

Council

**Wednesday, 27 September 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, 27 SEPTEMBER 2006, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

An Inconvenient Truth

Of all our platforms Waitakere should be most proud of our commitment to the environment and the eco city principles. I do not want these ever to be compromised because they have been at the cornerstone of what we do and who we are.

My inspiration to make this happen and to create an eco city was from Al Gore and his book *Earth in the Balance*, a milestone in publishing and a major multi national best seller. Published in 1992, shortly before he was elected vice president, *Earth in the Balance* explains the world's ecological predicament and describes a range of policies to deal with the most pressing problems. It's about rescuing the environment, includes a plan to avoid future ecological disasters and contains the memorable line from Al Gore, "we must make the rescue of the environment the central organising principle for civilisation".

Gore's final paragraph in the book says: "For civilisation as a whole, the faith that is so essential to restore the balance now missing in our relationship to the earth is the faith that we do have a future. We can believe in that future and work to achieve it and preserve it, or we can whirl blindly on, behaving as if one day there will be no children to inherit our legacy. The choice is ours; the earth is in the balance".

Earth in the Balance is an inspirational book that had a profound effect on my thinking. To that end I invited Gore to New Zealand and Waitakere in 1994 and again in 1996 however his political commitments always seemed to get in the way.

I consider Gore to be one of the great prophets, realistic and objective about the state of the world and our environment. I have linked with him through the international seminars of International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives and the Hawaiian Mayors for the Environment, hosted by the former mayor of Honolulu, Jeremy Harris. At all these seminars we had video conferencing links with the vice president and I got a chance to talk with this remarkable man.

Now Al Gore reinvents himself with the book and movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. I saw the movie with Dick Hubbard and a team from Auckland City at the recent film festival and now the movie returns as a mainstream attraction coinciding with Gore's major international best seller of the same name.

An Inconvenient Truth is a major reminder all is not good with the planet. The World Health Organisation says climate change is already responsible for killing 150,000 people every year. The Inuit, who have 100 words for 'snow' will soon have no snow at all. In large areas of Australia drought is an almost permanent condition. Glaciers are melting faster than even the worst pessimists had though possible. As the Arctic tundra melts, methane trapped in the ice is released, adding further to the volume of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The oceans were once thought to be excellent carbon sinks cue to plankton and other sea creatures that absorb carbon dioxide, but now the rising acidity of the oceans means the entire marine ecosystem is more unstable.

Just look at these facts and figures. The warmest year on record was 1981. Until 1998 that is. Then 1999 was the sixth-warmest year on record. 2001 became the second warmest year on record until the following year, 2002 which became the second-warmest year on record. 2005 was the warmest year on record.



What all that means is the planet is definitely heating up. But wait, there's more. In 2002, the year New Zealand ratified the Kyoto Protocol, Antarctica's Larsen B ice shelf, previously stable for 10,000 years, broke off. The collapsed area spans 3250km square and is 200m thick. In 2003 Europe had its hottest summer on record with at least 35,000 people dying in the heat wave. In 2005 Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans. The intensity of the storm was thought to be exacerbated by warmer ocean temperatures due to global warming. Nearly 2000 people died and damage is estimated at more than \$US80b.

And so it makes sense to take heed of *An Inconvenient Truth*, even if George Bush refuses to read the book or see the film. Indeed, the movie is a multi-media show detailing the dangers of global warming is the most important film of the year. As *The Listener* review says, "you'd need to be brain-dead (or the owner of a US auto company) not to come away from this film without a change in attitude about the environment".

An Inconvenient Truth spells out the real danger that confronts us in ignoring the warning signs of the planet. Gore, in remarkable sequence, uses a cherry picker to keep track of the rising graphs on a massive video screen. The lines rise vertically towards the ceiling of the conference hall and they spell doom if we can't reverse them.

In seeing the movie (I'm taking the fabulous youth council shortly), I think people will realise there is a lot more we can do. If Gore has raised the issue it's over to us as politicians to start showing some leadership.

And so I reprinting here Gore's, and *The Listener's*, tips for saving the planet.

- **Change a light bulb:** Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent one will stop the production of nearly 70kg of carbon dioxide a year;
- **Drive less:** Walk, cycle, and carpool or use public transport. Every five kilometres you don't drive stops production of a kilo of carbon dioxide;
- **Recycle more:** Recycling half of your household waste saves the production of more than 1080kg of carbon dioxide a year;
- **Check your tyres:** Proper tyre inflation can improve your car's mileage by up to three percent;
- **Use less hot water:** Washing your clothes in cold water reduces the production of carbon dioxide by 230kg a year. Better still, install a solar water heater;
- **Avoid products with lots of packaging:** Cutting your rubbish volume by 10 percent reduces the production of carbon dioxide by more than 500 kg a year;
- **Adjust your thermostat:** If you have central heating and / or air conditioning, lowering the thermostat by two degrees in winter and raising it by two degrees in summer will reduce the production of carbon dioxide by more than 1000 kg a year;
- **Plant a tree:** A single tree will absorb more than a tonne of carbon dioxide in its lifetime;
- **Turn off electric devices:** Don't leave your television on standby. Turning electric items off completely when not in use reduces the production of carbon dioxide by thousands of kilos a year.

There's nothing really new in this advice. We in Waitakere have been talking about, and doing, this kind of thing for many years now and that's something I am particularly proud of, as we should all be. But there is still much, much more to be done and it's now desperate.

Which brings me to the road map for Auckland that's unfolded for us in the recent month. I'm referring of course to START and the Digital Earth summit. These two initiatives are partners in *our* inconvenient truth. They are intelligent blueprints on what is needed to guide us into the future.



Let me start with START - Sustaining the Auckland Region Together. START is a collaborative programme between the eight local authorities in the Auckland region and central government agencies. The programme also draws on considerable expertise from the business, community and research sectors. The outcomes of START will help align and coordinate government effort and create a set of strategic directions for the regions' long-term future.

Achieving the goals listed below will contribute to the vision of a sustainable Auckland.

- **Liveability** - making sure the Auckland region in to the future is a place where people find it easy and enjoyable to live;
- **Resilient** - building systems to support our day to day living which can deal with uncertainty and cope with the shifts and shocks we will face in the future;
- **Prosperity** - being rich in the things we need to be happy and content;
- Ecology / Living with nature - taking more care of the living systems which support us and passing them on to future generations in better shape.

Forces for change have been identified that will impact on the framework by identifying foundation topics or themes and shaping responses - demographics, climate change and natural hazards, technology, resource availability, globalisation and world views.

Seven themes - built environment, infrastructure and urban form, energy, economic transformation, cultural diversity and community cohesion, social development and environmental quality - were integrated during the workshop designed to ensure all the elements that contribute to a sustainable region were considered together and the synergies and tradeoffs clearly identified.

It was a truly great workshop with an incredibly full programme and we worked on furthering developing the framework of high-level sustainability principles and goals that will help inform regional decision-making and provide the foundation for the Regional Growth Strategy review.

A regional package of responses and refined framework will now be developed and reported back to the Regional Growth Forum, participants, local authorities and government agencies before the end of this year.

I was at the workshop for its duration and I must say I was disappointing to note the absence of mayors and elected representatives.

My next assignment if you like was the Digital Earth and the 2006 New Zealand Summit on Sustainability which was innovative, smart and beautifully presented by Richard Simpson and Auckland City.

The summit brought together the leading international thinkers in technology, innovation and sustainability who are working to protect our earth and minimise waste of our increasingly natural resources. It was designed to assist industry, government, research and IT leaders to appreciate how the mountains of valuable data about our environment which currently languish in 'silos' can be better used in the quest for environmental sustainability.

M1-M35 The calibre of the speakers was nothing short of superb and Prime Minister Helen Clark made an excellent opening speech noting the summit had a mix of very big picture, expert scientists with a global perspective and leading edge thinkers in technology. She also said she had been fascinated by Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth* and that it was a sign of the effectiveness of Gore's crusade on global issues that his film was packing out movie theatres around the world and raising awareness about global warming. I have attached her full speech at pages M1 to M4. I urge you to read it. It's a very important speech, made at a very important summit at a very important time for the planet. I have also attached at pages M5 to M35 the workshop's programme.



If you put these projects together with the Metro Project you start seeing an unfolding picture. Then you will realise these have been the driving factors in the recent debate over the reorganisation of regional governance in Auckland. It seems to me we have had many projects in the past decade with merit and wisdom but very little has come from them. Now with START there has thankfully been a call to action. It may be for some a little too strong, overheated and too heavy handed but at least it's lifted the debate and made its voice heard.

Last year a series of three well attended meetings on regional property and business land were held in North Shore, Rodney and Waitakere. It showed what was available and the potential not only of land but of economic development. This is what I'm talking about when I say the end effect was almost nil. People felt their contribution was made and that was all that was needed. Well not in my book. That round of dialogue and discussion came to a grinding halt with the reality Waitakere had little land for future business expansion, a mere three percent of office space and a very slow market. The governance around these findings also left a lot to be desired which is why I have been initially enthusiastic about the talks, which came about out of a want and need to make Auckland a truly 21st century city where infrastructure is in place and things work. It's also been about leadership.

Waitakere Central

Now it's done and the city has a new face. We have the premier council building in New Zealand, beautifully designed and sustainable and we owe a great deal of gratitude to the previous council's foresight in making the decision to move to Henderson. I'd also like to thank you, the present council, for supporting it so strongly.

The opening celebration where our community came together following a fantastic parade was a great success and I thought the Prime Minister was wildly enthusiastic about our city, our progress our culture and our future. She said that over the years she had been privileged to open other fine facilities for Waitakere including the Massey Library, the aquatic centre and The Trust Stadium. She added it was no surprise to see the new council buildings also reflecting Waitakere's eco city vision and that the complex was in itself a powerful statement about the importance of sustainability.

A few thank you's must be made

To our sponsors The Trusts, Genesis Energy, Westfield WestCity, Infratil, Waitakere Properties, Babich Wines and Canam Construction. Your support was very much appreciated and I feel proud to have companies and organisations like you as an integral part of this community. Special thanks to Warren Flaunty, Ross Clow, Brian Corban and Justin Lynch, our speakers on the day and who were an integral part of the ceremony's success.

A huge thank you also to John Newick, Brenda Brady, Elizabeth Grimmer, Elsa Vujnovich and Jacqui Newick who in a very short space of time pulled together a terrific People's Parade. It was just so fantastic to see all those community groups taking part and so many people watching. There really was excitement in the air and people thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I felt it was entirely appropriate to express our thanks to this small group of people officially hence at this month's council meeting I am presenting citations to John and his team. I am sure you will join with me in sincerely thanking them for their hard work and outstanding effort.

M36-M42 I have attached at pages M35 to M42 a small selection of the letters of congratulations we have received in terms of the opening ceremony and the Laureates' Dinner. Clearly people were impressed by our efforts in this regard and what we have achieved in this city.

To that end I would like us all to really utilise the chamber and complex to showcase our city. The chamber can be used for meetings, conferences, seminars, movie screenings - the list is probably endless and I would encourage all councillors, community board members and officers to keep it in mind as a superb venue. Indeed, the chambers were turned into a superb restaurant on the night of the Laureate Dinner and everyone was impressed with how fantastic it looked.



Milestones

Obituary - The King and Me

King Taufa'ahau Tupou died in Auckland on September 10. The king was a big man in stature and in terms of how he ruled. King Taufa'ahau also had a big support base and his people were fiercely loyal. His 41 years left a deep imprint on Tonga's history because he did not accept his people should be backward and poor. The king left New Zealand for the last time from Whenuapai, our city, as his mother Queen Salote did in 1966. As I was in Wellington on the day I missed the farewell so thank you to Councillor Cooper who attended in my absence and to the staff who also attended. I have expressed our condolences to the Waitakere Pacific Board.

Let me tell you my two stories about my encounters with this interesting monarch. In the 1960s I was courting a young woman whose stepfather was the Tongan representative in New Zealand. On his regular visits to New Zealand the king would stop in for dinner. He was then younger, fitter, but still a large man and the chairs in the house were all reinforced with steel bars under their delicate French woodwork as no-one could be sure which chair the king would choose to sit on. The owner of the house and the chairs complained bitterly that it had cost him a fortune to strengthen all the chairs for the 35 stone monarch. I remember a very spirited evening which coincided with the French testing in Mururoa which turned the Auckland sky a bright pink. I was pleased the king took to task his host who was very pro the testing and the Americans who were still mopping up in Vietnam. The king and I shared a like of surfing and there was a photo in the obituaries of him doing just that. He told me he had "blasted through" to get the small wave break necessary and his board was a 12 footer to carry his weight.

The next and last time I met His Majesty was while I was on holiday with my wife and kids in Tonga. It was New Year's Eve and poked under the door came an invitation to attend a welcome in the New Year function at the palace. Without a suit or even a tie the guests at the Dateline Hotel begged and borrowed from the genial hotel staff. It was a strange array of oversized clothes and we duly presented ourselves to the palace around 10 pm. The band on the lawn played hit tunes from Gilbert and Sullivan and My Fair Lady and the crown prince, even in those days, was resplendent in Sandhurst uniform totally covered in gold braid and medals. He seemed pleasant enough.

M43-M44

I owe the king a huge thank you for getting me on a reasonable writing career. On my return I wrote an article for The Listener and Tom Scott kindly illustrated it for me. It was entitled The King Throws a Party and I was hugely pleased with the praise that it got including a call from Warwick Roger who was starting a magazine called Metro. On the strength of the article gave me a 15 year contributor's contract. I have attached the article at M43 to M44. It's not the best reproduction but you will get the picture.

A Totara has fallen

At the time of this report going to print we had just heard the very sad news of Sir Hugh Kawharu's passing. Sir Hugh's death is another big loss for Maoridom and indeed for the whole country. Because I was in Australia and couldn't be at the tangi I sent my heartfelt sympathies with the council representatives and I will pay full tribute to this great man in my next mayoral report.

Leaving

It was sad to receive a letter from Peter Garelja, the principal of Waitakere College, advising he was leaving at the end of October to take up a new position as principal of Tikipunga High School in Whangarei. Peter has been a great friend of this city and while he is leaving I do understand his reasons. Peter wants to be at a low decile school so he can work as an educator and where he thinks experienced principals should consider using their expertise. He sees Tikipunga as a good opportunity and I agree with him. I was pleased to hear Peter has enjoyed his time at Waitakere College and he has certainly done a fantastic job there. Like all of us, Peter recognises the special collaborative nature of the Waitakere community.



I would like to share with you the lines from a Robert Frost poem Peter quoted at the bottom of his letter to me which he says articulates his reasons for going. I am sure he won't mind.

*"The words are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep."*

All the best for the future Peter and don't be a stranger to the west. You have made a huge contribution to this community and you will most definitely be missed.

Coming Our Way

Everyday Communities is a new programme to address the issue of child abuse and family violence which I am going to help launch in Waitakere next month via a two day workshop. The two drivers of this campaign are Helen Jones and Caroline Everard. Helen is of course coordinator of the WAVES Trust and Caroline is council's new Family Violence Prevention Facilitator. Both of these women have worked, and will continue to work, hard towards the cessation of violence in our society and their efforts are to be applauded. They are keen to see Everyday Communities work in Waitakere and I am very supportive.

M45-M57 Developed by Child, Youth and Family to raise public awareness and prevent issues of child abuse, neglect and family violence the programme recognises all New Zealanders have a part to play in preventing child abuse. Everyday Communities was developed in 2001 and it was piloted that same year in Whakatane. I am attaching at pages M45 to M57 a research document for your information.

Everyday Communities is introduced to a community through a public meeting or hui that invites local community groups, iwi and other interested parties to learn about the programme and that's what we'll be having here on October 16 and 17. Following that a working party will be formed to shape the programme's direction based on the community's needs. The objectives are public education, community capability and capacity building and to promote networking. From what I have seen Everyday Communities is a resounding success and I am looking forward to having it operational in Waitakere. I am sure you will join with me in thanking Helen and Caroline and I urge you to try and attend the workshop next month. Details will be distributed closer to the time.

One People One Planet

M58 I am on the advisory panel for this organisation and I think it has come up with a truly fantastic idea to give peace a chance. The school's programme will encourage children in our city, and elsewhere, to talk via the internet with children in other cities around the world i.e. Henderson High pupils will email Kabul College pupils. Ranui kids will talk to kids in Baghdad. A global network of kids talking about peace. I'm sure you'll agree with me there's lots of potential here and as a founding trustee of this extraordinary initiative I am going to ensure our schools have the opportunity in this, a city for peace, to develop a world network vital to the future of this planet. I have attached at page M58 a one pager on the organisation and the idea. Please read it.

Congratulations

To our very own animal control officer Mu Kaleta who became somewhat of a media hero when he chased a teenager who had knocked down an 83 year old woman to steal her handbag. Mr Kaleta caught up to the young assailant but then had to deal with an associate and suffered several punches to his face. While the associate 'escaped' Mr Kaleta managed to hang on to the alleged offender who was then taken into custody. Police said Mr Kaleta's efforts in terms of helping his community should be recognised and I agree.



New Zealand Fire Service Update

I recently had an update from the New Zealand Fire Service on community outcomes for the 2005 / 6 year. Fire-fighters have been active in four streams of work - fire prevention advice and education, technical advice, operational readiness and incident response and recovery.

In Waitakere communities the following activities were completed:

- 426 presentations to schools, groups and members of the public on fire prevention and advice;
- 397 clients given technical advice regarding fire behaviour, fire protection, building fire design and evacuation schemes;
- 5,988 operational readiness activities completed - any activities relating to maintaining skills, equipment and meeting the service's obligations to wider emergency management with other public agencies;
- 2181 incidents attended including nearly 1000 fires, 273 hazardous emergencies and 202 rescue / medical emergencies.

They sure have been busy and we are truly appreciative of the work the New Zealand Fire Services does and the results it achieves.

Waitakere City Orchestra Trust Concert Series Saturday August 26 A Concert Review

I am so very proud to have met Brigid Bisley in 2002 at the Hardware Café one wet morning and to listen to her idea for a Waitakere City Orchestra. Her determination and fortitude were so strong I was captivated and equally determined to help her make it happen. And it has.

Thanks to The Trusts and the championing of Ross Clow we now have a city orchestra to be truly proud of.

Bisley is not only a conductor with style and absolute professionalism; she is a composer of worth. In a geographical area where we don't get a chance to hear opera or see ballet and dance - and where all movies are only blockbusters - we are not exposed to the richness of the arts. It's all *Snakes on a Plane* and 10 pin bowling. Thank goodness for the rich oases of Lopdell House and Corbans.

Waitakere City Orchestra's concerts, three a year, are at the revamped and superb Glen Eden Playhouse. The house is rarely full but the audience is always knowledgeable about the programme and hugely appreciative. Councillors, despite the offer of free tickets, don't seem to be that available which is a pity because this orchestra is a window into the world of fine music and a great experience that only happens with live and rich sound.

The opening piece - a wise choice - was the *Overture to Rosamunde*, the only opera from Schubert. It seems the opera was disastrous and little remains except the evocative and beautiful opening featuring some really magnificent music. It let the orchestra feel its pace and get into the richness of the evening, a pleasure to hear.

Glimmer of Blue, a work by Bisley, has some fine shimmering sound and shows how capable she is as a composer, holding the section together and lifting and floating the melody in a weave of pure sound. What makes the work outstanding is the sound of the bell like chimes of the vibraphone played by soloist Jasmine Chen. Composed at Te Henga in 2005 *Glimmer of Blue* shows just what we have musically in our city.



Beethoven's *Symphony No 6 in F Major Op 68* concluded the evening with some of the best playing of this important work. The Playhouse has great acoustics and the *Pastoral*, with its famous stormy fourth movement, lifted the roof. It was an overture spring for the audience and a pleasure to listen too.

Ms Bisley conducts as if she loves the job - strong and totally in control. She is professional and I think a major composer in this country. I feel she is over looked, as we often are being from the west, and that should end. Please support the orchestra. Tell your friends. Give yourself, and them, the pleasure of real, up close and personal live music - a true treat.

**God Willing
And
Weather Permitting
Malcolm Hahn
A Review**

The mercurial and passionate Malcolm Hahn is a Herald Island local and a not unreasonable bloke. He's also a good writer of issues and submissions and his leadership in establishing the Guardians of the Upper Harbour is a great legacy and tribute to his fortitude and triumph of endeavour.

He is also the author of a small and important brief history of Herald Island and the Upper Harbour. It's an excellent guide to the area, full of interesting facts and characters. Mr Hahn knows the area like the proverbial back of his hand and his research has taken him down many creeks and up local waterways. It's told with style and a very easy pace. His collection of historical and recent photographs are well reproduced and a joy.

This work adds a most valuable piece to the Westie history and I can't thank him enough for getting it out and about. But I do have some advice to Mr Hahn. Your work has just only just started because this work needs to be turned into the book which you are very capable of doing. We need more information and answers. What's the history of the wreck? How big? What happened to the early settlers? We need early maps and records of the area.

M59

As an historian with time on his side and a good editor (I'm up for the job) we could see a superb, rich book emerge from this research. So congratulations Mr Hahn and it's back to the libraries and the musty maps and birth and death certificates for you. In the meantime I urge my council colleagues to call Mr Hahn to buy a copy of *God Willing and Weather Permitting*. It should be a best seller and signed by the author, worth a fortune on Trade Me. I have attached at pages M59 a copy of the front cover.



Caption: Activist, saviour of the Upper Harbour, well known letter writer and now author Malcolm Hahn.



RECOMMENDATION

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY