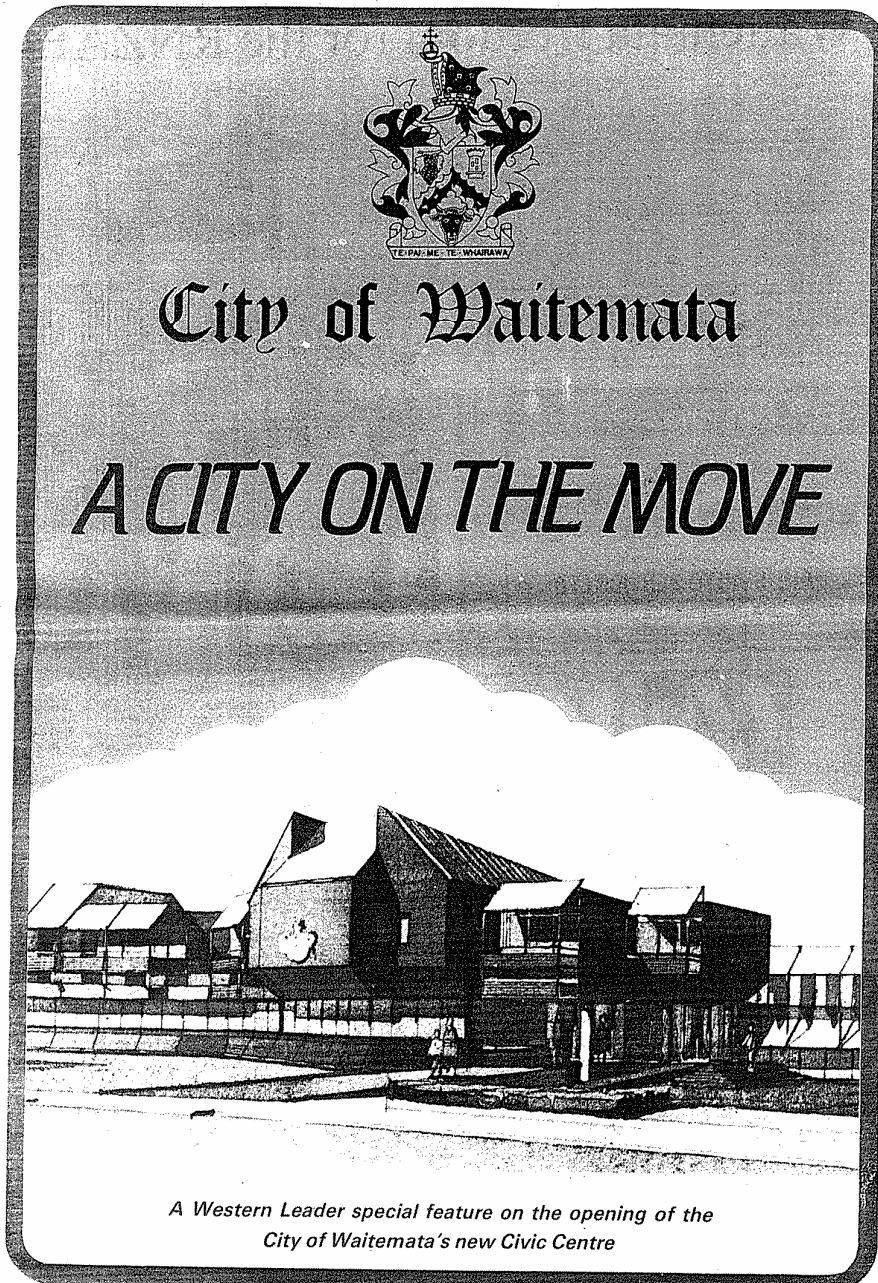


# Council

## Farewell to No.6



**Wednesday, 26 July 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, 26 JULY 2006, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

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**PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

**FAREWELL TO NUMBER 6**

*M1-M5*

Well, here we are at the last Council meeting to be held in this Chamber, this building. It's an historic moment and I know many of you have been feeling the significance of leaving somewhere where so much has taken place. I know I certainly have. And of course, as you know, when I feel something I am often compelled to find some kind of prop that can more adequately express those feelings and thoughts. And so in this Mayoral Report, the last to be tabled in this wonderful chamber, I have attached at pages M1 to M5 a number of historic articles from two Western Leader editions in July and August 1983, 23 years to the month, when the Waitemata City Council moved from the John Henry Centre in Henderson to its new headquarters in Waipareira Avenue.

I went to the opening ceremony then and remember with great fondness the celebration. When I returned a year later it was the celebration of the donation of much art and significant toanga. It was disappointing when I became the Mayor to find much of that had disappeared into the ether and only a few pieces remained. And so over the past 14 years with Naomi McCleary we have brought together a substantial and worthy art collection that goes beyond the kind and generous gifting from our Sister Cities.

I would like to acknowledge Naomi for filling our Chamber, corridors and foyers with superb art - either borrowed or bought from our local artists - which forms the basis of a very fine Civic collection. Adding to that I have managed to find from obscurity the wonderful sculpture of wood and forged steel by Peter Sauerbier that was, I think, mistaken for a coat rack. It's a beautiful piece.

The Waipareira Avenue building was designed by the best architects of the day Warren and Mahoney, still a superb practice. Christchurch based, they had embarked on an expansion of their practice in Wellington and Auckland and this building was one of their dazzling example of fine industrial architecture, Crown Lynn brick and cantilevered floors for which it rightfully won a medal or two.

The \$4 million complex with five levels was opened by the Governor General Sir David Beattie on Saturday, 6 August 1983. The opening was also the occasion for the granting of the freedom of the city to the Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Auckland and 800 airmen and women participated in the ceremony. The citation was promptly lost and a new one had to be issued in 1996.

Waitemata finally had its own home within its own territory for the first time in more than a Century. Since the early county days the Council had had a number of premises but none of them "out west" before it came out to Henderson, a suburb with its own Council and Mayor that was never comfortable with Waitemata in its territory.

City growth said then Mayor Tony Covic, and the high cost of remaining in the rented John Henry Centre, were the main reasons for the shift. Rentals were more than \$200,000 a year. The Western Leader carried many letters against the move and so nothing has changed in all those years. It's interesting to see in the coverage a photograph of Sir Tom Skinner in conversation with the Waitemata Deputy Mayor, a very young looking Bob Stanic.



This Waipareira building sat alone with no development but, across the road, the controversial vehicle testing station that would be such a prominent battle ground between the future Mayor Shadbolt and Covic.

Reporter Geoff Dobson, who later went on to become an editor, wrote in those non-PC days "A woman's voice is heard more frequently in the Waitemata Council these days and it's not about cosmetics, clothes or families either. The women are taking an increasing role in council business and politics". There were four newly elected women and the only woman department head was City Librarian Diana Bassett. In an accompanying photograph we see the City Treasurer's secretary Jean Andrew and the typing pool head Fia Tui and we congratulate them both for lasting the distance.

It was not lost on the ratepayers that the cost of servicing the \$4 million building loan equalled about \$10 per ratepayer per year. In those days there were 31,000 ratepayers. And all seemed to be very anxious to have a tour of the building with 25,000 visiting it in its three open days. The Council flew its new flag for the first time when it was opened and that Waitemata crest moved easily and seamlessly into Waitakere. The Council in those days had 250 staff which included PEP workers, all based in the one building. A social club was formed and the staff asked for a dance floor and bar, pool table and indoor bowling mat.

If you think all of this happened a long time ago you are right the adverts of the time are interesting too: At a Waitakere Licensing Trust tavern and restaurant a dinner cost \$6, the '8 O'clock' was still being published (as was the Auckland Star) and a 26 inch National television cost \$1399. Flash Dance opened at the Westside the weekend the new building was opened.

Over the years I've reminded Councillors about our history and just how rapidly we have grown. Waitemata was really the seeding ground for the City of Waitakere. It was the first to consolidate its own identity and although it had the highest electricity charges in the country housing was the least expensive. Schools were then numbered at 46 - 32 primary, six intermediate and eight secondary - but there were few facilities and that started the terrible descent into crime and an image of struggle street. It was very clearly town and country. The semi rural areas were considered Piha, Titirangi and the craft industries were situated by City Decree in Waiatarua, Huia and Titirangi. The biggest visit on the calendar was to the Auckland Lion and Tiger Safari park in Massey and / or Leisureland, the Te Atatu land fun park.

By 1985, two years after the building opened, less than two thirds of Waitemata's residentially zoned land had been taken up. The total area planned by the Council for housing was between 10 and 11 percent of the City and the proportion zoned for industrial and commercial use was a mere 1 percent. And that started decades of problems.

Eighty four percent of Waitemata remained rural or recreational including the water catchment area which was a forbidden zone and out of bounds to the ordinary Joe. Ninety percent of our City's dwellers lived in the urban area of the east. Massey had seen the greatest concentration of growth the modern era in New Zealand. With little more than 1000 people at the time of the 1966 Census it soared to more than 6500 by 1981 and got itself its own TV programme, surprisingly enough called 'Massey', and its future. Further development was planned for a population of 20,000 by the end of the century. How wrong they were.

So Waitemata was New Zealand's second fastest growing city and presented the new Council in its new building with headaches of drainage, sewage and land subdivision. All of this came together in this building and if they got a lot wrong with statistics and underestimating the growth I think they got a lot right.



And the “they” of course brings me to the point that there is no Council building anywhere that doesn’t have a history of people and this building is no exception. Sometimes the battles have been intense and often quite damaging not only to the combatants but to the City’s reputation. The bitter battle which finished in a legal challenge between Mayors Covic and Shadbolt is one of the more memorable scraps of the 80s. The taunts over the testing station, the baleful fiasco and the missing Mayoral Chains and Robes were legends in the west. The two terms of the energetic and charismatic Mayor Shadbolt were a roller coaster ride and the battles in the Mayoral Lounge and car park were astonishing and a sad indictment to what was permitted in those days. When the City was formed in 1989 the Henderson long term Mayor Corban must have been seen as the peacemaker after the years of turmoil. He served one term before I arrived on the scene.

There have simply too many people as Councillors, staff, officers to mention but I want to acknowledge each and every one of the men and women who have served the Council in their own way. You have supported democracy in the west and thank you for getting us this far.

And so as one era comes to an end with the moving from this building I foreshadow a new era for Waitakere. The new building lifts our vision and our agenda. It signals that this City is now a major player in the region for business development, retail and enterprise. This grand old building we are leaving has been functional and personally one of the finest I have worked in. I will miss this Chamber and I will miss the warmth and atmosphere of the building at night which I’ve always found fantastically comfortable. I will also miss the lighting, the stairways and the flow but I won’t miss the damp and the overcrowding. I hope my desk by the window by the front door has been a welcoming site of a working Mayor.

## **WAITAKERE CENTRAL**

*M6-M15* And so the next Council meeting will be in our new chamber and complex. As you can see from the pages attached at M6 to M15 it is already attracting favourable media interest, as is the City as a whole.

Planning for our opening ceremony and celebration on Saturday, 2 September 2006 is well in hand. As you know John Newick is organising the Grand People’s Parade and he tells me the response from people wanting to take part has been fantastic.

The parade will start at the Corban Art Estate at 10.00 am and make its way around Alderman Drive, Ratanui Street and finally into Rainside Avenue. I am hoping the Prime Minister will arrive by train at the Henderson Station just before 11.00 am where she will be met and shown around the building. The opening ceremony will begin in the Civic Square at noon and following the speeches and formalities there will be a variety of entertainment. Our major parade sponsor is Genesis Energy and I am very grateful for the company’s support. Also to be thanked are The Trusts who are the main sponsors of our Grand Laureate Dinner. Our other sponsors are Westfield, Canam, Infratil, Waitakere Properties and Babich Wines and they too have our many thanks. It’s at times like this you know who your friends are and I am proud to say this City has many good ones we can rely on.

## **REFERENDA**

The response to last month’s Mayoral Report and my suggestion of holding referenda has been nothing short of phenomenal. Indeed, as I told the Western Leader, I have had more support on this than anything I have put up in the past two years. The bottom line is, and it’s a very clear bottom line, the public wants more involvement in our decision making process. Indeed they are relishing the thought and I am really looking forward to the report due back before Council, hopefully soon, and the ensuing debate which I think will be very robust and interesting.



## MILESTONES

### Obituary

Ruth Cole's mother Joan passed away this month. Ruth is one of Waitakere's finest artists and I was very disappointed I couldn't attend the service due to an engagement I could not miss.

Joan was born in India in the days of the Raj. Her father was the secretary for one of the big trading companies there but died when Joan was just four years old. Joan's mother took her back to England where they lived and where Joan went to school and later trained as a beautician. When the war broke out Joan joined the army wanting to be assigned to anti aircraft guns but her small size precluded that and she went into the royal Corp of Signals. Assigned to intelligence, Joan tracked German operatives and the messages she picked up went to the specialists to be de-coded. In 1956 while on a cruise Joan met a dashing young officer, John, who she married the following year. After several years in Wales where Ruth was born the family moved to New Zealand and Whangarei. They moved to Titirangi in 1987 and then on to Huia in 1995.

Joan was an integral part of the local community. She was a member of the Country Women's Institute, loved her gardening and craft work and was a great writer. Her major talent was her art work and she encouraged Ruth with this, the results of which are now obvious. A conservationist, Joan worried about the loss of habitat for many of our native species. Our thoughts are with Ruth and the rest of her family at this sad time.

### Obituary

It is with great sadness this Council acknowledged the passing of Lorna Sunde of Oratia, wife of the late Councillor Gordon Sunde and mother of Rex and Lance. Extremely well known, respected and loved in Oratia, Lorna was born in Kaitia, the daughter of gum digger Vincent Lucich. Lorna met Gordon at the Yugoslav Club not long after he had returned from two and a half years in what was then known as Yugoslavia. Gordon and Lorna were married in 1954 and moved to Glengarry Road in Oratia in 1958. They moved to Gordon's family orchard in 1968. To Lorna family was everything and one of her grandchildren commented shortly after her death: Gordon was everyone's but Nanna was just ours. A very well read woman Lorna considered the family doctor. She had an incredible knowledge of herbs and vegetables, vitamins and minerals and when someone fell ill the first port of call was Lorna. Lorna is survived by her sons and five grandchildren.

### Obituary

Sadly, the husband of former Community Board Member Betty Hanson, Bill, passed away on 16 July aged 92 years. Bill was a founding member of the Karekare Surf Lifesaving club and was a highly respected member of the Piha Memorial RSA. Quite simply Bill was a wonderful man who loved his community and did everything he could for it. Our deepest sympathies are with Betty and the rest of the family.

### Congratulations

Entrepreneur, exporter and our very own local Business Hall of Fame member Ken Stevens has been appointed the Business Champion for Export Year 2007. The appointment was announced by Economic Development Minister Trevor Mallard and Trade Minister Phil Goff. Ken is the founder, owner and executive chair of Glidepath, a world leader in airport baggage handling and sorting systems. The company was the Bank of New Zealand Waitakere Business Awards' Supreme Winner in 2005. Glidepath has its main headquarters in Glen Eden with subsidiaries in Sydney, Shanghai, Toronto, United Arab Emirates, Dallas and Santiago.



In making the announcement Mr Mallard says Export Year 2007 is aimed at improving New Zealand's long-term export performance as the Labour-led government works to grow more firms that are competitive in international markets. "This is part of our agenda to continue to transform New Zealand into an export-led, innovative and high way economy. Mr Stevens has extensive and widely recognised exporting experience and expertise and we are confident he will provide crucial private sector leadership as our government works with business in the development of initiatives for Export Year 2007." So are we. Congratulations Ken.

### **Congratulations**

The Trusts Stadium took top honours in two categories at the prestigious Property Council of New Zealand Awards winning the tourism and leisure property sector and the Energy Efficient Award. The awards formally recognise the innovative design value of the building and the contribution it makes to the local community. The judges were extremely impressed with the high levels of community use as well as the multi-purpose nature which allows it to transform from a sporting arena to a world class events and entertainment venue in just a few hours. They also commented on the innovative thinking used in the pre-design, design and operational phases which ensure energy efficiency is maximised to keep the stadium's overheads down and its impact on Waitakere City's water and energy resources is minimised.

These two new accolades are further endorsement of the world class standard that The Trusts Stadium and Waitakere City are setting in our public buildings. On behalf of all of us I congratulate everyone involved in the award and in our stadium.

### **George Ward Reserve**

I would like to thank the local community of Sturges Road who decided to honour the truly wonderful George Ward by renaming Harvest Reserve George Ward Reserve. George is one of life's great characters - a returned veteran and, I might say, a very spry 91 year old. He is a joy to know - helpful, kind and with a great sense of humour. And for 60 years he's watched over Sturges Road. An orchardist, George would employ up to 14 locals at his property which went from Sturges Road right through to the Babich property. He sold the orchard in 1977 and after his wife died 40 years ago George brought up his three daughters as a single parent. The small but important memorial wall in the reserve acknowledges this wonderful man and I would like to thank the Councillors and Community Board Members who joined me to acknowledge George, his life and his contribution to his community.

### **Chief Executive KPIs**

I am happy to report the Key Performance Indicators for the Chief Executive Officer for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 were set before the start of the financial year. It gives the Chief Executive Officer clear direction as to where Council sees the focus for the organisation to strive towards. In setting the KPIs a robust process was undertaken with workshops held with all Directors and Council and it was very pleasing to note we had a set of KPIs to set the scene for the coming year. I wish to thank the members of the Performance Review Committee for the work they have done in this process.

### **Selling Up**

Along with MP Chris Carter I was honoured to open Kiwi Valley which grew out of Old McDonalds Farm and has become one of our most successful tourist enterprises. I have always enjoyed visiting Kathy and Larry Park, and their family, at the Kiwi Valley in Henderson Valley Road so it is a bit sad they have decided to sell up and move on. However while we will miss the Parks I am sure Kiwi Valley will continue to be an important part of Waitakere City. For sale by tender Kiwi Valley offers prospective buyers a unique proposition - 18 acres of freehold land with current tourism, educational and equestrian businesses operating. I am sure you will join with me in offering Kathy and Larry our thanks for all their hard work and wishing them well for the future, whatever it may hold. I am sure it will be something interesting.



### **Goodbye Dwayne Crombie**

Waitemata District Health Board ECO Dwayne Crombie has resigned citing the complexities of paper work and I would think the weariness of battle. I regard Dwayne with great fondness and very high regard. He has been a tireless worker for the west and Waitakere and I truly believe his influence has been felt. Dwayne is moving into the private sector as Managing Director of Guardian Healthcare and we wish him well for the future.

### **Goodbye Cliff Edmeades**

Cliff Edmeades has retired from Rutherford College after 17 years as the school's principal. Cliff has overseen some major and very significant innovations at the school. He says being part of the Te Atatu community has been an extraordinarily rich experience and that the mix of people, and the aspirations they have for their youngsters, has been a source of real pleasure and a driving force for good in the school. Cliff has decided to retire and we wish him and his family a very happy retirement.

### **Hello to Sofia Kereru Witten-Hannah**

All of us have been enthralled and delighted by the extraordinary duo Heartstrings which plays at various Council events so I thought you would be pleased to hear this news. Heartstrings comprises the outstanding cellist Natarani, daughter of the well known peace ambassador Laurie Ross, and Sasha, the guitarist, is the son of Alex Witten-Hannah of Karekare. Their daughter Sofia Kereru Witten-Hannah was born at Waitakere Hospital weighing 7 pounds 12. Congratulations Natarani and Sasha and we wish you all well.

### **Happy Birthday Labour Party**

It was my pleasure to join the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, local MPs, Party President Mike Williams and around 1000 other guests at the New Zealand Labour Party's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations earlier this month. The party, featuring a wealth of local entertainment talent, was a real celebration and Helen Clark's speech can only be described as visionary. All in all a big celebration and a very good day.

### **Something You Should Know**

You may have seen the media coverage of the launch of Alloy Yachts' latest gigantic vessel. Definitely sizable but believe me that's the way it's happening. In yesteryear there were only yachts - small, sleek sea chariots, the ultimate plaything for the rich and famous. Then came the super yachts - twice as large with spiral staircases that seemed like the interior of the Hilton Hotel. We have been building many of these in Waitakere. They have all the luxuries any human being would love - hot tubs and helipads. And if you look at the ads and videos there's always bevy of beautiful women somewhere on board. In fact if you want to be truly envious pick up the magazine Luxury Boating from a magazine shop.

Then came the mega yachts - vessels that could only be described as super yachts on speed with lavishness that would make Arab sultans blush - marble bathrooms, glass elevators and garages that can easily fit in Rolls Royces or, if war broke out, a small tank. When I was in China recently with a group of boat builders from Waitakere a wealthy Chinese billionaire talked up the possibility of 10 massive mega yachts for sale complete with a house and mooring on Chinese lakes. A package I would think irresistible to the new billionaire class coming out of China.

We have now arrived at a place where the largest privately owned boat now spans 158 metres and in yachting terminology is "fully loaded" with on board helicopters, submarines, movie theatres, missile detection units and golf ranges. Rafts in the event of a violent storm or hurricane are stored nowadays on "dinghies" which are kept on 10.8 metre tenders. Essentially you have a boat in a boat in a boat.



This grow, grow, grow your boat is now the world's biggest shipping craze. And so a new name has been coined. These mega yachts are gigayachts and at this year's cruise industry convention the first 189 metre yacht, a private vessel longer than two football fields, is ready for order.

The gigayacht is somewhere between the world's largest yacht and a cruise ship. And they are being ordered like never before. One hundred and sixty five are now under construction and that means nearly a billion dollar increase in sales. Americans are the world leaders in the purchase and charter of big yachts and brokers internationally are acknowledging it's hard to get excited now by any yacht under 20 metres. It seems the boom in yacht ownership is coming from the growing numbers of dot com and Telco billionaires. Russian and Chinese owners are now queuing up to own them too. Surprisingly, it's the German ship builders leading the gigayacht revolution followed by America and Italy with the Netherlands close behind.

And so I am hoping that some of all this will rub off for Waitakere. After all we have made a reputation for ourselves as seriously good and really I think the future of Waitakere's boat builders looks very rosy.

### **More You Should Know**

As you know I was recently in London and couldn't help but notice media coverage over new proposals being considered by London Boroughs that could see parking fines soar. Indeed penalties could jump from 100 Pounds to 120 Pounds in the City centre, from 80 Pounds to 100 Pounds in outer London and from 60 Pounds to 80 Pounds for offences in Council car parks. Fines for traffic offences such as blocking yellow box junctions or ignoring one-way signs and driving in bus lanes could also leap to 120 Pounds.

The proposals are being considered by the Association of London Government which represents 33 Borough Authorities and the Mayor's Transport for London which controls parking and bus lanes on main roads. Needless to say reaction to the proposals was quick, strong and angry. I must say I was pleased not to be on the end of that criticism and I also couldn't help but compare those charges to our \$3 charges for all day parking in Henderson.

Things you should know that could kill you

*M16-M18* I am sure you will be as interested in the attachment about bird flu at pages M16 to M18 as I was. In fact I am sure it will cheer you up.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

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