

**PART B**

# **Council**

**Wednesday, 31 March 2004  
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

**This Report is Respectfully Dedicated  
to the Memories of  
Chris Timms, Olympic Champion and Great Westie;  
and to  
Tony Oram, School Teacher and Quiet Achiever.**

**REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

# WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL



## **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, 31 MARCH 2004, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

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### **PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS, THE TREATY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

##### **The State of the Nation**

Last year I found myself, together with the Prime Minister and the MP for Te Atatu Chris Carter, opening the new Herekino Track for the Te Araroa Trust. It was the morning the media reported that Don Brash would be the next leader of the National Party. As we walked the trail I wondered at what the effect might be. Not much, I thought. Brash had the countenance of an undertaker and the demeanour of a pastor. Unlikely to dazzle the public.

How wrong can you be!

Furthermore, when I first heard Brash's Orewa speech I thought it was more pathetic than powerful. Wrong again.

Dr Brash has rattled the Government and the country. And that has to have an effect at local government level as well as national. We are all politicians. And if we ever forget that, and for whom we work, we do not last long.

Two months ago UMR Research, in their "State of the Nation Report", revealed that the top issue of concern for New Zealanders in 2003, was "Race relations / Maori issues". It can be seen, in hindsight, that the time was right for an unscrupulous politician to play the race card.

Thanks to Brash, issues of race now dominate conversations everywhere from Parliament to marae, and radio talkback to family dinner tables. I have listened in to many of these conversations, and have developed the view that Maori and Pakeha are still talking past each other.

While most Pakeha, I think, accept the validity of historical claims under the treaty, many fear there will be no end to contemporary claims, and do not accept the relevance of the Treaty as the constitutional basis for future relationship between Maori and Pakeha. But for most Maori the Treaty is a living document of constitutional status, a basis for the on-going relationship between Maori and Pakeha, the source of government's obligation to consult with Maori and to assist with the promotion of Maori culture, language and possessions.

The result of these two contradictory views of the Treaty is a form of political stalemate. If you accept, as do most Maori, that the Treaty is a document of constitutional import, then issues such as foreshore and seabed are matters to be negotiated between Treaty partners. But if you do not, like most Pakeha, then questions of foreshore and seabed, Waitangi settlements, positive discrimination, even health and welfare services targeted at Maori can be construed as issues of exclusion, restriction and preference based on race.

Such misunderstanding has been fuelled by a ubiquitous news media that thrives on conflict and disruption.



### **An Opportunity to Have my Say**

Let me be quite clear on this. I despise an approach to politics that exploits racial intolerance for short-term gain. And that is why I have, for the past twelve years, led Waitakere City to explore ways to enhance partnership and understanding between Maori and Pakeha.

On Sunday, 21 March Waitakere City Council and the Human Rights Commission held a workshop to examine the human rights aspects of the Treaty. Many came to break bread and to seek a way forward for our country. I took the opportunity to outline what I have tried to achieve in Waitakere City. What I said is summarised below.

### **An Early Attempt to Create Partnership in Waitakere**

There was an attempt, in the term before I became Mayor, to enhance Maori input into our city. Then chief executive Mark Dacombe drew together, from the Whanau of Waipareira, a group of prominent Maori, many of whom have passed on: Jack Wihongi, Mike Tipani, Tuck Nathan, Tuini Hakaraia, Mate Tepu, Mavis Tuhoro, Tame Wairere, and Ruby Grey. They were supported at those early meetings by Naida Pou, Peter Pou, Ricky Houghton and Heta Tobin. Councillors Janet Clews and Dorothy Wilson were early enthusiasts. Warahi Paki, now our Maori Issues Manager, was there also.

As a result Council designated a standing Maori committee, Te Taumata Runanga, to examine and make recommendations on issues of concern to Maori. But the question was asked by kaumatua: "Kei hea nga tangata Maori?" ("Where are the Maori People?") Meaning where were the Maori staff capable of delivering on Maori expectations.

This first Taumata was the fulfilment of many years of debate in the West. But it failed. It failed, I think, because Maori were not convinced they were being heard, not convinced they were impacting on issues affecting them, and not allowed by Council to do their own thing in their own way.

### **The Treaty Comes to Waitakere City**

When I was elected Mayor in 1992 I decided, from day one, that Maori would play a central role in this city's future. To symbolize a new relationship of partnership with Maori I had a copy of the Treaty of Waitangi carried ceremonially into council chambers and placed at the front of the room between Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. It remains there today, permanently lit.

### **The Setting up of the Taumata**

But the re-establishment of a Maori standing committee, that would endure, was not easy. We needed to build relationships of trust with Maori leadership. One at a time. We needed staff who were Maori themselves, understood the Maori world in Waitakere City, and were able to implement ideas devised by the Taumata. Such people included: Jimmy Haenga who worked in our libraries; Lavinia Pike who was committee secretary for the Taumata; Liz Munro who was a senior policy analyst; and Tau Henare and Bob Parata who were Maori Community Advisers.

Our relationship with the Waipareira Trust under John Tamihere was crucial. And at every step along the way, the late Tuini Hakaraia, as the Senior Protocol Officer, guided us all. I asked Pita Sharples, because of his mana, to be the first Chair of the new Taumata. He has been followed by three other remarkable chairs: Haahi Walker, Evelyn Taumaunu, and Te Warena Taua. All have emphasized that Maori were not subservient to Pakeha, that Maori were a treaty partner with their own kaupapa, their own agenda.

I asked that Te Kawerau a Maki, the frequently-ignored iwi of the Waitakere Ranges, sit on the Taumata. I was aware that this was not an easy decision. Especially for Ngati Whatua with their long stand-off with Te Kawerau. But local Maori elders and the other stakeholders held a hui. And Te Kawerau were given their place.



### **The Function of the Taumata**

More than a decade later Te Taumata Runanga remains a standing committee of Council. It must operate within the standing orders of Council. But it also operates in some ways that are uniquely Maori. And this, I believe, is one of the big factors in its success. It uses karakia (prayer); mihimihi, (acknowledgements); and te reo (Maori language). Members of Te Taumata Runanga hold positions of influence in Maoridom and advocate the committee's role to other Maori.

The relationship between Te Taumata and the rest of Council is positive. Both are continually finding ways of working in an efficient way. Council staff seek guidance from the Te Taumata Runanga on effective ways of communicating with and delivering services to Maori. Council staff have learned about cultural procedures and values, language, mandating processes within iwi, and writing reports appropriate to Maori. Te Taumata Runanga has had to learn about the "culture of bureaucracy": reports, annual budgets, work programmes, strategic plans, recommendations and decision making processes.

### **A New Partnership**

The new Maori-Pakeha Partnership saw Maori impact on both the way Waitakere City did business and its presentation of itself to the world.

It produced a new kind of visitors' centre, the Arataki Centre, festooned in Maori carvings and imbued with Maori culture. The cultural advisers were Jack and Kevin Ewe and others from Te Kawerau a Maki. It was designed by Te Warena Taua, and carved by Bernard Makoare, John Collins and Rewi Spraggon.

Maori were there at all our special moments: to greet Prince Charles; at the opening of the West City Shopping Mall; when the Prime Minister of Australia spoke of the historic Mabo Decision at Hoani Waititi Marae. Maori prepared pou whenua, gifts for our Asian sister cities.

Te Kawerau a Maki took the lead in declaring a "rahui", a ban on the taking of resources from Karekare beach. This event was very special for bringing together the Maori world with the world of Pakeha, the worlds of central and local government, and the worlds of Maori and Pakeha residents to create a powerful approach to conservation.

Two elected Councillors served on the Taumata to bridge the gap between the elected members and the appointed. Maori input became core to Council processes. And as each new Council was elected and sworn in, in 1995, 1998 and 2001, we reaffirmed our commitment to work in partnership with Maori.

It is my hope that the Taumata will, in the future, address the unfavourable economic position of Maori in our city, and generate ideas for how Council can lift its game in providing the sort of environment that attracts business investment and jobs.

### **Where Relationships are Built One Meeting at a Time**

I believe that the success of the Taumata Runanga has been built on carefully constructed trust between Maori and Pakeha. The key has been a treaty-based partnership. When the first Taumata failed it was because a Pakeha Council stuck its hands into the making of the rewena bread. But when we allowed Maori people to design their own processes and to sometimes make their own mistakes; that's when things got going.



I understand very well that there are potential dangers in following the bicultural path we have chosen, dangers in a viewpoint that defines New Zealanders by dividing us into two groups with potentially opposing interests. There is always the possibility that politicians will exploit such division for electoral purposes, and that citizens will, in response, revert to instincts of inter-tribal hostility. In this context I find it extraordinary that some would choose to make the Treaty a flashpoint in an electoral strategy. The truth is obvious to me. We will either share this country in peace or we will all lose it to conflict. We are living in violent times - internationally speaking. Let's not be complacent and imagine that we are somehow immune from this. It is so easy for politicians to trigger confrontations. But once things get past a certain point it can be much more difficult to stop.

My view is that it is pointless to declare New Zealanders all the same when we are not. It is historically unjust to ignore the fact that European settlement was authorised by a treaty in return for which those Europeans made promises to Maori. And it is tragically wasteful to let go of Maori language, haka, marae and whakapapa that exist only in New Zealand. These things make us unique in the world, and are embraced by the world in such forms as the movies *Ngati* and *Whale Rider*, and in the reaction to the All Black haka.

Politics is a matter of making choices. Mine is to seek to build a city that tolerates difference, and understands what it is like to walk in someone else's shoes. As we have learned in the past couple of months this cannot be achieved from Wellington alone.

I believe that local bodies have a major role to play. Here relationships between different communities and the individuals within them are built one meeting at a time. One marriage, one multicultural sports team, one political compromise at a time. Here is where the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi meet the reality of flesh and blood.

There is a whakatauaki, a Maori proverb, that goes: "Kokiritia i roto i te kotahitanga". It doesn't sound as flash in English as it does in Maori. It means "progressively act in unity".

I do not adhere to the politics of conflict and division. I believe that leadership is about bringing people together. And that is what I have attempted to do in honouring the Treaty in Waitakere City over the past twelve years.

#### **A TRIBUTE TO CHRIS TIMMS**

I had just finished writing about him for my new book, "Westies", and so the 19 March headline in the New Zealand Herald was a shock: "Olympic gold medal sailor dies in plane crash". He was gone at 56. Chris Timms: Olympic champion, yachtsman, successful businessman, mountaineer, flower grower and finally ... pilot.

There is no doubt Chris was a wonderful citizen of our city. And I attempt to explain, below, why I think this was so ...

Given his later achievements it is ironic that the young Chris, the future Olympic gold medallist, growing up in the Christchurch of the 1950s and early 60s, hated the traditional sports - cricket and rugby. He was, in his own words, 'nerdish'. He liked Biggles books.

His entrée to competitive sports came at the age of twelve when the then diminutive Chris became coxswain for the Christchurch Boys' High rowing eight. He liked it because, he said, he "got to order around the biggest guys in school".

He began mountaineering in his teens. And in 1966 a fall on Mount Cook killed his climbing partner, and almost killed him. He broke 13 bones: legs; arms; ribs; and bones in the bottom of his back. He landed within 200 of an orthopaedic surgeon on a climbing expedition.



Chris spent three months in hospital and found himself in the Guinness Book of Records “for falling further down a mountain than any other person and surviving”. But someone, a mate playing a joke Chris thought, had added a zero to turn 780 feet into 7800 feet. And Chris was purged from the book after two editions.

He went on to make a number of difficult “first ascents” in the Mount Cook region, some of which, he confesses, “were really beyond my ability”. Chris retired from climbing in 1972 because his friends were dying, trying to top each others’ performances. And after several “close calls” of his own he decided he wanted to live, and called it quits.

Meanwhile he was thrown out of Canterbury University for failing to pass enough subjects and ended up completing his chemistry degree in Wellington, part time.

And then came sailing ... It began, in 1968, with the sleek, very fast Shearwater catamarans, and by 1970 Chris had won the national title. But you couldn’t win at the Olympics in Shearwaters, so Chris began sailing Tornados, building one in his Wellington flat.

He and his sailing partner won the national championships in 1974, 75 and 76. But surprisingly they were passed over for selection to represent New Zealand at the 1976 Olympics. Chris was passed over again in 1980. But in 1984 he got his chance. He and his partner were beaten by Rex Sellers and Gerald Sly in the trials, but Sellers and Sly had a falling out. And Chris was invited by Sellers, his long-time rival, to join him.

They were pure magic. They won so convincingly at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics they didn’t even have to enter the final in the series of seven races to take gold medals. Chris Timms, Rex Sellers, and Russell Coutts shared the title of 1984 New Zealand Yachtsman of the Year. It was a great decade for Chris Timms, and with Sellers he went on to win Olympic Silver in 1988 in Seoul.

Chris had moved to Auckland in 1972 to be at the centre of New Zealand Olympic yachting activity and took a job in the related boat-building resin and paint industry. But his employer didn’t like his ideas and he was made redundant. So Chris took his ideas on new ways to market material into the boat building industry and started his own business, first called ‘West System Products’, then ‘Adhesive Technologies’. The business made him a wealthy man.

It was in 1983 that Chris bought an eight-acre block in Waiatarua in Waitakere City. And there he lived with his wife of 25 years, Susanne, surrounded by native New Zealand bush. He was still living there when he died. He served a term on the Waitakere Community Board. He was on the board of Sport Waitakere from its formation until his death, promoting grassroots sport in Waitakere City through programmes run at marae, clubs and schools. He helped to build Waitakere’s giant Trusts Stadium, scheduled to open in July this year.

It can be said that Chris had a reputation for pursuits that might, at an earlier time in New Zealand history, have been called ‘manly’: rowing, mountaineering and sailing. So it was ironic that one of his most enduring passions would most certainly have not. He loved flowers. Especially rhododendrons. Not surprisingly, however, he sounded decidedly competitive about it. In 1993 he described himself as aiming “to disprove the current theory that rhododendrons don’t grow well in Auckland” and “to breed a rhododendron to best all rhododendrons”. And he ended up with one of the biggest rhododendron collections in New Zealand, and one of the most dazzling gardens in the West.

At 56 Chris was still a bit of wild man with his unruly moustache, and was never ready to replace mountaineering and sailing with lawn bowls and golf. He instead flew war planes. As many now know. He flew formation and aerobatics. Looped the loop. Defied the ground.

And that is how he died. In the French military trainer aircraft he part owned. Preparing for an air show. A witness said the plane had looked beautiful as it manoeuvred in the sky. Then it went down, very fast, and crashed into the sea ... and a great Westie was gone.



## MILESTONES

### Died - Tony Oram

I am a great admirer of the work done by the school teachers of Waitakere City. Tony Oram taught at Kelston Boys' High School for 27 years. He taught mathematics, and served as both Assistant Principal and Acting Deputy Principal. He was an outstanding teacher of mathematics producing many scholarship winners. He carried a number of senior administrative responsibilities and was responsible for the population of international students at Kelston. He assisted with and directed school productions and musicals, and was a member of the school's Christian Fellowship. I am told he was regarded as totally professional in everything he did and a superb role model for all teachers in the school. I have dedicated this mayoral report to Tony to both acknowledge him as an individual and to pay tribute to the school teachers of our city, most of whom do a damn difficult job for little public recognition.

### Died - Frederic Mangnall

I would like to pay tribute to Frederic Mangnall who died recently at the age of 88. Fred gave 50 years of service to the Labour Movement as both a trade unionist and a member of the Labour Party. He operated as a shop steward, and for Labour MPs in Otahuhu and then Glen Eden. He belonged to the Masonic Order for 32 years, was President of the Glen Eden Senior Citizens, a Scout Master, an associate member of the RSA, and a councillor in the Glen Eden Borough. As a councillor he was responsible for instigating and raising funds for the building of the Glen Eden Community and Recreation Centre. He was awarded the QSM for services to the community, and a Certificate of Appreciation from Waitakere City Council. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, son Stuart, daughter Christine and their families.

### Died - Cliff Latham

We have lost a life-time member of the Huia-Cornwallis Ratepayers and Residents Association. Cliff Latham died four months short of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday after he took a fall while helping a neighbour repair a flagpole. It is characteristic of Cliff that he died helping another. He was a mainstay of his ratepayers and residents group: doing voluntary maintenance work on the Huia Hall; helping out at garage sales, the annual dance, and at Waitakere Adventure Days. He was President of the Huia Indoor Bowls club, a winner of many bowling trophies, a keen fisherman, a voluntary Fisheries Officer, and a picker-upper of other people's rubbish on Cornwallis Beach. Cliff was a pilot in World War II, and an air traffic controller after the war. He was born on ANZAC Day, and friends and family called it "Australia, New Zealand and Cliff's Day". He will be greatly missed in Huia and Cornwallis.

### Retired at 85 - George Easton

I would like to recognise George Easton for this long service to the New Lynn business community. George came to New Lynn 51 years ago, and set up the surveying firm "George Easton and Partners". He built up his business working closely with the New Lynn and Glen Eden Borough Councils that were to merge to become Waitakere City. He became so (shall we say) senior, that he was able to refer to workers in their 60s as his "boys". He was still working nine hour days at 85. He spent five years on an isolated island in World War II in the Pacific tracking Japanese shipping and aircraft movements. He is a member of the New Lynn Rotary Club. He is, perhaps, the last of the old generation of New Lynn businessmen.

### Connections Renewed - Waitakere City, New Zealand and Galway, Ireland

*M1-M2*

The Chief Executive of our sister city Galway, John Tierney, is scheduled to visit Waitakere over Easter. Council and Community Board Members extend a warm welcome. I have always particularly enjoyed contact with the Irish and was honoured to be asked to propose a toast to the President of Ireland at a St Patrick's Day function organised by the Honorary Irish Consul General Rodney Walshe. I have attached a copy of my toast at pages M1 to M2.



### **Died - Grace Whittaker, 100 Years Old**

Oratia has lost a long-time identity with the death of Grace Whittaker. Grace was born in Ramarama in 1903, and died on 24 February this year. She taught primary school for more than 30 years before getting married in 1952. There were, according to her sister Hilda Griffin of Hobsonville, 63 children in her first school classroom. In an age before the Big OE became a New Zealand institution Grace travelled all over the world. When asked, as she often was, why she was not married she would respond that she hadn't "met anyone for whom I am willing to give up my freedom". She eventually married in 1952, and is survived by sisters Hilda Griffin (aged 92) and Rose Brook (aged 98), four stepchildren and many step grandchildren.

### **Resigned - Bruce Knox, Bible College of New Zealand**

It is with regret that we note that our good friend Bruce Knox (Executive Director of Bible College of New Zealand) has tendered his resignation. Bruce has been Chief Executive for the past six and a half years, and his leadership has seen the Bible College grow in stature throughout New Zealand and the Pacific. I'm sure all Councillors will join me in thanking Bruce for his great contribution to this city.

### **Launched - The Meaning of Water, by Veronica Strang**

*M3-M7*

I am greatly impressed by Professor Veronica Strang, of the School of Social Sciences at the Auckland University of Technology. I attended the launch of her book "The Meaning of Water" at Auckland University's "Old Government House" this month. The launch was attended by many influential people including Director of Watercare Mark Ford, Mayor George Wood from North Shore City Council, Auckland City Councillor Dr Bruce Hucker, and former Mayor of Auckland Christine Fletcher. I will be reviewing the book on my website: (<http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/Mayor/index.asp>). Attached at pages M3 to M7 is an abstract from the book, a brief biography of Veronica, and some lecture notes.

### **Announced**

The New Zealand Breakers are to be based at Waitakere City's new Trusts Stadium. The Breakers are one of the most exciting sports teams, in one of the most exciting competitions in Australasia. And the really great thing about this is that we will soon be able to watch, in Waitakere, the best basketball in this part of the world. Congratulations to Sport Waitakere, and in particular, Ross Dallow and Suresh Nagaiya for this achievement.

### **John Tamihere Speaks Out**

*M8-M11*

Council colleagues will be pleased to know that we have, at last, received some praise from Minister Tamihere. His speech to the small businesses of Waitakere City, delivered at the Lincoln Green, contrasts sharply to the harsh criticism that appeared in the Western Leader this month. Attaching is a copy of this Tamihere speech at pages M8 to M11.

### **Thanks to the Titirangi Ratepayers and Residents Association**

My thanks to the Titirangi Ratepayers and Residents Association for their support of my campaign to get greater Police presence in the village of Titirangi, and for their donation to Mike Cater's fund for the provision of more security cameras.

### **Paw form is noted**

*M12*

Councillors will recall my run in with members of Citizens Against Privatisation (CAP) after they labelled Waitakere City Council as Nazis during a protest last year. I see that I am not alone in feeling aggrieved, as attached at page M12.



### **Titirangi Bed and Breakfast Acknowledged in San Francisco Newspaper**

M12

I am placing a copy of a letter to the editor of the San Francisco Chronicle as attached at page M12. This letter, written by Brian and Amy Smith from Fort Bragg, sings the praises of "The Ferns" bed and breakfast, and of the beauty of the Titirangi bush. It is a reminder that we have a world-class city with jaw-dropping natural beauty, and fantastic people.

### **Back on Top**

I was very pleased to hear that Hoani Waititi once again took the kapa haka title at the annual Polyfest Maori and Pacific Island festival. The group from Waitakere City beat more than 40 others. They have an incredible record of wins, having won consecutively from 1996 to 2001. They are a tribute to the strength of Maori culture in our City.

### **Also Winning**

Congratulations to Angela Lawn and Anneke Bodde, journalists from the West edition of the Aucklander who were both winners at this year's New Zealand Community Newspapers Association annual awards. Angela was third in the "Best Young Journalist of the Year" category, and Anneke was highly commended in the same category.

### **WAITAKERE'S INAUGURAL SOAP BOX DERBY**

I just loved being at Westgate Drive on Sunday, 21 March for Waitakere City's inaugural soap box derby, organised by the Waitakere Rotary Club, with sponsors including Waitakere City Council. Twenty schools fielded 99 drivers. It was a glorious autumn day and thousands turned out to watch. The best of the drivers from the 21<sup>st</sup> were scheduled to battle it out in Glenfield on 28 March, for a chance to fly to the United States to compete in the All American Soapbox Derby. My thanks to all those involved: Rotary; The Trusts; The Western Leader and all the other generous sponsors.

### **A NEW FLAG FOR NEW ZEALAND?**

I was pleased to fly an alternative New Zealand flag over Council buildings this month. Just for a week. The flag is a silver fern on a black background, and is the brain child of Wellington businessman Lloyd Morrison. As far as I know our city is the first to give the flag a go. I believe that our nation is growing up fast and that the time may be right to start thinking about a new flag. I have no intention, however, of denigrating the current flag and all it stands for. Many have died fighting for our freedom under that banner, and they should never be forgotten. But I believe that flags should be a highly-distinctive symbol of a nation's identity. And I have some doubts about a flag that many in the world cannot distinguish from Australia's. I believe that a flag needs to have symbolic potency, and wonder if the flag we currently have is the best possible. That is why I allowed the alternative to fly for a week to see what people thought of it. Interestingly the results of a poll undertaken on our web site indicates the following. The statement was put to the public: "I like Lloyd Morrison's alternative New Zealand flag", and they were asked to vote 'yes' or 'no'. There were 44 respondents. Fifty-nine per cent said "yes"(they liked the flag). Forty-one per cent said "no", they didn't. Of those answering "no" (they did not like the Morrison flag) a further 23 per cent indicated that the flag should change and/or offered suggestions for an alternative. If you wish to read further on this issue I suggest you go to <http://www.nzflag.com/>.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Report of the Mayor be received.
2. That the Council explore a way of commemorating the remarkable life of Mr Chris Timms' Olympian, adventurer, businessman and community servant.

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