

# **Council**

**Wednesday, 25 August 2004  
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

**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 AUGUST 2004,  
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

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**PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

**THE PARRAMATTA EXPERIENCE**

**A lesson for Waitakere**

Parramatta is a suburb of Sydney with a remarkable turn-around history. I have visited twice and am absolutely stunned by its unqualified success as a centre of excellence, enterprise and innovation.

Parramatta has recently been designated the "second business district" of Sydney by the New South Wales Government. Located just 24kms from Sydney's Central Business District with a superb ferry service, Parramatta has 149,000 residents and this is expected to grow to 175,000 by 2018.

But wait for it .... the city attracts more than 115,000 additional people to work there daily. The bulk of these workers are in the retail, health, legal and tertiary educational sectors. Parramatta's annual industry turnover is estimated at nearly \$10 billion, around four percent of the total value of New South Wales production. It is, said the New South Wales Treasurer, the undisputed capital city of Western Sydney, an economic powerhouse and he credits this to the Parramatta City Council and its Enterprise Board for providing strong leadership and investment attraction.

Much of this, say the politicians and economic advisors, is because of the Council's commitment to investing itself in the public domain and building a culture unique from other districts (think Waitakere).

Another similarity is that Parramatta is initiating a triple bottom line strategic planning process that will set new standards, directions and challenges for the next 20 years. It has also embarked on a \$500,000 marketing plan for the city, developing a unique brand in positioning Parramatta as a local and national marketplace.

Waitakere has been doing this with our film cluster and if we could move it faster our boat building cluster would soon follow. We are as ambitious for business as Parramatta but where we are really aligned is with Parramatta's commitment to the development of the Civic Place project. This is a \$900 million dollar development of three hectares of Parramatta's Central Business District to develop a mixture of vibrant public space, business and retail- plus residential - linking to the a \$100 million bus/rail interchange.

Parramatta's Civic Place redevelopment is about gluing the community together and ensuring all the players achieve an integrated vision for the future.

The Parramatta project has strong government support and this is what we must also ensure, certainly at a regional level when it comes to funding of the transport infrastructure.

For some time now I have been asking the Waitakere Enterprise Board for greater emphasis in bringing new companies and clients to Waitakere to play a major economic development role around our new Civic Centre. It is simply a must. And we are gaining momentum.



Our presentation "road show" over the past month has seen the Waitakere Central project receive strong support from our local business community as well as regionally where I have talked about the project to groups such as the Mayoral colleagues and at Local Government workshops.

Tonight at the Full Council we will unveil a DVD, which I essentially a news item featuring New Zealand's most popular presenter John Campbell who gave up his valuable time to join me in a walk and talk around Henderson.

*M1*

I believe that Waitakere Central will grow out of the public acclaim of the new stadium, where we have proven yet again that we are capable of delivering some of the finest buildings - on time and on budget - in New Zealand. We are almost there and that is the lesson of Parramatta, a city that has never been afraid to be bold and think big. Article attached at page M1.

Recommendation: That the Mayor, together with Waitakere Properties' new Chief Executive Officer Greg Parker, Chairman Ross Jewel and Clyde Rogers Chief Executive Officer Enterprise Waitakere, carry out a fact finding visit to Parramatta in November, accompanied by whatever staff support the Chief Executive Harry O'Rourke deems appropriate.

## **MILESTONES**

### **Vince Axmann**

A well known and respected member of the Herald Island community, Vince Axmann, passed away after a short illness on 4 August. Vince (95) was the beloved father of John Axmann, a stalwart of the Herald Island community. The Council would like to extend our deepest sympathies to John, Oma and David and their families as well as the Herald Island community. We acknowledge the contribution Vince and his late wife Sa'ane Haipo, and John, have made over the years.

### **Tony Pigeon**

I would like to acknowledge on behalf of the lifeguards of Waitakere City the passing of North Piha / United member of many years, Tony Pigeon. One of the real characters of lifesaving, Tony was a long serving member of this club. A remarkably funny and witty man, Tony was a stalwart of this club and his recent passing, a few months short of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday after a short illness, has filled the local community with sadness. He, his wife Jo and his family were long time residents of Log Race Road. A memorial service was held at the Piha Bowling Club where some of Tony's colourful life was told by friends of almost 50 years. He will be greatly missed.

## **FAREWELL**

### **Lance Reid**

Long time President of the Piha RSA Lance Reid was presented with the "Key of the Coast" by the Council to acknowledge more than 20 years of service to the Piha RSA. Lance's farewell luncheon was attended by the President of New Zealand RSA and members from clubs all around the country. Lance was a real character in his role as President. He leaves the Piha RSA in capable hands and in good shape. We wish him well for the future.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE

### The Day After Tomorrow - Moira Raynor

*M2-M15* Returning to Auckland after five years was the Local Government conference, held in the newly refurbished Aotea Conference Centre. It was an outstanding success. A real highlight was the presentation by New Zealand born author and first Commissioner for Children for the City of London, Moira Raynor. I was honoured to introduce her plenary session and comment accordingly. Moira's speech on the hesitancy of politics was a polished presentation, taking the analogy from the day after tomorrow and looking at the possibilities where political thinking is hijacked. One of the most intelligent thinkers on the international circuit, Moira is a fine speaker and her paper is a real gem. I am including it for your enjoyment, as attached at pages M2 to M15. Another highlight was, of course, our wonderful arts advisor, Naomi McCleary, receiving a special award from Creative New Zealand.

## PEACE CONCERT

*M16* The indomitable Laurie Ross, who must be New Zealand's foremost peace activist, once again hosted a great concert at the Glen Eden Playhouse. (What a fine theatre we have there - excellent acoustics, staging and lighting. It is a truly undiscovered gem.) A full house greeted Laurie Ross and her team and I would like to acknowledge here Laurie's commitment to peace in New Zealand and globally. She is a tireless worker and is able to bring together a wide range of superb musicians in the name of peace and world understanding. At the time of the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this city, proudly the first peace city in New Zealand, is more than ever concerned about global peace. Thanks also to Hon Chris Carter and local businesswoman Lisa Err who supported the event and to Laurie's sponsors who made it possible. Attached at page M16 is Lisa Er's speech to the audience.

The day before this concert Green Bay High School acknowledged the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japan bombings. I took the visiting Sister City Kakogawa students and invited the school to bring together five pupils to Hiroshima on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As I have said in a previous report, I will be going, whether I am the Mayor then or not, using home-stay accommodation. If any Councillors would like to come, please let me know. In the meantime be prepared for a massive peace concert next year, possibly in the new stadium.

## OPENING

### Mugshots - Signal Gallery, Swanson Road

An exhibition of paintings by Lynn Smith will run from 22 August to 28 September. Lynn works in large watercolours and has a quirky and unique way of rendering both famous and infamous characters.

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

### Rime of the Ancient Mariner - Signal Gallery, Swanson Road

If you are looking for a unique performance don't go past the great John Yelash reading the Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge with musical accompaniment, drums and sounds by myself and Lynn Smith. Yelash's performances of this wonderful rich and epic poem are sell outs and this occasion will be no exception. 28 August at 7.00 pm, followed by a late supper. \$10.00 BYO.



## **SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS**

Part of the Mayoral Fund is sometimes used to support young emerging athletes who show promise and any contribution towards funding is gratefully received. Lately, those I have supported include:

### **Nic Lind**

Nic has been selected for the Wrestling New Zealand Junior Development Team to tour the United States on behalf of the New Zealand Olympic Wrestling Union. Nic will compete in New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming at high school dual meets and then go on to compete in a two day Pacific Rim tournament in Los Angeles and more competitions in Kansas, Ohio and Chicago.

### **Ant Williams**

People may have seen Ant Williams on television over the past year - this Henderson resident is an extraordinary sportsman. Ant has recently returned from the World Free Diving Champs in Cyprus where he gained two prizes for diving to 70 metres on a single breath. Ant has added an entire minute to the existing New Zealand record and will soon be announcing the details of a world record attempt to be held here in New Zealand, indeed Waitakere. We are inviting Ant to hold the event at the West Wave Aquatic Centre.

### **Graham Wakefield**

Congratulations to Graham who has been appointed to the Board of Management of Waitakere United - an amalgam of 12 Waitakere City football clubs recently admitted into the new national league. Their home ground will be the Douglas Field at the Trusts Stadium and their first game is scheduled for 17 October. Congratulations to Graham and best wishes to the side.

## **GAINING MOMENTUM**

### **The Quest for Whenuapai Airbase as an Airport and the Media**

*M17-M20* Over the past month we have had excellent publicity cheering on our bid for the Whenuapai base. A year ago the media was less than optimistic and in some quarters we were roundly slagged for even suggesting this base could become a second regional airport. Enjoy the eloquent and well observed opinion by Bryan Gaynor in the New Zealand Herald attached at page M17. I would also ask you to read an excellent article by Michael Bassett, attached at pages M18 to M20 on how media can get themselves hog tied on an issue that they cannot control. It's a must for any of us feeling a little burned by constant criticism in the media.

## **WELCOME**

### **Fiona Cunningham - Mayoral Executive**

Fiona joins the team as Mayoral Executive. Many of you will remember Fiona as Chief Reporter at the Western Leader and I am delighted to welcome her to the Council. Fiona has a long career in journalism and public relations. She was a political reporter on the Auckland Sun newspaper and has also been a suburban newspaper editor. For the past seven years Fiona has been with public relations consultancy Porter Novelli where she worked on a number of high profile brand campaigns and corporate communication projects.



## THE LAST WORD

Finally, a letter to the editor in the New Zealand Herald, where our own Barry Shaw continues to fly the flag. Good on you Barry.



## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Report of the Mayor be received.
2. That the Mayor, together with Waitakere Properties' new Chief Executive Officer Greg Parker, Chairman Ross Jewel and Clyde Rogers Chief Executive Officer Enterprise Waitakere, carry out a fact finding visit to Parramatta in November, accompanied by whatever staff support the Chief Executive Harry O'Rourke deems appropriate.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP  
**MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY**