

Council

**Wednesday, 24 May 2006
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, 24 MAY 2006, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

DON'T LEAVE A LEGACY - LIVE IT

NZ Herald - 23 July 2011 - Jubilation at Cup Win

Lord Mayor of Greater Auckland, Sir Robert Harvey, last night attended the Rugby World Cup final accompanied by the Prime Minister Annette King, the former Prime Minister and now Governor General Helen Clark and Ms Clark's good friend the President of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Sir Robert's party was delighted with the All Blacks' (insert score) win against (insert name of opposing team) at the new Clark Park (formerly Eden Park) which was renamed after New Zealand's most esteemed Prime Minister when it was expanded two years ago to take 75,000 spectators.

To make sure he was on time for the game Sir Robert flew directly from Wellington into Whenuapai International Airport where he caught the Waitakere Express monorail directly to Kingsland Station, arriving at the stadium via the people mover link bridge across Sandringham Road.

His extremely quick journey was further confirmation Auckland's new rail network is a huge success with locals as well as visitors who have reputedly spent more than a billion dollars in the Auckland region over the past two weeks where there isn't a bed or caravan to be found even as far out as Hamilton and Kaitia. The two cruise ships in Auckland Harbour are also being used for accommodation as is the new 39-storey super hotel in Henderson.

At the opening ceremony Sir Robert, who has not lost his sartorial elegance or his looks with age (he's now 70), told the crowd and the rest of the world via internet digital real time tracking that Auckland's commitment and drive to become one of the world's greatest cities was the incentive behind hosting the Rugby World Cup and to getting every transport need taken care of.

He said the rehearsal earlier in the year when Auckland won the America's Cup was an absolute milestone because it gave Auckland the chance to trial the Rugby World Cup crowd and transport network.

Following the game the Governor General Helen Clark announced Greater Auckland had won the bid for the 2020 Olympic Games. The organisers had commended Auckland in getting the infrastructure for such a huge event in place. They were impressed by the ease of which visitors were being transported around the city and said Auckland's system was one of the best in the world. It's no secret the new ratings showing Auckland as the second most desirable city to live in the world helped achieve the win.

The Minister for Auckland, Stuart Nash, announced the city's road tolls would now be abolished as all the required infrastructure was in place and fully paid for.

The leader of the opposition, the Rt. Hon John Key reluctantly agreed Auckland had at last come of age and even praised the country's fifth consecutive Labour Government for seriously investing in Auckland's future.

Even the residents living around the park were completely happy with new lighting and sound buffers proving more than effective.



SYMPOSIUM FOR AUCKLAND

Now you have read my 'look into the future' fictional piece above, I want you to continue concentrating and read the following report which I write in all seriousness.

On 4 May, I attended the Symposium for Auckland along with 250 other civic leaders, movers and shakers at the Aotea Centre. It was a workshop to bring together the future of Auckland, its infrastructure and its potential as a dazzling 21st Century City of the world.

The symposium was addressed by Greg Clark from London, a city and regional development advisor with 20 years experience, principally in leadership roles in city agencies in London, United Kingdom and advisory roles with many cities/regions internationally, governmental and inter-governmental organisations. Greg currently holds a portfolio of core roles including Advisor on City and Regional Development at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, United Kingdom, Global Practice Advisor at the London Development Agency and Chairman of the OECD Forum of Cities and Regions. Greg is a visionary and acted as a catalyst for Auckland to simply get its act together.

We all agreed that only a region in which people sang from the same song sheet could be successful in developing the future we in local government want and need.

Auckland is ranked 5th in the world for quality of life, a region blessed by stunning geography, buzzing with creativity and a multi cultural population with now two eco cities - Waitakere and the soon to be Auckland. So how come we still rank poorly on the relevant OECD indicators? It's simply not good enough. Despite globalisation and trade and business opportunities New Zealand (and thus Auckland) is the only country in the OECD to decrease its level of international engagement in the past decade. Just as New Zealand has experienced strong growth, so has Auckland, but Auckland is only matching other parts of New Zealand in economic terms whereas other international city-regions outperform their countries making a disproportionate contribution to national prosperity. As the introduction to the symposium stated - it is clear we must lift Auckland's performance.

The all day workshop to develop on action plan brought together a number of strands - infrastructure and how to complete it, the urgent need to develop a timetable and how to grow a world class City. The tables were made up of a wide range of major regional players including Mayors Hubbard, Law, Ball, Wood and myself and the input of former Waitakere people - Kaaren Goodall, Bryan Mogridge, Dorothy Wilson, Ann Magee and Clyde Rogers - was amazing.

The sheer honesty of the group in calling for unified region was I thought quite positive in as much as it was clear that without a unified, focused voice it may be difficult to bring together the delivery needed by the year 2011 when Auckland will host two of the biggest events in the history of this country, the America's Cup and later the Rugby World Cup final. These events will attract the biggest number of visitors and expenditure in the history of this country.

As the follow up letter to delegates from the Committee for Auckland, the Growth and Innovation Advisory Board and the Auckland Regional Economic Development Forum says, the breadth of engagement and goodwill around the table was unprecedented and made for an exciting mix.

So what happens next? As outlined by the Symposium Chair, Michael Barnett, the follow up is underway. The output from the symposium is being analysed so the ideas are captured and the symposium partners have already briefed the Minister for Economic Development Trevor Mallard. The international review team is drafting a report due at the end of this month.

Working from this report and the analysis of the symposium's output a draft action plan will be prepared. Next month delegates will respond to the draft and contribute to its fine-tuning at follow up workshops. By the end of July the agreed Action Plan for Auckland will be finalised and the task of implementing it, and ensuring it contributes to New Zealand's economic transformation, will begin.



MI-M4 Attached at pages M1 to M4 is the background theme papers which pose many questions and challenges and the follow up letter. I would like all Councillors to take some time to read the material of this outstanding workshop that brought unity and focus to our future.

I will publish here at a later date the follow up materials including the final action plan. In the meantime I ask your commitment to make my fictional article a reality. Because only we hold the answer. Only we, and I mean elected members, can drive this with the energy and passion it deserves and must have. Just think how wonderful it would be.

THE FUTURE OF WATER

Lately I seem to be almost a prophet of doom with global warming looming high on the agenda of our lives but it's not just me. A new book just released in the US and Britain cites water, as if we didn't know, as one of the most endangered resources on this planet. And that spells huge problems for all of us. I know you will say well, that's nothing to do with us here in New Zealand but I don't think we can ever think that small, even if we wanted to.

The book is by British scientist and journalist Fred Pearce and is called *When The Rivers Run Dry*. It's chilling stuff. Let me just give you a quick overview.

Pearce, a long time editor of *New Science*, is also a mathematician and when you start reading his point of view, supported with astonishing facts on the use and misuse of water, the message sinks in. It takes 40 gallons of water to grow the ingredients for the bread in a single sandwich, 265 gallons to produce a glass of milk and a staggering 800 gallons for a hamburger. And that's just lunch. Pearce says it takes 25 bathtubs full of water to grow the scant 9 ounces of cotton for a shirt. There are 650 gallons of water in a pound of cheddar cheese.

The worst news yet is that water is fast going from the planet. Rivers such as the Yangtze are running dry. The Colorado hasn't got to the sea for the past 10 years and the Rio Grande, that legendary river, essentially dries up 1000 kilometres from the sea near Al Paso. The Nile has stopped flowing into the Mediterranean and little water is now coming from Pakistan into the Arabian Sea. The Yellow River in Northern China, one of the world's longest rivers, is now dry for much of the year and so are the farms on each side. So what is happening?

It's a lot to do with global warming but also the overuse and misuse globally which is draining the water tables. American users are among the highest water users in the world but they have stabilised consumption in recent years. Unlike the Canadians who have not changed one iota and are the number one domestic users of water in domestic homes.

Because the rivers are running dry farmers are pumping water out of underground supplies, tapping fossil water thousands of years old which in turn is lowering the water table. Alarmingly the planet, and its inhabitants, is going to be in serious trouble in the years ahead.

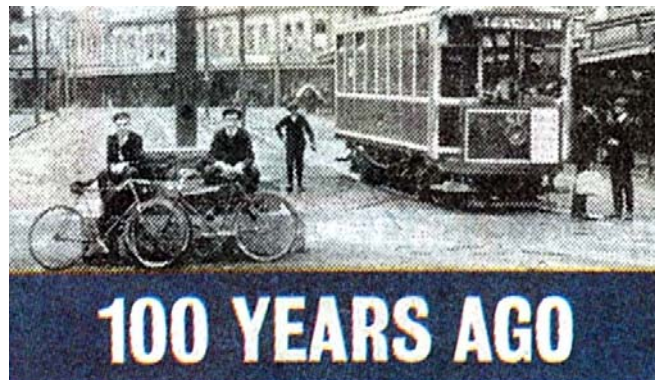
No one knows exactly what is going to happen to rainfall with global warming but it is changing its patterns, as is the experience in New Zealand. Southland and Canterbury are suddenly parched and scorched. Indeed it seems the dry places will get dryer and the wet places wetter and that includes New Zealand.

When the Rivers Run Dry is a fascinating book with dire warnings for all of us and I urge you to visit your local bookstore to get a copy.



100 YEARS AGO

As you are all undoubtedly aware this month's Metro, its 25th anniversary issue, carried a story, by me, about my friend and mentor Warwick Roger. In carrying out my research for that story I poured over dozens of old Metro editions and in this Mayoral Report I want to share one particularly pertinent piece.



No, it didn't happen 100 years ago, it happened a mere 22 years ago but reading it you could be excused for thinking it was ancient.

In January 1984 Metro ran an article by Carroll Wall (now Carroll de Chateau) headlined *Weird Times in the West. A Report From Vendetta Country.*

The intro is temperate enough:

"The West begins at the Whau River, a muddy sluggish creek that cuts behind the Avondale racecourse and beneath the Great North Road just before New Lynn. Viewed from the Whau in January the Waitakeres will be wreathed in a blue haze of heat; a place of peace and verdant beauty...."

But by the second paragraph the knife's blade is being sharpened for strike.

"But in October, when they held the local body elections, the mists hung heavily on the hillsides and the endless rain drummed up a rising panic. This is the season of divorce, suicide and drug deals gone wrong, when whining Alsatians and burglar alarms shrill through the kauri trees, alerting people of impending danger, the time when there's insanity in the air, water gathering on the brain."

The story goes on to introduce the infamous Tim Shadbolt, his history and his election as Mayor.

By paragraph 11 she's talking about the Council.

"Upstairs they're taking their corners. Councillors at the white and emerald green horseshoe of tables and chairs, unlikely and unruly crowd at the back where there's not even standing room and His Worship looking slightly sheepish in the mayoral robes a grateful citizen presented to Tony Covic on the occasion of the opening of the city centre."

"There is hostility on all sides. In his election campaign Mayor Shadbolt had referred to many of his councillors as 'the National Party in mufti,' called their development programmes 'Think Big', a touchy phrase these days, and ridiculed their swank new headquarters, the poncy Daimler and even the town clerk's wig."

"As a result a large proportion of the council has reacted with a mixture of stony silence, a defamation writ and an off-hand 'Yes Minister' approach to the new mayor's appeals for coaching in protocol."



“It’s all stirring stuff and just what some of the people of Waitemata wanted when they voted for Shadbolt. For too long, three whole years in fact, Waitemata city had been boring, stuffy and dull.

“From anywhere but a Western viewpoint former mayor Tony Covic’s demise would be difficult to understand. After all, the city had, under his guidance, enjoyed that which is rare in the West – three years of peace and progress. Finally, after 107 years of bickering, the new city centre had been built and citizens no longer had to travel to Greys Ave in central Auckland or the Henderson borough to pay their rates or get a dog collar.”

At the end of this particular section of the article we are then treated to...

“In the first 11 days the new mayor will go on five protest marches; deputy mayor Stanic will tell councillor Gary Taylor “If you don’t shut up I’ll drag you outside and fill you in,” and works committee chairman Ron Manuel and Taylor will actually swing at each other in the council car park and be forcibly restrained by Mayor Tim who has felt it wise to enlist at the local gym to hone up on his boxing skills.

“This is Vendetta Country.”

And so we have the sentence and sentiment that gave the article its headline.

The journalist then goes into a long explanation of the western mind and how best to understand it. She talks about who had come to the area, the artists, the doctors, lawyers and architects, the entrepreneurs; admen, publishing executives, wine company managers and finance men.

She discusses weird events and happenings in what she describes as isolation.

“Miriam and Tim Shadbolt’s house in Annison Ave, Glen Eden, five minutes from Don Oliver’s Fitness City is an imitation of those desolate subdivisions. But as the mayoress says: “It’s better than living in a packing case at the commune at Huia.” That’s just how they lived for three summers. These days, whenever the Shadbolts head south west beyond Titirangi, Reuben, the eldest, begs not to be taken to Huia.”

The story goes on - and on. We meet Assid Corban, Ian McHardy, the Waitakere and Portage Licensing Trusts and Dail Jones. Last but not least the reporter makes mention of an unscheduled election handout bagging the candidate who won the election with a massive majority.

The story makes entertaining reading but that’s not why I’ve decided to rehash it here. After reading it I just couldn’t help but think Metro was talking about a totally different place in a totally different time. A different planet even. We might be in the same “shenanigans” building but the west these days is a completely different beast, as is the Council.

These days westies have a sense of place. With the formation of Waitakere City, “the west” has been transformed. Waitakere City has revolutionised the term “westie” to become synonymous with “proud”, individual” and “sophisticated” people who possess a vision for a new kind of doing. In so doing, the City has become a leader in the evolution of Auckland and New Zealand culture and has built an international reputation for its commitment to being a truly sustainable 21st Century City.

In just a few short months we will move into the new Waitakere Central complex which signals the City’s coming of age as a modern 21st Century City with its heart in Henderson.

We will be gone from this building that has seen so much. It’s kind of sad because this Council building has been the set for so much more than shenanigans. It’s seen the formation and continuation of a true partnership with Maori and it’s seen many, many decisions made with ‘what’s good for the west’ top of mind. But in many ways it’s not sad at all. The move signifies a coming of age and a change of pace for this City.



And I think we should all be very proud of that. This Council and its modern predecessors have shaken off the shackles and stigma of the old 'wild west' and helped create a City people are proud to live and work in.

In doing so we have conducted ourselves with dignity and style and anyone who knows us, this organisation and this City who while at the doctor's or dentist's accidentally picked up the Metro edition I am referring to in this report would quite simply not believe the reporter was talking about the same place. And that's a good thing.

MILESTONES

Obituary

Audrey Fenton passed away at the end of April and I attended and spoke at her funeral at the Selwyn Village Chapel on 3 May. Audrey was a truly remarkable woman who more than deserves her place as one of the west's pioneers who have made a huge difference to the lives of people in our community.

She was an architect of change and single handedly ensured the construction of an internal wall at the new Waitakere Hospital which had not been on the plans to ensure older adults recovering from ill health, including strokes, had a private place to eat and thus retain their dignity.

Audrey worked extremely hard for many community groups but was especially active in the health field and the wellbeing of older adults. As a result of Audrey's efforts there are many people in this City, me included, who would never use the words elderly or pensioner in describing older adults. In Audrey's mind, and she was correct, the words 'older adults' acknowledged older people were adults, not children, and that they deserved respect.

She also helped established the local branch of Al Anon which gave support to the friends and family of alcoholics and worked hard for people with alcohol and substance abuse issues through Wolfe Home. Audrey wrote two books on health and helped establish the Wellbeing Network which was a mechanism to ensure close partnerships between all the local health and community organisations including the Council.

I am currently liaising with the hospital to organise a tree planting in remembrance of Audrey and her good work and to acknowledge her life. It will need to be a serious tree because Audrey was a serious woman who never lost her passion for making things work. I am sure you will join me in attending that ceremony sometime later this year.

In the meantime our thoughts are with Audrey's children Shane, Nicola and Karen, her grandchildren Samuel, Alec and Daniel, her three great grandchildren, her extended family which includes former Councillor Annette Fenton and her many friends and work colleagues.

M5

Attached at page M5 is the Serenity Prayer featuring a photo of Audrey which we recited at the funeral which was, while sad, a real celebration of Audrey's life. Her casket was brought in to the chapel to the tune *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* and taken out to *I am Woman* - both entirely apt for Audrey who will be sorely missed.

Goodbye

It was with sadness we farewelled Warahi Paki on Monday, 1 May but I don't think we will have seen the last of him because Warahi has a permanent place in this Council's heart and I think the Council will always be in his.

Warahi has been with the Council for more than 15 years and I am sure we all have many fond memories. He has played a very important role here and we have a lot to thank him for including our wonderful name, Te Taiao o Waitakere, and our stand out partnerships with Maori. Warahi leaves us to take a new path in property investment and I know you join with me in wishing him all the best.



Congratulations

Carley Lockie from St Dominic's College in Henderson is one of four students from the Auckland region who have earned recognition for their outstanding efforts to improve our planet. Carley and her environmental colleagues were selected by the Auckland Regional Council to attend the Sir Peter Blake Trust Youth Forum which is jointly sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment and the Sir Peter Blake Trust. This year's forum focused on sustainable urban design and storm water and electronic waste recycling with the emphasis on 'learning by doing' which saw delegates go on field trips to waste recycling plants, storm water recycling facilities and mobile phone companies. They also attended a number of workshops and seminars and by all accounts Carley and her colleagues came back bubbling with ideas.

Carley is the St Dominic Environmental Captain and has helped to organise tree planting, litter reduction and seminars to increase student awareness of the environment. She now wants to restart her school environmental group and would like her new school gymnasium to be built with a variety of environmental features including solar energy. We wish Carley well in her endeavours and I am sure we will hear a good deal about her and her work in the years to come.

Hobsonville

Last month I attended a presentation about Hobsonville Land Company's proposed development of the former Hobsonville airbase site and it's exciting stuff indeed.

The company is a subsidiary of Housing New Zealand and the aim of the development is to be accessible and affordable to the entire community while also responding to the urban growth issues currently facing Auckland. The development will illustrate how good urban design and affordable housing are compatible with commercially-driven land and property development.

Hobsonville Land Company is currently looking at options for the 165 hectare site and wants to work collectively with this Council and others in the area as well as key stakeholders to make the development a blueprint for future urban growth in the region.

The presentation was also attended by Auckland's other three Mayors, Sir Barry Curtis, Dick Hubbard and George Wood so the interest and goodwill is already there. It's this Council's proposed changes to the District Plan that have set the stage for this development.

While details are still under wraps the development is expected to take into account the site's special characteristics, particularly the foreshore and cliff-top environments, the heritage and the deepwater access. Best practice in urban design is a given and the development will aim to meet the community's needs for employment, community and cultural facilities.

Sustainability and environmental concerns will be top of mind and the development's 3000 units will be a mix of densities including apartments, townhouses, stand-alone housing and mixed commercial / residential. It will also have an integrated mix of high, middle and lower income housing providing opportunities for modest income households to own their own home and support affordable housing provisions in Auckland. Careful design of internal road networks and connections with the region's transport infrastructure will also feature and special consideration will be given to waterborne and other public transport.

M6-M11 Attached at page M6 to M11 is a selection of slides from the presentation for your perusal.



A Heart for Henderson

M12-M13 While we, and many others, know we are definitely doing the right thing by revitalising Henderson it is nice to have external or third party endorsement of that so I was absolutely delighted when I picked up the Listener a couple of weeks ago and saw the heading, *A Heart for Henderson*. While the article focuses on the architecture of the new library there are also plenty of accolades in there for our work in revitalising Henderson to date and our vision for the future of this City, I have attached the article at pages M12 to M13.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY