

Council

**Wednesday, 22 February 2006
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

**This report is respectfully dedicated to the memory
of our much-beloved kaumätua Fraser Delamere**



1940 - 2006

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, 22 FEBRUARY 2006, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART C - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RESPECT

Fraser Delamere

It was with great sadness we said goodbye to our much loved and respected Fraser Delamere. Fraser's knowledge of Maori custom and protocol was second to none. He was a true gentleman from the old school who treated everyone with respect and dignity.

His mana in both the Maori and Pakeha worlds was immense. He had a calm, quiet, aura about him which meant that when he spoke, everyone listened.

Fraser anchored our thoughts and ideas to reality and while he had a huge understanding of history and Maori protocol, he was also a forward thinker who realised the potential of true partnership under the Treaty of Waitangi for all New Zealanders.

Fraser's tangi in Te kaha was well attended by Council representatives including myself and we again paid tribute to this great man at a memorial service in the Council Chambers which was well attended by Fraser's whānau, local Maori, Councillors, Community Board Members and our local MPs. Fraser will be greatly missed as will his wisdom which was much treasured by us all.

M1

I have attached a letter at page M1 from Waitakere MP Lynne Pillay who was unfortunately unable to attend our memorial service.

Farewell to Councillor Pat Booth

Sadly this month we said farewell to Councillor Pat Booth who resigned due to ill health. Pat came to us in 2004 well prepared with a 50 year career as a journalist and other local government experience behind him. As Ernest Hemingway said, "the most essential gift for a good writer is a built-in, shock-proof shit detector" and Pat certainly had that. Pat usually sat through council debates, sometimes for hours, saying nothing and hearing all. He would generally have his say only when he had heard all sides of the story and weighed them all up.

Pat's thought was always well considered and this was especially the case during the debate on the protection of the Waitakere Ranges. Pat was always measured and made an excellent contribution during his time on this Council.

We are very sorry to lose Pat but his health must come first and we wish him and Valerie all the best as they head into a very well-earned retirement.



The Year Ahead

This year, 2006, is a watershed year for Waitakere. It will see agreement on the final elements of the strategic skeleton of the 21st Century modern city - the Waitakere Ranges protected, the urban limits redefined, urban growth concentrated on intensified town centres at Henderson, New Lynn and Westgate and the emergence of a Central Business District in Henderson (aided by the new Waitakere Central Civic Centre).

On the transport front we expect progress on the upgrading of rail services underpinned by new tracking, stations and rolling stock; new public transport interchanges; the start of works on the SH18 motorway connection to SH1 and further progress on SH20 construction as far as Richardson Road. Undergrounding of the railway in New Lynn will facilitate the integration of transport and vital new town centre activity.

And so the establishment phase of Waitakere City is almost complete (two outstanding infrastructural components of the 21st Century City remain unresolved - the future of Whenuapai Airport and improved energy security).

Now, for the rest of the 21st century, the task is a development one, fleshing out the skeleton of the City to provide assured quality of life for all its residents.

To that end I wish to draw attention to the long term framework of commitments and principles to guide decision making adopted by Council in December. These high level ideals, drawn from the Aarlborg Charter, the New Zealand Government Sustainable Development Programme and the UN Rio Conference, restate our commitment to build a resilient, liveable and sustainable 21st Century City.

M2-M8 Rather than try and summarise them here, I have attached the commitments and principles at pages M2 to M8. I urge you all, if you haven't already, to read and digest them. I cannot stress enough just how important they are for our future.

While I'm looking forward in this report I do just want to mention one of the most important aspects of our journey to this stage - the protection of the Waitakere Ranges.

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill has been introduced to Parliament and at the time of writing its first reading is scheduled for Wednesday, 22 February (the same day as this Council meeting). It will then be referred to a select committee for its scrutiny and the hearing of public submissions.

The bill is now out of our hands and in the hands of our parliamentary representatives.

This marks the end of a long phase of policy development and consultation. It puts in place a key element of the sustainability framework of Waitakere City.

The protection of the ranges and foothills secure; they will remain essentially natural and rural in character. Even in the urban areas like Titirangi the built environment will be subservient to the natural - a character unique to this City.

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill is a 21st Century response to a long recognised need and opportunity. It is a tribute to our forefathers, and notably to those of the Auckland City Council who fought from the 1890s to protect areas of the ranges for the enjoyment of future generations, the campaign led by E. Earle Vaile throughout the 1920s and 1930s to set aside the area as a National Park, the establishment of the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park in 1941 as a monument to a century of Auckland's progress and the stewardship and growth of that park in the hands of the ARA and ARC. Along the way, many landowners have generously given land or protected their own land in the public interest.



The ranges are a public asset, the source of our urban water supply and the source of refuge and respite for all Aucklanders. The bill recognises the national importance of the ranges and foothills and their ongoing wise management is appropriately a matter for parliament to consider.

The bill is the final product of political cooperation and a close working collaboration between Waitakere City Council, the Auckland Regional Council, Rodney District Council, local MPs the Hon Chris Carter, the Hon David Cunliffe and Lynne Pillay, Ngati Whatua and Kawerau A Maki. The preparation of the bill could not have been possible without their collective determination and vision.

In the life of this city, no issue has been so fully or prominently debated in public – no issue has so caught the public imagination and engagement. Thanks are due to all sides across the City that contributed to the vision and the improved articulation of that vision in the bill.

And of course no story is complete without an illustration so I have included below a photograph of me presenting the bill to Waitakere MP Lynne Pillay on the steps of parliament. Lynne has taken charge of the bill in Parliament so again, thank you Lynne.



Waitakere's Best and Brightest

Late last year the Listener, National Business Review and the Christchurch Press ran very interesting line up lists of the people who influence a city and a country - an often eclectic mix of individuals with sway in a myriad of issues, power plays and lobbying and sway.

I have been toying with the idea of bringing together a similar Waitakere list and, while I know every Councillor would like to think they are one of the chosen, the list is not going to include Councillors or the Mayor.

To that end I have asked a small panel to prepare a list for publication in a future Mayoral Report. And I invite you to participate. I want to know who the common punter believes are the movers and shakers of Waitakere. So I'm all ears. It can be tongue in cheek or it can be real. Once I've got your suggestions the panel will put all the names together for further consideration and whittling down. I am sure it will be quite a list. As Time Magazine said, these are the people that matter and may shape our future. Let's identify them now and cheer them on. Make your contribution via email to Fiona Cunningham.



MILESTONES

Obituary - Michael Bourdot

Late last year the west lost one of its true characters. Michael Bourdot was a Kiwi poet, The Singing Cowboy and an all round wonderful bloke. I gave Mike the title of Poet of Waitakere way back in 1993 and he never forgot the role.

His poetry went from thoughts and ideas of the moment to just plain terrible. But he was such a pleasure to meet in the street and he was a real troubadour of the old kind.

Mike was always at the poetry festivals reading his own work and would quote songs and poetry at the drop of a hat. He had suffered mental ill health for many years and an horrific fall from a roof during his painting career compounded this ongoing problem.

Recently he and his wife Geraldine were resident at the Swanson Caravan Park and at his funeral many of his fellow residents came and spoke eloquently of his care and attention to the small community. Mike's son Matthew and the rest of his family farewelled him on 28 December and I came in from the beach to speak on behalf of all of us and to bid him a fond farewell. Mike enjoyed the council and understood what we did and why. I liked him very much and will miss him around.

50 Years

This October marks Councillor Assid Corban's half century since beginning his career in local government which spans the area's political changes from Henderson Borough (to which he was elected Councillor in October 1956), Waitemata County Council through to Waitemata City Council and Waitakere City Council. During that time he spent 15 years as Mayor, 15 as a Councillor and three terms out of office. He became the first Mayor of Waitakere City after defeating Tim Shadbolt in 1989 and is now serving his third term as a City Councillor.

Councillor Corban has served his own community as well as regional and national bodies. His CV contains high-level appointments and highlights of his political career include the Henderson Pools and the Aotea Centre.

Congratulations and thank you Assid. You have certainly been dedicated to making a huge contribution to your community and this City.

Congratulations # 1

It is with great pleasure I congratulate on behalf of the Council our local New Year Honours recipients:

Mabel (June) Mariu, Te Atatu, New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Maori and the community.

Alwynne Irene Crossen, Henderson, Anthony James Hughes, Titirangi and Therese Monica Maxwell, Waitakere, Queen's Service Medal for Community Service.

Epafala Auimatagi, Te Atatu South, David Clark Harre, Oratia and Norman Malcolm McKelvey, Te Atatu, Queen's Service Medal for Public Services.

Warrant Officer Mark MacDonald Harwood, Te Atatu and Corporal Gabrielle Anne Knight, Hobsonville, The New Zealand Order of Merit.

I wrote on behalf of the Council to each recipient offering our sincere congratulations.



Congratulations # 2

To the most interesting idea I've heard for a long time! Earlier this month Reuters reported that a flock of pigeons fitted with mobile phone backpacks was going to be used to monitor air pollution. The source of the story was the New Scientist Magazine. Twenty pigeons will be released into the skies over San Jose, California, in August. Each bird will carry a GPS satellite tracking receiver, air pollution sensors and a basic mobile phone. Text messages on air quality will be beamed back in real time to a special pigeon "blog", a journal accessible on the Internet. Miniature cameras slung around the pigeons' necks will also post aerial pictures.

The idea is the brainchild of researcher Beatriz da Costa of the University of California and two of her students. They have built a prototype of the pigeons' equipment containing a mobile phone circuit board with SIM card and communication chips, a GPS receiver and sensors capable of detecting carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. The team plans to squeeze all of the components onto a single board small enough for the birds to carry in a backpack.

The data the pigeons send back will be displayed on the blog in the form of an interactive map.

I would like to say "now I've seen everything" but despite its bizarre nature this little initiative won't be the last piece of astonishment we receive.

Congratulations # 3

Waitakere's Town Crier Nigel Cattell made a sterling effort at the National Competition for Criers held in Fielding with a third placing overall. Nigel also came second in the best dressed competition, just pipped at the post by Australasian Champ Judy Campbell (pictured with Nigel below).





Congratulations # 4

Last but not least congratulations, and a big thank you, to the Auckland Regional Transport Authority and Connex for a huge improvement in the trains running on time.

The introduction of a new rail timetable in October last year had an immediate and beneficial effect on timekeeping with a movement from 62 percent of train services running on time to 87 percent running on time.

And as well as the trains running on time, more and more people are using public transport generally which is very good news. Indeed ferries, trains and buses are experiencing record levels of patronage. Of course the new rail timetable is a contributing factor to that and I am sure the authorities involved will continue to ensure improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY