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DIGEST

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October 2009



A Long and Winding Road

By Tom Belford

In September, the HB Regional Council adopted in outline form a comprehensive seven point strategy for cleaning up the Mohaka River and its Taharua tributary. Its components are listed in the adjoining box.

It has been a long and winding road to get to this point, and there's a substantial distance still ahead. As conservationist John Scott said at a recent HBRC meeting: "The public is aroused and the goalposts have shifted."

That the strategy will incorporate "an effects-based regulatory framework" has been a key point of contention along the way. The Council has sought a path that would be politically responsive to public concerns, efficacious in results, and yet not offend its historic constituency – farmers – too much. The same tiptoeing has characterised each successive water issue the Council has had forced upon it during its current term.

And I say "forced upon it" pointedly, because the Council has clearly been a follower, not leader, on these issues.

With respect to the Tukituki, it has taken public meetings, alarming photos, outside peer reviews, and sustained media attention and lobbying to force change. With respect to the Mohaka/Taharua, only months ago Council staff was happily convincing MPs Foss and Tremain that the Mohaka was just fine. Only when HB Fish & Game produced a video documenting the degraded state of the Mohaka, which BayBuzz posted online (now viewed over 1,200 times), and the DomPost followed with Kathy Webb's "Death of a Waterway" article, did the HBRC discover adequate supporting science — and courage — to address the matter.

Gag Reflex

We all have a gag reflex. For the HB Regional Councillors, their gag reflex is triggered by the very thought of needing to "regulate" what farmers do on their land -- as in require land use practices that would mitigate unacceptable water pollution.

When it comes to regulation, haven't we learned anything?

If we don't regulate builders, we get water-logged homes. If we don't regulate financial institutions, we get fleeced. If we don't regulate medical practitioners, we get maimed or worse.

In each of these cases, we legislate formal standards and then enforce them.

But farmers are a privileged class. Our "old guard" Regional Councillors like Kevin Rose and Ewan McGregor merely want to educate and cajole them. They seem to see their jobs as protecting farmers, as opposed to protecting the broad public interest in clean, sustainably managed water. We're admonished not to overreact to a few bad apples ... the standard camouflage of Federated Farmers and the irrigation lobby as they oppose the necessary "sticks" of regulation.

However, as Simon Lusk, a conservationist and dissenter on the stakeholder group advising the Council on Tukituki issues said, referring to users of water allocation: "Councillors should be aware that the interests of a limited few to make a profit out of a public good is not a platform that has led to enduring electability. Voters in NZ and overseas have taken direct action at the ballot box to protect water."

So here we are. The Regional Council has finally, reluctantly, "embraced" regulation as part of its water management toolkit.

Says HBRC Chairman Alan Dick:

"Regional Councils to date have been very effective in regulating and thus controlling nutrient or effluent discharges from "point" sources – that is, for example, waste pipe discharge from a factory or in the case of dairy or other intensive farming types, control and disposal of effluent from dairy sheds or feedlot hardstands. What our rules have not controlled to date is what the cow does in the paddock and what consequently ends up in waterways as a result of leaching or overland flow – known as 'diffuse' or 'non-point

source discharges.' Hence the decision ... to regulate the effects of land use activities and the consequent non-point source discharges that are generated. Effectively that will mean that farming activities will not be allowed to generate nutrient outputs that exceed the capacity of the receiving environment (the stream) – and accordingly, better farming and land management practices will be enforced."

It is yet to be seen what "effects-based" regulation will look like as practiced by our Regional Council. Hopefully, it will mean, semantics aside, that if a farmer is generating unacceptable pollution (and that itself must now be re-defined, which might happen at the central government level) and fails to remedy it, he will face hard rules on how he can farm his land.

The new approach will need to be codified via amendments to the HB Resource Management Plan and applied to all rivers in our region. Says Chairman Dick: "Regrettably, change will not be evident overnight. The formal Plan change process under RMA rules could take two years, farm management practices will have to undergo an adaptation process, and even then there is a time lag as accumulated nutrients continue to leach from the soil."

Continued on p10

Mohaka/Taharua Strategy

1. Recognises the Mohaka River and its tributaries as having outstanding values in terms of ecosystems, natural character, fisheries, public amenity and cultural significance, requiring integrated and sustainable management of the water resource.

2. Supports an approach for dealing with the water quality issues in the Taharua and Mohaka catchments that incorporates an effects based regulatory framework along with an adaptive catchment management approach.

3. Endorses a zero tolerance approach to consent non-compliance in the Taharua River Catchment.

4. Instructs staff to clearly communicate Council's position on the effects of land use intensification of the Taharua River Catchment to relevant industry organisations such as Federated Farmers and Fonterra, both at a local level and at a national level.

5. Instructs staff to communicate with all landowners in the Taharua Catchment, the issues and management of the environmental effects of land use activities in the catchment.

6. Instructs staff to establish a catchment stakeholder group for the Taharua and Mohaka rivers for the purpose of community engagement.

7. Instructs staff to prepare a Taharua River Strategy which sets out the approach, key steps and timetable toward the development of an (ideally) agreed policy framework for inclusion in the regional plans, with the draft Strategy to be reported back to the November 2009 Environmental Management Committee meeting.

READ ON...

**Rod Drury p3
LIVE LOCALLY, WORK GLOBALLY**

As a region, investing in high speed broadband to make it easier for business owners and managers to operate from here can make us the dream place to live and work.

WHO SPEAKS FOR MAORI?

A range of views on Maori engagement with local government from:

**Mike Mohi, Des Ratima
Morry Black, Ngahiwi Tomoana
Andrew Newman, Anne Wilson-Hunt, Dale Moffett p4**

**Elizabeth Sisson p7
MAORI BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

In addition to a couple of hundred businesses and services, the directory lists all the Ngati Kahungunu marae and also institutions, state agencies and schools, such as the Eastern Institute of Technology, which are not Maori-owned but provide key services to Maori.

**Brooks Belford p8
MAKING HISTORY**

Robert Mac Donald made a surprising rediscovery that turned a scruffy, inaccessible, Waimarama hillside into a nationally recognized Maori heritage site. It also prompted creation of an innovative community and cultural development enterprise.

**Mark Sweet p9
BORDEAUX... MEET HAWKE'S BAY**

Ten years ago, Steve Smith, CEO of Craggy Range Winery answered the question: "What changes do you see coming to Hawke's Bay in the future?" He declared: "Wine will change the face of Hawke's Bay forever!"

**Kent Baddeley p9
ART OF THE DISH**

As a chef, I am often asked how I arrive at the dishes I create. It's a question I take very seriously. The inspiration comes, maybe, from a certain colour in the morning sky, or a certain plant or vegetable arriving in my kitchens in the morning.

**Tim Gilbertson p10
EXTINCTION BY DESIGN**

If you believe that Banksy and the Royal Society are right or even half right, you should get out the door with your shovel, planting tree after tree until the landscape is covered with the little carbon-eating suckers ... and so should everyone else on the planet.

**Paul Paynter p11
ARTERIAL ROAD HITS DEAD END**

This was a remarkable defeat for the Council. Purportedly \$1.9M worth of reports in support of the NAR were shot down by a bunch of Maoris, some peasant fruit growers and a handful of "old folk" from Kennilworth Road

COUNCIL REPORT CARD p12

Take our survey. Your chance to rate the performance of local Councils.

FROM THE EDITOR

Tom Belford



Back in May, a Lindisfarne alumnus, the Honourable Justice Joseph Williams of the High Court, formerly Chairman of the Waitangi Tribunal, spoke at an “Embracing Futures” breakfast sponsored by the HB Regional Council.

He addressed the growing role of Maori in New Zealand’s economy and public affairs, fueled both by aspiration and sheer population growth. More specifically, Justice Williams stressed the need for local government to engage Maori in decision-making better than it ever has. His thought-provoking presentation was videotaped by Television Hawke’s Bay and is well-worth viewing (you can track down the link via the Regional Council website).

Justice Williams argued that local government has failed in its leadership responsibility to use available tools under the Resource Management Act to enter into joint partnerships and planning with iwi and hapu. He commented: “If we have a situation in 2020-2030 with a Maori population that is completely disconnected from local government decision-making, we have a recipe for serious problems. It is a big enough problem now ... in 15-20 years with a population in Hawke’s Bay that is one-third Maori and growing, it will be simply unsustainable.” Referring to the standard practise of local bodies setting up Maori advisory committees, he added: “Advisory Committees just don’t cut it.”

I attend a fair number of Council meetings, including, occasionally, sessions of the various Councils’ Maori Advisory Committees. One gets the impression that neither local government leaders nor Maori leaders are much satisfied with the processes of engagement that exist. From the local government side, this sometimes gets expressed as a question about who speaks authoritatively for Maori on various issues. For this **BayBuzz Digest**, we asked various parties, Maori and Pakeha, to comment on Maori participation. As you’ll see, from the Maori perspective, the issue is just as legitimately ... who speaks for Pakeha, or who listens?

Some of our other articles also touch on Maori issues. In *Arterial Road Hits Dead End*, his analysis of independent commissioners recent rejection of the Northern Arterial Route championed by Hastings Council, Paul Paynter speaks eloquently of the Maori stake in that decision.

Elizabeth Sisson reports on the new Maori Business Directory just published by the Maori Business Facilitation Service, as well as on a new working relationship between the Hawke’s Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Hawke’s Bay Maori Business Network.

And Brooks Belford’s *Making History*, traces Waimarama Maori Tourism’s remarkable rediscovery and revitalisation of Hakikino, the legendary 15th century Pa site in Waimarama’s Ti Apiti valley.

Our Guest Buzzmaker this month is Rod Drury, CEO of Xero, a global provider of accounting software to small businesses. In *Live Locally, Work Globally*, Rod explains how Hawke’s Bay can be a mecca for entrepreneurs who want to “do well” in business terms, but live a rich and satisfying family life as well.

Our regular columnists Mark Sweet and Tim Gilbertson do their things too. Mark, continuing his wine series with *Bordeaux*... *Meet Hawke’s Bay*, documents the world-class quality of the Bordeaux-style red wines of Gimblett Gravels. Try drinking a glass or two before imbibing Tim’s *Extinction By Design*, a lament over the world’s political avoidance of the global warming issue!

And we wrap things up with our Council Report Card, a BayBuzz survey that lets you grade the performance of local Councils, as we enter the final year of Councillors’ current term. Fill in the survey on our back page, or give your grades online at www.baybuzz.co.nz

Enjoy!

Issue Updates

Iona Surveys on McDonald’s

Year 12 Geography students at Iona College recently conducted some market research regarding McDonald’s planned entry to Havelock North. Results were presented recently to BayBuzz and Hastings Council staff. The students conducted face-to-face surveys with consumers in the Havelock Village, as well as an online survey within the Iona community ... 279 completed surveys in all.

In the total sample, 49% were opposed to having a McD’s in Havelock, 19% were supportive, the rest were neutral. The main concerns: don’t bring arches to Havelock North; detracts from village character; increase in rubbish on road to Hastings; feel better if it fitted in with the village theme; different location – not a nice entrance to Havelock North (56% oppose location); not health promoting.

Interestingly, amongst the under-20 demographic, opposition was less pronounced -- 39% opposed, 32% were OK with the idea, and 29% were neutral. Those Iona girls must like their burgers ... or is it the salads?!

BTW, did you know that McDonald’s is the New Zealand beef industry’s biggest single customer? With the new “Angus Burger” driving additional sales, McDonald’s will now buy 25,000 tonnes of NZ beef annually, of which 20,000 tonnes will be exported. The 5,000 tonnes that is consumed in NZ would amount to about 4.5 million kilograms, or roughly 1kg per person. I’ll take a Diet Coke with that.

New Look for Labour

I had the opportunity to meet Labour List MP Jacinda Ardern on her recent swing through the district. At age 29, she is, fittingly, the Labour Party’s spokesperson for youth affairs. Seems to be trying to find the right balance between ideology (her “compass”) and pragmatism (listening and searching for what works). Bright, articulate, attractive ... the right look for a re-building party.

But the best part was watching her and MP Rick Barker suit up in their leathers and helmets, mount Rick’s Triumph motorcycle, and ride off to their next gig. Now that’s a great look for Labour ... beats the red bus, Rick!

Commissioner Ponders Ocean Beach Bill

An independent commissioner heard Hill Country’s appeal that the Hastings Council had charged too much for Council’s review of Andy Lowe’s proposed 1,000 home village at Ocean Beach. Hill Country argued that: a) HDC used expensive consultants to do more “review” than was needed; b) much of the work billed to Hill Country would necessarily have been done anyway to support HDC’s own proposed plan for Ocean Beach, which involved several hundred homes; and c) in any event, the general public benefited from some

of the analysis that was prepared during the review of Lowe’s private plan change, and thus Hill Country should get some credit for that.

The Council argued, in effect, “Balderdash!” ... supported of course by legal arguments.

The bill in dispute is for nearly \$300,000, and Hill Country wants one-third to one-half knocked off. One wonders whether the legal fees will negate any reduction in the bill!

The commissioner is off weighing the matter.

Maori Leader Joins Sports Park Trust

Ngahiwi Tomoana, Chairman of Ngati Kahungunu, has been appointed to the Sports Park Trust. No doubt he’s examined the case for the sports park carefully. But I suspect he wasn’t informed that no Maori voices supported the RSP when it was being debated before the Hastings Council ... not a single submission in support from the Maori community. Flaxmere Councillors Henare O’Keefe and Keriana Poulain voted against the sports park.

Mayor Yule must be sighing with relief that he has finally found a Maori leader to support the venture. And better still, perhaps one who might not fuss much over the details. Mr. Tomoana is a rather busy man ... his non-attendance at meetings of one Council he advises has become an issue. He’s not likely to become the “Wayne Bradshaw” of the Sports Park Trust! But then after all, the Mayor’s looking for a cheerleader, not a watchdog.

Tutira Planting Disputed

The Regional Council has recently begun planting on a newly-acquired 316 hectare block at Tutira. The intent is to make this Council-managed property into a model of integrated land use – carbon forests, grazing, wetland creation, indigenous plantings, erosion control, recreational use, research ... the works. Great concept!

Unfortunately, the project has stumbled a bit out of the gate. When a group of very experienced local farm foresters and tree growers were shown around the property and the initial plantings, they came away dismayed over what was planted and how, as well as lack of clarity about objectives. Wrote one of the group, Chris Ryan of Baywatch: “This property has the potential to be a wonderful recreational and demonstration site for what is possible with imaginative tree planting and careful planning. But the initial approach gives many of us cause for concern. And I would hate the vision needed to buy this land turn sour. Please consider giving this project the time and consideration it deserves.”

At their latest briefing on the initiative, Regional Councillors asked staff to review their plans taking into account the concerns and ideas of knowledgeable locals. Hopefully this will get sorted out ... everyone seems to endorse the potential of the project.

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About BAYBUZZ

BayBuzz Digest is a community focused publication that examines hot button local issues and promotes public awareness and debate. A mix of independent editorial commentary, behind the scenes reporting, and a healthy dose of humor, BayBuzz Digest begins where other newspapers leave off to probe the big issues and tough questions facing our region and shaping our future.

You can also find BayBuzz online. Go to www.baybuzz.co.nz to sign up for fresh – and free – daily online articles not available anywhere else, plus background analysis, easy-to-use Take Action features that let you make your views known to Councillors, and much more.

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GUEST BUZZMAKER

Rod Drury CEO, Xero



Living Local, Working Global

When I left Napier Boys High and headed for Victoria University 25 years ago, I never thought I'd end up living back in Hawke's Bay. But I've been here since Christmas and I'm loving it.

We started spending our summers at Waimarama 7 years ago. My wife stayed there first and I saw the Bay again through her eyes. Warm, the chance of a surf and plenty of things to do. We brought an old bach and lucked out with some great neighbours with kids just a bit older than ours.

Soon we had an Internet connection at the beach and we were spending more of our time here. It was getting harder each summer to head back to Wellington. After a few years, we'd made the decision that we'd put our kids through school here. We wanted our kids to swim and bike - not be mall rats.

We'd been told that the Bay is hard to break into. That was not our experience. Immediately through school we met great people at a similar situation to us. There are quite a few refugees from Auckland and Wellington.

The big challenge with moving to the Bay is work. Many coming back are still connected to businesses and incomes from out of the region. A few buy businesses. In our case, we designed our business so that a number of our senior people could have a sustainable career but live where they wanted to bring up their kids. We experimented last year with our COO moving from Auckland to Hamilton. He did two days a week in Wellington and it worked well.

So this year was my turn. We have a software development team of fifty in Wellington and sales teams in Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne and London.

We try to have all our senior people at our head office two days a week. Most of us will visit another office for a day a week and every few weeks there might be an overseas trip. We power through a lot of catch up and status meetings and often have dinner and breakfast together. Without worrying about being home for bath time, you can get a lot done.

Our team loves having the time to do their work while we aren't there. I found having a couple of days a week in the Bay gives me quality time. It can be difficult to get a solid block of time to focus when in the office.

Having senior staff on the road and out of the office forces everyone to be more virtually visible and makes us more aware of team members in the smaller sales offices. Technology helps a lot. Email, Blackberries, Yammer and Skype are the tools of the modern distributed company.

Commuting a couple of days a week probably costs around \$10-12k a year. I think that's worth it, but it keeps you on your toes checking grab-a-seat to lock in those cheap flights. It would be great if you could buy 10-trip tickets cost effectively.

Hawke's Bay is ideally placed for a work commuter lifestyle. You can easily do a full day in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. The Q300's are comfortable and not having a security check is just so good.

I soon found others. The faces on the Q300 at 9:35 to Wellington quickly became familiar.

Looks like a few people have worked out this work-life balance thing. More than a few times a taxi full of "Team Hawkes Bay" have charged into our larger cities, enjoying the stimulation of doing business in the big smoke, while knowing

we might finish the day with a BBQ back in the sun later.

I was delighted to find many smart people based here. We have two of New Zealand's most experienced ad men living in the Havelock hills. We have a raft of successful international exec's quietly doing projects of interest from their Bay base. We have energetic local MPs punching above their weight at the beehive. We have some great local businesses filled with experienced entrepreneurs and operating globally.

Over the last many years, the Bay has focused on being a great destination for tourists. It is. But it could also be a great destination for attracting new talent. Especially those for whom raising their family is important. Our weather, ease of access and great schools are a competitive advantage and already people are working that out.

I believe Broadband is therefore one of the key investment areas for the Bay. As a region, investing in high speed broadband to make it easier for business owners and managers to operate from here can make us the dream place to live and work - anywhere. The easier it is to do desktop video conferencing, online demo's, have New York phone numbers, and swap large design files with overseas customers, the more living in the Bay can be a real choice for many more people. Those people bring investment and networks to create more job opportunities and increase wages across the region.

Ensuring that our local cafes and business centres have easy access to reasonably priced Wifi is another simple thing we can do. Our national and international tourists notice good connectivity. It's a factor that brings people back and signals that we "get it."

I'm absolutely excited to be living here. The Bay is big enough to have most things you need and small enough to make things happen. In the Bay, the right things are important. I'm excited that the people I've met so far are passionate about our great area and there is a sense of coordination emerging to ensure the Bay gets even better.

This feels like an exciting time for Hawke's Bay. As technology makes the world smaller, what better place to live locally and work globally.

It's All About Incomes

By Tom Belford

In his Guest Buzzmaker column, entrepreneur Rod Drury talks about the good life he enjoys as a new resident of Hawke's Bay. He notes that with decent broadband available and with larger cities a manageable short air hop away, people earning hearty incomes for work that principally "delivers" outside the region can not only survive, but thrive in the Bay.

"Live locally, work globally" can indeed become a mantra that drives increasing economic prosperity in Hawke's Bay.

My own situation testifies to this potentiality as well. Approaching my family's fifth anniversary in the Bay, I still have a "day job"

focused abroad that earns our daily bread. In my case, with clients on the east coast of the US, fortunately my day job generally wraps up by noon. I am utterly dependent on decent broadband (thanks to Airnet) to make this feasible ... but also to make possible the "cage-rattling" I try to do via BayBuzz in my off-hours!

Neither Rod nor I are dependent upon the 40% of the Hawke's Bay economy that is driven by the primary sector. We are immune to droughts, frosts, seasonal worker shortages, and foreign protectionist farm lobbies. And our businesses have negligible adverse environmental footprints. There are many more like us in the Bay ... and there could be many more.

Importantly, folks who work in fields that emphasize "head" work over "hand" work tend to earn higher incomes. This is a reality that our regional leaders - and Venture Hawke's Bay - should give more strategic attention to.

Based upon 2006 Census figures, the median income in Hawke's Bay for an individual aged 15 and above is a whopping \$22,600 (compared to \$24,400 nationally). The corresponding figure for Maori in HB, a growing proportion of our population, is \$19,100. That doesn't leave much spare change for Art Deco costumes, wine tasting, restaurant dining and espresso sipping.

Forty-five percent of HB earners make less than \$20,000 per year; only 14% make more than \$50,000 per year. And that's when they're employed.

If one attends the occasional soul-searchings where the region's grand poobahs contemplate the Bay's economic prospects, discussion invariably centers around better marketing of the region ... and this in turn tends toward a focus on increasing tourism.

Passions get highly aroused over whether Venture Hawke's Bay or marketing staff at Napier or Hastings Councils should be doing more to sell the region's sometimes second-rate accommodations, or bump up the average

tourist stay from 1.5 nights to 1.6 nights. As though this would constitute an economic development strategy for the region.

Instead, our region's elected leaders and hired marketers should focus strategically on increasing incomes. An additional tourist night in HB might be worth \$200-\$300; an additional software developer taking up residence in the Bay might be worth \$60,000 or more in additional spending.

And I submit that this focus would lead to a recognition that future income growth enjoyed in Hawke's Bay by baristas, motel cleaning staff and shepherds is likely to be considerably less than income growth generated by software developers, engineers, designers and so forth.

Sure, we need and value people of all pursuits. Nevertheless, our region's economic development team (perhaps "team" is wishful thinking) should be focused on where the future money is - on the conditions, benefits and amenities that will attract more "head" workers and their higher incomes into Hawke's Bay.

As Rod points out, high speed broadband is one of those mandatories, since many of these workers will relate to colleagues and sell their "wares" outside the Bay... and instant, dependable, high capacity internet communications are essential to their functioning.

But I would argue that there are "softer" benefits to be ensured as well. Like ample, high quality cultural amenities (something big city folks are accustomed to). And a well-protected and nurtured natural environment (something big city folks want to escape to).

At the end of the day, prosperity in Hawke's Bay won't come from incremental growth in \$22,600 median incomes. Let's put our economic development focus where it will yield the most. Let's focus on how to leap forward in raising incomes.

The Million Dollar Market...

'The last 12 months have seen only a small number of properties sell in this top segment of the HB market. HB certainly has many properties worth over \$1 million but there are not always the buyers available. We have seen only four residential homes sell over \$1 million (including two Waimarama waterfront) and two in Havelock North. However there have been 23 lifestyle sales over \$1 million and as the market continues to gain confidence there will be more! The breakdown of the 23 sales were 12 in Havelock North, five in TukiTuki/Waimarama/Mangateretere, three in Hastings district, two in Poraiti and one in Bay View.'

Simon Tremain



One of Tremains sales over \$1 million

Ascot Lane, Havelock North

more **SOLD** by the **NO1 TEAM**



'Rachel Dailey, when she still had a house to sell!'

Tremain's Who Dunit?!

What house?! Rachel's 'Million Dollar' Mortgagee Sale at 182 Blackburn was withdrawn the night before Auction. As we had had about 80 groups through and ten to twelve bidders ready to buy, we had to sedate poor Rachel to stop her fully losing the plot! Great news for the vendor though and, upon recovery, Rachel will have plenty of buyers for the next 'Million Dollar' home!

TREMAINSTM

More sales, more listings, more for you ^{MRBNZ}

Mike Mohi
 Chairman, Maori Committee,
 HB Regional Council



Who Speaks For Maori?

Tena koutou.

I would like to give my interpretation on this subject in terms of various natural resource matters under consideration by councils in the region.

Recent *HB Today* newspaper comments from Maori leaders seemed to be at odds as to who had the right to speak on Maori matters, when in fact the two gentlemen concerned were both right, although they had opposing opinions as to how things should be administered. I agree with the main theme of these well-known Maori men - Ngahiwi Tomoana as chairman of the Runanga - Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated (NKII) and Tama Huata - a Director of Nga Tukemata o Kahungunu Waka (an internationally acclaimed cultural organisation based in Hastings).

Basically what both said is that the basis of the Maori voice comes from the marae. Very true.

In the Hawke's Bay region there are four Taiwhenua - Wairoa, Whanganui a Orotu (Napier), Heretaunga and Tamatea (Central HB).

Each marae in each of those four Taiwhenua sends a representative to sit on their particular Taiwhenua Committees.

In terms of the Regional Council relationship with each of the four Taiwhenua - each Taiwhenua send three nominated representatives onto the Council's Maori Standing Committee.

Each Taiwhenua also sends one representative to be on the runanga (NKII) Board as well (which could be described as the layer above the various Taiwhenua).

Going back to Council matters pertaining specifically to marae matters, often a marae spokesman will offer either advice or comment on behalf of the marae group. Conversely, the marae delegate may bring the matter to the Taiwhenua and a spokesman from that committee may either make a statement or

agree to talk to the council concerned. Also the matter could go onto the runanga level if deemed necessary by the people concerned. Spokespersons along the way usually give a view backed by their particular committee or group that has an understanding of the subject in question.

As the HBRC Maori Standing Committee chairman, I am always careful to only make statements on subjects that the committee have discussed and got a general consensus viewpoint on.

Ngahiwi as a recognised Kahungunu leader, however, has a much wider brief and will often comment on Maori matters right across the board as is his right to do.

He is well aware, however, of what is a marae matter and what matters need addressing from a wider perspective.

To slightly confuse things going into the future, there are a number of Treaty of Waitangi claimant groups coming to the fore. Each of these groups may claim speaking rights on natural resource matters with Councils, and this is in Maori terms an accepted right. Rather than see this as being a nightmare for councils, it should in my view be seen as a positive move for all peoples.

Coming through the ranks of Maoridom is a group of university educated young people with heaps of energy and vision. These will be in the not too distant future, the new voices of Maoridom.

I welcome this pending new wave of optimism and will gladly step aside as they move forward. At Ocean Beach, as chairman of the Waipuka Incorporation, I have a top-of-the-range niece, with a legal background, ready to step into the chairpersonship. I will be doing this in the very near future, confident that the re-occurring and looming problems at Ocean Beach will be in good hands.

Ka pu te ruha, ka hao the rangatahi - the old net is caste aside - the new net goes a-fishing.

So one can see, and I think it is generally accepted in Maoridom, that when the marae or hapu has matters that it wishes to bring to the council's attention, it can do so at whatever level it wants. While there is a type of hierarchy in these matters, I emphasize that the marae is the basis of the voice of all things Maori.

It is often difficult for council staff to know

where or who to contact in matters concerning council business.

The number of committees mentioned above are well served by competent people. They have built relationships with various councils throughout the region, which has led to a better understanding by all sides.

Tena noa tatou katoa.



Des Ratima
 Chairperson, Te Aranga Marae



Right Thought, Wrong Question

Right thought, wrong question. That was my initial response when invited to make a contribution to the question "Who speaks for Maori?"

Why is it that the question is posed in the first place? Why is it that there is a common complaint among many organisations and groups when dealing with Maori issues ... with the inevitable response - "We did not know who to speak to" - particularly when they find that consultation has not occurred, poor cultural decisions have been made, or something backfires and people run for cover.

The question implies a leadership issue. Speaking for any group implies that that person or group has some authority to do so. So are we really asking: "Who leads Maori?" Is that the real question being asked in this disguised way?

Regardless, the question obviously arises from the common and wrong perception that Maori are difficult to engage with, they are disorganised, lack direction and any form of cohesive leadership.

The reality is that Maori are diverse, organised and capable, with leadership occurring on many levels. Trying to answer or understand the natural structure of Maori is a long and time consuming pursuit, but extremely rewarding for those that spend the time looking. The simple reason is that Maori offer a different perspective to the way the world is viewed.

Maori view the world through the lens of whakapapa and mokopuna. Their view is not issue-driven; it is value-driven and based on the welfare of the future unborn generations. The common response to any decision is: "Is what I am doing in the best interests of our mokopuna?"

A similar question might well be: "Who speaks for Pakeha or any other group?" I believe that in these cases, the answers are issue dependant. If the issue is health, then the voice you hear may be the DHB. If the issue is water, you might well hear the voice of the HBRC. If the

issue is land usage, you will hear the voice of the HDC.

Put these same issues to Maori, you will hear the same voice. If the issue is health you will hear the Marae or Hapu. If the issue is water, you will hear the Marae or Hapu, if the issue is land use you will again hear the voice of Marae or Hapu.

Moving from the inherent driver of who speaks for Maori to the practical everyday involvement of Maori in their dual role as Maori and citizen, the question brings to life a whole new set of parameters, which are often the result of Crown and colonised interference.

The repealed Runanga Act directed the formation of the Iwi bodies, commonly called Runanga. From this spawned a plethora of allied organisations all to meet the requirements of Crown and funding. This also gave rise to confusion over "Who speaks for Maori?" The Crown constructs became the voice of Maori. They operated away from their Marae and Hapu base. They sought a mandate from their people and caused people to identify with a Marae, hapu or iwi on the basis of a demand to show a mandate and a population base, which gave a reassurance to the Crown that they can now deliver the assets from fish or treaty settlements to Maori.

Who speaks for Maori must remain within the sanctuary of the Marae and Hapu. The leadership at this level is determined by the most common denominator of all communities, the whanau. Whanau weigh the eternal interests of the mokopuna and the welfare of whanau when determining who speaks for them. Over this construct whanau have total input.

Any construct that removes whanau away from immediate contact or response is not in the best interests of Maori, and therefore any such body or organisation will struggle to be a credible voice for Maori. Inevitably, at some stage the body must meet with the whanau, marae and/or hapu. That is when the real speaking starts.

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MARY DOYLE
LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

Morry Black Director, Mauri Protection Agency



Engage Earlier

The term “Maori” came into common usage around the middle of the nineteenth century when it was applied to the indigenous people of New Zealand. It is generic and refers to all Maori whether of Ngati Kahungunu descent or not.

The Local Government Act, 2002 (LGA) refers to “Maori” while the Resource Management Act, 1991 (RMA) uses the terms “Maori,” “iwi authorities,” “hapu” and “tangata whenua.” Inconsistencies in legislation and interpretation create conflict whether intentional or not. Lawyers make skillions out of this phenomenon.

In Napier, Maori from other iwi tend to outnumber the local tangata whenua. When tangata whenua here marry the better-looking Maori from other iwi, the issue becomes more complicated and in former times could lead to tribal warfare. If we marry the not so good-looking ones, other iwi are eternally grateful and bestow upon us numerous gifts and koha.

The LGA tends to rely on the democratic stuff, so potentially there could be occasions where the aspirations of Maori as interpreted through a democratic process, over-ride the aspirations of tangata whenua. This was the main reason why the Maori Committee at Hawke’s Bay Regional Council didn’t support dedicated Maori seats on the council some years ago. It would be a bit strange having someone from Tainui or Ngati Porou getting appointed to council down here through the democratic process, and making decisions on what’s best for Maori of Kahungunu descent. Meanwhile we have councillors determining what’s best for Maori when their decision-making encompasses such things.

The Maori Committees on councils are advisory only, so their advice or recommendations can be taken heed of by the elected councillors ... or it can be totally disregarded or adopted in part. Some tangata whenua regard the advisory committees as mostly ineffectual in promoting their aspirations and have chosen other avenues to achieve what they want. Due to lack of recognition and provision for the Treaty of Waitangi and the partnership it envisaged at local government level, many tangata whenua view council processes with suspicion.

There is an inconsistency that inhibits the true expression of Ngati Kahungunutanga, in that the Treaty partnership is acknowledged by the Crown and central government that writes the legislation, yet local government interprets and implements the same legislation without enabling the Treaty partnership to flourish. Devolution of authority should carry with it the responsibility for prior agreements from which that authority originated. Other councils throughout New Zealand have seen the light, but some of ours still have a way to go. To be fair there has been a change of attitude lately with HBRC giving greater acknowledgment to the social structures and mana of Ngati Kahungunu.

The 12 Maori representatives on the Maori Committee at HBRC are selected by the four Taiwhenua within the region, with Wairoa, Ahuriri (Napier), Heretaunga and Tamatea nominating three representatives each. The Taiwhenua structure is a hangover from the 1980’s Labour administration, which first tried to meet the calls of many Maori for greater autonomy, but ran into opposition from the Roger Douglas brigade and the emerging

agenda which wanted to fast-track the transfer of resources and services to private enterprise.

Napier City Council Maori Consultative Committee has five Maori reps appointed by the Maori community. The Hastings District Council Joint Maori Committee has six Maori reps appointed by Council, plus six councillors. Prior to appointment, suggestions were sought from various kaumatua, the iwi authority and Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga on who might be suitable for such a committee. Central Hawke’s Bay and Wairoa District Councils have Maori Consultative Committees as well, although I understand that the Wairoa committee is in recess pending policy review.

For Ngati Kahungunu whanau, our perception of an ideal world would include a system where each hapu has a representative. At present, it is debatable whether they would have the necessary time or resources to engage with local government, central government ministries or their regional reps, or the numerous consultants that get contracted by councils and developers to research and promote a specific issue. Councils are well-resourced to promote their own agendas, and if they run out of loot they borrow more or put the rates up. Many tangata whenua in the Kahungunu rohe are not resourced, and won’t be until redress occurs as a result of Treaty settlement and enabling legislation.

In the meantime, additional advocacy usually involves doing the mahi outside of regular work hours on a voluntary basis, or engaging someone with the appropriate skills, contacts and capacity. At other times, representation is dependent on who is there on the day to vote in their particular candidate, who has the most relations when the votes are counted, or who has the time to attend meetings or to follow up on the issue at hand. Tenacity may have something to do with it too.

Promoting a particular idea or desired outcome through a statutory planning process can take years. The Regional Resource Management Plan is a case in point. Originally proposed last century after first having gone through two years of preliminary consultation, it finally became operative in August 2006. Over such an extended timeframe there were several amendments to the RMA; the electorate had determined some councillors should stay and some should go; key council staff had moved onward and upward, or sideways and were now contracting back to council at rates that far exceeded their previous council salaries; and iwi, hapu, and Taiwhenua organisations had altered management or Board structures. Priorities had also shifted with changes in Parliament and environmental policy direction. What Ngati Kahungunu has to deal with is a continually changing dynamic and focus within government in regard to our tikanga interests.

In addition to local advocacy within the Bay, we also regularly contribute to other issues at the national level. Sometimes this takes place at fora like the Treaty Tribes Coalition, the Federation of Maori Authorities (FOMA) and Te Ohu Kai Moana. Government Ministries also ask for input into policy reviews or development. What we try to achieve is a level of consistency throughout our rohe, which is not easy to do with the variations between how the three regional and nine territorial authorities within

the Ngati Kahungunu rohe interpret the RMA.

Going forward, Maori could be better represented in local council affairs if councils helped drive the aspirations of tangata whenua more, and included an ethical component in their decision-making processes. What often comes to the table at meetings between councils and Maori reps are well-prepared documents driving council initiated projects or agendas. Greater benefits would accrue for all if Maori were engaged at an earlier stage and helped inform initial drafts of documents. Then tangata whenua could benefit from an inclusive process and we would find a lot more commonalities, which would be reflected in the outcomes.

There is a prevailing view amongst tangata whenua that insufficient weighting is given to Maori concerns and aspirations during decision-making processes. The current model of representation may need refining so that

councils can interact more directly with the holders of mana whenua. Decision-making at the council table requires consideration of a council-drafted “policy on significance.” There is a tendency for councils to focus on economics and growth, and comment has been made elsewhere that they are seen more as development agencies than local government. Often what is significant to Maori and many others is not taken into account because the adopted policy on significance does not require it. For Maori, social and cultural parameters are more important than somebody making money out of our taonga.

For example, sustainability is one of the current buzzwords, but it is nothing new to us. Te Ao Maori and hapu aspirations have been about sustainable use of resources for the last thousand years. We just call it kaitiakitanga.

Ngahiwi Tomoana Chairman, Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Inc.



Who Speaks For Pakeha?

In the 1860s, one of the leaders of the Heretaunga and Kahungunu people, Hori Ropiha, was concerned with the rapid land loss, hence the loss of economic and social development potential.

He decided to meet the Treaty Partner, the Crown, face to face. The story unfolds that he met the provincial governor in Napier, who said the Crown resided in Wellington. He visited the Colonial Office in Wellington, who said the Crown authority was through Parliament. He went to Parliament, who advised him that the Crown was represented by the Governor General.

The Governor General’s office informed Hori that his authority came from England, through the Queen of England. Hori Ropiha booked passage on a ship, and in London visited Buckingham Palace and was told that the British Parliament was the Office of the Crown. From Parliament at Westminster he was again deflected to the Colonial Office, who referred him back to New Zealand to the Colonial Offices where he was first directed on this merry-go-round.

Today the Treaty Claimants face the same vexing question. Who speaks for Pakeha? Who speaks for the Crown?

Claimants must lodge a claim through the Waitangi Tribunal, who make recommendations to Parliament ... are then referred to the Office of Treaty Settlements ... who then refers them to the Crown Forest Rental Trust, and this merry-go-round rotates frequently ... before negotiations can proceed with the Minister of Treaty Settlement and his various agencies – such as government, regional and local authorities – who then will refer it to the Crown Law Office ... before it goes before Cabinet ... prior to it being referred to the whole of Parliament for approval ... before being signed off by the Governor General.

Parliament then assigns one or more of its agencies to oversee and manage the transfer of settlement assets, by one nameless junior clerk.

Aue te hoha! Bugger!

My question is who speaks for Pakeha? Will that person please stand up?

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Treaty Settlements in Hawke's Bay

Here in Hawke's Bay, the Regional Council is about to reach a milestone - its twentieth anniversary. The history of Maori settlement in the East Coast, however, is centuries old. So by comparison the Council's existence, and its role through the eyes of tangata whenua in Hawke's Bay, is a mere blink.

The past twenty years represents a very positive shift in the place of Maori within New Zealand society. The treaty settlement process initiated by the National Government in the early 1990's is gathering pace as is the re-emergence of te reo. Many New Zealanders now speak te reo while more of us are getting an education on the correct pronunciation of Maori place names, examples being rivers such as the Ngaruroro and Mohaka.

During its twenty year life, the Regional Council has consistently sought to engage meaningfully with iwi through a Maori Advisory committee. This Committee is constructed through representation of the four Hawke's Bay taiwhenua. Wairoa, Ahuriri, Heretaunga and Tamatea each elect three representatives to this Committee. The Committee has typically taken a particularly active interest in the natural resource management issues on the Council's agenda.

I can see three key drivers of change with respect to the role and influence of tangata whenua.

The most immediate of these is Treaty of Waitangi settlements. The current Government has a goal of settling all claims by 2014. While this is ambitious, there is absolutely no doubt as to the significance of this item on the Government's work agenda. The second major driver is what I perceive to be a "renaissance" of Maori culture. This is creating a more confident and assertive Maori community within our wider community. That process can only gather pace as well-educated Maori play a greater role in our institutions in the business sector and our primary sector. Finally, demographics are increasingly important. As has been outlined in the Council's 10 year plan, approximately 25% of our population are Maori and this proportion is growing fast.

Over the past eighteen months, various Regional Council documents have referenced the increasing importance of Maori relationships and the potential impact on both the form and function of regional councils throughout New Zealand. All driven by the trends outlined above.

In the Council's Ten Year plan, a financial allocation of \$150,000 per annum has been made with the purpose of obtaining greater Maori expertise in resource management planning and decision making processes. Discussions are well advanced with the Heretaunga Taiwhenua over a proposition to establish a resource management unit which focuses more explicitly on Maori aspirations.

Judge Joe Williams, latterly of the Maori Land Court and the Treaty of Waitangi Tribunal, and now of the High Court, spoke recently at a Regional Council-sponsored breakfast session on the future role of Maori within our broader society. I found one statement of Justice Williams particularly compelling and challenging - his view that all New Zealanders needed Maori to become proponents as opposed to opponents. This view was expressed with reference to a need for much more participation of Maori in our institutions, politics, business and society as a whole.

Treaty of Waitangi settlements are in the process of transforming our social, political and economic landscape. Early settlements focused on "economic redress" -- i.e., compensation for land confiscation in particular. In the past 18 months, the focus in emergent settlements has broadened to include "cultural redress" as well as economic redress.

By and large, cultural redress focuses on natural resource management issues, such as river management, and there are two active settlements currently being negotiated. The highest profile case is the Waikato Tainui settlement where "co-management or co-governance" rights for Tainui are being negotiated between the Crown, Tainui and Environment Waikato with respect to the Waikato river. The second example involves the Crown, Ngati Pahauwera and the Hawke's

Bay Regional Council with respect to the lower reaches of the Mohaka river.

Without getting into complex definitions of co-management or co-governance, in simple terms the Crown and the Iwi claimants are seeking a way to ensure iwi have a much greater say on Natural Resource Management issues within their rohe. From the Regional Council perspective, work is being undertaken to assess options for meeting these aspirations effectively and efficiently without creating either additional institutional arrangements, such as individual river boards, or additional un-productive bureaucracy. Whatever the final arrangement may be for Ngati Pahauwera and the other five major claimant groups within Hawke's Bay, that arrangement will be cemented into statute through settlement legislation.

What might Treaty Settlements mean for the broader Hawke's Bay community?

Iwi will be very significant participants in the regional economy, and with respect to natural resource management, especially water, iwi will likely have a greater and more direct involvement in plan development, and the planning processes region-wide.

Iwi as proponents rather than opponents? Iwi will bring a strong inter-generational perspective to the debate which may have two very positive outcomes for our region. Firstly, there may be a strong focus on investment within Hawke's Bay. And secondly, their long-term focus on sustaining the natural resources on which our primary sectors depend should align very well with the ethos the Regional Council must bring to these issues.

If the Crown continues at its current pace, the Ngati Pahauwera settlement could be legislated early in 2010, setting the pattern for Hawke's Bay and possibly other parts of New Zealand.

Anne Wilson-Hunt
Hastings Councillor



Who Speaks for Maori?

I was invited to give an "observers" view on current processes around "who speaks for Maori." I would like to point out that the following comments are my own personal views and do not represent Council's views, or the views of the HDC Maori Joint Committee.

I have been a member of the HDC Maori Joint Committee since I joined Council in 2007. The Committee comprises six Councillors and six members appointed by Council from among the Maori communities of Hastings District. The community members are appointed to provide a Maori perspective on issues before Council, and have added real value in helping Council to get its processes right. The terms of reference for the Committee include providing advice on the LTCCP, the District Plan and the Annual Plan; considering and recommending initiatives that will build the "capacity" of Maori; and providing direction to Council to ensure inclusive consultation processes are followed.

The question has been asked: "Who speaks for Maori?" Well, my answer is that Maori speak for Maori, just as Pakeha speak for Pakeha. Maori, like any other grouping in our society, consists of many diverse groups and communities. Each of these groups and communities has their own views on many things and speak for themselves, especially when discussing matters significant to their well-being. For district-wide issues and national issues, community groups then collect together and speak on those issues relating to Heretaunga, Hawke's Bay, or Aotearoa New Zealand.

Maori are citizens in our broader society and also have the right to be represented by their elected local and central government representatives. People like me, and the Council as a whole, have a duty to ensure

we understand the aspirations of Maori communities and the issues they face, so we can provide effective representation to deal with issues at all levels of the varied communities we represent.

The HDC Maori Joint Committee has no mandate to represent the view of any hapu or group, but it does have a mandate to direct and support the Council to better understand and represent Maori communities across our district. I am honoured to serve on the HDC Maori Joint Committee. The challenges facing Council and the Committee include strengthening Maori engagement with Council and increasing the involvement of Maori in RMA and other processes. I would certainly welcome more submissions from Maori during our community consultations.

In terms of district-wide social issues, I would also like to understand the Maori perspective on how we best address:

- The negative impact of drugs, alcohol and violence;
- Issues related to gangs;
- The water supply to small communities, including Maori communities, and the long term sustainable supply of water to all areas within the district;
- The desire to eliminate the need to demand any more Maori land;
- The need for long term, affordable heating solutions for homes, while ensuring the need to meet future air quality standards.

I will be working to make sure the Council supports the Committee to address these, and other, issues over the next year and beyond.



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Dale Moffett
Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga

No Shortage of Maori Voices

There has never been a shortage of Maori voices.

Some Maori protest; occupying and blockading, demonstrating anger, grief, lack of redress; emitting skewed images for the media.

Other Maori debate; working from within, fighting twice as hard, twice as long, twice as much; at twice the cost.

Some Maori yell from their cells; howling over no future, morally retreating; culturally defeated.

Other Maori scream silently from psychotic prisons; legally drugged, life leaking like dribble; feared, afraid, shamed.

Some Maori whimper from unlikely likenesses; blackened and bruised, broken and abused; made public to make a point.

Other Maori slur bravado; numbing the present, re-living opportunities gone knocking; if only.

Select Maori orate their history; eloquently, rhetorically; the right audience elsewhere.

Elected Maori make submission to powers-that-be; cap in hand, it's written that they be allowed to; tick the box.

Most Maori talk face to face; existing by doing, broad-shouldered; carrying everyone's burden.

Many Maori speak with action; leading by example, blazing trails; their voices lost in the cacophony.

The problem has never been in the speaking, but in the listening.

Elizabeth Sisson
Columnist



Maori Business Directory Published

A new directory of Maori-owned businesses and services showcases the entrepreneurial activities of Maori in Hawke's Bay.

Henry Heke, accounts manager with the Maori Business Facilitation Service, assembled the directory with the assistance of Ngati Kahungunu Iwi, Inc. The directory is available in book form and on-line at www.tepunapakihico.nz. The directory accepts new registrations at no charge, but is restricted to Maori-owned businesses.

Shona Jones, coordinator of the Hawke's Bay Maori Business Network, estimates that there are between 700 and 1,000 Maori-owned businesses in Hawke's Bay. A core group of representatives from thirty of these businesses meets regularly to discuss Maori business concerns. The directory "gives a face" to Maori business in Hawke's Bay, Jones said.

Examples of the businesses currently listed in the directory are Mesa Fibre Mill in Hastings, which processes alpaca fibre and makes garments; Hearty Kiwi Foods Ltd. in Taradale, which produces meat patties and offers healthy food demonstrations, catering and food services; Forest Resources Ltd. in Porangahau, which mills timber and provides logging, marketing and forest management services; Taea Ltd. in Napier, which provides Maori-focused employment opportunities and free mahi panui to jobseekers; and Natural Born Builders in Napier, who offer building project management and build residential and light commercial structures and additions.

While there exists a wide variety of Maori businesses, there is "a real gap in Maori tourism services" in Hawke's Bay, Jones said, with only a half dozen listed in the directory. A growing international awareness of Maori culture opens many opportunities in this field, she said.



In addition to a couple of hundred businesses and services, the directory lists all the Ngati Kahungunu marae and also institutions, state agencies and schools, such as the Eastern Institute of Technology, which are not Maori-owned but provide key services to Maori.

"The directory has had a lot of positive feedback," Heke said, and other areas, such as Gisborne, are planning similar directories.

The publication of the directory follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Hawke's Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Hawke's Bay Maori Business Network in September. As a result of the MOU, the Chamber's general business support functions are accessible to Network

members. Joint promotional strategies and communications are planned.

In announcing the MOU, Hawke's Bay Maori Business Network chairman Jason Fox said the network "came about from research work at EIT that identified training and networking as valuable forms of support to advance Maori in business." Under the agreement with the Chamber, Network members can access the Chamber's general business support functions.

"The Chamber of Commerce is keen to promote the collaboration with the HBMBN as it sees Maori business as the 'sleeping giant' in Hawke's Bay. In due course, as Maori businesses thrive and the Treaty Settlements mature, with 25 % of our population Maori,

this will become a tremendous engine for economic growth and wealth in our area," said Murray Douglas CEO of the Chamber. "In a sense it is actually going back in history, as the first entrepreneurs in Hawke's Bay were Maori, who in the 1840s and 1850s traded extensively with Australia. So the history is there ... we are just catching up in the modern economy and knowing what's out there is the start," he said.

The Maori Business Facilitation Service can be found on-line at www.tpk.govt.nz/en/services/business/. To become a member of the Hawke's Bay Maori Business Network, go to the Hawke's Bay Chamber of Commerce site at www.hawkesbaychamber.co.nz.

Maori: Not A Search Term

By Tom Belford

I set out on a simple mission recently. I was looking for the email addresses of the Chairpersons of the Maori Committees that advise the Hastings, Napier and Regional Councils.

If you visit the homepages of these Councils' websites, there is no mention of Maori representation or issues. You might as well be looking for Greeks or Mongolians.

So I tried the "Search" function of the first site I happened to be on — Napier City Council — and entered the word "Maori". Here's the result I got...

Not a Keyword

Sorry, the Keyword 'Maori' is not a keyword in the website. Please make sure you have spelt the keyword correctly.

Hmmm!

So I did a little experiment (after checking my spelling) to see just how difficult it might be to find out anything about Maori involvement with the three Councils and the District Health Board.

First I tried the Search function at HBRC and Hastings. Unlike Napier, both served up multiple listings and links. And using "Maori" to Search the DHB site indeed surfaced plenty of information specifically directed at Maori needs and interests — DHB is the hands-down winner in this regard.

Then I tried to find reference to the formal Maori Committees that advise each Council ... specifically looking for access to meeting agendas and meeting minutes. Napier and HBRC provide both items going back several

meetings. Hastings provides meeting agendas, but I was unable to locate any minutes.

And I must say, if you don't know these committees exist in the first place, none of the sites make them terribly visible.

Finally, I tried to find contact information for the members of the Maori Committees. All three Councils identify the members, but only Hastings provides email addresses for them. Napier and HBRC provide no contact info for these individuals. I guess they aren't really meant to be contacted.

I didn't fare better with the DHB. Although I did locate a "Maori Relationship Board" with identified members, there was no contact info for these individuals ... nor was there any documentation of the Board's activities. If the Board does anything, you wouldn't know it from the DHB website.

All in all, Maori interests don't receive much attention on Council websites (as noted, a bit more on the DHB site). Maybe the assumption is simply that Maori don't have computers or online access. Or that they have no interest — or no unique interest — in Council affairs.

But, Maori do have a unique interest and role. At a time when Maori themselves seem to be debating how they should engage Councils, and advocates of amalgamation are debating dedicated seats for Maori, the issue of the "Maori-friendliness" of Council websites might deserve a bit more attention.



ARTS & Lifestyle

Brooks Belford
Columnist



Making History



Hakikino

About 16 years ago, Robert Mac Donald made a surprising rediscovery that would one day turn a scruffy, inaccessible Waimarama hillside into a nationally recognized Maori heritage and archaeological site. It would also prompt Robert to create and lead an innovative community and cultural development enterprise: Waimarama Maori Tourism (WMT). The local nonprofit is a finalist for this year's forthcoming Chamber of Commerce Business Awards. But its origin is, quite literally, the stuff of legend... not business.

On a chilly grey afternoon, Robert is leading about a dozen people across a remote, rocky hilltop rising out of Waimarama's awe-inspiring Te Apiti valley. Simple stockades

and a meeting house, built in keeping with ancient Maori custom, stand proud against the menacing clouds. Sacred, traditional Maori carvings, statuary and artifacts hold pride of place around and within the compound. These man-made things appear valiant but out-scaled by the panoramic vistas of hills and sky.

This is Hakikino, the 15th Century Pa site that is the centerpiece of Waimarama Maori Tourism and the culmination of Mac Donald's long ago discovery. With encyclopedic knowledge and the skill of a master storyteller, Robert shares with the group the legends and history of this ancient battlement and surrounding community. "Look, the ancient sorcerer's school was somewhere on that

ridge." Robert points to a high, mist-cloaked crest. "Getting in was like getting in to King's College. You couldn't just show up at the door; you had to be referred," he says with a grin. And then he tells of the peace and prosperity of the Rangitane people who first settled the region; of the fateful battle with Kahungunu invaders; and of the forced marriage of the noble Rangitane princess to a Kahungunu conqueror. Today's Waimarama people owe their lineage to this fateful union.

The Hakikino site is strikingly simple and powerfully affective. All the more so when the call of the warrior's conch shell pierces the air and the "home people" sing ancient songs of welcome to small groups of visitors. With the help of descendants and local residents, WMT has been hosting Hakikino public tours since 2008. Skilled in traditional Maori ways, the WMT team enables visitors to participate in the ceremonies, customs and crafts that were the daily staples of their ancestors. To date, over a thousand visitors have walked Hakikino's hillsides, learned its legends and glimpsed its ancient customs.

Were it not for Robert, Hakikino might still exist in legend only. As the son of a prominent elder from Waimarama's long-established Gillies family, he learned from childhood the lore and history of his community, along with traditional Maori customs and beliefs. "Like everyone else, I had no idea of Hakikino except from the stories." But when an archaeological survey of the area was conducted in the 1990s, Robert took notice. The survey identified a remote area with which he was already familiar. "They gave it the name Ruben's Spur. But they said the ancient name was Hakikino. I suddenly realized this was something really special."

At the time, "it was just a hill and a paddock. You had to climb over fences and you could only go in the summer," says Robert, "but I started taking our people up there because I wanted them to be as amazed as I was with what had happened here." Soon enough there were outside visitors as well. "I realized they were having moments of deep appreciation. It was something that I didn't expect to see, and I said to myself, this is important."

Chairman of the Waimarama Marae for many years, Robert was already heavily involved with community development and the search for viable local employment opportunities. Slowly it dawned on him that cultural tourism might provide a solution to the area's economic plight. But opening Hakikino to outsiders raised serious concerns. Commercializing Maori heritage or putting the community on display was unacceptable. On the other hand, Robert argued, "The more people we tell about this, the safer it's going to be. If we get far enough along this track, Hakikino will remain



Robert Mac Donald

a heritage site, instead of falling back into paddocks. We could develop tourism and we could all win."

With a university science background, but no knowledge of tourism, Mac Donald sought mentors. He found them in Paddy and Anne Maloney, former business executives and loyal Waimarama residents. In 2004, Robert created The Hakikino Reserve under covenant with the Department of Conservation, and launched a comprehensive site renovation shortly thereafter. Sustainable eco-system management was a top priority. The WMT team worked to protect the native eels inhabiting inland waterways on the site; and they established a native tree nursery to reforest the hillsides and to serve the local community. The stockades and other structures were erected, along with tourist friendly, state-of-the-art eco-toilets.

One of WMT's most critical challenges was developing tours that appealed to visitors while remaining true to Maori heritage. But according to Mac Donald, "Soon enough, we realized there is no need to bury our culture or compromise. We can do things we're comfortable with. It's not performance stuff. We've never tried to tell visitors anything we're unsure about just because it makes a good show."

Through partnerships with Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery, Hastings and Napier i-sites, Venture Hawke's Bay, and Tourism NZ, WMT is gradually raising Hakikino's visibility in the international tourism arena. But a high volume, mass market business is the last thing anyone at WMT wants.

"Our emphasis is on sharing Maori traditions with integrity and protecting a historically and culturally important asset for Waimarama and Hawke's Bay," says Anne Maloney, who manages WMT's public outreach and promotion.

Hakikino today is a stunningly beautiful reserve, cultural discovery site, and eco-tourism destination; and the tours mean different things to different people. For the local community, they offer employment and the chance to reconnect with their history. For many native New Zealanders, they are a cliché-shattering change from typical, strictly scripted Maori cultural displays. And for overseas visitors, they offer a striking, often stirring encounter with an unfamiliar people and their powerful heritage.

For Robert, the WMT enterprise comes down to something more elemental. "I'll walk up the road to Hakikino on a beautiful moonlit night and feed the eels, and it's like you're at the top of the world. One of the things I get the greatest thrill out of is seeing our visitors pick that up too. There's always been something remarkable here that people respond to. If we ever lose that, well, then the whole thing is lost."

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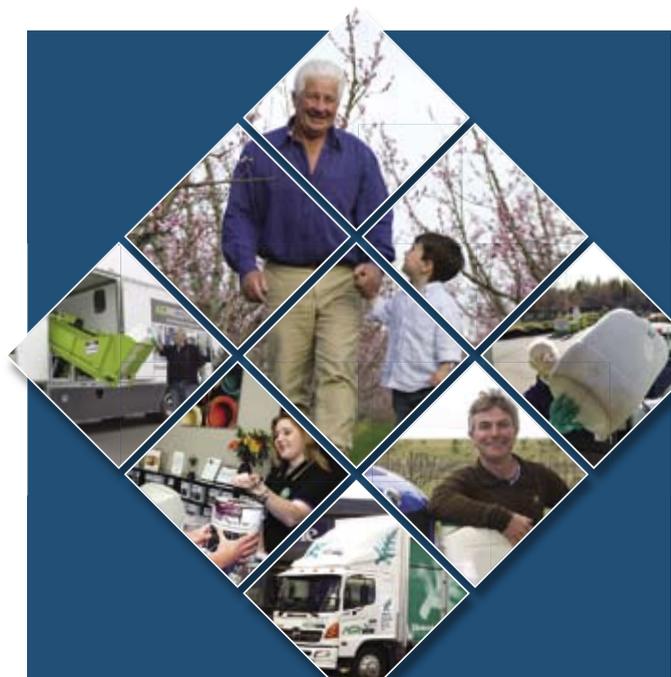
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Mark Sweet Columnist



Bordeaux... Meet Hawke's Bay



Trinity Hill vineyard

Ten years ago, Steve Smith, CEO of Craggy Range Winery answered the question: "What changes do you see coming to Hawke's Bay in the future?" He declared: "Wine will change the face of Hawke's Bay forever!"

He explained: "... the emphasis is changing from traditional pastoral agriculture to high value niche products such as wine growing. With this brings a change in character and increases in related industries such as tourism and high quality restaurants in wonderful rural settings. This is an important time for Hawke's Bay, a chance to make its name on the world stage as a producer of... the best wines."

Steve Smith's prediction has matured as the past year has firmly established Hawke's Bay Bordeaux style red wines from the Gimblett Gravels Wine Growing District as among the best in the world.

Earlier recognition came from *Decanter* magazine's Steven Spurrier, who in November 2006 wrote: "For me, New Zealand, particularly Hawke's Bay, remains with Napa the natural home of the claret lover. There is perhaps a reserve, at least a lack of flamboyance, in the wines of Hawke's Bay."

And it should be remembered that Te Mata Estate's Coleraine was recognised as long ago as 1982 as comparable to the finest from Bordeaux.

Perhaps an aversion to competitions by co-owner John Buck, and the humility of wine maker Peter Cowley, have limited the publicity for this benchmark wine. But as Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate* stated in May 2008: "After completing two verticals of Coleraine, witnessing a couple of tasters undergo their Te Mata epiphany, I conjectured whether this is New Zealand's greatest wine?"

The run of acclaim for Gimblett Gravels began in October last year when Scenic Cellars in Taupo hosted a blind tasting of twelve 2005 red wines, six from Bordeaux and six from the Gimblett Gravels.

The tasting was headed by renowned Australian wine aficionado, James Haliday, and the equally respected Elin McCoy from the USA. Both were astounded when the results were revealed, prompting Haliday to remark: "This was no put up job. It's hard to argue with the results which cannot be swept under the carpet."

The order of merit was as follows:

Blake Family Vineyards "Redd Gravels" – \$75
Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay, NZ

Ch Lafite-Rothschild – \$1,950
Pauillac First Growth, Bordeaux, France

Sacred Hill "Helmsman" – \$70
Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay, NZ

Mills Reef "Elspeth" – \$40
Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay, NZ

Ch Mouton-Rothschild -- \$1,650
Pauillac First Growth, Bordeaux, France

Trinity Hill "The Gimblett" – \$30
Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay, NZ

Craggy Range "Sophia" – \$50
Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay, NZ

Ch Troplong-Mondot – \$600
St Emilion Grand Cru Classe, Bordeaux, France

Ch Haut-Brion – \$1,650
Pessac-Leognan First Growth, Bordeaux, France

Newton-Forrest "Cornerstone" – \$40
Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand

Ch l'Eglise-Clinet – \$1,350
Pomerol (highly-rated), Bordeaux, France

Ch Cos d'Estournel – \$400
St Estephe Second Growth, Bordeaux, France

Immediately obvious is the huge difference in price between the regions. The Bordeaux contribution averaged \$1,300 per bottle, whereas Gimblett Gravels was \$50 per bottle.

How much the price gap can be closed is obviously a consideration for those who have invested heavily in the 800 hectares of Gimblett Gravels. It is now among the most expensive agricultural land in Hawke's Bay, selling at over \$100,000/hectare. Sales in 1987-89 were around \$7,000/hectare. Potential future earnings must be a vital ingredient in such inflated land value.

Comparing Bordeaux reds with Gimblett reds is a brilliant – and audacious – publicity and marketing strategy. Bordeaux is the Rolls Royce, the Rolex, the Ronaldo of red wines. There's a Bordeaux First-Growth 100 Index listed in the same tone as a Stock Market Index.

The Bordeaux region of France produces 700 million bottles of wine from 116,000 hectares of vines, four times the grape plantings of New Zealand. The quality of Bordeaux wine, as in New Zealand, ranges from barely drinkable, cheap plonk, to the finest in the world. It is the five 'first growth' Chateaux that are at the pinnacle, and these are the wines Gimblett Gravels is emulating.

Chateaux Lafite-Rothschild, Chateaux Margaux, Chateau Latour, Chateaux Haut-Brion, and Chateaux Mouton Rothschild, are legendary names that pop up in Ian Fleming novels, and the biographies of the rich and famous, which is the closest most of us will ever get to them.

The permitted Bordeaux red grapes are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Generally, the wines from the Medoc and left bank of the Gironde estuary are dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon. This is the style of Te Mata's Coleraine, which in 2005 was a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc. The Right Bank top quality reds are dominated by Merlot, which is more the style emulated by Gimblett Gravels. Top of the Taupo Challenge, 2005 Blake Family Vineyard Redd Gravels is 40% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc.

Whatever the blend, it is obvious that Bordeaux style red wines of the finest quality are being produced in Hawke's Bay in ever increasing quantity, and all those who live here are the beneficiaries of the passion and skill it takes to make such world class wines.

Kent Baddeley Columnist



Art of the Dish

As a chef, I am often asked how I arrive at the dishes I create. It's a question I take very seriously. The inspiration comes, maybe, from a certain colour in the morning sky, or a certain plant or vegetable arriving in my kitchens in the morning. In any case, it is hopeful. My dishes are expressive of something from New Zealand culture and society... something that we can all identify with, yet the dish itself is completely new and arrived at in unforeseen ways.

To narrow my parameters, I break down the processes to seasonal, regional and dirt raised, which allows me to focus on things at hand and what they evoke. My thoughts may turn to an idealised New Zealand – languid, late summer afternoons ... innocently swimming in the tidal rock pools of Makorori ... looking for trumpeter to throw on the barbie.

For example, I have a sauce that we call in the kitchen "Low Tide at Makorori." It looks like wet sand after the wave has broken onto the shore. The wave brings flavours of kelp, seafood and minerals; and the texture is fine yet damp. To create the wet factor and the colour, I turned to field mushrooms, redolent of mineral and fungal flavours. I shave off all the black mushroom fins, moisten them with mirren and my own worcestershire sauce, and then sprinkle sweet marsala and pacific salt crystals over it all. The salt releases the mushroom juices. After about two hours, I

quickly heat this mix, blitz in a food processor and, by adding a little cream, arrive at just the right colour ... the colour of wet sand at Makorori.

On the plate, this can be enhanced with the use of Korengo, a native kelp that the Japanese use for Nori. I can then recreate my little rockpool by adding small clams, etc. Placed back of plate and slightly to the right, my composition follows a design principle similar to "the rule of thirds."

In creating a dish, the real trick is to think flavour at all times and to make sure that the conceptualizing doesn't outweigh taste and presentation.

Recently we have been exploring Hawke's Bay Firstlight Wagyu beef – magnificently raised, seductive, textural and exotic. Inspiration comes from imagining the ideas and whispers in the kitchen of a faraway Japan, along with Kobe beef – really the sumo wrestler of the beef world.

As it happened, Steve at Mr. Bean offered me some nettles. So we simply ground some Wagyu with a knife, blanched the nettles, and then bound the mix with a little light soy. This we wrapped in a Peking duck pancake made from flour & water, and then popped the tube into a hot oven to crisp the pancake and just set the meat. We served it over a Miso sauce with a little Thai chili paste from Orcona Pepper Farm. A salad of rehydrated Wakame tossed in limes and toasted sesame finished my Japanese thoughts. The point was to create a Japanese feeling in the Kiwi vernacular, i.e., cannelloni. The good news ... it was delicious.

These are just two examples of the way a dish might evolve and what it expresses for me. The final product, like a good painting, is art imitating life...or life imitating art. It's all the same.

We're now at the

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COUNTERPOINT

Tim Gilbertson



Extinction By Design

The Editor of this august publication has gently chided me for negativity. Always looking on the dark side of life, as it were. And that's a fair comment. Some are unhappy, says the Editor, that roses have thorns. I am happy, he says, that thorns have roses. And so say all of us.

So, from me now on it's the cup half-full, not the semi-empty tumbler.

However, just before I start morris dancing, wearing flowers in my hair, and declaiming pastoral verse of the idyllic school all over the province, I'd like just more small crack. Then it's the joys of spring from me from here on in. I promise.

This morning the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Banky Moon, said the world was facing climate catastrophe. And if the next round of climate change talks in Copenhagen in December didn't result in dramatic and binding reductions in greenhouse gases, we were all buggered with a capital B. (Those were not his exact words but a fairly literal interpretation.)

Shortly after that, the Royal Society in the UK put out its latest data suggesting that ice melt, oceanic acidification, etc. is happening faster than anticipated, and within thirty years we could be seeing serious and irreversible damage to the planet with, as Banky says, catastrophic consequences.

The only serious global response has come from China. Firstly, it's grabbing as many of the global resources as it can lay its hands on with absolutely no regard for ethics, morality or the long term good of the nations it's buying the resources from. And secondly, it's building up the biggest military machine the world has ever seen so that when the crunch comes they can walk into any country in the world and grab their resources the way the pakeha walked into Taranaki 140 years ago.

There is an almost exact historical parallel between the threat of fascism in the thirties and the threat of climatic annihilation in the present day. Apart from Churchill and one



or two others, no one wanted to know about Hitler or Mussolini despite incontrovertible evidence as to their intentions. Hitler spelled out his program in *Mein Kampf* in 1923, but no one took any notice because no one wanted to believe the bad news. Al Gore is no Winston Churchill... but he is the modern equivalent.

If you believe that Banky and the Royal Society are right or even half right, you should get out the door with your shovel, planting tree after tree until the landscape is covered with the little carbon-eating suckers... and so should everyone else on the planet.

I am somewhat pessimistic about the outcome of the Copenhagen summit. I suspect that we are seriously up the creek and that, unlike the dinosaurs, we face extinction by design, rather than accident.

As any farmer will tell you, Nature doesn't take any prisoners and the gates of the goal house are closing fast.

So that's it folks. My last and final and never-to-be-repeated doomsday scenario.

In the meantime, spring has come to the valley. And nature, resplendent in all its beauty, makes it feel good to be alive... even as the carbon creeps up to get us.

(In my next column I will discuss the joys of morris dancing and how to grow tomatoes in a waterless desert.)

A Long And Winding Road cont. from p1

The stakes

Apart from the ethical imperative to protect our natural inheritance, and enhance our enjoyment of our rivers and streams, it's simply good business to protect our soils and waters. Rural affairs newspaper *Country-Wide* reports growing UK and European consumer concern about green and ethical issues surrounding food imports – e.g., carbon footprint, food production processes, animal welfare standards, and traceability.

The bar is constantly rising for NZ exporters of food products. And with Hawke's Bay sitting as one of the country's top four primary production regions, it is rather important that our farmers "get it right" with respect to practises that are — and are perceived to be — environmentally friendly and sustainable.

So the next time you hear a rant about how environmentalists don't appreciate farmers, consider ...

First, if environmentalists play a role in squeezing more environmentally sustainable practises out of those farmers who are recalcitrant, that will benefit HB's economy in the long run. Will farmers "do it themselves?" The verdict is still out ... and that's being generous. According to the HBRC's most recent land use report (Sep, 2008): "Farmers generally express a clear preference for any nutrient regulation to control outputs from the farming system, not inputs ... Whether sustainability can be achieved by simple effects management is under some challenge however, particularly in relation to cumulative effects. *A more encompassing approach may well be required.*" (italics added)

And note, this statement related only to farm "outputs" polluting our water. That's just one of many adverse environmental impacts poor farming practises can have. For example, equally worrisome are issues like depletion of the soil itself and stress on water supplies.

Second, not all farmers stopped educating themselves about better farming practises when petrochemicals arrived after WWII! There are plenty of farmers, including here in Hawke's Bay, who are using farming

methods that actually improve the soil, use less chemicals, and yield more and better tasting products. BayBuzz will be telling their success stories in the future.

Meantime, the ball is officially in play. Expect to see more specifics on the Mohaka strategy in November, including the actual changes proposed for the Regional Resource Management Plan. For now, we'll give the last word to Iain Maxwell, regional manager of HB Fish & Game:

"Naturally the proof of the pudding will be in the eating and we will be watching progress carefully to see when things are going to change. While we accept that these changes won't occur immediately we are confident that the commitment of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council is now there to see the necessary changes to the region's Regional Resource Management Plan pushed through. Having an effects-based regulatory regime provides the right tool for the toolbox for requiring changes without stifling the initiative and development of mitigation options for land users in the catchment. We are supporting this approach with the knowledge that the WCO (Water Conservation Order) values now have the highest priority and that land can still be farmed in the catchment as long as they don't compromise those values."

Kudos owed to Iain and HB Councillor Liz Remmerswaal for their leadership on the Mohaka issue. And to Kathy Webb for her galvanising article in the *DomPost*.

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Copies can be read at all public libraries or ask Hawke's Bay Regional Council for a copy (phone 06 833 8075) or read online at www.hbrc.govt.nz



Paul Paynter Orchardist



Arterial Road Hits Dead End

In a startling decision the Northern Arterial Route (NAR) has been declined by independent commissioners. As usual the Hastings Council's defeat has been cleverly spun. If the press is to be believed, it's all down to those "bloody Maoris" and their cultural sensitivity, mumbo jumbo.

The Mayor would have us believe two things. Firstly, "The project has a number of economic, environmental and neighbourhood safety benefits."

That is true, if you rely on a myopic analysis. It reminds me of BERL's recent, damning alcohol report that looked at the costs of alcohol in our communities, without considering the benefits. These benefits include our billion dollar wine industry – more than just a minor oversight. Similarly, the economic analysis of the Regional Sports Park cycling velodrome considered the benefits, but not the costs. How can any sound decision be made without examining both sides of an argument? Yet this is a strategy that abounds in the political sphere, and it's all too easy for the public to be manipulated.

Naturally the NAR independent commissioners were charged with weighing up the pros and cons of the road and, for the record, they clearly disagreed with the Mayor. The commissioners concluded that the NAR would not serve the community in terms of their "social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety."

Secondly, Mayor Yule stated: "Decisions like these are partly subjective in nature – different people put weight on different issues, just as the commissioners have done."

Yet again, the commissioners could not disagree more strongly. "In all the circumstances relating to the NAR proposal, we are unable to find that it is consistent with the purpose and principles of the RMA," they concluded.

In fact, there are four key grounds on which the NAR was defeated:

Traffic Benefits - Commissioner Terry Brown was the guru on these matters. After a career as a traffic engineer, he is naturally enthusiastic about roads and has ticked off plenty in his more recent role as Commissioner. But Commissioner Brown lived up to his 'independent' moniker. To his credit, he went away and undertook further analysis of the traffic data and reached his own conclusions.

The decision found that the NAR forecasts only showed traffic reductions on 3 of the 10 major roads considered. The Council's own work indicated that it dramatically increased traffic on parts of Karamu Road. The Commissioners indicated that "upgrading works on Karamu Road and Pakowhai Road and various intersections will be required" in order to deal with the negative effects of the NAR. The NAR is not the traffic panacea Council would have us believe.

The Environment – Commissioners considered many environmental matters, but were particularly concerned about the loss of valuable soils – something that a great deal is made of in the District Plan. In their language of barbed euphemisms, they described "shortcomings in the evidence." What they meant was that planning reports worked from the assumption that the NAR would have benefits that outweighed the costs. "Give us the road and

we'll sort out any problems later," seemed to be the Council's approach. Commissioners found that Council failed to adequately evaluate the environmental costs and did not demonstrate how they would be remedied or mitigated.

They concluded: "we are unable to conclude that the proposal would represent the efficient use and development of the natural and physical resources of this land..."

Tangata Whenua – How can I mention the Treaty of Waitangi and still keep you reading? Sadly, so many people are so frustrated and confused about the Treaty that they switch off whenever it is mentioned.

The key thing everyone needs to know is that the Treaty of Waitangi was primarily for the benefit of Pakeha. Simplistically, the Crown said "We'll run the show and set up our laws and systems. In exchange we promise we'll protect your land (and taonga) as long as you wish to hold onto them." Almost 170 years later that looks to have been an exceptionally good deal for Pakeha. It's Pakeha who should gleefully celebrate the Treaty. It was the constitutional basis on which the British Empire got their mitts on New Zealand. What a score!

Maori were guaranteed their lands as that was what they held most dear. Taking of land from one's enemies has the power to destabilise communities and has always been the ultimate mark of victory. It was true of Alexander the Great, Napoleon and Hitler. It was equally true of Maori, who fought many battles over land. The principle is also relevant to that insidious, Marxist concept, of "death duties." Here the enemy was the "wealthy landowner" and for the good of society their land should be removed from their heirs. Maori suffered terribly from the application of death duties and we showed little regard for their values. Maori were never the bourgeoisie.

A very few Maori have managed to retain their land in spite of death duties, councils, developers, family wrangles, bad business deals or whatever. Some have been offered millions for their land – but they are not interested. Their connection to the land is critical to them in a way Pakeha struggle to understand. We only really need to know one thing – a Maori with a connection to their ancestral land is a better, more complete Maori. They have a wholeness, an identity, a balance, that they struggle to find in any other way. OK, so it's still mumbo jumbo to some of you. This you *can* understand... if someone took 99% of what is precious to you, how determined would you be to hold onto the last 1%?

Once, Maori controlled all of the Heretaunga Plains. Now they have but a few hundred acres left, and they are determined to hold onto it. Local Maori fought the NAR as if their lives depended on it. That is because their lives do depend on it. Without that connection to the land you can see many Maori in our communities, lost, confused and resentful; as if cast adrift in an unfamiliar ocean.

The Commissioners examined the facts, including the needs of the wider community, but still rejected the NAR. They concluded strongly that the NAR "does not sufficiently recognise and provide for the relationship of the Maori..."

NAR Objectives – Most shocking of all, the NAR seems to have been flawed in its very foundations. Opponents argued that the Council had narrowed the objective of the NAR, in such a way as to justify the "preferred alignment." The commissioners responded to that accusation with their shortest sentence: "We agree."

This was a remarkable defeat for the Council. Purportedly \$1.9M worth of reports in support of the NAR were shot down by a bunch of Maoris, some peasant fruit growers and a handful of "old folk" from Kennilworth Road. The commissioners acted with clarity and courage in turning down reams of evidence that sought to justify the NAR. Moreover, their decision was so emphatic that an appeal to the Environment Court seems to have been quickly dismissed.

How could Council have got it so badly wrong? To some extent it's a reflection of the system for road funding. In Wellington there are two "pots of money" for roading projects -- a National Fund and a Regional Fund.

The Sports Park Shell Game

By Tom Belford

The Hastings Council has begun the sports park shell game in full earnest. Hang on to your wallets! You won't be able to find the pea under the walnut.

You remember the promises don't you ... three sacrosanct phases, Phases 2 & 3 absolutely not to proceed (Councillor after Councillor assured us) until full funding for each phase was in hand. That included \$37 million in "external" funding to be raised.

Remember?

Well, the Sports Park Trust, with complicity from the Hastings Council, wants to toss all that out the window. In the new scenario, \$1.4 million worth of Phase 2 items now magically become critical parts of Phase 1 (so much for Kelt's \$600,000 of careful planning). With only \$2.4 million in external funding raised for Phase 1 (against a requirement of \$5.33 million), Council funds "allocated" for later phases need to be advanced to pay for the first phase. And of course doing that requires additional Council borrowing. None of the Phase 2 external

For councils to get their hands on big chunks of this money, they must do two key things. Firstly the road needs to be of national or regional importance. Secondly, the road needs to meet a minimum Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR). Simplistically, these rules mean councils are inclined to "big roads" and "efficient roads." That sounds sensible, but sometimes, in chasing the central government funding, errors of judgment can be made.

If you complain to an Auckland about the Hastings traffic, they will stare at you in disbelief. From both political and funding perspectives, "big roads" seem the way to go. But a series of incremental roading improvements can often relieve traffic pressures and make roads safer. Similarly, roads that are less efficient from a traffic perspective may preserve productive rural soils, or avoid Maori ancestral land. The Council also has ideas on walking, cycling and public transport, all of which could go some way to improving the situation.

Our problems are modest and it's time to look at a raft of modest solutions.

funds have been raised (against an additional requirement of \$5.08 million). Phase 3 might become Phase 2 if the cycling gods smile on the velodrome. And so forth.

The Sports Park Trust failed to get the new "advance the funding" scenario passed by the Council a few weeks ago. They hadn't done enough homework on the finances... apparently too busy working on their flash promotional DVD. Some Councillors are clearly worried that more ratepayer dollars than previously projected will be required to subsidise operating costs. It looks like Splash Planet all over again!

Nevertheless, the Sports Park Trust is coming back this month to try another pass at the Council's (i.e., ratepayers') pocketbook.

You know who's getting the biggest workout from the sports park? Accountants!

It's all trickier than a carnival shell game. And you know who always loses in those!

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20 Reasons Not To Go

By Tom Belford

Recently the Hastings Council invited citizens to a workshop at the Opera House to air their views on a range of issues related to development of the urban areas of the Hastings District, with special emphasis on the Hastings CBD. The meeting was promoted on the radio, in Hawke's Bay Today, and on the Council website.

Excluding Hastings Councillors and staff, about 20 people attended. Of these twenty, seven were "regulars" who attend most such events, including at least two interlopers from Napier.

Granted, some stakeholders were invited to workshops during the day to give their views. Nevertheless, a turnout of twenty from the general public is pretty discouraging.

I was looking for an explanation for this sorry outcome, so I called twenty Hastings residents at random to find out why they stayed home. Here are their reasons.

1. Nobody listens to the radio, reads HB Today, or visits the HDC website.
2. It was too cold out and I wanted to stay close to my woodburner.
3. I understood the subject to be Hastings CBD, not important places like Havelock North or Napier.
4. My heart can't stand the excitement.
5. My kids are sick.
6. I have no opinion.
7. I got lost – don't know where the Opera House is.
8. The Council will get it right without my help.
9. I tried to attend, but couldn't find a parking space in Hastings at 7pm.
10. Council doesn't pay any attention to this kind of input anyway.

11. Rejuvenating Hastings is an oxymoron.
12. I'm avoiding crowds so I don't catch bird flu.
13. I was in the cellar watching my wine age.
14. The meeting conflicted with my favourite TV show.
15. If I pretend it's not happening, maybe it won't.
16. I'm in mourning for my deceased prize bull.
17. Let the nutters deal with it.
18. I heard no alcohol would be served.
19. Obscenity.
20. We did all this once before ... and look where that got us

Do these reasons pretty much cover it? Is it different for Napier?

OK, so I didn't really call anybody.

But seriously... help me understand. Why are so many people so prepared to whinge about their local government and its direction, but so unprepared to try and make a difference?

Here's one easy thing to do right now. With two years of their terms gone, and one year to go, it's time for a progress report on how Councils are doing ... from you, the voters. You can send a message by filling out the **Council Report Card** on this page. **BayBuzz** will make sure your "grades" are passed along to our Mayors, Councillors and interested candidates.

You can also take the survey online at www.baybuzz.co.nz/reportcard

Grade Your Councils' Performance

For incumbents seeking re-election, the next year will be their final opportunity to demonstrate their mettle. Meanwhile, potential office-seekers will be shaping their visions and plans ... and demanding accountability from the current officeholders.

So, it might be useful at this point to let officeholders and office seekers alike know how the voters are sizing up today's Councils. Here's a chance to express your views!

Complete this Council Report Card by November 1st, so we can include your views when we report the results in our December edition of BayBuzz Digest. Let's give our Councillors and would-be local body candidates something to think about over the holidays.

Council Report Card

For the first three questions, give your response with your own Local Council in mind. Indicate which local Council you are evaluating, by ticking ONE of the following boxes:

Hastings Napier CHB Wairoa

1. In general, which of these three answers best describes how you feel about your Council's management of the District/City?

- I'm not satisfied, it's time for a change
 I have some concerns, but by and large the Council is doing an acceptable job
 I'm satisfied, the Council is doing a good job

2. Which statement about the level of rates and debt increases your Council has approved over the last few years best represents your view?

- I think these increases have been appropriate and pay for necessary services and infrastructure.
 I believe these increases have been excessive and the Council is trying to do too many things.

3. People seem to disagree about whether the Mayor and Councillors listen to and represent the interests of average residents. Which of these three answers best represents your view?

- Yes, I believe by and large they do reflect the interests of average residents.
 No, I think they mostly pursue their own ideas and priorities.
 I'm not sure

Now, answer the next two questions with the HB Regional Council in mind ...

4. In general, which of these three answers best describes how you feel about the job the Regional Council is doing?

- I'm not satisfied, it's time for a change
 I have some concerns, but by and large the Council is doing an acceptable job
 I'm satisfied, the Council is doing a good job

5. People seem to disagree about whether Regional Councillors listen to and represent the interests of average residents. Which of these three answers best represents your view?

- Yes, I believe by and large they do reflect the interests of average residents.
 No, I think they mostly pursue their own ideas and priorities.
 I'm not sure

6. Which of these three statements about possible amalgamation of councils best reflects your own thinking:

- I'm a supporter of amalgamation in principle, realising there are important details to work out.
 I'm not yet convinced that the possible benefits of amalgamation are enough to make it worth the effort.
 I believe there are other issues for Councillors to deal with that are more pressing for the community.

7. Finally, are there any particular issues where you have been especially disappointed by what one of our Councils has done ... or not done?

Contact Information (Optional):

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Send your Council Report Card to: BayBuzz, PO Box 8322, Havelock North, 4157
 OR BETTER STILL, Complete the Council Report Card online at www.baybuzz.co.nz
 Complete your Council Report Card by November 1.

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