

Council

**Wednesday, 31 August 2005
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN
THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN, WAITAKERE CITY,
ON WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST 2005, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

EVERYONE WANTS TO DO BUSINESS WITH CHINA

With its vast population and therefore immense labour force, increasingly successful and powerful economy and a revolutionary announcement the Yuan will no longer be pegged to the dollar, China is the 'it' trading partner.

The New Zealand Government is seemingly the first in line for a Free Trade Agreement with China and Waitakere, as a result of a recent delegation trip to sister city Ningbo, is well positioned to be at the forefront of reaping a number of economic benefits to our city.

It's taken most of the nine years we have been Sister Cities with Ningbo to really get to the nuts and bolts of economic development opportunities but it certainly happened on the trip earlier this month and rest assured we are already following these opportunities up vigorously.

Sister Cities are often thought of as 'nice to haves' and in some cases that's true. It depends on what you want to get out of Sister City relationships. Our strategy for Sister Cities is currently being reviewed and a report is expected within the next couple of months but in the meantime our relationship with Huntington Beach is based on a strong relationship between the Piha and Huntington Beach surf lifesaving clubs and provides opportunities for students from both countries to experience learning opportunities through student exchanges, as well as providing a channel for ongoing sporting club interaction.

Our relationship with Sister City Kakogawa is very much about cross cultural activities and provides opportunities for students, including disabled students, to experience learning and cultural opportunities through student exchanges.

Our Sister City relationship with Galway is still relatively new and is really about sharing information, innovative ideas and best practice, particularly in regard to environmental management at a staff level.

And our Sister City relationship with Ningbo has been all about developing a trust and friendship that will result in business opportunities.

Our final meeting in Ningbo with the People's Municipal Congress Director, Yin Suchang, was incredibly beneficial and Waitakere is set to bear economic fruit. We negotiated a free display stand at an expo / trade fair to be held in Ningbo, in June 2006, focusing on consumer goods and joint venture opportunities. The Council, along with our economic development agency Enterprise Waitakere will now work with business and organisations such as New Zealand Trade and Enterprise to ensure a presence.

Officials in Ningbo, which has a population of 5.5 million, also invited Waitakere fashion designers to an international fashion show in October 2006, another exciting opportunity we will explore with some of our manufacturers and designers. I have already written to Karen Walker to gauge her interest and will be following up on that opportunity.

As Enterprise Waitakere Chief Executive John Wadsworth says, companies can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to get a foot in the door in China so this was an incredibly successful visit. Just a few days following our return a high profile trade delegation from Ningbo is booked in to visit Waitakere and have talks with Enterprise Waitakere next month.



There was also talk of a wine festival and once that's organised we will investigate sending some local product for display and sampling.

M1-M12 I have attached at pages M1 to M12 a number of newspaper articles on the subject of China's powerful economy as well as the Western Leader's 'Trade show boost' article.

The delegation to Ningbo also discussed revitalising our staff exchange programme and perhaps widening that concept to include exchanges between doctors, nurses and teachers.

A visit to Ningbo TV was particularly interesting in terms of our film and television industry. The station covers Ningbo and its neighbouring cities giving it around 10 million viewers. Ningbo residents have more than 30 channels to choose from but more than a third watch Ningbo TV's five channels which cover news, entertainment, film, serials and education. The network has 500 staff spread across two buildings and while some of the channels broadcast 24 hours a day others are 14 to 15 hours a day.

One of the major objectives of the channel is to broadcast news and information about the local government and the network's statistics show that more than 95 percent of people in its broadcast area know the local government's objectives and policies. If only we had that in Waitakere!

During the meeting I extended greetings from TVNZ head Ian Fraser, the Prime Minister Helen Clark and her Cabinet and the New Zealand Film Commission. I gave those present a brief outline on how well Waitakere is doing regarding film and television and suggested we could be helpful in supplying the network with New Zealand documentaries and series. John Wadsworth (who joined the delegation at the Ningbo sector) and I also talked about our new studio and whether Ningbo would be interested in direct investment.

While in Ningbo I was also honoured to be awarded Honorary Citizenship of the city which I think is recognition of the hard work this Council has done to foster and continue a mutually beneficial relationship with the Chinese city. About 50 people attended the formal ceremony and I was humbled to receive a key to the city, a certificate and two stunning pieces of art which are before you today and which will be displayed in an appropriate place in the Council buildings in the near future.

M13 I have attached at page M13 the speech I made at the ceremony.

JAPANESE SISTER CITY

The relationship with Waitakere's Japanese Sister City, Kakogawa, is also in good shape. I had several meetings with the current administration and some friends from the past to ensure the continuation of our very good relationship.

One of the most exciting aspects was my invitation and Kakogawa's acceptance to attend the celebratory opening of our new Civic Centre next year.

A delegation will be sent from Kakogawa to take part in the ceremonies and its contribution is likely to include drummers and possibly a genuine Japanese wedding in the new Japanese Gardens which the delegation will dedicate.

It will be very special to have our Japanese friends with us on this occasion and I would also like to report I've had an excellent response to the letters I sent regarding the organising committee membership. Brian Corban has agreed to be the Deputy Chair and the following have agreed to be Patrons: Assid Corban, Janet Clews, Brian McNaughton, Ian McHardy and Tim Shadbolt.



I would like to take this opportunity to ask if Councillor Lawley as chairperson of the arts and events sub committee would join us on the organising committee.

While in Kakogawa the delegation also took part in a tree planting ceremony as part of the opening of a new camp site. The site is located at the base of some glorious hills not unlike the Waitakere Ranges and will be well used by local organisations and trampers.

We also made a special point of visiting the gardens where our pou whenua are placed and which have recently been 'adorned' with New Zealand native plants sent by this Council.

Another highlight of the visit to Kakogawa was a tour of the city's new 3000 seat sports stadium. In many ways it is similar to ours and - as if we needed any confirmation - the visit reinforced that our stadium truly is world class. Kakogawa's stadium includes five basketball courts and also has a gymnasium which is roughly the same size as Momentum at the Trusts Stadium.

One of the main differences ,however, was the cost. Kakogawa's Stadium cost (NZ) \$44.8 million to build - close to double what it cost to build Trusts Stadium. And that doesn't include the price of the land. The good news for Kakogawa ratepayers, however, is that they have a huge benefactor in Kobe Steel, the area's largest employer. The company stumped up the total amount and will be contributing 8.8 billion Yen in administration and support costs over the next 20 years.

Upon my return I heard about our stadium receiving two major accolades. It has been awarded the 2005 Gold Award of Excellence by the Association of Consulting Engineers New Zealand - the organisation's top award - for its structural engineering and Canam Construction Limited was runner up in the \$15-\$50 million section from the New Zealand Institute of Builders. New Zealand wide recognition for the work on the stadium. Fantastic stuff.

M14-M20 The stadium was also featured in Architecture New Zealand, a clipping is attached at pages M14 to M20.

MAYORS FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace was held to coincide with the 60th Anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima. Mayors for Peace is a global NGO representing millions of people and more than 220 people took part from 92 cities in 20 countries around the world in the conference. Twenty two Mayors and representatives spoke including two from the USA and Russia. We're certainly starting to get some traction when the latter can speak in opposition to nuclear weapons.

Conference representatives were from individual cities as well as organisations such as the Great Britain Coalition of Nuclear Free Local Authorities and the US Conference of Mayors representing 1000 US cities. In the war-mongering US this organisation shines like a beacon. Since 1985 it has consistently called for global nuclear disarmament but unfortunately no-one in the White House is listening to the will of the people. Or to Martin Luther King's "wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows".

Conference delegates took part in a number of commemorative events including a morning service (incorporating a minute's silence at 8.15am), a peace concert, floral tribute and a lantern ceremony on the Hiroshima river.

Mayors for Peace President and Mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatoshi Akiba, said "we are revising our emergency campaign to ban nuclear weapons (2020 Vision) and have established a 'campaign year' that will last until next August. We intend to raise the funds we need to carry out our concrete projects".



M21-M23 I have attached at page M21 to M23 the speech I gave and I think you will agree with me it was entirely appropriate it be dedicated to former Prime Minister and nuclear free godfather David Lange who has since passed away. The dedication and the letters I took with me from every New Zealand city not represented at the conference were very well received.

M24-M77 As you can imagine there was a vast amount of media coverage about the commemoration and the conference and I have attached a small portion of it. It was also pleasing to generate international and national television and radio coverage while in Hiroshima for Waitakere's peace message, clippings are attached at pages M24 to M77.

M78-M80 I have also attached the Peace Declaration written by Mayor Akiba and endorsed by the conference at page M78 and a statement by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is attached at page M79 to M80.

One of the highlights of the conference was hearing from other Mayors about their peace initiatives and a programme will be prepared to pull together our activities and extend those to perhaps include more events, a peace park and becoming an official peace city of the world.

Christchurch Mayor Gary Moore and I have extended an invitation to Mayor Akiba to come to New Zealand and address the next local government conference which will be held in a city, yet to be decided, in July next year. Mayor Akiba is an outstanding speaker and will, I am sure, accept our invitation to visit New Zealand and hopefully Waitakere City.

MILESTONES

Obituary - Ron Aitken

Our sympathies at this time are of course with Deputy Mayor Carolynne Stone who has just lost her father Ron after a brave fight aged 79. All of us campaigners will recall with great affection Ron's ability to put up a hoarding in five minutes and ensure it stayed up, graffiti free, over the election period. Ron had the carpentry skills and the agility of a 20 year old and he will be greatly missed, not only in the Oratia community where he spent his life, but in the wider Waitakere community, by his many friends. Ron was a tireless advocate for the local Oratia community and this City. This Council extends our deepest sympathy to his wife Lorna, Carolynne, Danny and Ronald and the rest of the family.

Obituary - Vivien Shapcott

A great source of inspiration for the Kelston Girls' College community Vivien Shapcott will be sorely missed. Born in Auckland in 1949 Vivien and her family moved to New Lynn when she was 10. She attended teacher training college and took her first position at an Otago secondary school when she was 19. She and husband Brian Malcouronne settled in Glen Eden in 1972 when Brian was appointed Minister of the Methodist church. The marriage ended in 1981 and Vivien worked at several jobs, including nurse aid. She started at Kelston Girls' College as a teacher-aid in 2002 and continued to give students and staff her best after being diagnosed with motor neurone disease last December. Vivien came to see us recently at Council as she saw a possible correlation between the onset of her illness and the Painted Apple Moth spraying programme. She felt greatly oppressed by the programme, as did many others, and although scientifically and medically it is difficult to prove this remarkable woman felt deeply concerned her health and the health of others could have been jeopardised. We were deeply moved to hear of her passing. Vivien is survived by four sons.



Prince William Trip

It's always nice to have a Prince in town - you get the gardens cleaned up, the trees trimmed around the pool and everything gets a scrub up. Not that our pool needs it - it's always in great shape. But there Prince William was, bounding out of the car and shaking hands vigorously as Princes do. He was a pleasure to meet and to introduce to a number of Councillors. It was also a pleasure to acknowledge that this was a young man with a rather interesting future who had chosen New Zealand to 'practise' his stuff. His private secretary told me it had been a triumph for this job is not easy, the media internationally is particularly cruel and the Princes William and Harry have a daunting task. And so the idea to trial a tour down under was to ease him into a lifetime of this kind of thing. One could not envy a young man with so much potential that has a lifetime of doing this ahead of him.

M81

But it's a job most people would probably like. The money's good and there's no lack of attention by beautiful young women. There was a good crowd of people outside the pool including the Waitakere twins who are endless fans of famous people and others who I just think were waiting for the pool to open. Nevertheless they made a good show and I thank the Councillors who joined us. And to my good friend Stephen Tindall who had the ability to invite the polo loving (that's water not ponies) prince to join us. Clearly the Prince was impressed with what he saw in Waitakere, his letter of thanks is attached at page M81.

Congratulations # 1

We already knew we had an esteemed journalist in our midst but now it's (very) official - Councillor Pat Booth has been given a lifetime achievement award to mark his long career in journalism.

Councillor Booth is only the fourth New Zealander to receive the award instigated by the National Press Club. Earlier recipients were Sir Geoffrey Cox, one of the founders of Britain's ITV, Peter Arnett, the distinguished CNN war correspondent who began his career in Invercargill and the late Sir Terry McLean. Governor General Dame Sylvia Cartwright presented Councillor Booth with the award at a special vice regal reception at Government House in Wellington.

Councillor Booth, honoured three years ago by the print industry with a similar citation at the 2002 Qantas Media Awards, has been a journalist for more than 50 years. Two extremely notable highlights were a series of journalistic investigations over seven years into the Arthur Alan Thomas case which resulted in Thomas' pardon and the Mr Asia investigation which culminated in the break up of a major international drug smuggling operation. Councillor Booth was awarded an OBE for a combination of these two truly remarkable pieces of work.

I am sure you will all join with me in congratulating Councillor Booth on this worthy recognition of his achievement and success.

Congratulations # 2

M82-M85

As you undoubtedly know Creative New Zealand bestowed two major awards on Waitakere last month - for the Glen Eden Library and our Trash to Fashion Awards. The categories the projects won were Built Environment: City and Regional Councils and Cultural Festivals and Arts Events; City and Regional Councils. That means we're the best in the country in this regard. Not a surprise to us of course; however, it is nice to have hard work and success recognised with such distinguished awards. Congratulations to Arts Manager Naomi McCleary and her team. Indeed I think we can all take a bit of a bow. I have attached the Creative New Zealand profiles of the two projects as attached at pages M82 to M85.



Waitakere Ranges

The following messages did not make it to my July Mayoral Report and because they are so important I wanted to publish them here, albeit a bit late.

The first is a "salute" from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the environment and the second from former Speaker of the House, High Commission in London Jonathan Hunt.

There has been a small hiccup with the bill's progress through Parliament due to a boundary discrepancy; however, I am assured things are on track for the bill to be tabled in Parliament shortly after the election when the House sits again.

"I salute you as a community that is in the forefront of thinking and action about how to sustain the cherished features of the Waitakere Ranges, the defining landforms of your city and the west Auckland region. The collective action that you are celebrating today brings to mind some words of Keri Hulme in the "Bone People". She said; "They were nothing more than people by themselves... But all together they had become the heart and muscles and mind of something perilous and new, something strange and growing and great. Together, all together, they were instruments of change.

Together all together you are the heart and muscles and mind of something perilous and new, something growing great, the Waitakere Ranges Protection Bill! You have led the thinking that now acknowledges that the Resource Management Act, despite its many strengths, cannot alone ensure your children's children will be able to enjoy the Ranges as you know them today. You have, in the Waitakere Ranges Bill, started forging a new pathway to more sustainable management of your icon landscapes. Many will follow your lead crafting new local legislation to protect what they too cherish.

Finally on many journeys there are bumps, big waves or head winds. Your journey with the Waitakere Ranges Bill will be no different. Stay committed stay on course. All New Zealanders need you to be robust sailors on this journey." - Morgan Williams

"Heartiest congratulations to Mayor Bob and to all the Councillors at Waitakere City who voted for the Bill. At this time when London is tragically chaotic, I send you my congratulations. It was a wonderful achievement and so I am please with the Council and the community support of the people of Waitakere." - Rt Hon Jonathan Hunt

Champion Dot

As the letter to the Western Leader said - it's hard enough sometimes to find anybody to join a committee, let alone for such a length of time. The writer, Neil Allport, Chairman of the Oratia Residents and Ratepayers Association, was talking about the 22 years of service given to the committee by Dot Parkin. Dot's resignation after all that time was accepted with great reluctance and the association has wished Dot all the best for the future.

I believe such dedication to her community should be formally recognised and I would like to suggest Council invite Dot to the September Council meeting so we can award her with a certificate and honour her in an appropriate way.

Recommendation: That Council invite Dot Parkin to attend the September Council meeting so she can be thanked for her dedication and commitment to her Oratia community.



Heading Our Way

The Olympic flame. I am pleased to announce that the Olympic flame will make a grand entrance in Waitakere after flying from Christchurch on the afternoon of January 23 2006. The flame will come to the stadium where it will be welcomed and taken on a tour of the stadium and track. It will then be taken to the west coast via Scenic Drive where it will pause at the Lydiard Memorial site at Bendell's Creek. Then the flame will go to Piha Beach where it will be joined by the surf lifesaving patrols in their IRBs and symbolically taken towards Australia, its next destination, at sundown. It should be a very impressive ceremony to which all Councillors are invited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Report of the Mayor be received.
2. That Council invite Dot Parkin to attend the September Council meeting so she can be thanked for her dedication and commitment to her Oratia community.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY