

ELECTION REVIEW

Business as usual for our councils?

With a return of voting papers that slightly exceeded 2007, voters in Hawke's Bay opted for business as usual in the recent local body elections.

Across the four governing bodies covered by BayBuzz — Hastings Council, Napier City Council, Regional Council and District Health Board — the voting results were, not surprisingly, a reflection of the power of incumbency. That is the main story of this election.

From those four bodies, only six incumbents out of forty-four officeholders chose not to seek re-election. Of the thirty-eight who did seek re-election, only two were defeated — Mandy Kimber in Havelock North and Anne Wilson-Hunt in Hastings.

As we've noted before, the incumbents — some of whom have served 9, 12, or 15 years — have all the advantages going into an election campaign. They've had heaps of media exposure over their years, pictures

of their faces smiling at us regularly in official Council publications and websites, rivers of Council-issued media releases, invitations to all the "be seen" events ... and even plenty of time to actually have accomplished something for which they might deserve public acclaim.

Consequently, it's a heavy lift to unseat an incumbent ... and most of us who tried to do so failed.

Below are some implications.

BY TOM BELFORD

In my own favorite sandbox, the Regional Council, each incumbent sought re-election and none was defeated. At first glance, the simple conclusion is that the status quo prevailed. But while true, that interpretation can be a bit simplistic.

Looking more closely, for example, at the Hastings constituency of the Regional Council, the "old guard" of von Dadelszen, Rose and McGregor collectively won 30,153 ticks. An alternative trio, one incumbent and two challengers — Remmerswaal, Douglas and Belford — who share similar views on the environment that differ markedly from the old crew, won 28,308 ticks.

Indeed the biggest gainer of votes of all the incumbents, receiving 3,381 more votes in 2010 than in 2007, was Liz Remmerswaal. Liz is the "purest" environmentalist of the HBRC lot ... the kind Ewan McGregor likes to call 'environmental fundamentalists'. If her vote isn't an endorsement of staunch, "heart on your sleeve" environmentalism, what is it?!

Those 1,845 ticks separating the two "camps" (out of nearly 60,000 votes cast) will amount to a world of difference in the direction the Regional Council will now take!

Without question, there are two hugely different voting blocks out there in the Hastings constituency when it comes to how the Regional Council should pursue its mission. They are quite evenly matched at present. But, unfortunately, elections are "winner take all" and consequently what Hawke's Bay will get from the HBRC is three more years of faint-hearted stewardship of our environment and stale thinking about regional economic development.

Now that the old guard has weathered the election, they've already fallen upon one another, replacing Alan Dick as chairman

in a palace coup with compromise chairman Wairoa's Fenton Wilson, just elected to his first full term. Voting to depose Dick were Councillors von Dadelszen, Rose, Scott, Gilbertson and Wilson; voting to restore Dick were Councillors Remmerswaal, Kirton, McGregor and Dick. Read the gory story on page 3.

I see three implications.

First, hopefully Wilson, as the Council's newest member, and the one with the least baggage, will rise to the occasion and emerge as HBRC's "Great Peacemaker", suppressing the internal conflict that has plagued the Council.

Second, with the Regional Council's role under challenge from many directions, the new chairman will need to tune up his political game to protect the Council's prerogatives ... something Alan Dick did well.

Finally, some of the disaffection with the Dick regime stemmed from a belief that his plans for the Regional Council were too grandiose and expansionist. We might see a turn "back to the basics" under Wilson's guidance.

Hastings Council

HDC will see the most new blood, with Sandra Hazlehurst, Simon Nixon, John Roil, Jacoby Poulain, Ru Collin and Scott Henderson joining the table. With some of these newbies, the verdict must be awaited as to whether fresh blood translates into fresh or independent perspective.



Fenton Wilson



Alan Dick



Lawrence Yule

Lawrence Yule slid backwards a bit from 2007, from winning 55.2% of the vote then to a slightly less 53.8% in 2010. I suspect the Mayor would have liked a stronger mandate for his last term in office. But as with the Regional Council outcome, there seems to be a fairly entrenched opposition to the Yule regime, capable of delivering 46.2% of the vote against a very accomplished and long-serving politician.

Still, even on a bad day, the Mayor can probably count on seven reliable pocket votes in support of his agenda without breaking a sweat. He should have plenty of latitude to work on amalgamation!

Napier Council

Queen Barbara I still reigns, although now with a 'mere' 75% of the vote, down nearly ten-points from 2007. And no incumbent Councillor was defeated.

Anyone looking to avert sheer boredom over the next three years — let alone see any change of direction — will need to pin their hopes on two factors. One, the team of Michelle Pyke and Maxine Boag might gain some traction with a "social conscience" agenda for the city. At least they can second one another's motions, forcing an occasional vote on important issues.

And two, the jockeying (rumblings already) for a successor to the Queen, who — once again — has said this campaign will be her last. At least one candidate will emerge from the councillor ranks who wants simply to carry Barbara's torch forward, and maybe another will put more distance between himself and the current regime, while outsiders will be promising some new thinking (and perhaps a new Chief Executive).

Cont. page 3.



Barbara Arnott

Egos inflate as new chair is elected

By Tim Gilbertson

The shouting and the tumult die. The captains and the kings depart.

Well, not quite. The captains and kings remain sitting round the council table at the Palace in Dalton Street, Napier. I refer, of course to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the recent election of the new chairman and deputy chair.

It was stated, quite rightly, by all the protagonists at some stage of the proceedings, that the performance of the Council has suffered due to the fact that Councillors spent more time fighting one another than fighting for the common good. This is not completely untrue, and is the inevitable result of big egos being brought into the debating chamber rather than being left in the cloakroom where they belong.

Alan Dick did his very best to control and contain the situation, which as he pointed out, had been a consistent theme over the last six years of council. Thankfully, he laid most of the blame on the tight six of yesteryear, so we three relative newcomers (Liz Remmerswaal, Fenton Wilson and me) could feel slightly less guilty than the old guard. But despite his best efforts, a number of Councillors could not resist bringing their mirrors to every meeting so they could gaze at will upon the smartest person in the universe.

The only way to break the habit was to bring Wilson off the bench. The only untarnished player. Untried but also unloathed. And as Wilson pointed out in his speech to the crowd, although he only had eighteen months experience on the Council, he was surrounded by over 100 years of collective experience and together we could move mountains.

I suspect that this was also a polite way of saying that after a hundred collective years, maybe it was time for some members to consider forsaking the Palace and returning to the planet Earth. He was referring to the other Councillors, I am sure, and not to me.

The election of Ewan McGregor as deputy chair from the opposing "faction" was hopefully a signal that, despite the fractiousness in the body politic, the new term will demonstrate to the people of Hawke's Bay that the Council is genuinely determined to work together, to get back to its primary function of environmental protection and financial prudence, and to leave the mirrors behind in the cloakroom ... along with the egos. Here's hoping.

Wanted: Top 100 Buzzmakers for 2010

A year ago, BayBuzz honoured one hundred individuals who make an uncommon impact on the well-being of the region ... the 100 Top Buzzmakers of Hawke's Bay.

This year, we want your help to assemble our 2nd Annual Top 100 Buzzmakers list.

See details on back page.

From the editor: Thanks for your election support

As most readers will know, I was an unsuccessful candidate for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. 8,607 voters rallied to my candidacy, but I lost by 926 votes. It's tough to beat incumbent officeholders, as I discuss elsewhere in this edition.

In the process, over one hundred individuals came forward with offers of support – locations for signs, help putting up signs (a huge chore if you don't hire out the job), offers to leaflet throughout the constituency (my walkers covered Haumoana, Te Awanga, Clive, Havelock North, Flaxmere, most of 'urban' Hastings), public endorsements and private use of personal email lists, and even some campaign contributions.

To all of those supporters, I am especially grateful.

I want to offer thanks too to the individuals who voted for me.

However, I don't want you to relax or "go quiet" over the coming term of our Councils ... there's too much work to do to keep our Councillors accountable, to let them know we're watching. That's why – with a 'tongue in



TOM BELFORD
editor

cheek' advert in this edition – I'm asking my supporters to raise your hands, figuratively, and let me know who you are by simply sending me your email address at tom@baybuzz.co.nz.

I want to thank you directly, and I'd like to stay in touch from time to time, updating you on issues I think you care about. Don't worry, I won't overload your mailbox!

Now for two observations about the campaign.

First of all, the upside. As a relative newcomer to the region, the fact is that probably 90% of the 8,607 people who voted for me have never met me. I take that as a strong endorsement of the priorities and positions I voiced in my campaign, and over the last 3+ years in BayBuzz. They did not vote for me because I was their nephew, their doctor's spouse, their old school or sport mate, a fellow parishioner,

or from a multi-generational Hawke's Bay family. And certainly not because I had warmed a council seat for 12 or 15 years without incident.

Instead, they voted for me because of what they understood me to *stand for*. And I'm thrilled to get 8,607 votes on that basis. I will do my best in the weeks ahead to reach out to as many of those voters as I can (as well as my unable-to-vote supporters in the Napier constituency), and find ways to represent their values and aspirations for the Bay.

Second, about the personal nature of local campaigning. For all their whinging about "playing the ball, not the man," my opponents did a vigorous (some might say hypocritical) job of playing the man. In my case, a man they termed too new (to be telling us natives what to do), an outsider, (worse) an American, a draft dodger, a Johnny-come-lately, and even a member of 'an American cult'. In other words, he's 'not one of us' ... and maybe even dangerous.

Even as a relative newcomer, my network was plenty wide enough to pick up and report back the whisper campaign.

Actually, I don't mind being considered dangerous. Indeed it's true. When it comes to threatening mindless drift and the status quo, I'm as dangerous as they come. As for the 'not one of us' part? Well, I'm comforted that 8,607 voters feel otherwise.

And my supporters' comments made during the campaign, and since, confirm to me that campaigns are indeed meant to be about personal performance and accountability, not length of residency. And that elected officeholders should be judged on their performance and positions throughout their term of service.

That's what I consider 'playing the man' ... and I intend to keep on doing it. In fact, with the support of our readers, we'll seek to broaden participation in the 'watchdog' role of BayBuzz in the months ahead.

So, undoubtedly for some Councillors, the good news is ... Belford lost. However, for those same Councillors, the bad news is ... BayBuzz didn't.

School camps breed survivors and provide adventure

I have survived for this month. I conquered school camp. I am now qualified to voice my opinion on those who put themselves forward to volunteer for duty.

Yes, I finally succumbed to going on school camp. Somehow I had managed to convince myself that I was ready to go where I hadn't been before. My endless – but very rational – excuses that my role as mother of the house was to keep the home fires burning, while each child ventured off into the wilderness, had started to sound repetitive. Surely I could do it, school camp can't be



ANNA LORCK
columnist

that bad?

My memories of going on camp as a child are great. In fact, I became quite popular because Dad (a military man with a rank of Major) would come in his camouflage gear and army boots, with his ration packs

and lead the troops. The boys all loved him (which meant they loved me). So did the teachers and all the parent helpers – and now I know why.

To put you in the picture, I'm not too keen on tents and I don't do backpacking. I am not afraid to admit that I am more of a bach type of person, with a toilet and a shower. Those bare essentials are important because they keep me sane.

But shouldn't I become just a little crazy now and again and live a little? Surely I could last four days, three nights at Camp Wakarara in the Ruahine Ranges. If nothing more, I would be doing it for love ... to show Brittney (who loves camping) that her mum is up to it.

My saving grace ... a car. At least I could pack endless amounts of clothes and chocolate and take extra pillows and a mattress or two. If worse came to worst, I could also sleep in the car, or drive back into town in the dead of night, returning showered, cappuccino-ed up and ready for action.

Well that was my plan, until somehow I was appointed the mother in charge of girls' welfare. Not really THINKING, I said sure, not a problem. But there was a catch, it meant sleeping every night in a tent because I had to be close by – in case someone wanted to go to the toilet or got scared in the night. All the other parents were allowed to sleep inside.

Now I was pretty flattered at being put in charge, after my daughter's teacher so kindly told me it was because I sounded like someone in control. I couldn't let her, or my image down, so I sucked it up and rose to the challenge. However, an hour after arriving, I started thinking of all the excuses I could come up with for having to leave! But realising running away was not an option, I mentally agreed that each time I started having dark thoughts I would put Britney first, as she would never forgive me if I left.

So here I was, and here I would stay. And then it started to rain.

I would get little sleep (until I worked out that if I put cotton wool in my ears what I couldn't hear wouldn't harm me, or get the children into trouble), wet shoes and smelly clothes, hat hair and no showers.

It's also an adventure. It's about getting close to nature, living on limited resources, sleeping on the ground, bonding, singing songs by the fire and toasting marshmallows.

My saving grace was not the car ... it was the children. Remarkable creatures who never really complained, seemed to like my jokes, my singing and called me the General. Who enjoyed the fresh cold air and tramping in the mud, snow and rain; who lost and then found their shoes; who slept in tents that blew down and put them up again; who did the dishes, collected fire wood, entertained; and most of all made me laugh.

To all those parents who have done school camp and return for another, you are heroes.

And to those of you yet to venture out there – you need to understand reality – it's not a holiday. It is hard, tiresome work. And you must bring a sense of humour for when you want to scream at some poor cold child when they're standing in nothing more than a t-shirt and a pair of fashion shoes in the pouring rain ... and think they are ready to climb a mountain.

But above all school camp is life education. And I learnt how much I appreciate home, and bed and hot showers and a glass, or bottle, of wine.

Now, time will only tell if I am a hero or a survivor – I've worked out I have at least 20 more camps to go!!

P.S. Congratulations to all those who won an election seat and good luck. And to those who didn't, take up camping!

Personal gripes motivate change in leadership

By Tom Belford

When he received news on October 9th that his 1,322 votes had won him election to his first full term on the Regional Council, I doubt Fenton Wilson's first thought was ... "Aha! Now I can depose Alan Dick as Chair."

And when Alan Dick received word that his 10,134 votes had secured his re-election, I'm equally certain his first thought was not ... "Uh Oh! Now I'll need to fend off a challenge to my chairmanship from Fenton Wilson."

But that's the way it played out over the past two weeks, culminating in Wilson's 5-4 election as Chair, with only Councillors Dick, Kirton, Remmerswaal and McGregor voting to retain Alan Dick.

The opportunity landed in Wilson's lap, as the least offensive compromise candidate, when a group of three Councillors (Eileen von Dadelnszen, Christine Scott and Kevin Rose) — motivated mostly by personal gripes and ambitions — were joined by Tim Gilbertson (a minimalist who worries that Dick's grand ambitions for HBRC distracted the Council from its core business) to vote for a change in leadership.

You would need to be a regular observer of the Regional Council to appreciate the irony of this "change" coalition. The four instigators can hardly bear each other. Hence the need for Wilson as the least offensive and threatening candidate.

Both he and Alan Dick, in their "campaign" presentations to their colleagues, noted the dysfunction of the Council brought about by heaps of petty jealousies, personal dislikes, chronic disrespect to one another, and constant consequent in-fighting

Wilson in his comments referred to "bickering and disharmony beneath the dignity of this Council." He presented himself as a peacemaker.

Dick described a Council that over the past six

years has been "plagued with internal conflict and poor interpersonal relationships between members," which, he continued, resulted in "caucus predetermination, public arguments and general discontent" and consequent "wasted energy in trying to keep the peace."

He noted that such behaviour cannot be fixed by the Chairman alone, saying: "It can only be fixed by nine people, notably by the six who have been here for the last two terms, individually and collectively having a good hard look at themselves and considering whether they are here for personal gratification and power, or to work conscientiously and consistently for the benefit of the region."

My, my, my! If I had offered this kind of indictment — the Regional Council is a bunch of juveniles — during the campaign, I would have been accused of "playing the man, not the ball!"

It's unfortunate that the voters were cheated out of such candid self-assessment by the Regional Councillors themselves during their campaigns! Keep in mind, no incumbents were defeated. [Although Christine Scott and Kevin Rose have pledged not to run again.]

Former Chair Dick offered a impressive case (even to the normally critical BayBuzz) that the Council had indeed made positive strides during his leadership, effectively challenging his colleagues with an "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" argument. As I saw it, his opponents made no rebuttal to his argument or any substantive case for a firing squad.

Their "case" was essentially that Fenton Wilson is a nice fellow.

So here we are, like it or not, with our fourth HBRC Chair in as many years.

Whether Wilson will be a pawn or a king — or a peacemaker or disciplinarian — remains to be seen.

But he is now the Chair. And he deserves — and should be supported in — his opportunity



TOP ROW: Kevin Rose, Eileen von Dadelnszen, Christine Scott and Tim Gilbertson voted to install new Regional Council chairman Fenton Wilson.

RIGHT: Neil Kirton, Ewan McGregor and Liz Remmerswaal voted to re-elect incumbent chairman Alan Dick.

to banish the conflict, demonstrate independence, and provide substantive leadership on a par with (or better than) his predecessor. The region needs him to succeed.

Meantime, the coup plotters might have triggered more change than they were counting on. With the coalition shifting,

Councillor Scott was then removed as Vice-Chair, being replaced by Ewan McGregor in that role. If this coalition persists, we might welcome new Chairs for the HBRC's Environmental Management Committee and its Asset Management Committee when those votes are taken. Change has a way of getting out of control!

Business as usual for councils?

From page 1.

District Health Board

They're now elected again, with the able Kevin Atkinson once more the top vote-getter. Only one new face here, Kirsten Wise, replacing the departing David Ritchie.

Nothing but huge challenges ahead for this elected group ... and the handful of appointees the Health Minister will now add to the mix. Burgeoning health care needs and costs ... versus curtailed

funding.

But first, the big decision to be made is who will chair the DHB.

By any rationale, the leadership post should go to Kevin Atkinson ... he has the confidence of the community, deep knowledge of the issues, and he's no pushover for a determined staff bureaucracy.

It's now up to the Bay's National MPs to secure that result for the people of Hawke's Bay.

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No shortage of ENVIRONMENTAL issues

BY TOM BELFORD

As the environmental challenges confronting Hawke's Bay multiply and get more complex, our Councils will need to work harder and harder to master the technical issues, understand the economic dimensions, and bring competing aspirations into a sustainable balance.

Most important is that our decision-makers do not fall into the trap of viewing protecting our natural resources and environment as a trade-off against economic prosperity.

Indeed, here is a definition of "prosperity" that we in the Bay would do well to adopt: "our ability to flourish as human beings – within the ecological limits of a finite planet."

The simple bottom line is that any successful strategy for securing the prosperity of NZ — and certainly of our own primary production and tourism-based region — depends on prudent, sustainable management of the natural resources and ecosystems that underpin and service our

economic activity. This should be a no-brainer.

Hopefully our Councils will come to that awareness.

Meantime, here's a selection of environmental issues that will confront our Councils over the next term. Did you hear much of this discussed during the recent campaigns? I think not.

While the Regional Council will bear the heaviest load, the Hastings and Napier Councils carry a fair share as well.



The quality of our river environments will be a key challenge for the Hawke's bay Regional Council.

For the Regional Council ...

Re-write of the Regional Resource Management Plan — the RRMP is the basic environmental rulebook for the Bay. It will be substantially updated during the next Council term. Here's where tough standards and expectations will be written into enforceable form for the long term ... or not.

Water harvesting and storage in Central Hawke's Bay (and perhaps in the Ngararouro River catchment as well) — massive study is underway. Will it be technically feasible, economically viable, AND environmentally acceptable?

CHB sewage treatment upgrade — some effluent will go on land, but some will still flow into the Tukituki ... how much and under what conditions?

Land use intensification — we want to grow the Bay's farming economy. But is the HBRC's land care staff up to the task of "selling" more sustainable and soil-enhancing farming practices to farmers? And will farmers "buy" it?

Adoption of Maori co-governance scheme for natural resource decision-making — there's a new equal partner coming to town, who will be actively engaged in resource planning and policy-making. Birthing pains are likely.

Resolution of Taharua catchment dairying pollution — how long will it take HBRC to do what obviously needs to be done to curb damaging land use practices?

Ending AFFCO's massive pollution of the Wairoa River.

Implementation of PM10 air pollution standard — can reduction of this health-damaging pollution be accelerated?

Alternative long-term growth scenarios formulated by HBRC will become public in November ... what environmental future will they paint?

HBRC response to National Land & Water Forum report — more than a regional talkfest will be required to address the critique and recommendations in this landmark report.

Ongoing monitoring of HBRC's day-to-day management of water supply and quality.

Resisting introduction of GMOs into Hawke's Bay.

Implementation of new coastal policy statement.

For Hastings Council ...

Ensure adequacy of Hastings sewage treatment scheme — what effluent is actually going into the Bay, and how much? With what consequences?

Ensure Hastings compliance with new stormwater discharge consent — will HDC live up to the tough regime newly imposed by HBRC?

Secure drinking water for Havelock North from environmentally benign source.

Confirm a plan for addressing Haumoana coastal erosion — the time for Council tap dancing is over ... is HDC supporting the beach community or not?

Curtail HDC-sanctioned foul discharge directly onto Waimarama Beach.

Monitor environmental impact aspects during the scheduled re-write of the Hastings District Plan.

For Napier Council ...

Napier must get a consent for its planned sewage disposal scheme — maybe HBRC will ask the tough questions it failed to ask Hastings, who is using the same system ... with all the problems we've heard about.

Pursue better solution to Westshore erosion — NCC is on a track doomed to fail.

Address stormwater run-off into the Ahuriri estuary.

For District Health Board ...

Examine public health impacts of agricultural chemical use.

Play more proactive role on other environmental health issues, like air and water quality.

From Wellington ...

Several central government initiatives, each with major repercussions in Hawke's Bay — and councils' advocacy on them — must be monitored and lobbied, where appropriate:

Proposed National Environmental Standard (NES) for on-site wastewater systems.

Central government study & proposed NES on soil contamination.

Central government response to the recommendations of the Land and Water Forum.

Proposed NES on freshwater management.

Proposed low flow standards protecting freshwater ecosystems.

Any new or expanded roles and powers for new Environmental Protection Agency.

General ...

Promote eco-tourism in the region — needs more development and marketing emphasis.

Rationalize Councils' spend on environmental education — each Council throws ratepayers' money at the wall ... does any of it stick?

Support for key DOC conservation/biodiversity projects in our region — important work that needs more visibility and support.

Cont next page.

DID YOU VOTE FOR THIS MAN?



THOMAS (TOM) BELFORD
(AKA: Mr. Baybuzz, Johnny Come-Lately)

I received 8,607 votes in the recent election, but I don't know everybody to thank. If you supported me, please send me your email address: tom@baybuzz.co.nz. In return, you'll get ... my heartfelt thanks, an occasional newsletter (not too many) informing you on issues of concern, and a fresh photo when I've lost 10 kilos!

WARNING FROM MINISTRY OF JUSTICE: Be careful about communicating with this man. He is subversive. He's from America. A reputed draft-dodger and cult member. He's been here less than a generation and thinks Hawke's Bay is great, but could be an even better place to live, work and enjoy.

Raise your hand to: Tom@baybuzz.co.nz

Our economy out of balance and facing changes

Recently, Al Morrison, director-general of the Department of Conservation — our senior public service conservationist, but no wild-eyed zealot — gave a remarkable speech, *Building Biodiversity: Building New Zealand*, about the profound linkage between NZ's natural resources and ecosystems and our economic viability.

Morrison offers his thoughts as to why this linkage has not yet been embraced by sufficient numbers of our politicians and businesses. He argues that we must add to the purely moral dimension (which hasn't proven to be enough), the economic imperative. A few excerpts ...

We are degrading ecosystems and destroying species to a point where the services that nature provides, that we rely on for our sustenance, and that determine our prosperity, are being run down and out. If we are to save ourselves from ourselves, then appealing to the intrinsic value of nature is not enough.

It is not a matter of giving up that sense of awesome wonder, but rather adding to that, an argument designed to compel the uncommitted. Unseemly though it may seem to

nature lovers, we have to appeal at a less lofty level.

Our economy is dangerously exposed, seriously out of balance, and facing huge adjustments. And the prospect of getting back in to balance is a distant one. That's bad news for those of us who think there is an urgent need to invest much more in conservation and good environmental management, because the received wisdom is that it's only strong economies that can afford a clean environment.

Protecting our biodiversity, which means maintaining the ecological integrity of the places our native plants, birds, animals, freshwater and marine species need to survive, is the sleeping giant of the conservation economy. New Zealand doesn't have a brilliant track record. That we are relatively Clean and Green and 100 Percent Pure, is little credit to our deliberate efforts. The brand is largely available to us because we have had relatively little time and few people to mark our footprint over the entire land...

Nature's systems are finite and we are using them to a point that there is a supply and demand problem. And we are exacerbating the problem by mismanaging and destroying the ecosystems that we rely on to supply those critical services. Technical solutions can stave off some of the problems for some of the time; storage dams, flood protection measures and so on. But at our current rate of biodiversity destruction, something has to give at some point.

It may seem crass to say that climate change and its big cousin, biodiversity loss, create a potential competitive advantage for New Zealand. But connecting the ethics and the self-interest; intrinsic value and economic benefits, helps us better understand that sustainable management of natural resources is not just about nice things to do when time and discretionary resources are available. It is a necessary investment in the natural capital that sits at the base of our economy. Water, soil, air, nutrient cycles, climate regulation, pollination... these and other services are the natural capital we need to survive and prosper.

The way we conventionally describe and measure economic progress is an incentive to ignore the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use and management, and capture the benefits and subsidies from that with a clear conscience.

GDP can be measured in terms of income, expenditure, or production, but over time all three produce much the same result. None takes a systematic account of environmental impacts. Creating an environmental mess is good for GDP.

It typically increases the immediate benefit for the developer by disguising true costs, and down the track the cost of cleaning up the mess generates further economic activity, usually at public expense.

Massive environmental subsidies are defined out of existence by labeling the costs as externalities and discounting them because they lie well in the future. We don't talk about building up environmental debt in the same way as we talk about building up financial debt, and that stops us worrying about it. It's a recipe for sleeping easy.

From previous page.

Protect the independence of environmental decision-making in any efforts to amalgamate councils.

Educate/lobby MPs on national and regional environmental issues — for example, the economic value of "green".

Encourage mind-set change for area businesses and Councils with respect to incorrectly perceived environment versus economy trade-off.

These issues would be addressed best if there were strong and effective environmental advocates amongst the Councillors themselves — can you name any? And if the Councils pursued these matters in a coordinated way — but history to date says: Yeah, right!

And how will the public interest be represented

in this blizzard of issues and decision-making? Surely not by the handful of environmental and conservation voices that presently attempt to monitor, submit and advocate on a "catch as catch can" basis. As it stands, activists are too few, stretched paper thin, poorly resourced (and that's an under-statement), disorganized, non-strategic, and too docile given the huge stakes involved.

The environmental "movement" in Hawke's Bay needs some amalgamation of its own! We have a substantial base. Otherwise Liz Remmerswaal wouldn't get 10,346 votes; nor would I get 8,607 votes. We need to tap into this base on a far more — dare I say it — sustainable basis!

Otherwise, it's going to be a tough three years for the region's environment.



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PHOTOS by Richard Bimmer

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Time for injection of youth

Hi I'm Jacoby Poulain, recently elected Hastings District Councillor (Flaxmere Ward). Thank you sincerely all who supported me.

Born in Hastings city, raised in Flaxmere, I returned home after being admitted to the bar as a Lawyer to give back where I can to this community I'm passionate about. I've worked for the Maori Land Court, the Ministry of Justice and currently serve as a Youth Advocate working specifically with the Council and Police.

As a Councillor, my issues are your issues. I've heard a myriad of issues of which I intend to treat with integrity. One specific area I'd like to elaborate on, that I hear being figuratively screamed out there and echoed throughout our region whether it be Hastings city, Flaxmere or Havelock North, is that of our young people.

Young people, those aged under 25, make up a huge proportion of Hastings – almost 35%. Though many are deemed too young to vote, they are no less valid and important citizens that deserve their concerns heard and addressed. I will speak for our younger

generation.

My ultimate vision though is that young people themselves are raised to places of leadership and governance in our community, that way they themselves will be able to directly influence and inform policy and decision-making in order to bring about positive outcomes for their lives and our community.

Young people are change-makers, peace builders, technologically savvy and environmentally concerned. They are hungry, optimistic visionaries. Relationship focussed, they are natural team players. They are compassionate, socially alert and willing to learn. With aptitude they are a force to be reckoned with. They are our future city leaders.

With such striking and envious qualities, why then are young people not currently



Jacoby Poulain

prevalent in places of meaningful leadership and governance in our city? I pose to you that a significant part of the answer lies in the fact that we as society, by constantly and consistently referring to our young people as *future* or *tomorrow's* leaders, relegate them to realms and places of time that never eventuate. Tomorrow never comes - think about it.

What we must do is pull our young people into the here and now by affording them opportunities to engage as active partners in community governance. It's only by experiencing and walking out responsibility that capability manifests and grows.

Are they ready? Many are. For those that aren't, we must raise them to be. We must lay the foundations deep in our new generation of city leaders by leading, training and equipping them with the necessary capabilities to lead and govern effectively.

I use the illustration of a skyscraper. You know how tall the building is going to be by how deep and strong the foundations are. The higher it's going to be, the deeper and stronger

the foundations must be. The skyscraper is our city of Hastings. The foundation is the fusion of our community, with both young and old cemented together. We've got the older generation involvement down pat, we now need to dig deep and get our younger ones cemented into the mix.

Over the next three years you'll find me out in the community with my figurative spade digging out new opportunities and rightful places for our younger yet capable ones, and with my spatula cementing them in there.

I will speak for them at the Council round table, visit schools to inform and inspire, and help support youth initiatives and organisations out there – all to raise the positive profile of young people in governance and leadership.

I'm taking up my spade and spatula...will you do the same? I've never heard of a skyscraper being built by one person. It's always a team effort – united we stand, or divided we fall. Let's start digging!

Village safety should be priority for Havelock North

Havelock North is unique. Because of its style, its layout, its climate, its people and its history, the Village attracts visitors from all over the country.

Nestled at the foot of Te Mata Peak, surrounded by orchards and vineyards, the lifestyle is particularly appealing. Its establishment dates back to 1858. Shopping is attractive and interesting to visitors both young and old. A high standard of schooling is provided at primary, intermediate and secondary levels with three secondary schools, one intermediate and three primary schools servicing not just the Village, but District and beyond.

Herein lies part of the problem the Village is currently experiencing.

The Village is regarded in the Hawke's Bay as the place TO BE on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. With bars now able to remain

open till 4a.m., young people from age 13 to 20+ are now congregating in the Village centre, with numbers swelling to around 600 prior to closing time. Bars try to control the outflow at 3a.m. by staggering their release of patrons. Once on the streets some youths can be goaded by young partially intoxicated early teenagers into carrying out acts of violence, vandalism and vulgar activities.

Noise is sometimes unbearable and, to the elderly living close to the Village centres, terrifying to the point where an elderly resident has had a heart attack and is now moving into a Hastings rest home. Others have moved to the rear of their units because of noise and fear.



Scott Henderson

Bottles and cans are thrown over the walls onto roofs and into gardens. Owners don't feel safe.

Village motelliers inform me that visitors/ tourists who have in the past enjoyed the Village as a regular destination have advised they won't return because of the noise etc.

Graffiti, breaking of neon signs and fencing, and other property damage is a major concern to the point where at least one motelier has said "he has had enough".

Young people also travel to the Village from Napier, Taradale, Hastings, as well as local young folk. The mix can sometimes create issues.

So where to now?

With the Village's reputation being sullied, tourism and trade threatened, property and people damaged and abused, it is time these issues were addressed. We have, however, a duty to our 16+ year-olds to allow them to relax and

enjoy their Saturday nights, just in the same way that they have a duty to respect people and property and take pride in what has been built up for them over the past 100 plus years.

It will be their Village in years to come!

How do we resolve this issue?

To my mind ... The number of Police in our area for Saturday night patrol needs to be increased and hourly patrols instigated.

The Village Community patrol does a wonderful Job on weekends, but does not have a strong Police presence to fall back on.

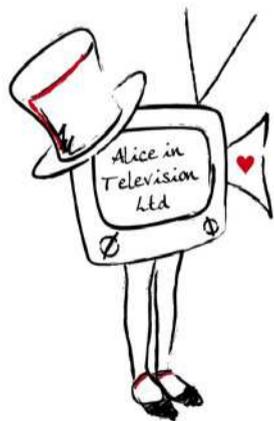
Closing times brought back from 4a.m. to 1 or 2 a.m. at the latest.

The problem is concerning and will be addressed.

These are my thoughts at the present time.

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Focussing on the economy

I will not be able to achieve near as much as a councillor compared to what had hoped if I had become Mayor, but I will be doing all I can to bring about changes I believe are necessary.

I hope my education, experience, interests, and background provide a unique combination of skills that will enable me to make a useful contribution to Council.

Council needs to align its modus operandi to the highly competitive real world, and not be a monopoly provider, shielded from reality by statute. I certainly want more disclosure and greater transparency.

I intend to focus on improving the economy. We remain near the bottom of all key economic and social ratings and there is little evidence of success in lifting our standard of living.

I believe more effort is needed to reduce cost of local government to improve affordability. Unnecessary Council charges simply add to

living costs and make us all poorer.

Enterprise must not be discouraged by unnecessary costs, or Council generated impediments. It is the private sector, not Government or local Government that creates most real wealth

I still believe we must upgrade Hawke's Bay airport so we can attract other airlines and possibly even direct flights to Australia if we are to prosper.

Our visitor market is in the doldrums and unless we act appropriately it will continue to contract, creating hardship for many businesses. Our manufacturing and other businesses need to communicate and trade freely with the rest of the world. I believe on Hawke's Bay travellers are paying on average as



Simon Nixon

much as \$100 more per flight than they should be. If multiplied by the 400,000 passengers passing through the airport this equates to a \$40 million annual cost.

We must expect even higher fuel prices and must provide better and more competitive access in the future. As it happens, air travel is not as energy extravagant as some would have us believe. Flying to Auckland typically uses less than half the fuel as a person travelling on their own by car.

Construction has a high labour content and is one easy way of boosting our economy at no cost to the community. Council handling of building consents needs improving with more consistency and helpfulness, without compromising standards.

We need the sort of financial boost comparable sized urban centres such as Hamilton. Palmerston North and Dunedin receive from universities and military bases. I believe Hawke's Bay fails to gain a fair share of

Government spending. For example both the present and previous administrations refused to contribute to the airport development yet do not hesitate to pour billions into projects such as the Eden Park upgrade in Auckland.

Population statistics show conclusively people are leaving in droves. I want to do more to stop our brightest leaving because they perceive we have little to offer them.

The amount of traffic commuting on the expressway between Hastings and Napier shows something is amiss with urban planning. Clearly public transport is not meeting the requirements of most people, yet still requires over \$1 million a year in subsidy.

While Council planning processes extend 10 years into the future, they tend to be simple extrapolations of the present. I think we can do better and I hope I can contribute to better future proofing during my term.

Hastings' history key to its future

Firstly, thank you Hastings for electing me as your Councillor. I am humbled by your support and excited about my new role.

I have a number of priorities and a range of objectives I am passionate about.

I want to grow our economy by attracting people and new businesses to live and invest in Hastings. To thrive, we need to promote the Hastings District to New Zealand and overseas.

We have some of New Zealand's best water, fertile land, food, wine, landscapes, infrastructure, events, facilities, and schools. And of course our biggest asset ... our wonderfully passionate and talented people. Because of the opportunities and lifestyle we have, we need to specifically market all those advantages to prospective residents and new businesses, so they see the benefits of

living and investing in Hastings.

An important part of my vision is to showcase Hastings District's history by establishing a People's and Settler's Museum.

A district the size of Hastings has a rich heritage that should be showcased and celebrated. I also want to revitalise the Civic Square/City Art Gallery and surroundings. I consider these surrounds to be under-utilised. I would like more people to enjoy their beauty and I want to connect them more strongly to the city centre.

Promoting the new Hawke's Bay Sport Park is critical to its success. It must be positioned



Sandra Hazlehurst

as a national events centre as well as being strongly supported by groups and organisations throughout our region. The community, social and personal growth benefits resulting from the Sports Park will make it a cornerstone of the region's well being.

I have a number of goals for the Central Business District (CBD). It is critical we practically and aesthetically connect Home HQ at Nelson Park to the city centre. This will promote the health and vitality of the CBD. At the same time, we need to direct traffic through the CBD instead of sending shoppers around the outskirts of the city. Connecting the east and west shopping precincts will allow the city to function as a whole and grow the



retail sector.

Finally, I want to provide more play areas for families and youth. Hastings City needs an outdoor skate bowl and more interactive recreational spaces for our young people. I want to see Splash Planet's play areas open to the public throughout the year. It makes little sense for Splash Planet to be open for only four months of the year.

These objectives are my focus.

Learning the role

I do not have any set agenda for the next six months except to learn about the role I will fill as a Councillor.

My aim or focus in the next six months is to complete the following:

Learn as much as I can about the different committees and areas that I will be working in.



John Roil

Support the initiatives that the previous Councillors have set in place.

Provide advice when and where required, based on the current experience I bring to the table.

This may take longer than six months. However, it is important to learn about the environment I will be working in, and also the people that make up the Council.

I will of course respond to any enquiries that are directed to me by the community either as individuals or collectively.



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Napier's call for change produces one new councillor

After a grueling two months of campaigning on the streets, at the shopping centres and practically every waking hour taken up with communicating with people, one way or another, everything suddenly slowed down when the results were made public.

This was seemingly a nano-second after I received the phone call from the Electoral Officer informing me I was the only new candidate to succeed. The phone calls, texts and emails since then have been wonderful and from all over the world too.

Like many other candidates though, I am disappointed at the level of voter apathy, yet again. For all the calls for "a change" Napier voters have returned all the incumbents, including Mayor Barbara Arnott. In effect I have replaced Harry Lawson who has retired after more than 20 years of continuously re-elected service – a hard act to follow indeed.

Since the 'big day' I have been welcomed by my new colleagues and there are briefing sessions and of course the Triennial Meeting of the new Council to be held in the next couple of weeks.

The Triennial Meeting is when the new Council members will be sworn in and I am looking forward to that ceremony with immense pride and anticipation as many of my family will be present.

Although there will only be a few meetings before the Christmas break, I am sure I will have plenty of reading material to bury myself in so I can get up to speed with my colleagues on all Council business, particularly the issues highlighted in the election campaign.



Michelle Pyke

I expect 2011 to be a very busy year in terms of resolving many of the outstanding issues of the last term, many of which need decisive leadership and a vision for the future.

Marine Parade encompasses many of those issues – what to do with Marineland? What to do between the playground and the Aquarium? What form of transport link from Marine Parade to Ahuriri? Where to divert trucks to from Marine Parade?

I'm very keen to start the new year discussing the issues that intersect with the HB Regional Council – Westshore beach erosion and the city's residential leasehold land issues being two that are obvious starting points. The ongoing and rising social impact of the leases, from financial stress on lessees, especially for many elderly lessees on cross-leased properties, cannot be over-stated. The city's



commercial lessees are faring no better and that situation is a threat to the jobs we do have, let alone the jobs we want created here in the future.

I wish to sincerely thank everyone who has supported my journey onto the Napier City Council and make only one promise – that

I will continue to do my best to represent people through thorough research and open community connections. I feel privileged to be elected and I take this public show of faith in my skills, knowledge and abilities very seriously.



Smarter ways to use limited DHB funding

Another round of local body elections are behind us and, as a first timer running for the Hawke's Bay District Health Board, the support I received which led to a successful election was very humbling.

I would like to thank everybody that voted for me.

With an accounting career that spans eighteen years, I decided to stand for the DHB because I believe my experience in providing financial support and advice to a wide variety of businesses will make me a valuable addition to our DHB.

For the past nine years I have been involved in the financial management of health services within the Hawke's Bay community.

Over this time I have seen a need for more integrated service delivery across our continuum of health providers to ensure Hawke's Bay residents are receiving the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

Employed by HBDHB as a senior management

accountant from 2001 – 2008. I worked across all facets of the hospital-based provider arm, as well as the community teams and public health unit.

My last two years saw me working with the funding arm responsible for the financial management of the entire Hawke's Bay health budget including Aged Care, Disability Services, Primary Health Care Providers, Laboratory and Pharmaceutical funding, as well as representing HBDHB on national Ministry of Health projects.

I am now a Partner with the local accounting firm Black & White Accounting Ltd. As part of this role I work as the Finance Manager for the Napier-based health and social services provider Te Kupenga Hauora-Ahuriri.

This has provided me with insight into the provision of health services within Hawke's



Kirsten Wise

Bay across all spectrums of healthcare and an appreciation of the importance of ensuring all our health providers work together to provide the best health services possible with the funding allocated to our local population.

Hawke's Bay born and bred, with a young daughter through to grandparents accessing local health services, I have a vested interest in ensuring the health services provided in our region are of the highest standard.

My parents are members of the baby boom generation who will be retiring within the next ten years ... along with an estimated one million other New Zealanders.

The development of strategies over the next few years will be vital to ensure we have adequate services and facilities available to cater for this growing population.

Unfortunately there will never be unlimited funding to cover the health needs of our society; however, research actually shows that additional funding is not the answer.

We need to get smarter in the way we deliver health services in Hawke's Bay to ensure we are making the most of the funding we receive in this region.

I feel passionate about making a contribution to the Hawke's Bay community and believe my knowledge and expertise in the health sector will enable me to take part in the effective governance of the HBDHB.

I am looking forward to working with my fellow board members and ensuring we continue to strive to provide the best possible health services to the Hawke's Bay population, both in our community-based providers and hospital-based services.



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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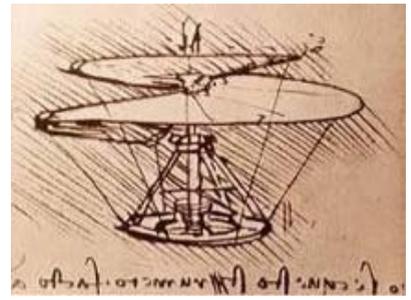
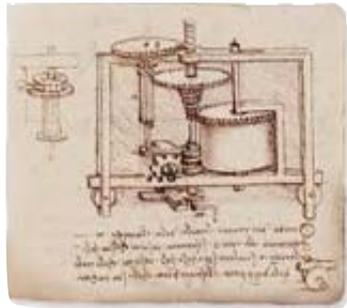
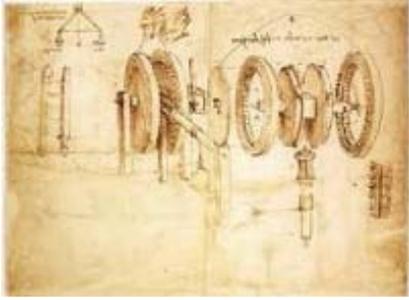
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THINKING SMART

the other economy

BayBuzz asked writer and consultant for sustainable businesses **Stefan Olsen** to begin writing a series of articles about businesses in Hawke's Bay that are Thinking Smart ... using their heads, science and technology to add value to products and services provided from the Bay. Says Stefan, "When BayBuzz asked me to write this column I

was initially surprised to find out that 60% of Hawke's Bay's economy actually came from businesses not directly involved in our primary industries (40%). However, after visiting two local businesses it became clear there's a lot more going on in the Bay than apples and lamb chops! So without further ado I introduce to you ... **Fire and Water.**

Firenze Woodfires

With 150 outlets stocking Firenze Woodfires throughout New Zealand, it's surprising this progressive company in Onekawa can keep up. But they do, and they grew a whopping 20% in 2009. So to find out more, I spent an hour or so with UK imports Peter Hewitson (Owner and Woodfire Pioneer) and Gary Edwards (Manager of day-to-day operations and recent co-owner).



Peter Hewitson

By the time I left I was in no doubt as to why Firenze have been on the up and up for almost 30 years to now be market leaders in quality, not just quantity, of woodfires in New Zealand.

In 1959, thanks to the then Government Immigration Scheme, Peter came across from the UK and made Hawke's Bay his home. Peter was initially in the sheet metal industry, but in 1986 acquired plans for what would become the 'world-famous-in-New-Zealand' Lady Kitchener woodfire.

Through the 80s Peter's company (then aptly named Hewitson's) produced the Lady Kitchener in multiples of 100s, before the 90s when orders began heating up. Now, some 27 years later, Firenze is a 4.3 million dollar SME, employing upwards of 20 full-time staff, and contracting out many facets of its operation to other local businesses for services such as punching, folding, forging, powder-coating and laser-cutting.



Firenze wood burner.

Interestingly, part of the success of Firenze has actually come from local and national government policy. With New Zealand clamping down on air pollution, especially PM10 emissions associated with old-style woodburners, Firenze has used rules and regulations to their advantage by developing

and manufacturing products that meet new requirements.

Put simply, Firenze's commitment to producing fires that emit as responsibly as possible has resulted in the advent of some of the cleanest woodfires not just in New Zealand, but the whole world!

When it comes to efficiency there's not many other woodfires close to the efficiency rates found in a Firenze. With the efficiency of their fires around the 70-80% mark, the truth is you can have an efficient heat source that in a lot of cases, is cheaper to setup and run than a high-end heat-pump. Furthermore, take into account Firenze's wet-back technology and you'll also save on your electricity bill to heat your water.

Having dabbled in exporting their fires in the past, Firenze is now looking to export to Australia (which is destined to bring their allowable wood-fire emission levels to that of New Zealand's) and beyond, to such lucrative markets as Europe and the US. Peter and Gary are unsure whether that'll involve the exporting of Firenze's knowledge overseas or the physical product – maybe both?

What they are sure of though is they're staying put in the Bay for the usual reasons (minus the astronomical air-travel costs), and they're proving this by putting down even deeper roots next year, with bigger and better premises just down the road in Onekawa.

They believe there's no problem for a lot of national and even international businesses to operate out of Hawke's Bay – in fact, they claim they can get their woodfires delivered around the country faster than their competitors can ex-Auckland.

Seems the secret to Firenze's success is about staying sustainable on all fronts by keeping up with their market and producing a clean, efficient and cost-effective product, standing behind their service, and just being plain proud of what they do.

Reaman Industries Limited

When it comes to managing one of our most precious resources, water, there isn't much the brains behind Reaman Industries, Phil Read, hasn't done or doesn't know.

Originally an electrical contractor, Phil ventured

into the water business in 1969 after making a sale to Napier City Council (NCC) of submersible sewerage pumps. By 1982 Phil had diversified into the water management business by opening Reaman Industries. I met with Phil and his colleague David Sorenson to find out more.

In the late 80s Reaman moved into clean water pump sales and service. Then in 1992 Phil accompanied NCC on a trade mission to the Cook Islands. This resulted in contracts to manufacture, install and manage fresh water treatment plants at tourist resorts on Mana and Beachcomber Islands, recycling 'black' water into clean 'white' water (for multi-purpose use by the islands' resorts).

Prior to Reaman getting involved the Islands' resorts had been 'barging' water from the mainland into storage tanks, then after a single use, flushing the waste out to sea, polluting coral reefs and beaches. Reaman solved this problem at the same time as reducing the resorts' water purchase costs. Consequently, Reaman has since been servicing the wider Pacific, most recently building the Apia municipal waste water treatment plant, which delivers around 4,000m³ of clean water per day.

During my conversation with Phil and David I was curious to see what really got them excited about the water business. Turns out, in 2007 when Phil was at a water management conference in Brisbane he learnt about the University of Queensland's experiment to develop an Aerobic Granular Sludge Process (AGSP) to treat waste water. In short this technology treats raw sewerage in a revolutionary new way by creating bacterial granules from the waste. The process works much faster than current technology, thus substantially reducing operating costs, and is physically smaller. These two benefits mean lower capital setup cost and lower ongoing costs. What's more, old plants can easily be converted to this new process down-the-line at minimal cost.

Phil was so impressed with what he saw that in 2009 he built his own AGSP trial plant in Rotorua to treat municipal waste water from the Rotorua City system. Scientists from Queensland University are working with Reaman on the project to bring the technology to commercial viability. The Australian government has committed \$A400k to the project over the next two years to match Reaman's investment, and the project is essentially the prototype for what Phil and David believe is the future of waste water treatment and recycling in New Zealand ... and



State of the art sewerage treatment installation.

beyond.

Phil believes Hawke's Bay has some of, if not the best, water in the country. We don't know exactly how much exists in our aquifers or exactly to what quantifiable degree they're resupplied.

So instead of mindlessly flushing or dumping our waste water and sludge (treated sewerage that can be used for such things as irrigation and fertiliser) out to sea (potentially affecting our own reefs and beaches), shouldn't we be thinking smarter about how we manage what is arguably, our most precious resource? The company thinks so.

Reaman has worked with a number of councils in New Zealand: CHB; Carterton; Tauranga; Kapiti. But what about Napier and Hastings?

Reaman Industries is best defined as a 'knowledge-based' company. It produces systems using the best technology from around the world with input where possible from other local businesses and contractors. Crossman Richards (IT); Foot Engineering (general steel engineering); and Metal Products (stainless steel) are regular suppliers. By staying loyal locally they minimise transport costs and at the same time help keep the Bay's economy humming.

Finally, Reaman's focus has always been on delivering a full-service 'turnkey' solution to their clients' wastewater treatment requirements. When their closest competitors have more than often been offering a segmented approach, this has been what's set them apart and put them at the forefront of Australasian-Pacific, if not international, water management systems.

Reaman is based in Hawke's Bay for one simple reason. Phil is Bay born and bred – this is his home. His only gripe about doing business from Hawke's Bay is the astronomical charges imposed for flying in and out of the airport. Hmmm ... must do something about that.

Reflections on election and lessons learnt

The call arrived, the result although provisional was final, you were unsuccessful in both counts.

POW! The hammer drops and the weight of defeat and a feeling of being ignored descends, down into an abyss of despair and self-sorrow. The taste of defeat so bitter. Perhaps my expectations exceeded my abilities. Or perhaps I could have done more. Questions which found a space in my brain to occupy during the day's self pity.

Then, just as suddenly as it arrived, by Monday morning it had been expunged from my conscious mind into the oblivion of yesterday. A shower, shave, fresh clothes and a good feed and I am back on the horse ready for riding again. There is still so much that needs fixing, and I am the carpenter.

However, as a post analysis of the voting turnout, it has to be said yet again, it was poor. Less than 50% turnout has got to be seen as a failure for democracy. It was one of the reasons we all voted to move from FPP to MMP. Minority representation was seen as undemocratic or at least acting against the best interests of the majority. There is no acknowledgement that the mandate was fickle,



Des Ratima
columnist

that it does not represent the majority. Is there a mandate? The 2010 result is similar to 2007 and 2004. Nothing has been done to improve voter turnout.

Instead I hear Maori are blamed because they don't vote. This appears to have some credibility and needs some attention. However, with 25,000 voters not exercising their right to vote, it cannot be said that 25,000 are Maori. Common sense would tell us all that there is dissatisfaction among the non-Maori population as well. So let's dispense with this red herring. Instead let's acknowledge that there is a fundamental problem with our system and our voters. It is my belief that the problems or solutions are not the same.

First Past the Post should instead read 'popularity contest', and in this context, finishing well below the half way mark, it is

not even a *popular* popularity contest. So what should happen?

Fixed term limits on representation was raised prior to the last election by Councillor Bradshaw, and promptly discarded by Hastings District Council on the pretext that it was undemocratic. How can it be undemocratic, if the President of the United States can only serve 2 terms; USA the land of democracy; surely not. Fixed term representation itself will be sufficient to cause voters to be interested. So instead of raising pathetic arguments why it should not happen, why doesn't the Council look at reasons as to how it can make it happen.

Maori need to show leadership and inspire their people to vote. It is difficult I agree when your history in voting has always been used against you. Voting in the historic context still does not occupy a place of importance because of the way local government and central government have used their voted positions to further and continually disenfranchise Maori with the voting system and the lack of faith they have in the elected people. Maori have to move on and some have, but not enough. Even in the general elections of MMP, Maori voter

turnout has been estimated as being poor.

Change the system. I once agreed that to have Maori-only seats on council was not the best solution to Maori representation. I still think that is the case. However, small authentic representation is still better than no representation at all. So I believe that the question of Maori-only seats needs to be revisited. Couple this with the arrival of Treaty settlements and the need for Maori to register and vote as whanau, hapu or iwi in order to vote for their representation, and we could see an increase in overall voting interest from Maori – because effect has been given to the Treaty of Waitangi and compensation paid for historic errors, legislative disempowerment and an apology for doing these things to Maori.

I can hear the laughter and retorts crying sour grapes, poor loser, move on. Their energy might be better spent on finding ways to increase voter turnout. Leaders need to show courage and not wallow in self-indulgence brought at the expense of apathy. Fix it, not encourage it to continue. Some might say: Ah! The wonderful benefit of hindsight. I might say: Ah! The wonderful benefit of vision.

Bay issues update...

Regional Water Symposium

On November 30 and December 1, the Regional Council will be conducting a Regional Water Symposium. HBRC's invitation describes this conference as "the key opportunity to take part in discussions about water allocation and contribute your views toward planning for a better future. Sector and water user representatives will be joined by central and local government to work together to maximize the benefits for Hawke's Bay as a region. Bringing all interests into the room together, we will discuss the key issues, hear different perspectives and consider the environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing associated with each ..."

Council will use the Symposium to help formulate the policies required for water management in Hawke's Bay at a regional level. We hope that symposium participants will mandate a Hawke's Bay Water Allocation Taskforce to help form and refine draft policies before moving on to a formal public consultation process."

Sounds like a fairly significant meeting!

Land and Water Forum finally reports

Not to be confused with HBRC's symposium is the central government-initiated Land and Water Forum. The Forum included representation from all sectors and interests (58 participating organisations), and laboured over a year to produce a set of 53 recommendations regarding water standards and allocation, rural infrastructure (including water storage), and governance.

Here's what the Forum's report says about NZ's current water situation:

"New Zealand has made good progress in clearing up point source pollution over the last twenty years, but monitoring shows that our water quality is declining in many places, particularly in lowland waterbodies. Also, urban waterways remain highly polluted,



including on account of sewage leakages, stormwater run-off and discharges from processing factories. At a national level, diffuse discharges now greatly exceed point source pollution.

"Impacts of land use on water bodies can be subject to considerable lags and around 64% of monitored lakes in pastoral landscapes are already classed eutrophic or worse. Declining water quality impacts on biodiversity, aquatic ecosystems and instream uses. It can affect human and animal health. It affects the credibility of our international brand.

"Many catchments are over-allocated or approaching full allocation. Water scarcity is an increasing problem in some areas, and may be worsened by changing weather patterns, but our current system of allocating water does not encourage efficient use or easily allow transfer to best use."

And here's what the report says about regional governance, which might explain why HBRC is having its big water conference:

"Regional governance must be improved if the current devolved model is to be retained. We propose the addition of government appointees to regional councils to provide skills and attributes that they may lack; the mandatory development of regional water plans, with a national template, and following a collaborative approach; and adequate representation for iwi in water-related committees."

"Improved direction must be given to regional councils including through National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards." And ...

"In order to manage limits, in particular for diffuse contaminants, regional councils need to make use of their existing powers under section 30 of the RMA to control land uses that impact on water quality."

In other words, if Regional Councils don't get their act together on water, they can expect "help" from above!

New Coastal Policy Statement

Only days ago, Minister of Conservation Kate Wilkinson released a new NZ Coastal Policy Statement. The NZCPS 2010 provides direction to how local authorities and decision-makers should approach the management and protection of coastal resources in regional plans, district plans, regional policy statements, etc. It is not a law or regulation, but plans must 'give effect' to relevant provisions of the statement. Decision-makers on resource consents must 'have regard' to its relevant provisions.

The NZCPS sets out policies on coastal issues including protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes, planning for subdivision, use, and development, protection of biodiversity and water quality, and management of coastal hazard risks.

The new statement will replace the NZCPS 1994 as of December 3rd. Key differences

include:

Direction on protection of natural character, outstanding landscapes, biodiversity and nationally significant surf breaks.

Stronger requirement to identify where water quality is degraded and should be enhanced.

Updated policy on the management of coastal hazard risks.

Says Minister Wilkinson: "The emphasis is on local councils to produce plans that more clearly identify where development will need to be constrained to protect special areas of the coast."

A leading advocate for coastal protection, Environmental Defence Society's Raewyn Peart commented approvingly: "...the statement appears to require councils to provide much greater certainty about where development can take place and where the coast should be protected from subdivision and development. Councils will now have an obligation to actually identify areas for protection."

"There is also greater clarity on the protection of outstanding natural landscapes and outstanding natural features on the coast. Councils will now have to ensure that they are mapped and adverse effects on them are avoided."

The NZCPS 2010 will be an important tool for Hawke's Bay environmentalists to master and use.

Wellesley Binding @ Work

BY ROY DUNNINGHAM

It has been a long time since we have seen anything like a major show from painter Wellesley Binding. This makes “@ WORK”, his current exhibition at the Hastings City Art Gallery, all the more important. Spanning the last twelve years, it gives a full insight into the thinking and influences that are shaping his work.

These complex, even introspective paintings, are not the easiest to get to grips with, and yet we cannot help but be drawn into their tragicomic tableaux of life. We can enjoy them at a number of different levels. The images are literal enough for us to grasp the essential theme of each work; but just when we think that we have it figured out, we discover another layer of references and meanings, and then another, and then another. Like a mountain holding many ores, whatever you are mining for, you can find according to which seam you tap into.

And if you see the works as cynical, then look again. There are elements of heroism here. Heroism as seen in Romantic and Mystic artists like Turner, Delacroix and Albert Pinkham Ryder, of people battling away living against the darkness of existence.

Few other New Zealand artists draw upon past artists and events to make sense of the present as Binding does. Indeed, he plays games with time and with the way our view of history is shaped by the way it is recorded.

His “Archivista” series show the artist himself making allegorical contact with figures from our history such as Te Kooti and the prophet Te Ua. He records them and then allows them to express their varied reactions to these records.

The game is pushed further as he visits, as an artist, the growing mythology of World War I, interviewing William Malone and being carried by Henderson’s donkey. In an odd sort of way this rescues these figures from being faded deities and reminds us that they were people.

The quest for hero status has its downside. This downside is what Binding calls “Man Island.” He writes that “on Man Island there are people doing things, people watching them, people recording them, people not taking any notice and the top dogs doing all or none of the above.” “Relay” is a chilling depiction of suited men desperately scrambling – for what? “Falling into Man Island” shows those who have made it (have



Try Athalon by Wellesley Binding.

they?), oblivious to the falling souls of those who haven’t. Ghosted into the picture are trousers, always too big to be filled by the surrounding figures.

Even the optimism of Colin McCahon’s 1952 classic “On Building Bridges” morphs into a futile assault on the landscape. The compact confidence of McCMahon’s vision becomes a series of fragmented failures with an underworld of lost souls. Binding is down there with the rest of us though, shown self-mockingly, trying to fill a variety of Man roles. Sometimes he wears a suit (improbably), or he is seen as an aging, honky boy shaping up for a round with Sonny Bill Williams, or a shoot-out with Willie Apiata.

It is interesting to compare his use of light sources within the picture with other artists. Rembrandt’s light was a source of hope and knowledge. Binding’s men look to sporadic pools of light for these qualities, but find only the dubious hope and knowledge of an electronic screen, cold and unwelcoming. Even the hellfires of Hieronymous Bosch seem almost hearty by comparison.

With such a rich array of images to look at, it is easy to overlook the technical skill of co-ordinating them into an overall design that is cogent and satisfying. Binding employs various devices to achieve this. “Falling into Man Island” hinges the design upon a diagonal cross of belts and ties, while “The Falls” beautifully underpins everything with a veil of vertical paint dribbles.

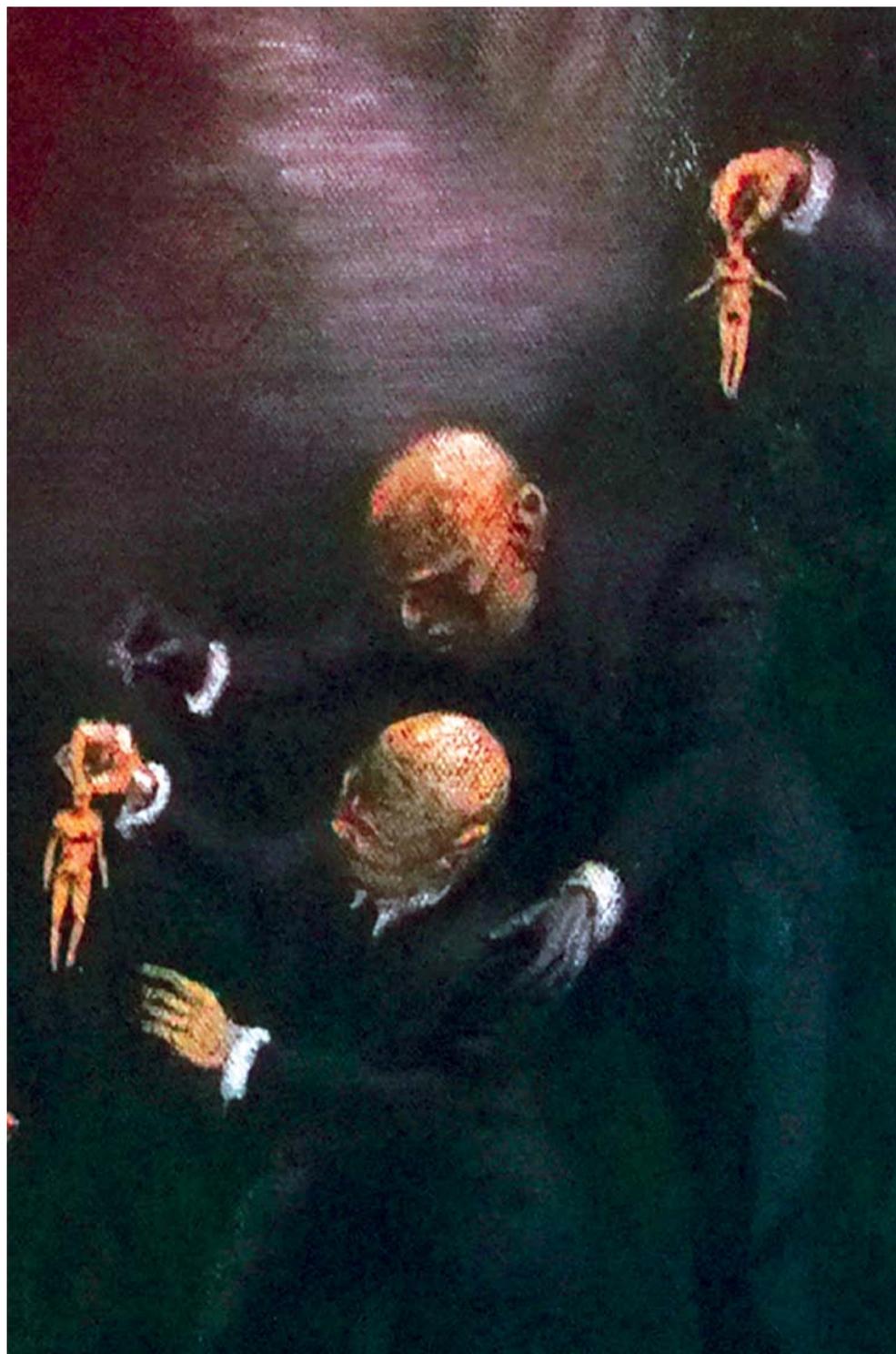
This is an exhibition that should be seen, thought about, and then seen again to fully enjoy the work of this under-rated artist.

Adam Portraiture Award

Also showing at the Hastings City Art Gallery are forty finalists from the prestigious 2010 Adam Portraiture Award. Portraiture is somewhat unfashionable in the current art scene, but done well it can be quite compelling as the artist measures and probes the psyche of a real human being.

Faced with so many works of a similar subject offers us an interesting opportunity to discern why some paintings succeed in engaging our attention while others seem pedestrian. For example, this year’s winner, “Kayte” by Harriet Bright deserves its place for its freshness of brushwork and drawing and the unadorned honesty of its presentation.

Good painting is, of course, timeless. Hawke’s Bay artist, Freeman White, (a past winner of this award) shows us that intelligent observation and superb paint



Try Athlon (detail) by Wellesley Binding.



The Falls by Wellesley Binding.



Portrait of Mara TK by Freeman White.



A Hero Life; Wounded; The Artist with Henderson and His Donkey, Gallipoli, 1915 by Wellesley Binding.

handling are as valid today as they were for Velasquez or Rembrandt.

Not so successful were the artists who relied upon scale for impact. Ray Columbus painted big adds little to Ray Columbus painted small. Similarly, the lateral distortion used by Barry Ross Smith seems no more than a clever artifice.

Many of the self-portraits were a bit static, even narcissistic in the case of Jonathan Brough. The real electricity was generated by artists who met the extra challenge of interpreting someone else. None did this better than Sian Davis with her touching and generously brushed study of Jack Willetts.

This most approachable exhibition should appeal to a wide range of viewers.

WANTED: Top 100 Buzzmakers of 2010

A year ago, we honoured one hundred individuals in Hawke's Bay who make an uncommon impact on the well-being of the region ... the 100 Top Buzzmakers of Hawke's Bay.

This year, we want your help to assemble our 2nd Annual Top 100 Buzzmakers list.

How can one make an 'uncommon impact'? By excelling or innovating in some field of endeavor. By influencing the direction of local government on a regular basis. By leading and motivating others to become involved in community activities. By supporting community causes and human needs, either financially or by outstanding personal service. By championing our environment. By modeling important values and behaviours to others in the community. By significantly driving the region's economic, social or cultural advancement.

The point of identifying Top Buzzmakers is to celebrate such contributions to the community. To give recognition and show appreciation, to cheer them on to do even more, and to encourage other people to make similar contributions.

Do you know someone who should be on this year's list? Please use the form on this page to make your nomination(s). Or just email pertinent info on your nominee(s) to Editors@baybuzz.co.nz

Last year, over 300 individuals were recommended – educators, farmers, business people, community activists, environmentalists, artists, social service providers ... even a few Councillors! All deserving ... and making the final selections was terribly difficult.

For ideas and inspiration, here is last year's list – the 2009 Top 100 Buzzmakers of Hawke's Bay.

2009 Top 100 Buzzmakers

Sandy Adsett	Rodney Green	Margie McGuire	Jacob Scott
Ivan Aplin	Claire Hague	Ray McKimm	Ross Scrimgeour
Kevin Atkinson	Angela Hair	Stuart McLaughlin	Brian Simpson
Graeme Avery	Greg & Rachel Hart	Maree Mills	Neville Smith
John Baker	Damon Harvey	Kevin Mitchell	Mary Stewart
Bruce Beaton	Sandra Hazlehurst	Isabel Morgan	Colin Stone
Pat Benson	Craig Hickson	James Morgan	Neil Swindells
Wellesley Binding	Peter Holley	John Newland	Kim Thorp
Morry Black	Tama Huata	Simon Nixon	Keith Thorsen
John Bostock	Te Rangī Huata	Graeme Norton	Phyllis Tichinin
Alistair Bramley	Richard Hunt	Henare O'Keefe	Ngahiwi Tomoana
Ross Bramwell	Sandy Ibbotson	Dennis Oliver	Geraldine Travers
John Buck	Helen Jacobi	Sam Orton	Simon Tremain
Bruno Chambers	Diana Kirton	John O'Sullivan	David Trubridge
June Clifford	Caroline Lampp	John Palairet	Helma van den Berg
John Cocking	Matthew Lawson	John Paynter	Claire Vogtherr
Andy Coltart	Andre Le Geyt	Sir Russell Pettigrew	Mark von Dadelszen
Sir Selwyn Cushing	Douglas Lloyd Jenkins	Jane Poa	Andy Walker
Gillian Davies	Graeme Lowe	Lionel Priest	Alayna Watene
Murray Douglas	David Mackersey	Des Ratima	Meka Whitiri
Rod Drury	Anne & Paddy Maloney	David Renouf	Hamish Whyte
Doug Ducker	Brian Martin	David Rice	Martin Williams
Marie Dunningham	Iain Maxwell	John Roil	Dinah Williams
Hamish Galloway	Rod McDonald	Murray Sawyer	Bruce Wills
June Graham	Pat Magill	Jim Scotland	Jenny Yule



Your Buzzmakers Nominees Please

Who in the community do you most admire for their contributions and leadership?

Send in your nominations by November 26th for the Top 100 Buzzmakers of 2010.

Just give us a bit of background on your nominee(s), and we'll take it from there.

I'd like to nominate:

Name _____

Background _____

Mail your recommendations to BayBuzz, PO Box 8322, Havelock North 4157.

Or email your nominee(s), with a few sentences of background to: editors@baybuzz.co.nz

We will announce the 2010 Top 100 Buzzmakers of Hawke's Bay in the December edition of BayBuzz Digest, so get your nominations in by November 26th.