

Council

**Wednesday, 29 November 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, 29 NOVEMBER 2006, COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM.**

PART B - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

OUR FABULOUS NEW AWARD

It's official - Waitakere is the most "liveable" city in the world. On 13 November 2006 Waitakere was declared the winner of the "Liveable Community" award in the United Nations backed LivCom Awards at a ceremony in Hangzhou, China. The awards are the only ones in the world which focus on Best Practice in managing the local environment.

As well as receiving the gold medal on "liveable", Waitakere was also a silver medallist in the Environmentally Sustainable Project Award for our work on the legislation designed to protect the Waitakere Ranges from further unsustainable development.

Our entry was an overview of the policies and programmes. The city has to ensure all sectors of the community can participate in the democratic process while harnessing the community's energy and ideas to deliver results that make for more pleasant, more sustainable and more enjoyable neighbourhoods.

M1-M5 These two medals are a huge endorsement for the policies and programmes we have delivered over a decade and are extremely good news which I have been shouting from the rooftops. So has local MP Lynne Pillay who moved the House to congratulate Waitakere City Council for its fantastic achievement. Thanks Lynne. Lynne has also congratulated us via a letter which is attached at pages M1 to M5 along with letters from the Hon Tau Henare and the Hon David Cunliffe.

This is all about smart thinking and innovative ways of dealing with the effects of population growth, crime, increasing waste volumes, stormwater, traffic etc. Smart planning and involving communities in everything you do. What we've been doing for years is now becoming mainstream and this award is recognition of the fact Waitakere is a world leader in sustainability.

Each and every Councillor can be very proud of what has been achieved in this wonderful city and I would like to thank you all for your support. I would also like to thank former councillors who were very supportive as well as all the staff who worked on the award entry. In particular, thanks to Ann Poulson, a lifelong westie and very smart woman, who was contracted to lift Waitakere's eco profile by researching the appropriate international award programmes to enter and to prepare the LivCom entries and make them so exceptionally good the judges wouldn't go past them. She certainly did that and they couldn't go past them. Thanks also to Councillor Penny Hulse, Graham Campbell and Sue Bidrose who travelled to China to formally present the entries and bring back the awards.

As I was never picked for the All Blacks or an Olympic team I have a somewhat jaded view of awards, trophies and medals. However, these are important for a city's vision and endorsement. The signal they send out is enormous. They evoke pride, commitment, success and economic and social development. We are also being judged by our peers and these international awards do not come lightly or easily. I feel truly proud of the past and what we can achieve in the future.

UP THERE ON A VISIT

I recently attended a wedding in Malibu and the trip coincided with the mid-term elections in the United States. This rather strange event takes place mid-term for the Senate, government positions, sheriff - a mixed bag of elections if you like. Unfortunately these elections precluded me from two catch ups I wanted to have - a visit to Huntington Beach, our longstanding sister city and with long term friend Jerry Brown, one of the most interesting and charismatic politicians in America.



Jerry and I go back a few years. I was very impressed with how Jerry, a Mayor of Oakland, brought together a very complex community with high unemployment and crime and with a most difficult council. Thanks to an introduction I had lunch with him and we immediately sparked as politicians do. Since then whenever I've visited America I've made it a point to catch up with him.

Until Arnold Schwarzenegger, Brown had been one of the most colourful, unpredictable and I would have to say glamorous governors and mayors in memory. He was of course always the cover boy for national magazines especially when he was with long term girlfriend Linda Ronstadt - they were a major American item. Brown left the governorship of California in 1982 and his post-gubernatorial life was charismatically erratic. He ran for president, went off to India to work with Mother Teresa, served as a state Democratic Party chairman and was always on the radio as a talk show host. For the past eight years he's occupied the Oakland Mayor's office and in that time crime is down more than 30 percent, new housing units for more than 10,000 people have been approved and are either built or under construction and several excellent schools have been established. As I say, I was sorry not to be able to catch up with him because he was too busy being elected Attorney General. Jerry will be no friend of the governors and he certainly isn't washed up.

But back to the wedding. A couple of politicians attended and so I got a feel for what was going on in California and a feel for America and its dilemma over the war in Iraq and the muddle that America feels it is in. You might ask what has this got to do with Waitakere and New Zealand? Well, I believe, it has got a lot to do without future direction and that was clear at the Al Gore visit which I will come to later.

Right now the only two countries that have not signed the Kyoto Protocol are Australia, the bag boy of America, and of course the United States. This is serious. There is no commitment to our future, not from our nearest neighbour or from the world's most powerful nation which is being led by a former alcoholic posing as a president. If you think Helen Clark and her Government get a hard time from the media here, the media in America leaves no stone unturned on anyone or anything. And certainly not at this time when the body bags continue to make their way home from Iraq. But it's the presidency that is really the issue and whether the president is wetting his lips or not they say he might need the all purpose alcohol excuse simply to get out of the public doghouse he now finds himself in. It might work for Mel Gibson but it certainly won't work for George W. This is one of the worst leaders the world has ever seen and it gives no credit to other leaders who I have personally had respect for like Blair and Howard to have joined in this evil charade of deceit and manipulation.

Many of us who, through the Vietnam years protested and were pushed, shoved and beaten in our streets and universities - and who now watch documentaries and read how the world was - were simply never told the truth or the reality of the situation. Believe me, the same is happening with this horrific war in Iraq with invisible weapons of mass destruction and a mindless target against terrorism and terrorists which in its essence of course cannot be faulted but which can never be resolved as there is no enemy that can be seen or exposed.

While this is going on the seriousness of global warming is rapidly coming to a city near you. And that's the point of my essay. The award we have recently won is for more than a decade of commitment to what is now dawning on people around the world. We are now experiencing a global awakening that something must be done and the eco city was founded on the same guiding principles. I have unrelentingly focused this city's leadership, in good times and bad, on that objective. It is a massive tidal wave picked up by our own Prime Minister and now by Kofi Annan.

I was originally inspired about the environment by the great conference of Rio and one single book - *Earth in the Balance* by Al Gore, the man who proudly tells his audience he was once the future president of the United States. And so he should have been. He was anointed for the job, his credentials were impeccable and the job was laid out for the brilliant senator from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was at the forefront of the global initiative and his studies at university had alerted him through a series of magnificent mentors that something catastrophic was happening to the planet and its global atmospheric temperature.



Gore was smart, articulate and brilliant. And yes, he blew it. His criticism, either intentional or perceived by the American voting public, and his reluctance to ask Clinton for that precious and absolutely essential ingredient of endorsement turned the election of Bush and Gore into a narrow two horse race. Although it's widely believed the election was stolen - and if you believe American investigative journalists simply rigged for Bush - the gap was too narrow and many global strategists blamed Gore for Bush and his now bizarre and appalling leadership not to mention his mad pursuit of Saddam and Osama who, for the record, are not terrorist buddies but sworn enemies.

So when I received an invitation to attend the Gore Auckland presentation I was of mixed minds. I want to cheer him on for all and everything he has done for the environment but I also see he gave away a great opportunity to advance the global strategy for environmental issues and awareness. Gore is larger than he appears in photographs and in his movie, the widely acclaimed *An Inconvenient Truth*. In fact he's carrying what you might call a few extra pounds. He was accompanied by his wife Tipper and had just returned to Auckland from a weekend in the Far North. He was effusive in his praise for New Zealand, its Prime Minister and our commitment to environmental issues, especially carbon neutrality. The audience was made up of politicians, academics and business community leaders. Gore praised the former Prime Minister Jim Bolger - they were neighbours in Washington for many years - and then proceeded for an hour and a half to *Earth in the Balance*, a combination of his movie and his work in the past decade on global warming.

It was a fascinating and very stylish presentation. He's obviously come back from the wilderness - political derision from his own party - and bounced back to his old stomping ground of environmental leadership. For a politician it must be good to be acknowledged, awarded and applauded and need I add forgiven.

As some councillors might know, I've been working for the Clinton Global Initiative in my role to identify New Zealand leaders to attend a New York three day event the president calls and facilitates. Clinton's initiative is different from Gore's work in that it's about the movers and shakers with either pledges for global or local projects or international long term strategies in terms of making the planet a better place. This year I talked to some of our top business leaders to get their buy in to the initiative and attend the event in the future and next year I am hoping New Zealand will have at least six representatives. I am greatly honoured President Clinton holds us, a small country, and my professional and personal contacts in such high regard.

In conclusion, we need to come to terms with what we are all about here in Waitakere. We need to realise we have embarked on a very big investment in leadership. We have been able to lift the game far more than any other city in New Zealand. The recognition is there and will continue to come but we need to make our own investment both a social and economic reality. The next step is going to be much more difficult because yes, the penny has dropped. Government and our communities will now demand we start delivering the solutions. And those solutions are going to take a huge mind shift because much change will be needed. People will need to clearly understand the old wasteful ways are no longer acceptable. There simply must be alternatives and a new world emerging if the planet is going to survive. The news is beyond bad - it's absolutely terrible - and where it's really telling is economically. The forecasts are for the most horrific collapse of the monetary system because of the consequences of abuse of the planet's resources and although some countries have sat back waiting for this to eventuate, thinking it will happen in the next two centuries, it will happen possibly in the next 20 years.

Icebergs floating past Dunedin, horrific winds, floods, landslides, snow on Canberra's hills in November and the coldest November day in Melbourne for 100 years... The list is getting longer and longer and it's the beginning of the realisation that the future is here and she's mighty miffed.



WHENUAPAI UPDATE

As you are undoubtedly aware, Rodney District Council and North Shore City Council voted to join us and international airport operator Infratil to form an airport company to progress our Whenuapai proposal and for that, we owe them our thanks.

I must say though that I am very disappointed at a group of North Shore councillors who continually pick away at the validity of a shared airport base. Indeed just last week there was a move to overturn the decision to join with us which, thankfully, was unsuccessful. As Mayor Wood pointed out at a recreation conference a few weeks ago, more than one million people will soon live in the vicinity of this airbase.

When I return from Wellington on the 4.00 pm flight it takes me one and a half hours to get to this city or into Auckland. That speaks for itself. And as you heard me say a million times, Whenuapai is already a fully functioning airport with hundreds of military flights every year. But it is under utilised. There are many examples here in New Zealand and overseas where military operations run side by side with commercial flights and forming this airport company means that this option can be fully explored.

As well as economic benefits for the North West of the region commercial flights at Whenuapai will bring airline competition and cheaper travel. And with 500,000 people living within 15km of Whenuapai it is much more convenient for thousands of travellers.

With the Auckland Region promoting itself as a 'world-class' city, it's a little ironic that it is the only such city to have just one airport.

A poll taken across the Auckland Region shows that overall 53 percent of people support the idea of commercial air services running at Whenuapai as soon as possible, compared to 15 percent who oppose the idea.

The main reasons for supporting the concept are better access, facing less traffic congestion and cheaper airfares. It's a no brainer really.

MILESTONES

90th Birthday

I attended a party at the Piha Bowling Club to celebrate Betty Hanson's 90th birthday and Betty was in fine spirits and certainly still knows how to party. About 100 people attended the celebrations which were as much about honouring Betty and her contribution to this city as her birthday. Betty was on the Waitakere Community Board from one year after community boards came into existence and was on the New Lynn Community Board in its inaugural year. A Piha legend, Betty was also a very early surf club member of Karekare with her husband the late Bill. Over so many decades Betty has been totally dedicated to the Piha community. Many of the speakers talked of her love of Piha and the extraordinary amount of time and energy she has given to that beautiful slice of heaven. The council and community boards join together in wishing her a very happy birthday.

Waitakere Pacific Board - Annual General Meeting

There's nothing like a Pacific Island event to foster incredible community spirit and a sense of pride in all things Waitakere and that's exactly what it was like at the Waitakere Pacific Board annual meeting on 31 October. The Council Chamber was absolutely packed and resounded to the much singing and dancing. The food was abundant and truly magnificent and a great evening was had by all.



The meeting really was a symbol of the continuing interest and enthusiasm of Waitakere's Pacific people to participate in Council activities as well as developments relevant to them and it was clear they wanted good leadership to take them forward. And of course that's what they got. Very good leadership indeed.

Taha Fasi was elected Chairman, something I was personally pleased to see because Taha, who is Niuen and a company owner, has been involved with the Board since its inception and has achieved a great deal. He has been advocating the need for consistency in the development direction for Pacific communities and maintaining the positive working relationship with the Council.

I am very confident Taha will continue to do an excellent job as chair and he certainly has a high class team to help him.

Vaoga Mary Watts, a Samoan, was elected Deputy Chairman. She has been a past member of the Board and has been heavily involved with Pacific safety as well as Pacific women development issues. Charles Enoka is the Treasurer. From Kiribati, Charles' ethnic group is the latest to join the Board and he was acting Secretary before being elected Treasurer. Charles brings financial management skills to the table as well as his experience in working in the community.

The new Secretary is our very own 'mama', Enea Wichman, from the Cook Islands. She brings the voice of the Pacific Arts Centre based at Corban to the table to ensure the board continues to guide and provide practical support in the development of Pacific arts and cultures as key economic development initiatives. Reverend Sione Faitala who is a Niuen minister of the church is patron. He too brings high level skills, commitment and experience.

In addition, nine members were elected to represent the nine Pacific nations of Niue, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Fiji, Tokelau, Tahiti and Kiribati and nine champions to represent each of the sectors of economic development, education, health, social services / housing, churches, youth and sports (2), justice / police and non government organisations.

I am sure you will join with me in congratulating and welcoming the board members who I believe will do an absolutely outstanding job.

History Comes Alive

The story of Crown Lynn was once more brought to life in a packed Council Chamber on 30 October 2006 with the launch of Val Monk's book *Crown Lynn: a New Zealand Icon*. This book is visually stunning and beautifully records the pottery produced by the company which grew from making sewer pipes for Auckland to crockery for the nation. Anyone living in New Zealand from the 1940s to the 1980s has Crown Lynn memories. Today the remnants of Crown Lynn crowd the shelves of student flats, baches and second hand shops. Once taken for granted and sometimes sneered at, Crown Lynn pottery is now recognised and valued.

The book launch was a celebration of our home grown ceramics industry and included one ex-Crown Lynn employee, Mrs Bebe Cowdery, who started work as a 16 year old in the 'Specials Department' in 1942. Members of the Clark family were in attendance including Sir Tom Clark's widow Lady Clark and family, Tom's son Geoffrey Clark and his wife Brenda, Tom's sister-in-law Connie and nephew Tom Clark. The event was well attended and local history advisor Robyn Mason, and library staff, are to be acknowledged for their support of this publication and for organising the launch. It was a wonderful event.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Richard Aston from Titirangi and Big Buddy for his Vodafone New Zealand Foundation 2006 World of Difference award. Richard is one of five extraordinary recipients of the World of Difference programme and as we all know he more than deserves this recognition. The programme gives passionate people the chance to make a real difference to their favourite child or youth-related cause and means the Vodafone New Zealand Foundation will cover Richard's salary and expenses for a year. Richard aims to expand the big Buddy Mentoring Trust which provides positive male role models to young boys in the Auckland region around the North Island and eventually New Zealand. Richard is a wonderful man, does an incredible job and I am personally delighted he has received this accolade, and financial assistance. I am sure you join with me in offering congratulations to Richard and to wish him well in his future endeavours. It's men like Richard, a true friend of this city and Council, who makes a real difference in our community, I guess a world of difference, so the Vodafone programme 'judges' were spot on.

Langtons on Lincoln

A real highlight of the month in review was the official opening of the new Langtons on Lincoln. By new I mean new venture because this place has a very rich history indeed and I am confident its future will be just as bright. I want to take this opportunity to revisit the past.

Lincoln Vineyards is a family owned winery now into its 70th year of operation and spanning four generations. It was founded by Petar Fredatovich in 1937. Petar was an immigrant from Croatia who came to work the Northland gum fields. He eventually settled in the west and bought a piece of land in Henderson. From the bush, he established an orchard / vineyard to provide for the local community. Over the years winemaking became more prominent and the orchards gave way to the vineyard.

Petar's son Peter D Fredatovich established the winery to a more commercial scale and bought land in Whenuapai to start a vineyard there. Over the years Henderson became New Zealand's main wine producing region and Lincoln Rd became well known as the heart of the wine making district. At its peak in the mid 1960s there were 17 wineries producing wine for the local and domestic market and Peter was awarded an MBE for his services to the wine industry.

By the time Peter M Fredatovich took control Hawke's Bay, Gisborne and Marlborough were being recognised as more ideal growing areas and the vineyards were eventually shifted there while the winery remained on Lincoln Road. The winery expanded and a large warehouse was built behind the shop. With further expansion another warehouse was built further back and the old warehouse converted to a large barrel room. Over the years the barrel room was used to ferment and mature wine in small oak barrels while the larger barrels slumbered away maturing vintage port over the decades.

Cut to Mt Eden in Auckland where in the 1920s a tea kiosk was established. Sitting in pride of place at the top of the summit, the Mt Eden Tea Kiosk was a popular destination for tourists as well as locals. Over the years it was transformed into Langtons Heritage Restaurant catering for small private functions and Sunday lunches. Due to its unique location it was bought by the council for use as a tourist centre.

Which brings us to the marriage of Langtons and Lincoln to become Langtons on Lincoln, a timeless venue for functions. The venue has had a complete fit out of the barrel room and the kitchen facilities and, with its warm ambience and a large garden area, Langtons on Lincoln is the perfect venue for weddings, corporate functions and seminars as well as all those other special occasions.



Both of these establishments have consistent high quality and tradition on their side and Langtons on Lincoln is now making new magical moments as well as history and memories. I very much look forward to attending a large number of occasions there as I am sure you all will. I have included below a photograph to whet your appetite.



St Dominic's College Rave Review

All too often we get bagged in the west so it's always uplifting when we get a good report card and St Dominic's has certainly achieved that. The following are some of the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on the college.

"The school's special character permeates all aspects of school operations. Since the 2002 ERO review the college has had significant roll growth. To deal with this situation the senior management team has been restructured. This has ensured the efficient implementation of systems to support the holistic needs of both students and staff within this learning community.

"School achievement targets over the past three years have focused on establishing a literacy programme to raise the academic achievement of students. The school's progress with the Achieving at Waitakere literacy initiative indicates students are achieving above national expectations.

"The school has been committed to the introduction of the National Qualifications Framework and teachers have successfully implemented National Certificates in Education Achievement (NCEA) Levels 1-3. NCEA achievement across all three levels shows consistent improvement from 2003 to 2005. Subject leaders and teachers use achievement information to inform curriculum teaching and learning as well as for programme review. There are robust systems in place to collect, analyse and report student achievement data across all curriculum areas. Self-review recommendations have informed new developments and school-wide programme planning.

"Students are positive and proud of their school. They see the special character and cultural diversity as two important and dynamic aspects of the school that allow them to feel safe, valued and well supported in their learning by both their peers and teachers. Clearly defined academic and behaviour expectations further contribute to a positive learning environment where students are beginning to take greater responsibility for their own learning.

"The principal's innovative and clear vision for addressing student needs provides the impetus for school-wide initiatives. She is well supported by four capable senior managers. Strong collegial and professional relationships have ensured the development of effective management systems and these have impacted positively on the overall efficient operation of the school and improved learning outcomes for students.

"The stability of trustees over the past two terms of office has contributed to the sound operation of the board. Trustees bring a range of skills and professionalism to their roles. They work well with the principal and the composition of the board reflects the school community. The board is well positioned to report on school targets for improving student achievement in its annual report to the Ministry of Education.



“For this review, ERO and the board agreed to focus on the quality of teaching and learning, with a focus on literacy across the curriculum. The report also includes information on assessment, the achievement of Maori and Pacific students, students who are underachieving, provision for international students and how well the school is meeting legislative requirements. The report finds St Dominic’s College to be a school that caters well for students’ academic and pastoral needs.”

Thanks to Elizabeth Grimmer who brought the glowing report to my attention and to Board of Trustees’ Chairman, Dan Greig, who read extracts from the report at the school’s recent prize giving.

Little Muddy Creek Subdivision

I attended the official opening of this Titirangi subdivision last month and was incredibly impressed. It’s exactly the kind of housing development we want in this city and I am delighted the Jesse James Trust, the organisation behind it, chose us. Just 10 minutes walk from Titirangi, the development features 12 lifestyle sized sections priced from \$362,000 to \$542,000. While the marketing so far has been low key, four of the sections have been sold and building will start early in the New Year. One of the really exciting features of the development is that each property has an abundance of ball kicking, bike riding and dog roaming space and the vision is open and unobstructed. Tangiwai Reserve is just across the road and there is an area of esplanade reserve within the subdivision that is easily accessible to all.

The trust, based in Waitakere and the namesake of James and Thomas (Jesse) Wharton, Vaughan Wharton’s sons who will be involved in the business within the next five years, is also involved with two similar projects, also on Huia Road, which will be presented in the middle and at the end of next year. The trust is actively seeking projects in the greater Waitakere region and is committed to raising the positive profile of the city and providing the best possible living environment for those who choose to live in the area.

M6-M9

The Little Muddy Creek subdivision signals a new era for Waitakere in that it is of high quality but it is also affordable when compared to the greater Auckland region. More than 300 people have viewed the property and the feedback has all been positive. One of the first owners of a section in the subdivision is National Party List MP Tim Groser. I’ve attached some copies of the entries made in the visitors’ book as attached at pages M6 to M9, along with some photographs for your enjoyment. And I am sure you will join with me in wishing the trust all the very best in its endeavours.





Henderson Railway Station Opening

Brilliant weather helped ensure the opening of the new Henderson Railway Station on 2 November 2006 was a huge success. A joint Auckland Regional Transport Authority, Waitakere City Council and ONTRACK initiative, the event saw a number of dignitaries including former New Lynn Mayor Bruce McNaughton and our very own Janet Clews and Assid Corban wearing their old mayoral chains especially dusted off for the ceremonies. With the Western Leader's help we invited a number of former railway workers to the event and I was particularly pleased to meet a couple of old soldiers who had left to go to war from the old railway station including George Coughlan who kindly loaned me these old photographs.



WAITEMATA
RUGBY
1938-1939



The opening of the new station coincided with the 125th anniversary of rail reaching Henderson and the day signalled a new era in terms of public transport in the west. The new station and the double tracking were a long time coming and as I said in my speech we thought we might have to pick up shovels ourselves. But it happened and that's just fantastic. As part of the celebrations there was a wonderful exhibition of old photographs and railway memorabilia and of course Dave Harre's wonderful old steam engine and mussels. Dave worked incredibly hard on the day and I have thanked him in the most appropriate way by sending him a case of wine. Thanks also to all of those involved in organising the event. Like the weather on the day, it was brilliant. Below are a couple of photographs of the event for your enjoyment.



Generous Gesture

Inaugural Waitakere Laureate Geoff Moon has gifted two of his fantastic photographs to the Council. I am sure you will agree this is a very generous offer and one for which I am extremely grateful. A Titirangi resident, Geoff is an incredibly gifted photographer. Indeed he is considered one of New Zealand's foremost nature photographers and naturalists and has been photographing New Zealand forests, birds and other wildlife for more than 50 years. Geoff's gift to the Council is not his first generous act. As an indication of his appreciation and constant interest in the Waitakere Ranges, a portion of the proceeds from his 2004 exhibition's sales was donated to the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society. Geoff's bird pictures will be displayed in the executive suite.

Waitakere Laureates

M10

And speaking of our Waitakere Laureates I have attached at page M10 a letter from the New Zealand Society of Authors offering its support. While we did not get a great deal of media pick up for our Laureates announcement and dinner we definitely did the right thing and I look forward to working with the committee and the Waitakere Laureates themselves to leverage this association.



Off The Ground

Nearly 200 people attended the inaugural West Auckland Health Services Foundation charity event on October 26 at the Trust Stadium including Health and Disability Commissioner Ron Patterson, Conservation Minister Chris Carter, Waitemata District Health Board Chair Kay McKelvie, representatives from The Trusts, Waitakere City Councillors and a who's who of the Waitakere business community. Tirimoana Primary School headmaster Peter Kaiser was the MC for the evening throughout which a range of fabulous items were put up for auction including a weekend at Raglan beach, a week in glorious Taupo Bay and artworks from local artists. More than \$32,000 was raised for the Waitakere Hospital Centre of Compassion and that is a successful start.

Friendship Centre Trust

Waitakere's Friendship Centre Trust has won a Centre for Research Evaluation and Social Assessment award for its work in providing affordable housing. Minister of Housing Chris Carter presented the award to Lisa Woolley, Community Services Director at the National Summit - Affordable Housing in Wellington on 30 October. The trust is going to buy five houses for its latest social housing project – the *Welcome Home Programme* - having signed a \$1.5 million partnership deal with Housing New Zealand Corporation.

You know I am a big supporter of having good, affordable homes in Waitakere and this programme goes further than just providing long-term, affordable housing, as all tenants will have access to a housing support worker to help with welfare issues. It is a pilot programme and the trust hopes other organisations will be able to use this project as a model for their own community housing projects. Congratulations on your award and all the best with the programme.

Gnome No More

After we'd moved into the new Waitakere Central Mayoral Suite we watched the development of the Japanese Garden with interest and excitement. We watched the blokes doing their thing with stones, plants and sculptures and we were impressed. We watched as the garden sprang to life before our eyes and we were impressed. But the thing that really impressed and interested us was the workers' gnome. The gnome was a feature of the garden right from the start of the landscaping work and every morning, obviously after a night on the town, the gnome would be in a different place, but somewhere in the garden. Each morning as we drove to work we would wonder where in the garden the gnome would be. Sometimes he was hard to spot. Other times he was right outside the window and therefore easy to spot. And sometimes he was in pretty precarious positions - atop a tree, hanging by a wire above the pond. Yes, it was all very intriguing and so, when the garden was finished, we couldn't help ourselves but to invite the landscapers - and the gnome - to have a bit of a celebration in the Mayoral Lounge. On that night the gnome had pride of place on the mayoral table and he enjoyed, along with his mates, some beer and pizza. Perhaps the biggest surprise was that the gnome was not made of plaster (as they were in the old days) but of plastic which to be honest was a tad disappointing. However, we weren't disappointed to hear about, and later receive, a DVD of pictures taken by Peter Beveridge from HEB Civil which documents the Japanese Garden's transformation from a patch to dirt to a beautiful, peaceful space. Sadly now the blokes are gone so is the gnome. The gnome is gnome more! But we still have our memories.

George Renton

At 83 years of age George has stepped down as an Honorary Fishing Officer. For the past eight years on a voluntary basis, and in the company of other officers in the area, George has regularly patrolled the shorelines of the Manukau Harbour from Green Bay to Whatipu checking fishers and shellfish gatherers, dealing with offenders and also in an educational role. As a direct result of this dedication to preservation of the harbour environment there has been a significant drop in offences detected against the Amateur Fishery Regulations.



George was directly involved in nearly 300 incidents which would have involved the issue of infringement notices or have resulted in prosecutions. He took part in many successful prosecutions, one of the more significant involving four people in possession of more than 10 times their limit of crabs and cats eyes. George was incredibly dependable and enormously well liked and will be sadly missed.

Special Award

Clive Lightbourne of Glen Eden Primary School and who is retiring this year has been given a special award for 20 years service to environmental education and it's a well deserved accolade. Clive got a special mention at Keep Waitakere Beautiful's EcoWise Awards because since the inception of the organisation in 1993 Clive has always involved his students in its programmes. Keep Waitakere Beautiful's Moria Kennedy says Clive's work has been special and that he's been the most wonderful role model for this students. Congratulations Clive and thanks for all the hard work.

Special Commendation

It gives me pleasure to formally thank in this report, and at this the November Council meeting, founder member of West Auckland Hospice HomeCare Philip Revell who is now standing down after 20 years of dedication and service. Philip started as a founder member in 1986, has been on the Board of Trustees as secretary since 1987 and chairman for the past five years. He has steered the trust through its latest development of establishing new premises on site at St Margaret's Hospital. He managed the transition of change when his wife Beverley stepped down as Chief Executive Officer in 2001 and he has kept his and his staff's focus on providing high quality hospice homecare for the terminally ill in our community. It's been a labour of love for Philip, as it was for Beverley, and he has developed strong foundations for the future.

Redundant

The constant apologist for the Painted Apple Moth endless spray campaign, Ian Gear has, according to a clipping from the People's Inquiry Newsletter, left the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry taking redundancy as part of the staff transfer process in the new structure of Biosecurity's post-clearance directorate. His parting comments are not recorded but he is known to people in the west for his infamous 2003 television comments that he would be "happy for my children to be sprayed". I have never been comfortable with the spray campaign and I hold a deep seated belief that the effects may very well be felt in the years ahead. It's a very nagging and troubling feeling and belief. Ian Gear's parting leaves me with little regret but I guess a life of bureaucratic subservience goes with the job. It did in Russia, the Baltics and in China. It doesn't make better countries or communities.

Finally

M11

I thought you would enjoy the New Zealand Herald's 100 years ago column which I have attached at page M11 about our wonderful Waitakere Ranges. Even back then the powers that be knew the ranges were a treasure. I think Auckland's forebears would be proud of our efforts to permanently protect this "favourite resort of the people of Auckland".

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report of the Mayor be received.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY