

Council

**Wednesday, 29 September 2010
Commencing at 5.30 pm**

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WAITAKERE CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD,
HENDERSON, WAITAKERE, ON WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2010,
COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM**

6 REPORT OF THE MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council resolve to:

Receive the Report of the Mayor.

In the winter of 1991 I walked into the office of Waitakere Mayor Assid Corban for a meeting that would change both our lives. I had spent the last three months overseas after selling my advertising business. In city after city I had heard how the environment was the world's next great trend. Ideas about sustainable city development were on everyone's mind. I wanted a chance to put those ideas in place at home - to make Waitakere a city that celebrated its people, its unique Ranges and the wild West Coast. That day I asked Mayor Corban for a desk, an office and a chance to rebrand the West.

He was not impressed. I was told Waitakere was a dormitory city. It was filled with people who either commuted to Auckland or laboured in the wineries scattered around the suburbs. They weren't going to be interested in having a greenie vision as their calling card. He sent me on my way.

That moment stuck with me. Soon after I travelled down the metal road to Karekare Beach in search of direction. On an evening swim I looked back at the cliffs rising above the breakers and the Ranges stretching into the distance. I thought the West needed a leader to treasure and protect that stunning environment. By the time I got back to the beach I had made up my mind. I was going to have a go at becoming Mayor of Waitakere.

It was the start of an incredible journey. I won the Mayoralty at the next election on a platform of vision and sustainability. Few thought I'd be there long. No Mayor had been elected for more than two terms in the West.

It's now 18 years since that day and I'm finally packing my bags. There's at last a bit of time in my calendar to reflect. I find myself thinking about what these years have meant. At times this job has been incomparably fulfilling; at others frustrating and disappointing. I've felt happiness and heartbreak. There have been moments I've felt indestructible and others where I felt I would crack under the weight of the role. There has been self-doubt, strain and stress. But those have always been overshadowed by my belief in this city, its people and the vision we set in motion that day in 1992.

Right from the start I've had people alongside me to help direct my path. Soon after I was elected the first time, I was approached by Dorothy Wilson and Peter Maddison. They talked passionately about a concept they'd come up called the 'eco-city'. I thought it was a great idea. There had just been a huge United Nations summit in Rio de Janeiro on the future of cities and the idea of sustainability was on everyone's radar. I decided to take on the eco-city brand in Waitakere. It wasn't long before I was Mayor of one of the world's first unashamedly green cities.

At first people laughed at us. Many said it was all sentiment and no substance. They thought the concept was about tree hugging, rather than smart, sustainable development that works for future generations. Within days we'd started proving the doubters wrong.



After a while the jeering dwindled. Eventually it was drowned by the noise of those cheering us on.

I can look today at a City transformed from its town centre in Henderson to the thriving leafy village of Titirangi. It hasn't all been smooth sailing. The disappointments have included failing to get a Museum of Gardens in Te Atatu, a Chinatown in New Lynn or a commercial airport at Whenuapai. We've allowed Ross Britten's horrifying landfill in Swanson to keep going and we never cheered on the concept of an urban Marae for all on the shores of Te Atatu, where the ponies remain, outliving us all.

Still, our streams are cleaned and replanted from the Waitakere Ranges to the Waitemata Harbour. We are world leaders in water use, community consultation, conservation and social justice. I saw Prime Minister Helen Clark and the Governor General Anand Satynand open our award-winning sustainable Civic Centre in 2006. Soon we will see that same Governor General open one of the largest public transport oriented developments in the country at New Lynn. He will be standing in a City unrecognisable from the tired retail strips and run down suburbs of 1992. The eco city vision has been a triumph.

Its greatest legacy is our people. Their pride in this city is palpable. It was evident when they turned up in their hundreds to pull rubbish out of our water for Project Twin Streams, when they marched year after year against family violence, when they wholeheartedly embraced being a Westie on stages and screens around the country, when they took to the streets to search for our missing child Aisling Symes and finally when they pasted their cars with bumper stickers saying 'Waitakere is already a super city'.

As for me, I did what I came here to do. Those black sands and rolling hills I looked back on at Karekare all those years ago are safe. A 50-year fight to protect them from development ended when the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act was passed in 2008. In the end, the decision came down to one vote. It took not just my efforts, but the passionate support of our entire Council, a committed community and the ancestral Iwi of the West Coast, Te Kawerau a Maki, to make sure it dropped in our side of the ballot box.

Now we're here waiting for the curtain to fall. It feels like one of those old Superman films, when the world was saved and Superman said 'my work here is done' as he flew away. Waitakere would have made a great movie. It has had drama, comedy, action and even a bit of romance. Heroes and villains have come and gone. There have been more characters than you can count and more storylines than you could follow. Sometimes it's been Shakesperean tragedy, sometimes Monty Python-esque farce, but always it has been a lot of fun. It's now time for a bittersweet resolution. For some of us, there's a sequel. For others, the screen goes black.

I don't know about you, but I always stay for the credits. Because if you watch those names scrolling down the screen, you'll learn it takes thousands of people to make a great script come to life. No-one could have done it on their own.

This city has been my script. I want everyone to know I have not done it on my own. So here is my tribute to the people that made Waitakere happen. My heartfelt and deepest thanks go out to all of them. And now, my work here is done.

Roll the credits.



Politics

My first Council featured many faces from the previous Corban-led administration. They weren't particularly pleased to see me. Though I endured some tense moments at first, they eventually began to catch on to my vision. Finally the possibility of turning the West around won them over.

It helped that I saw their abilities as a key to our success. Many may have been a bit stunned at my use of circus metaphor to describe the Council, with me the ringmaster in the middle, but they ended up carrying out their tasks with considerable skill. In hindsight, it was the perfect way to start things. It showed my faith in Councillors taking responsibility for incredibly difficult roles. Many of them fulfilled their complex duties with great wisdom. They began to see me as someone to trust.

It was the start of a great history of teamwork in the West. My relationship with Councillors over the years has been exceptional. Though we have not always agreed, I've always tried to lead honestly and openly, showing my true feelings to all. In the end we've come to respect each other's positions.

There have been true friends and supporters, from Dorothy Wilson to Penny Hulse. All have been outstanding. They have anchored me with great advice and mentored me through times of great difficulty. They have forgiven me my failings and believed in my abilities. I know my wildly enthusiastic visions and demands and often unrealistic expectations have not always made me easy to handle, but they have managed with admirable patience. I hope they have appreciated our working relationship as much as I have.

It hasn't always been easy. Some still ask me if I have ever said no to a meeting or whether an angry ratepayer has ever been brushed off. I have always prided myself on responding to every phone message, fax and email. Not one writer that has written directly to me can say they haven't had a reply. No phone call has gone unanswered.

This has caused a huge workload for my Deputy Mayors, Councillors and Personal Assistants. I would like to acknowledge each of them here. I could not have done this without them.

Deputy Mayors

Dorothy Wilson; Original Tim Shadbolt Councillor and pocket dynamo, 1992-98
Robert Stanic; Former Deputy Mayor to Tony Covic, 1998-2001
Carolynne Stone; Fierce advocate for Oratia and the Corban Estate, 2001-2004
Penny Hulse; Wonderful negotiator for peace and working partnerships, 2007-10

Councillors

Penny Hulse; 1992-2010
Derek Battersby; A single minded advocate for New Lynn, 1992-2010
Janet Clews; Master of detail, protocol and Council process, 1992-2010
Ross Dallow; Former Chair of Waitakere Trusts and Stadium Chair, 1992-2010
Vanessa Neeson; Long term worker for Waitakere, 1992-2010
Carolynne Stone; 1992-2007
Dorothy Wilson; 1992-98
Jack Adam; Much loved and respected Principal and Swanson resident, 1992-98
Yvonne Copland; Advocate for Japanese sister city and Henderson, 1992-98
Paul Lowe; Bethells environmentalist and eco-city supporter, 1992-98



Peter Maddison; Architect of the eco city concept, 1992-1998
Helen Haslam; Inaugural Councillor and eco city supporter, 1992-1995
Russell Jackson; Long term Principal of Waitakere College, 1992-1995
June Kearney; Inaugural Councillor for Waitakere City, 1992-1995
Sylvia Leitch; One term supporter of the eco-city, 1992-1995
Doug Lilly; Principal of Henderson High and Corban Councillor 1992-1995
Anne Phipps; Bethells environmentalist and peace activist, died in office, 1992-1995
Assid Corban; First Mayor of Waitakere City, 1995-2010
Gwen Nash; Great advocate for women, young people and the Citizens Advice Bureau 1995-2004
Jenny Price; Ratewatch leader and Council critic, 1995-2001
Robert Stanic; 1995-2001
Don Chapman; Grumpy Ratewatch campaigner and Councillor, 1998-2001
Alan Davies; Followed in Don Chapman's legacy, 1998-2001
Daphne Freeth; Same again, 1998-2001
John Riddell; Waka jumping Ratewatch Councillor, 1998-2001
Gordon Sunde; Died in office, 1998-2000
Brenda Brady; Wonderful and heartfelt supporter of Henderson, 2001-2010
Judy Lawley; Tireless advocate for Titirangi and New Lynn, 2001-2010
Annette Fenton; Visionary international business advocate, 2001-2004
Owen Hoskin; Principal of Henderson High and good man, 2001-2004
Greg Presland; Labour advocate and eco city supporter, 2001-2004
Gary Russell; A promising Councillor with too many projects on the go, 2001-2004
Denise Yates; Gentle, good woman with deep understanding, 2001-2004
Ross Clow; Excellent Councillor and energetic Lopdell House supporter, 2004-2010
Linda Cooper; Trustworthy and hard working Mayoral Candidate, 2004-2010
Peter Chan; First Asian Councillor, disappointing delivery, 2004-2010
Warren Flaunty; Medicine man and long time community representative, 2004-2010
Ewen Gilmour; A delightful and passionate Councillor, retired early, 2004-2007
Pat Booth; Legendary journalist who retired with ill health, 2004-2007
Michael Jolley; Excellent first time Councillor, 2007-2010
Paul Mitchell; Oratia advocate and first time Councillor, 2007-2010

Past mayors of the West

The past Mayors of the West seemed to be missing from the history books when I arrived in Office. I had worked for Tim in the past but I did not know the others. They are deserving of recognition as they helped make this city what it is today.

Ian McHardy; Waitemata Mayor 1977-1980
Tony Covic; Waitemata Mayor, 1980 - 1983
Tim Shadbolt; Waitemata Mayor, 1983 – 1989
Assid Corban; Waitakere Mayor, 1989 – 1992

Waitakere City Council

The CEOs

The relationship between Mayor and CEO is a vital ingredient in any successful City. I have been privileged to work with a succession of excellent leaders.

Mark Dacombe, the first CEO of Waitakere City, came to Council via New Lynn, the Chatham Islands and Glen Eden. He'd seen the West unfurl from humble beginnings. Our working relationship was excellent. Together with Dorothy Wilson and Ann Magee, he was a tower of strength and advice, with his steady temperament allowing him to give me wise counsel in times of trouble. It was a great start to my life as a politician. He was an inspirational CEO and the only one to truly balance my tendency to overreach.



Harry O'Rourke was the epitome of a steady pair of hands. He oversaw huge progress being delivered in the West. His exceptional handling of staff left a legacy of admiration and respect in the organisation.

Vijaya Vaidayanath came to us from Rodney and picked up the reigns from Harry with admirable ability and enthusiasm. Her support for the eco city identity of Waitakere has been vital in the last three years. She brought to bear a clear strategy and a powerful national and international network in her advocacy for the city. Though her tenure has been cut short by the arrival of the Super City, she has been an excellent and empathetic leader for Waitakere City Council.

Mark Dacombe; CEO, 1989-2000
Harry O'Rourke; CEO 2000-08
Vijaya Vaidayanath; CEO, 2008-10

The Directors

There has always been a team of extraordinary minds to support our CEO. They had understood the intricacies of local government and executed their responsibilities with great efficacy. It has been a pleasure working with them.

Ann Magee
Wally Thomas
Clive Preston-Thomas
Mike Simpson
Yvonne Sharpe
Kaaren Goodall
Mohan Selvaraj
Ross McLeod
Theresa Stratton
Sue Bidrose
John Dragecivich
Tony Miguel
Jaine Lovell-Gadd
Andrew Pollock
Stephen Drumm
Megan Courtney
Rachel Trotman
Wayne Knox
Graeme Campbell
Glyn Walters

The great helpers

Jack Burton; Miracle worker
Huey Tolitule; Often unnoticed but vital worker for Waitakere
John Roscoe; Incredible Solid Waste Manager
Sandie Martin; Empathetic problem solver and tireless worker
Jean Andrews; Loyal supporter to the Councillors
Fia Afitu; The heart and soul of the Director's corridor
Michael Campbell
Max Wilde
Grant Jennings
Philip Brown
John McKenzie



Barbara Cade
Mark Abbott
Mark Allen
Jennifer Chenery
Carl Chenery
Michael Alofa
Fraser Henderson
Tracy Mulholland
Tracy Haggo
Candice Ho
Richard Duncan
Emma Joyce
Frances Harrison
Neil Wells
Roger Wilson

Mayoral Office

The Mayoral Office has always been like a scene from *The West Wing* mixed with a touch of *Fawlty Towers*. There is so much going on. Angry ratepayers jam the phones in the early morning. If I haven't picked up the calls at home or on the mobile, they come direct to the office. There are always drop-ins. People arrive helpless and sometimes homeless. They want assistance with anything from immigration to finding an escape from domestic violence. My staff see them all, giving help with enormous problems despite getting few compliments. I can't thank them enough for their diligence, energy and total professionalism in dealing with both the community and my own frenetic pace.

My personal assistants have been the ones at the coal face. When my first PA Gloria Skinner welcomed me on my first day by saying "we've been waiting for you", I knew I'd found a home and a new life. Together Gloria and I started the monthly Mayoral Report, which took on points of view and milestones and recorded how I felt about a wide range of issues.

Gloria stayed 10 years before turning the job over to Mark Dacombe's Personal Assistant, Lisa Johansen. When Lisa retired to start a family, the job was handed over the job to Vanessa Shearer, who had been a temp while Lisa was on leave. Vanessa was a human dynamo and a tower of strength through an incredibly difficult time when the CEO and I were being stalked by an angry ratepayer. The stress and tension during that deeply troubling period was one of the hardest things I've had to go through as Mayor. Vanessa handled it admirably.

When she moved upstairs in 2009 to bigger and better things and Ann Magee's former secretary, Kerry Harrington, returned from the Auckland Regional Council to work with me. She and I have matched each other in juggling an extraordinary workload as well as managing the sad business of winding down a city. She has been a rock of organisation, with her incredible mind capable of storing endless lists of appointments, meeting times and upcoming responsibilities.

There has also been a string of skilled writers, media advisors and strategists in the Mayoral Office. I think I have had some of the best thinkers in local government. Wally Thomas came to me from the *Western Leader* and sparked transformation in the profile of the Mayor. He set a high standard for all who followed. They have lived up to the task. I hold them all in high regard.



Personal Assistants

Gloria Skinner
Lisa Johansen
Vanessa Shearer
Kerry Harrington

Writers, Media Advisors and Managers

Wally Thomas; The man who got the Mayor's office moving
Fiona Cunningham; Loyal friend and advisor
Alan Rodgers-Smith; Brilliant strategist and deal maker
Dai Bindoff; Skilled writer and media man
Matthew Boswick; Extraordinary media savvy advisor
Andrew Melville; Skilled writer and environmentalist
Hayden Donnell; A great writer, thinker and media strategist

Support from around the isthmus

One of my first jobs as Mayor was making sure Waitakere had a strong voice and mana in the Auckland region. Because of my environmental stance, my efforts initially met a lukewarm response. It was tough to be a green Mayor in what was essentially a grey region.

There were some Mayors however that could see there was a change coming. That was crystallised when the dams of the Waitakere Ranges ran dry in early 1994. Waitakere seized the moment and campaigned for water conservation in a way never seen before in the region. National television and media picked up the initiative, which we labelled the 'Waitakere Way'.

Soon I became a poster boy for conservation and smart local government thinking. It lifted our credibility and won the respect my colleagues in other cities. I have had an excellent relationship with those Mayors and their CEOs ever since. My thanks go out to them for their much needed support.

Les Mills; Championed regional amalgamation, Auckland Mayor, 1991-1998
Christine Fletcher; Dumped for Britomart design, Auckland Mayor, 1998-2001
John Banks; Fellow Gully kid, Auckland Mayor, 2001-04, 2007-10
Dick Hubbard; Badly supported friend and colleague, Auckland Mayor, 2004-07
Sir Dove-Myer Robinson; The great Mayor 'Robbie' of Auckland, 1959-65, 1968-80
Barry Curtis; The only man who stayed longer than me, Manukau Mayor, 1983-07
Len Brown; Humanitarian and Mayoral candidate, Manukau Mayor, 2007-10
Paul Titchener; Historian and writer, North Shore Mayor, 1992-95
George Gair; Whenuapai champion, North Shore Mayor, 1995-98
George Wood; Whenuapai supporter and former cop, North Shore Mayor, 1998-07
Penny Webster; Whenuapai ally and friendly neighbour, Rodney Mayor, 2007-10
John Law; Old friend and Whenuapai backer, Rodney Mayor, 2001-07
Doug Armstrong; Mayor until disestablishment of the Rodney Council, 1992-2000
Mark Ball; Superb Mayor and great friend, Franklin Mayor, 2004-10
Phil Warren; Greatly missed visionary and problem solver, ARC Chair, 1992-2002
Gwen Bull; Tough and sometimes difficult ARC Chair, 2002-04
Mike Lee; Committed and passionate, but often difficult ARC Chair, 2004-10
Jo Brosnahan; Friend and colleague, ARC CEO, 1996-2004



Maori: The returning

My first meeting with the Maori of the Waitakere Ranges took place in 1993. It was a long time coming. A meeting with the West's ancestral Iwi, Te Kawerau a Maki, had been on the table since the early 1980s, but many Mayors and Councils had put it off for a variety of reasons. When the request came to me, I readily agreed to see them and discuss my concept of a standing Maori committee within Waitakere.

Two of my guiding spirits, Warahi Paki and Tuini Hakaraia, facilitated the meeting. It was a deeply emotional occasion for all who attended. Many hurtful years of estrangement were finally over. The following weekend I journeyed with them to Te Henga, where I was guided around their historic Papakainga and Pa sites. They treated me with great kindness and respect.

Our steps have fallen side by side since that day. Within a year I stood before them on the beach of Karekare and acknowledged their past, their present and their future in the West. No longer was Te Kawerau a Maki a side note in the history of Waitakere. That day they cemented a central role in the story of the West. And we cemented a great relationship.

This year the Council finally approved the purchase of the Bethells land to be used as a Marae for the Iwi. It was a decision that had been coming since that day on Te Henga all those years ago. I felt I had finally fulfilled my promise and commitment to our people.

Kaumatu

Eru Thompson
Fred Holloway

The leaders

Pita Sharples; A figurehead for Maori in the West and New Zealand
Te Warena Taua; A faithful recorder of Maori history and culture
June Mariu; A comforter and rock of support for Maori in Waitakere
Warahi Paki; Leader, friend and mentor
Rewi Spraggon; Great friend, Body Guard, Gym Instructor
Hahi Walker; Former Chair of Te Taumata Runanga
Evelyn Taumaunu
Ngareta Delamere
Taotahi Pihama
Kawana Pihama
Sandy Cairns
Hohepa Renata
Bill Takarei
Saul Roberts
Dover Samuels
Awa Hudson
Rev Judy Cooper
Mere and Chris Tunks
Sandy Cairns
Bob Parata
Wayne Knox
Tau Henare
Mihi Te Huia
Pauline Kingi



Poata and Maera Northcroft
Bill Takarei
Heta Tobin
Ricky Houghton
Reg Ratahi
Len Jeffs
Wiremu Hetaraka
Tyrone Hetaraka
Maurits Kelderman
Te Kimihanga Brown
Denis Hansen
John Tamihere
Paora Sharples

The carvers

John Collins
Sunah Thompson

Ngati Whatua

Takutai Moana Wikiriwhi
Ruby Grey
Mei Hill
Jane Sherard
Danny Tumahai
Naida Glavish

The departed

Hariata Arapo Ewe (Aunty Sally); Beloved matriarch of Te Kawerau a Maki
Dame Te Atairangi Kahu; Beloved and much missed Maori Queen
Monty Mangakaahia Rihari, kaumatua
Fraser and Donna Delamere, kaumatua
Sir Hugh Kawharu
George Taua
Mavis Tuhoro
Tame Rameka
Jack Te Huia
Rae Clarke
Joe Hauraki
Gary Waho
Haki and Sarah Wihongi
Tuck Nathan
Tame Waerea
Bidi Wikiriwhi
Whaea Tuini Hakaraia
Rocky Hawke
Kelsie Hawke
Petsy Ngarongokapukiterangi Pairama-Cortland-Derby
Harry Derby
Te Warana Ratima Snr
Te Warana Ratima Jnr
Kui Ratima
Hare Puke



Te Arikinui Te Atairangikaahu
Ta Robert Mahuta
Lady Raiha Mahuta
John and Toti Peeni
Charlie and Ma Pukepuke
Sam and Mercia Waiti
John McPherson
Gerard Ngawati
Mike Rameka
Haki Peri
Sonny Simons
James and Maea Brown
Whaea Reitu Robson
Waitangi Bill Ellice
Ta (Sir) John Turei
Karena Garland
Aroha Garland
Nelda Taurua (Noda)

Business

When I took Office, business in the West was beaten down. The local government boundaries selected in 1989 had disadvantaged the city considerably. We were left with little industrial land to develop and poor and unsustainable investment. Many local vineyards were closing and moving to Gisborne or the South Island. Run down retail strips were lined with empty shops. Lincoln Road had been locked up with chains and padlocks. Unemployment was high. Businesses were disheartened and disillusioned.

Things had to change. I believed vision and inspiration were the most powerful tools at our disposal to turn things around. I set out to create a Waitakere Enterprise Board on Mark Dacombe's advice. Council officer Clyde Rodgers was the first CEO. We asked former Mayor Tony Covic to chair the Board.

It was the beginning of a great turnaround for business in the West. Suddenly people started taking ownership of their city. Entrepreneurs floated their ideas, excited at their chances of success. They found funding and ran their businesses with newfound pride.

The idea of celebrating those first small achievements and milestones saw the establishment of the Waitakere Business Awards. The first event was staged on a bleak and cold night atop Lopdell House. Only 15 businesses entered. Still, the awards have become a remarkable success story. On October 8, the last ceremony will be held. It will fill the Trusts Stadium. Hundreds of businesses will attend. Each of them is part of the story of an incredible economic transformation in the West.

From humble beginnings these businessmen and women have crafted a great legacy for Waitakere. Exceptional leaders have emerged. Notable among them are our newly knighted Ken Stevens and Graeme Douglas. Great Westie businesses have sprung up, including Phoenix Organics, Kohu Rd Ice-Cream, Alloy Yachts, Artisan Wines and DandH Steel. Our foundation businesses too have continued to thrive. They are names like Babich Wines, Heron Plumbing, Sapich, CanAm Construction, Delegats Wines and Douglas Pharmaceuticals. Developers such as Mark Gunton of Westgate and Infratil have continued to invest.



There have also been some great losses. I'd like to acknowledge here the passing of businessmen Sir Tom Clark, Mick Shanahan, and Chris Tims. All were outstanding leaders in the West and close friends of mine. They are sorely missed.

Waitakere Enterprise

Tony Covic; Original chair of the Enterprise board
Clyde Rogers; First promoter of China as a business opportunity for the West
Bryan Mogridge; Respected New Zealand business powerhouse
John Wadsworth; The leader that took Waitakere Enterprise to new heights
Michael Evans
Anne Grace
Victor Sunde
Stephen Keung
Douglas Macdonald
Jack Savas
Dr Margo Buchanan-Oliver
Taha Fasi
Cllr Derek Battersby
Cllr Bob Stanic
Annette Fasher-Dow
Te Warena Taua
Tim Coddington
Mike Williams
Yvonne Hawke
Brian Corban
Prof. Paul Spoonley

Business leaders

Sir Graeme Douglas; The generous elder statesman of Waitakere business.
Sir Ken Stevens; New Zealander of the Year award winner, Glidepath founder
Jo Brosnahan; Leadership New Zealand executive and former ARC CEO
Lloyd Morrison; Inspirational Infratil founder
Tim Brown; Infratil executive and partner in the Whenuapai Airport venture
Ross Jewell; Long time Chair of Waitakere Property
Jim and Rose Delegat; Long established winemakers
Bryan Heron; Plumbing magnate and generous benefactor
John Barnett; Film maker and CEO at South Seas Studios
Brian Corban; Former chair of Radio NZ, TVNZ and great supporter
John Webster; Extraordinary Unitec CEO and partner of Waitakere City
Rick Eade; New CEO of Unitec
Joe and Peter Babich; Pioneer winemakers
David Kennedy; Westcity builder and now Eden Park operator
Brent Gore; Owner of the iconic Hardware Café
Vaudrey Miller; Yacht maker
Henry Norcross; Stationary supplier and Falls Hotel benefactor
Davorin Ozich; Winemaker
Vinod Kumar; Mitre10 Mega owner
Murray Spearman; CEO Waitakere Licensing Trusts
John Ritchie; Ritchies Transport
Joe Macky; Cambridge Clothing
Malcolm Clark; Airpro
Lawrence Ponniah; Corban Revell
Phil Revell; Corban Revell



Tim Livingstone; UHY Haines Norton
Grant Brownlee; UHY Haines Norton
Simon Wickham; CEO, Trusts Stadium

Art

I remember the opening of the old Council Chamber way back in the 1980s. It was a great event. Many people were bringing in paintings, sculpture and pottery to decorate the new facility.

When I became Mayor in 1992, the building was almost bare. A few window hangings and a carving above the front desk were all that remained from those brilliant and colourful first days.

I decided to do something about, but quite frankly, I didn't know where to start. A few local painters lent me work for the Mayoral Lounge and I brought with me a massive Dean Buchanan for my office. They represented the first small additions to an art collection that would be the envy of the region; one that would extend far beyond the chambers and into the city streets, parks and Civic buildings.

The architect of that movement was Naomi McCleary; a phenomenal creative mind, tireless worker and advocate for the arts in the West. I first met her and told her my concept of filling the city with art in 1992. She immediately grasped hold of the idea and directed her energies towards realising that dream. Her energy and passion have put her at the centre of a transformation of the city's arts identity.

Naomi has been deeply committed to working with local artists. All our public buildings have her stamp on them, from Maori Carvings to large public sculptures outside the stadium, the bridges over our streams and the award winning events and projects. The Waitakere Laureates, the MAU dance group, the Corban Estate Arts Centre and the new extension to Lopdell House are all part of her legacy.

But perhaps her greatest achievement was championing the restoration of the McCahon House in Titirangi. Her magnificent concept saw the McCahon Trust formed and a new artist in residence facility established at the house. Now Maurice Shadbolt's house is also protected as a heritage site. I owe Naomi a huge debt.

Her partner Murray Gray has also had a role in the Waitakere arts world. He and I dreamt of a Waitakere writer's forum when he ran the bookshop Under Silkwood in the Parnell Village. We would drink coffee and talk about the possibilities of using a steam train to bring people out West to a writer's weekend.

In 1996 the first Going West Books and Writers Festival was held. It has been an unqualified success. Developments on the Western Line have meant we've had to drop the steam train but it hasn't stopped this great event creating a buzz on the streets of Titirangi and Glen Eden.

That was followed by the sensational launch of Trash to Fashion. It began as a costume party idea put forward by Keep Waitakere Beautiful and became a brilliant fashion event. The first official show was launched amid lights, cameras and New York glamour as models strode the runway in a parade of costumes constructed from leftover 'junk'. Though some of that expensive glitz has gone, Trash to Fashion remains a staple of the Waitakere calendar and a valuable teaching tool for the hundreds of students who participate in it every year.



Waitakere has always been an inspirational place. It is now home to hundreds of talented musicians, writers, film makers, poets, potters, sculptors, artists and raconteurs. They are part of the fabric of this city.

Naomi McCleary; The great architect of the art world of Waitakere
Sam Sampson; The poet who brought me the idea of the Waitakere laureates
John Edgar; Internationally renowned sculptor, laureate
C.K Stead; Iconic author and poet, laureate
Len Castle; Ceramicist, laureate
Ann Robinson; Leading cast glass artist, laureate
Lemi Ponifasio; Choreographer who weaves life into dance, laureate
Fatu Feu'u; Senior Pacific Islands artist, laureate
Don Binney; Painter, laureate
Sir Peter Siddell; Painter, laureate
Geoff Moon; Photographer of the West, laureate, died 2009
Mahinarangi Tocker; Musician, laureate, died 2008
Graeme Gash; Artist, laureate
Lois McIvor; Artist, laureate
Patricia Wright; Opera singer, laureate
Niki Caro; Filmmaker, laureate
Dick Scott; Writer/historian, laureate
Matafetu Smith; Weaver of the Pacific, laureate
Maurice Shadbolt; Iconic writer of the West, died 2004
Wade Cornell; Artist and environmentalist
Andrew Hall; Sculptor of recycled materials
Allie Eagle; Great artist and friend of the city
Mark Osborne; Curator who connects artists with Council
Dan Greig; Haircutter, runner and arts advocate
Elizabeth Francke; Founder of Trees for Babies
David Parker; Founder of the wonderful Titirangi Festival of Music
Murray Gray; Founder of Going West and advocate for Westie writers
Ted Scott; A giant of West Coast and Waitakere Ranges photography
Dean Buchanan; Wild beast of the West Coast art world
Judy Miller; Master painter and McCahon House residency recipient
Luke Hurley; The best busker in New Zealand
Brigid Bisley; The woman who gave us an orchestra in Waitakere
Lesley Smith; Director Lopdell House
Kate Wells; Artist and curator Lopdell House
Tanya Wilkinson; First director of the Corban Estate Arts Centre (CEAC)
Brian Corban; Chair CEAC and advocate for the arts
Alison Milne; Fibre artist and CEAC trustee
Martin Sutcliffe; Current director CEAC
Anna Crichton; Designer/satirist
Louise Purvis; Artist
Chris Holt; Photographer
John Madden;
Derek March; Printer
Liz March; Filmmaker
Dave Harre; Historian and heritage advocate
Caroline Robinson; Arts/design projects
Beth Sergeant; Print maker and book maker
Kate Wells; Artist
Neil Miller; Sculptor
John Parker; Set designer and ceramicist
Sue Bridges; Ceramicist



Steve Woodward; Sculptor
Chiara Corbelletto; Sculptor
Peter Lange; Ceramicist

Historians

Every great city needs its historians. Waitakere was poorly served with very little recorded history before 1950. That changed when Jack Diamond published his book 'Once the Wilderness' in 1955. It started the tradition of telling the tales and history of the West. Though he did not accurately tell the Maori history of the area, the flame was lit. It was continued by the Waitakere Historical Society, whose monthly lectures brought together much previously unknown local history. Their booklets 'The West Remembered' and their monthly newsletters brought much needed historical perspective on the Region.

For the last two decades historical works have poured from memories and diaries. There have been both small and large publications. Often privately published by the authors, they have told the stories of Glen Eden, Waitatarua, Whatipu, Karekare, Piha and soon, Titirangi. I have been privileged to launch and cheer on many of these books. The support of the Council and the Trusts has been vital in the historical movement in the West. They have made sure our legacy is stored for future generations.

I want to thank our Waitakere librarians and keepers of our historical collections for helping me as an author and Mayor. They have provided an invaluable service.

Su Scott; Visionary librarian and extraordinary library services co-ordinator
Robyn Mason; Long term librarian and fine supporter of history
Beverley Buffett; Library collections manager
Murray Spearman; CEO of the Trusts and generous sponsor of history
Jack Diamond; Original historian of the West and avid collector of memorabilia
Bruce and Trixie Harvey; Magnificent researchers and writers
David Knight; A promoter of short stories
Ruth Kerr and Finlay McDonald; Editors of West: A history of Waitakere
Graham Murdoch; Historian and writer, keeper of the truth
Te Warena Taua; Patriarch and historian
Len Castle; World renowned potter
John Yelash; Thespian, jailbird, story teller
Roger Green; Leading archaeologist and historian of the Pacific
Norm Laing; Expert on the Huia region
John Rowles; Local Te Atatu legend

Justice and advocacy

I came to this job determined to see a reduction in domestic violence, crime and burglaries in the West. To be honest, it hasn't been an easy task. There have been moments where it has been very difficult and despairingly sad. But one thing that has been a constant support is my relationship with the Police Chiefs of Waitakere, the wonderful Waitakere District Court Judges and officials and the justice advocates in the community. I'd like to thank them one and all for the warm, generous friendship and tireless work on what can be a disheartening mission. I wish them energy and optimism for their unceasing efforts.

In the courts

Judge Coral Shaw; Founder of groundbreaking anti-violence programme WAVES
Judge David Mather; Wise Waitakere District Court judge and WAVES advocate



Chief Judge Russell Johnson; A difference maker for justice in the West.
Judge Lisa Tremewan; Innovative thinker and empathetic justice advocate
Judge John Hugh Williams; Hugely respected legal mind from the West
Judge Mick Brown; Creator of a revolutionary justice system for Maori
June Mariu; Advocate for Maori youth in the justice system

Police

Inspector Gary Davey; Close friend, supporter and leader in the West. A voice for our community during the search for Aisling Symes.
Inspector Viv Rickard; A great leader who left too soon
Inspector Mark O'Connor; Friend of the West, anti-family violence campaigner
Inspector Scott Webb
Inspector Mike Bush
Senior Sergeant Kim Stewart

Community action

Pita Sharples; Original co-chair of the Mayoral Taskforce for Family Violence
Bobby Newson; A key cog in our campaign against family violence
Warahi Paki; Mayoral Taskforce for Family Violence board member
Colin Tukuitonga; A great worker for Pacific Island people
Margaret Devlin; Hard working WDHB family violence prevention officer
Chris Davidson; Man Alive CEO, WAVES board member
Helen Jones; WAVES board member
Robyn Malcolm, Inga Tuigamala, Michael Jones and Annie Whittle; Appeared in the Waitakere's long running billboard campaign aimed at reducing family violence
Betty Sio; Pacific Island Safety and Prevention Project
Michelle Barrowclough; Trauma and abuse counsellor
Mary Watts; Pacific Island Safety and Prevention Project
Annie Ackerman; Understated leader and peace lover
Alyn Ware; A tireless campaigner for peace

Community

There are many in our community that have come to the Mayoral Office to share their passions and vision for Waitakere. I have always listened and tried my best to support them. Others have simply invested their time, energy and expertise into making this city better. I'd like to thank them one and all for their selfless efforts.

Dave Harre; Masterminded the movement of the old Oratia Falls Hotel and the stunning restoration of the Lisbon trams
Ivan Yukich; Came up with the concept that became Trusts Stadium
Tony Mayow; Chair of Community Waitakere
Pat Watson; Community Waitakere CEO
Meredith Youngson; Great community worker
Cameron Duncan; Brilliant and admired young filmmaker, died 2003
Mate Marinovich; Oratia advocate and prolific letter writer
Janet Gilmour; Oratia icon, school stalwart and unsung hero
Bobbie Carroll; Photographer and fierce advocate for Piha
Sandra Coney; Writer, historian and Piha identity
Mary Dobbie; Political activist and Piha icon
Betty Hanson; Piha matriarch, died 2010
Brad Cameron; A mentor to our young people, gone too soon
Len Johnson; Glen Eden icon, died in February



Laurie Matthews; The great fire chief of Glen Eden, died 2009
John Ross; RSA icon and single minded supporter of war veterans
Dr Lannes Johnson; Tireless men's health advocate
Dr Ritchie Gilmour; Long serving Henderson doctor, died 2009
Richard Quinn; Saviour of Lime Burners Bay, died 2009

Environmentalists

Waitakere has built a strong record of environmental activism. This city has taken stands few others dared to take. It has initiated and endorsed a long list of groundbreaking conservation projects, many of which have been applauded and awarded on the international stage.

That success is down to the commitment and passion of our environmentalists. They made the case for sustainability, tirelessly fought to prevent threats to our environment and most importantly, did the dirty work of cleaning, planting, recycling and conserving. Without those efforts we would never have seen the amazing success enjoyed by initiatives like Project Twin Streams. It would have been impossible to mobilise communities and politicians to support the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act. This city owes them its environmental legacy.

Robin Allison; Earthsong community housing project founder
Helen Haslam; Project Twin Streams
Mary Foy; Project Twin Streams
Jenny Chilcott; Project Twin Streams
Annie Cochrane; Project Twin Streams co-ordinator
Wendy Claire; Project Twin Streams co-ordinator
Clair Hobi; Project Twin Streams co-ordinator
Catherine MacKenzie-Simpson; Project Twin Streams co-ordinator
Teremoana Jones; Project Twin Streams co-ordinator
Green Jon; Project Twin Streams co-ordinator
Max Peers; Mayor of Vision Waitakere Gardens
Pete Bethune; Advocate for bio-fuels and fierce anti-whaling activist
Brendon Hoare; Sustainability advocate
Margaret Jones; Ageless pioneering plant cultivator and protector
Meredydd Barrar; Environmentalist, leftie activist and water campaigner
Penny Bright; Tireless water campaigner
Adrian Riegan; Conservationist
June Henderson; Cleans up weeds
Peter Maddison; Eco-city pioneer
Richard Priest; Leading architect and sustainability advocate
John Edgar; Protector of the Waitakere Ranges, sculptor
Hayden Smith; Founder of the Waitemata Harbour Clean-Up Trust
Garry Taylor; Chair of the Environmental Defence Society
Phil Warren; Long time ARC Chair, environmentalist, problem solver, died 2002
Jack Colmar; Originator of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act
Judith Cregan; Saviour of the Chapel of Faith in the Oaks
Rob Small and Lance Vervoort; Superb ARC Park Managers

Sports

I have not been able to take part in much sport in my seven-day-a-week schedule. Here I would like to honour those that have been true figureheads of the Waitakere sports community. They are icons and inspirations to our young athletes and they have done much to help this city.



Nick Schouten; Westie and promoter of multi-sport and fun runs
Gerard Ngawiti; Touch rugby icon and mentor, died in March 2010
DJ Forbes; Sevens icon
Rex Davy; Waitakere rugby identity
Simon Wickham; Excellent CEO of the Trusts Stadium
Don Oliver; Great Westie, gym owner and friend, died 1996
Roy Williams; Mighty Decathlete
Barrie "Tank" Herring; Waitemata Rugby Club icon, died 2009
Graham Henry; Former Kelston Boys Principal, now All Blacks coach
Michael Jones; Legendary All Black and great friend of Waitakere City
Inga Tuigamala; Wonderful and generous supporter and former All Black
Malcolm Hahn; Legendary javelin champion and Herald Island historian, died 2010

Journalists

Surprisingly, I've had an excellent relationship with journalists. I put it down to my availability. I've never left calls unreturned, no matter how difficult or fraught with angst the topic may be. In the end people like to hear from an honest guy who tells it like it is and that's what I've tried to be in my dealings with the media over the years. I think it's made a difference. The city has always been accessible to New Zealand because we're proud of who we are and we're not ashamed to share it with anyone.

Some stories have been hard to handle, but I've always believed the media have an important job to do. And they're more likely to give you a fair go if they don't smell deception on your breath.

Matthew Gray; Western Leader editor and champion of Waikumete Cemetery
Wally Thomas; The editor who jumped ship to work for me
Sam Thompson; Fair and honest advocate for the West
Bernard Orsman; Well connected watchdog of Auckland's Local Government
Brian Rudman; Tenacious battler for Auckland issues
Stephen Forbes; Long serving reporter of all things West
Finlay McDonald; A wise writer and historian for the West
Mathew Dearnaley; Transport expert
Paul Holmes; Iconic New Zealand journo and commentator
Chris Hoult; Skilled photographer and chronicler of the West
Rene Bridges; Creator of the truly local Titirangi Tattler
Geoff Dobson; Irrepressible journo and through and Westie through and through
Mark Sainsbury
Kim Hill
John Campbell
David Kemeys
Robert Kelly
Rani Timoti
Stephen Parker
Tony Field
Todd Niall
Esther Harwood
Wayne Thompson
Rod Oram
Tony Garnier
Edward Rooney



The critics

I've always enjoyed a robust debate. As Mayor, I've never been short of one. For a while it seemed every issue of the Western Leader revealed a new letter writer that needed to get something off their chest. There's been some real beauties over the years. I have take my hat off to them. They take the time to get angry and put that anger into action. Some may get a bit crazed with their passion and become little less than Council stalkers, but they seem to like the task. Their retirement is spent crafting a letter a week.

On the rare occasion the letters are really good, they are sharp as a rapier and accurate as a dart thrower. I want to acknowledge some of the better ones. Among them was the late Malcolm Hahn and the very much alive Jim Carney. Missing the mark has been just about anyone from Te Atatu and nearly all the people that wrote on Chinatown in New Lynn. May I thank one and all for making the effort to scrutinise Council's escalating rates, debt and responses to cracking footpaths and roads. To be honest, I'll miss you all. And I think you just might miss me. The Western Leader will be light on Council business for a while so I suggest you take up pigeon fancying.

Finally, to the biggest critics of all – my family. My beloved wife Barbara always seems to get a copy of the Western Leader before me and tends to agree with most of the angry letter writers. Though my children all seemed to ignore their- father-the-Mayor in his woes, I have always been able to count on them to stick by me, even when it seemed no-one else would. They have been fantastic friends as I've tried to negotiate the endless nights of meetings and the phone calls about barking dogs and late night parties. All of them have taken too many messages to count. Their patience has sometimes worn thin, but they've always been there. I could not have done this job without their love and support. These last 18 years have been a family affair. When it comes to the crunch, that's what's really mattered. My last and greatest thanks belongs to them.

Over and out.

Bob Harvey
Mayor
Waitakere City