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宁波市人民政府

Ningbo Municipal People's Government

61 Xian Qian Road, Ningbo 315000 P.R.China. Tel:0574-87279087 8/279844 Fax:0574-87186518

July 12, 2007

His Excellency the Mayor of Waitakere
Waitakere City Council
Waitakere Central, 6 Henderson Valley Road,
Henderson 0612
Waitakere City, New Zealand
Fax: 0064-9-837 3864

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

*Sharon Simione
Tracy Huggo
Richard Duncan
Daryl Griffin*

Dear Mayor Harvey,

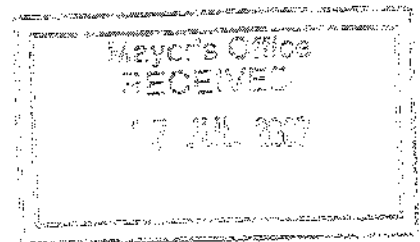
First of all I'd like to give my best regards to you.

The official delegation of Ningbo City led by myself returned to China safely. During our visit in Waitakere, you showed us the greatest hospitality and provided us with a well-planned program, which made our visit in your beautiful city an unforgettable experience for all the members of the delegation. The friendly people, attractive natural scenery, well-developed urban area and unique culture of Maori people have made a deep impression on us. Please allow me, on behalf of Ningbo Municipal People's Government and all the members of the delegation, to express our heartfelt thanks to you, as well as to your staff that provided us with positive support and assistance. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Further Exchanges & Cooperation will strengthen the friendship and turn a new page of the relations between us. I sincerely hope that I can receive you in Ningbo next year which is the year of Beijing Olympic Games and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of our sister-city relationship. We are looking forward to the opportunity of according you our hospitality.

Thank you again and wish your family good health and happiness.

Best wishes,

Mao Guanglic
Mayor of Ningbo



The Gannet

The newsletter for and about Muriwai and its surrounds.

Issue No 15 June 2007

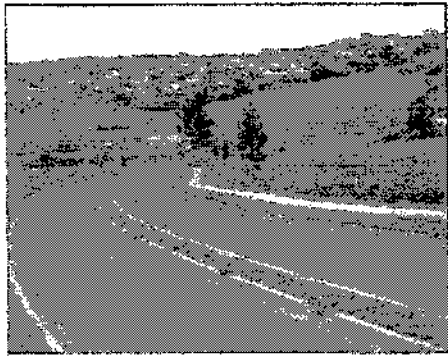
Mayors Mark Their Territory – Land Wars Out West

Headline from the Nor-West News (Thursday June 7th) - Waitakere mayor Bob Harvey wants Kumeu, Coatesville, Riverhead and Heienville in his district. But Rodney mayor John Law says most north-west residents wouldn't want a bar of it - Wouldn't we?

The Gannet polled Muriwains - and the following are some of the comments received :

- We would be happy if Muriwai became part of Waitakere. As it stands we get bugger all services from being attached to Rodney so any change would probably be for the better. Waitakere is also seen as more progressive towards a sustainable future. Bob H has done a huge amount of work in protecting his communities for future generations. J Law doesn't appear to have that focus. Other possible benefits could be the library use of Westgate. Rubbish services/inorganic waste pickup.

- Seems to me it's not about what either Mayor thinks would be best (for their organisation) but what would benefit Ratepayers the most...and that depends on what issues you think affect you and whether or not you think that RDC or WCC policies & actions provides for better outcomes.



East Coast

that. It's why we live here!

- There's no doubt WCC has a tighter set of environmental standards that I think would benefit us greatly out here and they are also displaying leadership lacking in Rodney.

- Frankly, I think RDC is dysfunctional and the benefits of being administered by WCC would be immediate and significant.

- I do not know much about Waitakere but they would have to be better than the grossly bureaucratic RDC. Muriwai always seems to be the "poor cousin" compared with the Hibiscus coast.

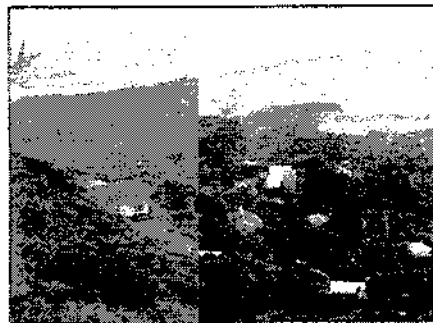
- I think we need to look at the rates that Waitakere residents are paying in Coastal Areas. At Piha, for example, what rates are they paying and what are they getting for their money? I believe they pay a lot more for no more benefits than we receive. Also how would the Waitakere District council address our current storm water and waste issue? geographically, historically and socially Western Rodney belongs in Waitakere.

- Waitakere seems the natural choice

- I strongly support Bob Harvey's bid to include us in the Waitakere electorate - after all we are part of the Waitakere ranges and the western corridor. I certainly feel much more affiliated to this part of the world than to Orewa! I also think Bob has been good for the west. After all, he shares our passion for the place and he has been responsible for many initiatives to enhance and protect it. I'm with him.

- There is a powerful argument that similar communities be treated similarly and that the West Coast of Rodney has more in common, ecologically, situation-wise and character-wise with its southern coastal neighbours in Te Henga, Piha and the Waitakere foothills than it does with those who live in Whangaparaoa

- This doesn't for a minute mean anyone or any location is better than the other, just that (for me anyway) many of us find it easier to relate to the environment on this side of Auckland rather than



West Coast

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- Waitakere has an affinity to the West Coast. We don't identify easily with Rodney as the "hub" is too far away on the East side. We identify more with the West - city and coast. And if the rates are lower and services, transport, waste disposal, improve, we could be interested.

- Waitakere - at least they have similar beaches

- Bob H is a surfer

- Waitakere Council is full of hippies

- Have they ever been asked "what's in it for us" Rodney is so flash and great at getting things done about the place, how could Waitakere be any better? Damned hard question really... maybe better the devil we know or maybe ARC could take over the whole place?

- A shift to the Waitakere council may be beneficial for the western wards of Rodney especially in regard to conservation and cultural endeavours, as long as the intrinsic qualities of this area were left intact.

- Resource consents through Waitakere can be very tenuous - best to have the devil you know.

- Waitakere care more about trees than people. Rodney has been reasonably helpful in supporting the surf lifesaving.

- Rates would double with Waitakere; administrative costs through the council will be slow and horrific ■

Simon Spiller & Angela Little

Marketing Consultant
Mob: 021 965 066

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Promise to bring harmony in Rodney District

LES WATKINS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

RODNEY COULD risk losing its regional identity if voting goes the wrong way in the October local body election.

That warning comes from former National MP Brian Neeson, who is the latest of seven candidates to declare they will contest the Rodney mayoralty.

Mr Neeson says another major failure, such as that witnessed in 2000 when a Government-appointed commissioner replaced the council, could lead to the district being carved up between North Shore and Waitakere.

"At that time Rodney almost disappeared as an entity with the blessing of the Labour Government," he says.

"There is a distinct danger of that happening if there are again problems within the council, and I don't think the present Government would object. I can say that with authority because of the close contacts I have in the Beehive after my many years there as an MP.

"Waitakere Mayor Bob Harvey, a former president of the Labour Party, also knows how this possibility is viewed in Wellington.

"So it is vital for us to have unity in the next council, because otherwise it will be torn to pieces," says Mr Neeson.

"I am confident that I have the experience and the ability to seal these cracks and to build a team that can pull together in harmony. Rates are a major issue and people have had a grumpy of them being cranked up - partly because of a growing bureaucracy and spending appearing to have spun out of control.

"Ratepayers feel their opinion is being left out of the equation. In fact, many councillors also feel left out of the equation - no longer getting the information they need in plain English. As mayor I would ensure that everybody, councillors, permanent council staff and the district's residents, are kept fully in the loop.

Mr Neeson and wife Vanessa, who have lived just outside the Rodney boundary near Kumau for 20 years, have already started house-hunting in places as diverse as Orewa, Kumau and

Waitaki. Rodney is one of the country's most desirable areas to live, Mr Neeson says.

"It's far too good to be spoiled, and I would consider it a great privilege to play a role in keeping it that way."

He feels his views are shared by most residents, and his surveys have indicated the majority dislike the possibility of high-rise buildings transforming Orewa into a version of Sarfers Paradise.

"I feel it is the duty of a mayor to pay attention to the wishes of the majority."

Mr Neeson won the Helewaite seat for National in 1996, having entered Parliament as the member for Te Atatu in 1990.

"As an MP I was extremely close to the concerns of my constituents and I battled vigorously on their behalf," he says. "If I'm elected that's exactly what I would aim to do for the people of Rodney."

Other candidates include Rick Martin, Larry Mitchell, Wayne Walker, Hans Grueber, Penny Webster, and John Kiriri. Mayor John Lee intends not standing.



BRIAN NEESON: Confirms he will contest Rodney's mayoral race.