

Council

**Wednesday, 30 July 2003
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

PART B

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, 30 JULY 2003,
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

While I am not able to be with you at the July Council meeting due to work being undertaken in Christchurch following the Local Government New Zealand conference, you are in the hands of the extremely capable Deputy Mayor Carolynne Stone, who will be able to report back to you on the proceedings of that event.

METHAMPHETAMINE HUI

Following on from my Mayoral Report of December 2002 on the growing community problem of methamphetamine use, I was pleased to support Dr Pita Sharples at Hoani Waititi Marae with his major leadership initiative against this poisonous drug. Leaders from many government departments including Ministry of Health, Department of Work and Income, Te Puni Kokiri, the Police, community leaders, social workers, kaumatua and others (in total around three hundred) met to hear about the drug, its wide usage, and its rapid inroads into society. Ingredient procurers pass themselves off as ill and infirm, and their visits to doctors and pharmacies have formed a siege mentality among our pharmacies. A new sector of New Zealand society is being criminalized and organised into gang processes.

As the demand for marijuana has fallen off, many suppliers have taken to upping the ante and moving into the more lucrative and potent drug network. Northland is particularly aware of this change. While the Mayors of the region and the Police have been aware of this growing problem for some time, this is the first time to my knowledge that the Maori community have faced a drug problem so broadly and openly.

I would like to acknowledge the support of Councillors Fenton, Yates, Lawley, Hulse, and Waitakere Community Board Chair Christine Shepherd. Without a doubt, the highlight was the 90-minute presentation by Constables John Cassidy and Andre Morris. Their presentation includes the background, ingredients, manufacture, and implements from smoking to injection. A table set up as part of this presentation was arrayed with smoking glass bowls, from starter packs given to young people at dance parties, with a price tag of around \$50, to the "learners" and "advanced" packs which range from \$5,000 to \$30,000 depending on the grade and the "cut" of the product. This paraphernalia is often openly sold in retail shops posing as bookcase decorations. Even light bulbs, flamed by intense gas lighters, are used.

Perhaps we are tired of yet another alarm being rung by yet another bunch of well-meaning people about yet another drug - "reefer madness". In the west we have grown up into a benign and delicate approach to dope usage over what must be now almost 40 years. The absence of psychotic violence as a behavioural effect has in part encouraged this tolerance, and created an acceptance for the new chemicals across all levels of society and all age groups and demographic levels.

These enhanced chemicals have emerged firstly through the dance culture, and then in to the work ethic of stress and high pressure jobs, combining with the products for slowing down, speeding up, sleep, and awareness enhancement all readily available and advertised extensively.



Some of New Zealand's most amoral and vicious crimes have been caused by methamphetamine, even people who have surrendered in robberies being shot from behind while lying face down. This is a cheap, effective drug that takes you out of control.

This is not a new curse on Maori or Pacific Peoples either - another white man's burden to carry. It is across the community and the social structures. The presentation by James and Andre left no one in doubt as to the seriousness and sheer awfulness of this drug. The slides accompanying the presentation showed wasted lives, and physical decline.

The day after, when I was a guest on the Kim Hill radio show I was chided by Kim: wasn't I giving away the methods of use? I replied; you bet your life I am - without embarrassment or reluctance. It is part of the honesty that is so necessary. If light bulbs are missing from your house, you have to ask why. If people near you are agitated, grind their teeth and look like they are having a week-long hangover, the news is not good. Like Dr Sharples, I believe that honesty will save a great deal of grief.

I believe that youth suicide is a running dog with drug usage. Television, films and the media themselves, particularly the cult of body fitness are also intrinsically linked to chemical intake.

Waitakere City Council will be taking the challenges laid down to us all to the Local Government New Zealand Conference in Queenstown, where we will call upon all the local authorities of New Zealand to use their powers to assist the Police in any way that they can. I will be arguing our case strongly, with the backing of the regional hui.

The approach that Dr Sharples and the hui agreed to take is unique in that he wants the whole of the whanau within the community to talk about it - to "embrace" the issues as he put it - and in effect to educate the market for "p" down. He does not simply mean "educate" in the formal sense of travelling road shows that go around schools, but to raise the consciousness of the issue through every family in this community. That is what the hui did - it showed us all the signs to look for in a regular user, and what they can do.

M1-M84 At the hui I met an old friend from Smokefree and the Millennium Commission Dennis O'Reilly. I regard Dennis as one of New Zealand's most remarkable individuals, breaking free from a gang culture. He has always shown a sense of fairness, and of the holistic goodness of society and what it is capable of. I asked Dennis for his report, and I enclose some of it, as attached at pages M1 to M84. I regard it as invaluable and need I say must-read background.

Following the hui, I was greatly concerned that the energy and passion would be dissipated by time, distance and distractions; I made an appointment with Wai Health. I consider them to be the natural partners if Waitakere is going to make a difference. If not to stamp out the whole problem, then to manage it. Unfortunately, many do not want to leave the drug, for a myriad of reasons victims of pleasure, obsession, and darker indulgences no matter what the damage.

The Wai Health team agreed that government must enter the area of the rehabilitation of designer drugs. There is no category in health assistance for "p". Many had been at the hui, and understood where I was coming from. I would personally like to see Waitakere develop a drop-in and rehabilitation centre, and have started to open dialogue with John Tamihere and with Dr Pita Sharples to support this project if - and it is a big if - Wai Health will support such a move.

We have an absolute determination to stamp this out of the Auckland region. National campaigns have shamed a new generation about drinking and driving. Waitakere City itself has generated successful eradication programmes about graffiti (just let us into those rail corridors!). New campaigns will be starting soon about smoking in bars and restaurants. We have seen success before on both a nationwide and regional scale. It can be done again. And it must.



PRISONS

Just when you thought I was going to let you off the hook with heavy issues, I want to appraise Council colleagues about my six weeks of upskilling on prison remand and reform.

First a confession. The only time I have visited Mount Eden prison was following the share market crash where a number of high profile clients were incarcerated. I must have spent all of an hour commiserating and have not returned since.

I was therefore not aware that the new remand prison - which has had a very strong Maori presence and focus - was under threat by legislative change. Our own Ngati Whatua and Te Kawera a Maki whanau have been playing a major role in this programme, focussing on bringing people who have done their time back into society - reformed, retrained, and committed to a life in society.

Mayor George Wood and I were asked by the team at the prison to visit. Three hours later we came out of the Auckland Remand Prison, challenged, and committed to see if we could make a difference. Like the team at the prison led by the able Dom Karauria, we believe that we need to be part of a programme to persuade government to give this prison a green light for continuing their excellent work.

We were also aware that a Parliamentary Select Committee was about to meet in Auckland. So Mayor Wood and I set about appraising ourselves with the system that is about to engulf ACM (the prison operator) and bring it back in to line. Our visit to their neighbouring prison - 40 metres away as the crow flies - was probably one of the most shattering and gut-wrenching visits that I have ever done while Mayor. Although we fly past Mt Eden on the Newmarket viaduct, we give it scarce concern. Yet below us New Zealanders for whatever reason are caged as animals. A set maker for *Lord of the Rings* could not have created such an evil masterpiece as the real thing. Cold, damp, unable to be heated or renovated, it was built in the 1880's for around 120 prisoners; it now holds nearly three times that number. It is a place of despair.

I am well aware that many readers of this report will remind me that prison life is not meant to be easy and that no one expects a Hilton. I would not disagree. But one thing that I did notice at both the ACM and Mt Eden - there's one hell of a lot of people from this City doing time.

It is about rehabilitation, and from what I have seen the justice system in New Zealand is not doing justice. The numbers in prison are disproportionate to any country in the world. When Hitler came to power and reintroduced flogging to the Third Reich, he cited New Zealand - we flogged in to the end of the 1930s. We ended slavery 60 years after Britain. A small decrepit gym has replaced the gallows. Outside through the small windows is a slimy damp green mildewed wall and yard.

I would think that the Lions in the Auckland Zoo - incarcerated for life - have more exercise feeding and sunlight than the prisoners in Mt Eden.

M85-M95 I note that the Select Committee also was somewhat shattered by their visit and I enclose the New Zealand Herald report, as attached at page M85. Following that visit, George Wood and I made a submission to the Law and Order Select Committee. I enclose it for your consideration, as attached at pages M86 to M95.



FILM AUCKLAND INDUSTRY SUMMIT

Following from last month's Mayoral Report in which I featured and provided snapshot reviews of a number of films, I can report that the inaugural Auckland Regional Film Summit, hosted by Waitakere City, was a huge success. Film is hot. Waitakere City is hot.

Compared by Tim Coddington as Chairperson of Film Auckland, the best and brightest of film directors, producers, and local studio executives gathered at UNITEC to hear about the rapid growth of the film industry both in New Zealand and particularly in the Auckland region.

A number of significant speakers shared their insights. Dame Cheryl Sotheran, the Ministry for Trade and Enterprise New Zealand's Director of the Creative Sector, presented the national context, including the range of direct rebate incentives the government has announced recently, and new initiatives in international marketing of New Zealand film and television.

Professor Anne de Bruin of Massey University outlined the skill needs and skill over-supplies within the industry, and where technical institutes should be taking their course designs. To me this is particularly important, because if we are promoting this industry to future generations, then we should be providing a very realistic view about where in the industry they should aspire to get to, rather than providing hundreds more graduates for very few places.



John Wadsworth of Enterprise Waitakere and Adam Jones of Zoomslide Media in discussion at the Summit.

The Film Auckland business plan, its relationship with the Henderson Valley Film Studios, and what we can all do to help one another during this growth phase of the industry, was also outlined in detail. A specialist on cluster development Mr Ifor Ffowkes-Williams, and the *New Zealand Herald's* senior journalist Rod Oram, wrapped the day up at the end.



Summit facilitator Ifor Ffowkes-Williams.

The summit confirmed the good news that the film and television production industry is going through the best years that it has ever had, with external “blockbuster” movies being regularly produced here, and internal demand growing as well.

This sector contributes around \$1.3 billion into the economy, but what was less well known, and goes against established perception, was that 70% of this is generated in Auckland. This runs against the established view that the capital of film production is Wellington, while in fact Auckland leads the way in the screen’s creative industries.

It is perhaps only after a major gathering of industry players that one can gauge where we stand. We are clearly now acknowledged as the most supportive Council in the country to the industry. At the beginning of this term, and in fact even in the previous term, we decided that we would concentrate on just a few industry sectors, and give them every encouragement to grow. The two main ones were boat building, and the film industry.

Filmmaking appeared to be riskier, flightier, somewhat glamorous and merely attractive to politicians. There are still those who believe that the Council has no place in the direct assistance to any one industry - after all, they reason, if you do it for one you have to do it for all of them. And the short reply to that is that there is never a level playing field, so you may as well play to your strengths. Don’t favour any one company, but favour an entire industry sector and watch it grow. That is what we have done without apology, and growth has been the result.

It is through the consistent growth of film and television production within the Auckland region and Waitakere in particular that we have seen more school leavers feel like they have a future they can aspire to. Employment within film and television is growing. New companies are forming, studios are expanding, and service industries are coming our way. While the industry is still cyclical, when a major production leaves, there is no longer a trail of bad debts, company collapses, broken hearts, and damage.



Right now, over 7,500 people are engaged directly in the film industry throughout the Auckland region. This does not count the caterers, hireage firms, finance and banking, legal services, and associated trades that do so well out of various productions.

Even though we have owned the studios for a short nine months, in that time we have had two significant productions back to back, and already booked well in advance for more: *Lucy* - a telemovie about the life story of Lucille Ball produced for CBS that aired in May in the United States to an audience of 13.5 million people (the fourth highest telemovie rating this year in the US) using over 90% New Zealand cast and crew.

Currently in the studios is a feature film with the working title *Boogeyman* - line produced by Chloe Smith (ex *Xena, Warrior Princess*) through Pacific Renaissance 2003 Limited.

It took leadership from the Council itself to go ahead, but this was quickly backed up by two of Council's entities, Enterprise Waitakere and Waitakere Properties, who have been cooperating closely on the management and development of the studio site. The coordinated support of Council's entities in economic development is a signal for the future, particularly as we approach Hobsonville and Whenuapai again.

While our dollar will always be competitive against the US or Canadian currencies, the world now knows that we are so much more than scenery. Sure, we are able to cut strong deals that are good for all concerned. But our competitive advantages lie in our crews, our locations, our capacity to take on project from the greatest to the smallest, and our attitude. That does not require huge state subsidies - it requires a quick turnaround, and the coordination of everyone that needs to be involved. We do that, and the films keep coming.



My own presentation to the Summit.



It's difficult so see criticism from Colleagues when the future of an industry - job creation, and a clear vision, as well as good management, makes common sense. The report from the Summit was balanced by Councillor criticism - this is the nature of politics, sometimes a little disappointing when a visit to the studios would show the large number of young people at work on the range of skills and practices that five years ago would have been on the dole.

WAIKATO SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

Just last week I was invited to present to the Waikato Sustainability Forum. In a sense it was a "catch-up" on where Waitakere Eco-City had been for the last decade, and how the eco-city story was holding up. It is worth reflecting that we almost never get complaints now about whether we are simply idealistic hippies. So much of what we initiated and pioneered has now been normalised as standard practise - and not just because it appears to be the right thing to do through some high-minded principle, but because it has made our lives easier. In the Waikato, one would have imagined asking every farmer to fence off every stream on every property as a requirement of continued sales to the monopoly milk buyer would be unthinkable, outrageous. It raised barely a whimper of indignation. The process leading up to the decision was rigorous and deep. People understand the connections between environmental quality and lifestyle and production efficiency so much better these days. Anyway, my job was to link the "bedding-in" of the eco-city with concepts of civil society. We certainly have the evidence to prove it.

ANNUAL PLAN

This is the first ordinary Council meeting since the striking of the Annual Plan and the rates for the year. While, as ever, I am sure that the citizens don't really thank us for any rise whatsoever and I am sure my Council colleagues have taken their fair share of stick over it in the previous weeks, things could be worse. We could be on the Auckland Regional Council, trying to justify a significant rate increase at the same time as the region can see City Councils opening and planning new transport centres with simply terrible train services supplied by the Auckland Regional Council to go in them.

But before I go down that path too quickly, let us please offer a vote of thanks from the full Council to all the staff, and to the submitters, for working so hard on their budgets and getting an achievable programme before the Council, and a long-term plan for the community at the same time.

OPENING OF BRITOMART

While I am aware that the opening of this facility will be done in stages, I was still pleased to be able to get on the first train the drew into that great sparkling train-garage called Britomart. Like the Zoo or the Auckland Museum, it is already a "place to take the kids" in the school holidays. It will take investments as big as this to alter the entire transport pattern of the Auckland public.



North Shore Mayor George Wood, myself and Barbara Harvey, North Shore City Councillors, Councillor Judy Lawley, and Ann Magee of Waitakere City, boarding the first train into Britomart station, on a very early and cold morning.

Let's hope Waitakere City keeps the courage to act in Henderson with the same scale and style as Auckland City has in its own town centre.

VISIT TO MANGERE FORESHORE

This month, I walked the foreshore of the Mangere Mountain from the causeway to Puketutu Island to the Stonefields, a distance of about seven miles on a glorious winter Sunday.

It followed a tree planting by the Te Araroa Trust as this pathway will be a section of the great walkway from Cape Reinga to The Bluff. What a superb walkway it is, and even more enhanced by Watercare's conservation efforts in releasing the breakwaters that held the sewerage ponds for almost half a century.

Watercare have made a huge contribution, and I would like to acknowledge their commitment to the environment and to sustainability. Following my walk, I was invited with the Minister of Conservation the Hon Chris Carter to tour the plant, which I had not done before. Here the professional and passionate staff talk about a commitment to water sustainability as part of the process of handling Auckland's biggest river - the tide of waste that flows into this treatment plant.



David Hawkins of Watercare, Minister of the Environment Hon. Chris Carter, and myself at the Mangere foreshore.

Don't miss it if you get an invitation.



MILESTONES

Melville Diamond Obituary

The wife of one of this City's great historic benefactors, Jack Diamond. She was born in 1911, and passed away peacefully on 22 June. Melville left school at 14 to take up a millinery apprenticeship. Later her social life revolved around the Kingsland Methodist Bible Class and that was where she met Jack. Outings to the Waitakere Ranges and the west coast beaches fostered their love of the bush and beaches that was to endure throughout their lives. They were early members of the Auckland Tramping Club, joining in 1933.

Time to settle down and farming was their goal. There followed nine years of working on six different farms from Takatu Peninsula in the north to Awhitu and Henderson Valley and several in south Auckland, finishing at Tuakau. Melville rapidly became an efficient farmhouse worker and cook while Jack reinforced his early curiosity of Maori history as he discovered many artefacts while working the farm at Takatu. A medical downgrade kept him in the Homeguard during World War II, but this gave him a further chance to study Maori evidence on Motutapu Island.

The family grew with John being born in 1942 and Judith in 1945, and another life change as they established the family home at Evans Road, Glen Eden, in 1948. Throughout the 1950's Melville concentrated on bring the children up and helping Jack with his ever-expanding historical work and interests. She made many suppers for various committees and operated the slide projector at his lectures. She also revived her early millinery skill making bridal headgear for sale to a K' Road bridal shop.

Melville also turned to an earlier love of sketching and painting. For forty years she was associated with several groups of artists where she learned more skills and exhibited and sold many paintings. Scenes of Piha and the Waitakere Ranges were the most popular, and she was working on a triptych "Whitaker Memories" in March 2003, aged 91.

Her life was certainly a varied and active one ranging from the early hardships to many years of contentment where she devoted her life to bringing up the family and helping Jack in his historical work, and also fulfilling her love of painting.

More Plaudits For Glidepath

M96

In a recent article in the *National Business Review*, the brilliant and innovative firm from Kelston's Cartwright Road received more applause for its breakthrough products and services, as attached at page M96.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY