (coming soon)

Pixar have taken clean, smooth animation so far from the flickering of ordinary page-based cartoon drawing or slightly jerky claymation, even far beyond the graphic quality of the most sophisticated of computer games. Here they take you under water. See for yourself, but it looks like a sure-fire bet for the kids in the school holidays. Knowing Pixar, the humour will exist on a wide range of levels - definitely family-friendly.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A SLICK AND FAST FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE, TRY *THE MATRIX RELOADED* (showing in all Village Cinemas)

Almost a movie in which you expect to have the game console in your hand. It is very clean apart from a compulsory house party. *Duran Duran* video meets *Planet of the Apes*, with some nice visual quotes from *Dune*. See if you can spot the bad guy from *Battlestar Galactica*, and the scenes from *Star Wars* and *Empire Strikes Back*. The whiter you are the more evil, and the converse seems to be the theme. Causality lectures from bad Shakespeare soliloquies are bad philosophy, with a cheap Donald Sutherland. Hong Kong Jackie Chan as Buddha meets techno-Jesus in a long coat. Great motorway sequences and nice black lycra in the motorcycle sequence - and makes you beg for the sequel which is no bad thing.



IF YOU WANT MORE FILMS THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY COPE WITH, BOOK INTO *THE AUCKLAND FILM FESTIVAL*

The booklets with the various films should be coming out to good cafés and restaurants around town. The standard favourite for all the Auckland festivals is the animation section. Check out *Animation Now!*, *Toons for Tots*, and *Cowboy Bebop*. Two other clear standouts will be *Lilya 4-Eva* and *A Mighty Wind*. For all the others, there is simply so many categories and choices that you should take the time to expand the mind beyond the mainstream - it is worth the effort. As an example, one to catch is *Standing in the Shadows of Motown*. Based on the same formula as *Buena Vista Social Club*, it is the reminiscences and super-fine musical performances of the studio musicians to all the Motown record company's greatest moments. Much less history, than some beautiful music, totally genuine guys, having the time of their lives over again. Will kick any blues you have guaranteed.

IF JUST DON'T WANT TO GO OUT, TRY *SIX FEET UNDER*

Is there anything else that is more compelling on a Tuesday night, three cheers for TV1 for putting it on prime time and giving us some of the finest television in a decade? If you want to know what is coming up go to Salon.com - its probably worth back grounding yourself into this remarkable piece of television. Edgy and not frightened to push the limits of viewer patience and understanding. Do not miss an episode or at least learn to work the video just this once so you can record it. TV1, Tuesday nights - 8.30 pm.

MILESTONES

Fingers Crossed

If I have been acting strange and over-hyped on a Wednesday it is because of the Fear Factor, a team-building Council exercise in courage under fire. The team that I am in is under the dictatorship of that Croatian vunderbar John Dragicevich. The Fear Factor works in teams of five who have a very short time to complete a number of physical and often daunting tasks. From eating worms, fish eyeballs, slogging through the Te Atatu mud, and other team building pleasures, I am pleased to say that Team Croatian Mafia has fought, pushed and stabbed their way to the top and by the time you read this we should be either the winner or right up there. I have enjoyed being part of the team of the Council, pushing the limits of endurance and respectability - two things I have never have many problems with. Prize giving is in the Council's café on 27 June - could be quite a night.



Summit Day

This idea to meet and greet on a local mountain to celebrate Edmund Hillary's great achievement turned out to be a brilliant success and thanks to a great Council team Dai Bindoff and Barbara Cade, "We knocked the bastard off".



It was not Everest, it was Mt Atkinson, but it was a very wonderful experience. I talked Graeme Dingle into coming along and sharing some experiences, and he was excellent. He and I have had a long association with Edmund Hillary.

In the 1970s I came up with an idea to make a documentary series with Ed, who I considered to be one of the world's great explorers. It was to be produced for Television New Zealand but with an eye on the international market.

The result was very interesting but costly, in some ways a nightmare of logistics and complex organization. The idea was to turn Ed into the Jacques Cousteau of land exploration. Talk about herding cats - Ed was a very reluctant star. While Cousteau had a huge foundation surrounding his expeditions, we needed to start from scratch.

Our first expedition, which took six months to organise, was around Cape Horn - boats, camera, sound and equipment were organised - the weather improved considerably, we were doing fine on the schedule.

Then Chile had the coup. Allende was killed, the junta felt that Ed would be just what they needed to improve their image, and Ed was on a plane back to New Zealand. So, trapped in an impossible situation, we filmed the adventure using Ed's Number Two, the equally interesting Peter Mulgrew. It turned out to be a fascinating documentary, but without the star of the show it was one of those interesting Sunday night award-winning documentaries, but it didn't excite the American buyers much. We made four in the series - a marvellous Return to Everest - 21 years after the actual event. Even at that early stage, Ed was starting to show the first signs of altitude respiratory problems, but his love of the people and his commitment to the building of hospitals was astonishing, and this comes through in the documentary.



One of the most amazing journeys I ever did was not the production of the documentary, but a tour to sell them to the American networks. This involved a road show to the high-powered moguls of television in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. Sir Ed kindly joined Roger Donaldson the cinematographer and myself, but the door opener was the American entrepreneur Ken Kragen. I had met Ken in New Zealand and he became an absolute fan of Sir Ed, and asked if he could open the American network doors. His credentials were impeccable - he had been the television and show manager of the phenomenal Smothers Brothers, and so we took up his offer. He asked if his other protégé could join us on the tour, the Country and Western singer of at that time no fixed abode or reputation Kenny Rogers.

Pitching to the networks with our raw footage and enthusiasm was one of the most funny and need I say interesting episodes of my advertising career. The two Ken's spent most of their time outrageously drunk and with female company, which did not please Sir Ed, or us as we were footing the bill, but we did crack in a minor way the American networks for our series.

Only last month while cleaning out some of old boxes, I found some raw footage of canoeing the Tongariro River with Dingle, Ed, Peter Hillary and Mike Gill. It's an amazing piece of New Zealand matesmanship at a time when we believed we could create a television series around one of our great New Zealanders.

I have one regret in a lifetime of friendship with Ed. Following the death of Norman Kirk and with an impending election, I wrote to Hillary and asked him would he spearhead the Citizens for Rowling campaign. As an affable and enthusiastic Labour supporter at the time, he readily agreed. The political fallout of this campaign made both Ed Hillary and my other nominee Paul Reeves political lepers for a decade. I was pleased that the Lange government rewarded both Sir Ed and Sir Paul. Ed and I often reminisce about these past times, and in a way being on Mt Atkinson with one of his packs - which we all half-filled with five dollar bills - was a tribute to our past friendship and his long life.



The Hillary family have always had a fondness for Waitakere. The family bach has been at Anawhata for almost 60 years, built originally by Ed's father in law. Ed opened the West Coast Plan project and has always been seen at the Nepalese day held regularly in Waitakere City. We collected \$900 on our Summit Day from children and adults of our community.



McCahon House

This wonderful project to enrich our City and future artists has been many years in the making, but much of the credit goes to the perseverance of Naomi McCleary, Chairperson of the McCahon Trust. As reported in the media, this has often been a daunting experience due to the persistent baiting and aggro from the McCahon offspring who clearly did not have a great experience in the Otitori cottage. Rather than seeing it as a tribute to their late father, they seem to delight in perverse and consistent attack on the project and everything around it. We are not alone in this. They are also often unhappy about exhibitions and the continuing and of the growing respect to Colin and his art. The Prime Minister and I launched the Trust at the Auckland City Gallery two weeks ago. At the same time, the Trust unveiled their plans for extensions designed by the Titirangi architect Pete Bossley. A bronze bust kindly loaned for casting in a limited edition by Mr Peter Webb was also unveiled by the Prime Minister but very quickly was also bagged by the McCahon family as not being of their father but of another west Auckland writer, Eric McCormack of Green Bay.

Through all of this will come a magnificent example of a Council and a vision for artists in residence complex, and with Lopdell House underpinning the project, it will deliver one of the finest residence programmes in New Zealand.

Retiring After Long Service

Justices of the Peace Mr Ernie Clews and Mr Ian McGilvary are retiring. To my knowledge both of these gentlemen have given upwards of 20 years service to the community, working in the judicial court system, remand court, deposition hearings and minor traffic court. These Justices have been rostered on court duty, at least six to eight times per month, over their years of service, the total court sitting would have exceeded 1900 each, all I might add without payment.

Green Ribbon Award Commendation To Waitakere Hospital

Waitakere Hospital has been highly commended in the national Green Ribbon Awards for its environmentally friendly water initiatives. The awards, run by the Ministry for the Environment, recognise groups and organisations that have done outstanding work for a clean green New Zealand. The hospital has been commended for its eco-friendly stormwater development and its plans to reuse rainwater for flushing toilets. Both initiatives are part of a major expansion and redevelopment that will culminate with the opening of a new hospital in November next year. Waitakere Hospital general manager Rachel Haggerty says she is delighted with the commendation. The hospital's stormwater initiatives for which it was highly commended include:

- Water tanks for collecting rainwater off the roof for reuse within the hospital, primarily for flushing toilets.
- Swales and sand filters for treating stormwater from roads and parking areas.
- A stormwater treatment pond and wetlands area to treat other run-off from the site and part of the surrounding Lincoln Road catchment.

Other environmentally sustainable initiatives incorporated into the new hospital design include water saving fittings, energy efficiency, non-ozone depleting air conditioning systems, waste recycling and planting of native flora. Construction of the new Waitakere Hospital started last year and is due to be completed in November 2004.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY



**Speech Notes For Mayor Bob Harvey For Opening Of Colin McCahon House Friday,
13 June 2003 Auckland City Gallery**

*Prime Minister
Honoured Guests
Fellow Trustees
Fellow Westies*

It gives me great pleasure to be part of this important occasion tonight. Perhaps many still have a view of "West Auckland" as an untamed cultural jungle.

But here in this little house lies the secret to post-war painting in New Zealand. It is the era of Colin McCahon in Titirangi, deep back in the 1950s.

It begins in the murky depths after the Depression, when people left the inner City of Auckland, heading for the hills to paint, to pot, to scribble upon paper, and I guess a few were also running from the law.

The western hills gave them sanctuary, a place to be and a place to create. They would be fed by the community, drinking coffee.

Artists in those times were a rare and strange bunch. Being a professional artist in a country obsessed with Rugby and war - they were certainly outsiders.

But in the Waitakere hills a local version of the Bloomsbury Group emerged - a loose gathering of poets such as Allen Curnow and John Caselberg, of painters such as Lois McIvor, , John Weeks and Cyril Whiteoaks, Odo Strew, of Theo Schoon and writers such as Maurice Shadbolt, Robyn White and Dick Scott.

Later would come Len Castle, Brian Brake, Gretchen Albrecht, Nigel Brown and a host of others. They grace these galleries. Soon a great expansion of potters, weavers, glass blowers and craftspeople – Alexis Hunter and Don Binney - to name a few, joined the great grand family of the arts in the Waitakeres and the coastal settlements.

Many others formed a generation that changed the way we looked at ourselves, providing new vision and insight with every work.

There seemed to be more cooperation: painters worked with poets, poets with sculptors, sculptors with playwrights, in a constant and loose dialogue.

This little house in French Bay became an icon of the arts in Auckland.

Few understood as clearly the concepts and techniques that McCahon was grappling with. But no-one had the skill to make Distance Look Our Way, like he did.

In its mix of raw energy, sheer genius skill, its melding of landscape, of the feeling of being in a new nation growing up it was a powerful little enclave. It had energy. Frisson.

And now in Waitakere City in 2003, we will see this tradition and reputation nurture further communities.

I am so pleased to see the legacy of community and creativity reflected here tonight. We owe much to them, to Colin, his family, and their small bach-house in the hills.

And I am so pleased that the arts that McCahon worked tirelessly to promote, will gain new life in the lives of the artists that will live and work in the site of his old house.

This, Prime Minister, truly is a living history.