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August 2009



Cycle clip-on, Havelock North

## Cutting To The Core

By Tom Belford

Let the posturing begin!

Recently, both John Key and Rodney Hide addressed the grand poobahs of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), presided over by our own Mayor Lawrence Yule.

At issue, fundamentally, was (and is) the role and cost of local government. And in this particular debate, no political maxim applies more than this one: Where you stand depends on where you sit!

As populist Minister of Local Government, Rodney Hide, to justify his political existence, excoriates local government officials as a crazed bunch of profligates. PM Key professes a politically comfortable moderate middle, saying in effect: yes, local government could be more restrained and efficient, but let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater ... all while dangling mouth-watering pork barrel dollars before local mayors. And local government officials want it both ways: they want Rodney and John to stop throwing responsibilities upon them with no money to get the job done; but they compete fiercely for central government funding of their pet local projects, from cycleways to stadiums.

In this posturing, they're all hypocrites.

### Rodney Hide

Let's start with Rodney Hide. Back in April, Hide caused to be "floated" in the public domain a Cabinet paper, written to his specifications, titled, *Improving Local Government Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Management*. Now, who could be opposed to concepts like promoting "plain English" in public documents, requiring councils to report on how well they are maintaining local infrastructure, or requiring a mandatory local pre-election fiscal update (as is done at the national level)?!

Or to these observations, speaking of the inability of citizens to control local council spending:

"There are a number of weaknesses in the present system that limit the ability of ratepayers and citizens to exercise that control:

- local authority elections rarely focus on spending issues. Reasons for this include the rarity of party organization and that most candidates stand on the basis of their personal attributes to serve the community;
- media scrutiny of local government is weak compared to central government;
- local government financial information is incomprehensible to most non-accountants;
- there is limited comparative information (financial and non-financial) available to compare council performance; and,
- there are no mandatory requirements for councils to seek ratepayer authorization of major projects or high rate increases."

However, a fine read of the paper discloses a variety of troublesome and – many have argued – ungrounded assertions and proposals. Two of the most problematic issues involve the definition of "core services" and the notion of public referenda on major spending proposals.

With respect to "core services," Minister Hide has refused to be pinned down. His paper refers to roading, footpaths, public transport, water supply, sewage treatment, stormwater and flood protection, and public health and safety services (like refuse collection and regulation of nuisances).

But when I interviewed Minister Hide back in April and asked whether local projects like sports parks, amusement parks, opera houses and museums fit his definition, he ducked the question, playing the politician by bemoaning

generalized council excess, then retreating to a platitude about authentic public consultation when asked for specifics.

And of course there you have it ... one ratepayer's Marineland is a core service, another ratepayer's cyclepath is. Making those calls is the "stuff" of local politics ... and Rodney Hide doesn't want to get anywhere near those nitty-gritty choices.

Instead, he floats the idea of a sledgehammer to "control" spending – "I wish to consider circumstances in which polls and referenda could be required for certain decisions." This is a seductively "democratic" concept, but one that is quite perilous to the body politic in practice (as anyone familiar with the American experience knows). No one has been more outspoken than I have on the issue of whether our local councils have advanced major spending projects that might fail a direct voter test. But there are numerous ways to inject more public accountability into spending decisions, and surely these deserve to be considered alongside more radical surgery.

Yet, ironically, Rodney's paper concludes: "I do not propose to publish a public discussion document." Having inflamed the voters, Minister Hide wants to shut them out of finding the solution.

### John Key

Into this calculated political provocation by Minister Hide steps the Prime Minister. Many (I'm among them) say that National is happy to see Hide trash local government profligacy. Radical Hide, goes this argument, is conveniently creating space in the responsible middle that National can ultimately occupy ... "Thank you Rodney, we'll take it from here."

But this will require PM Key, sooner or later, to draw the debate to his own political parameters, presumably disappointing governing partner Hide in the process. Key will need to take stands on the definition of "core services" and the role of spending referenda. Referring to Hide's review in his speech to Local Government NZ last month, Key offered consolation in vague politician code to local poobahs: "After hearing your views we will work through the recommendations in the review and consider each of them on their merits before deciding whether to take them forward."

Beyond that, his Government will need to make some difficult decisions about the very competency of local government. Like... can the locals be entrusted with managing the environment under loose guidelines, or do they need to be told more precisely what to do, or do we just cut them out of the equation entirely? Or... do we spare their misery and simply declare for them that it is not the job of local government to spend gobs of ratepayer money in a vain attempt to protect coastal settlements against unstoppable Mother Nature?

Meanwhile, like Rodney Hide, John Key is happy to play the public both ways.

On the one hand, lots of posturing by Key (and Finance Minister English) about fiscal belt-tightening and local government austerity. However, only days before he spoke to LGNZ, here was John Key taking the grand tour of Hawke's Bay "wish list" projects.

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## READ ON...

### Diana Kirton p3 MENTAL HEALTH UNIT NEEDS TICK

The mental health inpatient unit ... This outdated relic of the 1970's is a blight on a vastly improved mental health and addictions services landscape ... The regular coats of paint and ad hoc decoration of the old building have made some cosmetic improvements. But the whole building is well past its use-by-date.

### Iain Maxwell p4 DAIRYING AND THE MOHAKA

The upper Mohaka River ... contains a third of the region's total dairy herd ... And without a doubt, putting a third of the region's dairy herd into a small valley containing a unique and outstanding trout fishery is chancing fate.

### Tom Belford p6 BIG MAC ATTACKS HAVELOCK

While 35% of respondents sound like they will lie down in front of the bulldozers ... A 52% majority seems resigned to the right of McD's, under the current district plan and its zoning, to locate in the Village, but most of these would prefer.

### Roy Dunningham p8 A HEART FOR HASTINGS

The Hastings City Art Gallery ... could and should be the jewel in the crown of the Hastings CBD. Sadly, it has not fulfilled that promise.

### Brooks Belford p9 MAMA MANA

The Mirror Mama Project ... invites us to share, however briefly, in the cultural journeys of ten women who immigrated to New Zealand from the Pacific Islands, Africa and the Middle East. Their personal stories of loss and separation, connection and community compel us to think more deeply about their individual lives.

### Tim Gilbertson p10 THE GREAT NZ CONTRADICTION

We know we are stuffed. We know we are falling behind Australia and everywhere else in the world because we are over-governed, over-taxed and over-regulated.

### Mark Sweet p10 GIMBLETT GRAVELS

When Amy Bertha Crawford married William John Gimblett in Havelock North on 14 August 1898, little did she know that with her new name came the promise of immortality.

### Brendan Webb p11 DEAD LETTERS

There's something deeply satisfying about having someone you don't know take away your rubbish each week with such noisy enthusiasm ... Wine empties and stubbies vanish forever in a waterfall of crashing glass, no longer sitting on the verge under the scrutiny of the neighbours.

# FROM THE EDITOR

Tom Belford



The August **BayBuzz Digest** is more eclectic than usual in its issue coverage.

Around Hawke's Bay, we hear plenty of loud voices for building stuff – sports parks, new museums, sea walls, arterial roads, industrial parks, more public toilets, even roadside monuments to mark village boundaries. Each of these has its advocates, some better organized than others.

This month, **BayBuzz Digest** is highlighting a languishing building project that doesn't enjoy much visibility... perhaps because it would benefit a small part of our community that many would just as soon forget. I'm talking about the Mental Health In-Patient Unit of Hawke's Bay Hospital, which provides care for our most mentally distressed. As DHB Board member and mental health advocate Diana Kirton says in her Guest Buzzmaker column, it is a facility "well past its use-by-date." MP Chris Tremain agrees. Let's hope we can get this project going.

**BayBuzz** has been reporting some good news regarding more sustainable practices with regard to the Tuketuki... for example, the decision by the CHB Council to build a wastewater treatment facility that will eliminate all discharges into the river. In this Digest we update you on ambitious plans of the HB Regional Council to harvest and store water in the upper reaches of the Tuki... a plan with multiple benefits *if* it can be implemented with adequate environmental safeguards. That's the good news. But Iain Maxwell, regional manager of Fish & Game, brings some alarming news and evidence about the degraded state of the Mohaka.

In *Cutting To The Core*, we look at the escalating debate around the role and fiscal responsibility of local bodies throughout New Zealand. Minister of Local Government Rodney Hide has elevated this issue to front and center position, much to the consternation of local elected officials and council staffs,

including our own here in Hawke's Bay.

Two other issues of national significance – both with major implications in our region – global warming and access to health care, are explored in *The Burping Cow Problem* and *Rationing: Health Care's Dirty Word*, respectively.

All of these issues pale into relative insignificance when compared to the most obnoxious threat to the quality of life in the area (at least as regarded by some)... the prospect of McDonald's opening an outlet at a gateway entrance to Havelock Village. Passions have been aroused faster than you can say "Super-size it!" **BayBuzz** broke the story and in *Big Mac Attacks Havelock* we offer readers your opportunity to speak up on the issue.

But don't despair over McDonald's... Hawke's Bay has plenty of culcha and refinement too!

Brooks Belford provides ample evidence in *Mama Mana*, her story on the Mirror Mama Project now on view at Hastings City Art Gallery. This exhibition by local painter Delicia Sampero invites us to share in the cultural journeys of ten women who immigrated to New Zealand from the Pacific Islands, Africa and the Middle East. Art aficionado Roy Dunningham thinks the Gallery is doing an excellent job, but worries about its future viability and calls for more Hastings Council support in his article, *A Heart For Hastings*.

Mark Sweet continues his wine history tour of Hawke's Bay, this month looking at the Gimblett Gravels District. Mark has completed five pieces in this story, which begins in 1851, so far featuring Mission Winery, Church Road Winery, and Te Mata Estate. If you've missed any installment, they are all available at [www.baybuzz.co.nz](http://www.baybuzz.co.nz)

Finally, round out your serious reading with some reminiscences from Brendan Webb, who takes aim at a relatively new Kiwi pastime, recycling. Then there's Tim Gilbertson!

Enjoy!

## Issue Updates

### New Health Board CEO

Dr Kevin Snee, Chief Executive of Devon Primary Care Trust in the UK, has been appointed CEO of the HB District Health Board. Dr Snee, who qualified in medicine in 1982, assumes his position in October.

### Ocean Beach Invoice

The \$276,000 bill owed by Hill Country to Hastings Council for its review of Andy Lowe's proposed town at Ocean Beach remains uncollected. But progress grinds forward. Under the RMA, Hill Country has the right to challenge before an independent commissioner the amount charged by HDC. After a hiccup in appointing the commissioner, a date of September 11 has been set for the hearing.

### Whakatu Community Action

The Whakatu Community & Industry Working Group, convened by HDC, has met twice, with another session planned for August. Work is underway on an emergency response plan for the community in case of industrial accidents. And replacement of old vents in the sewage system will get underway, hopefully resolving odour problems.

The Whakatu Industrial Park has provided a list of tenants and their onsite chemicals; SilverFern Farms, Cedenco and Tomoana Pelts have furnished similar information; and Tomoana Pelts and Progressive Leather are working on a joint register. According to meeting minutes, Mike McGuire of the Hastings Council, "believes the process of information around who has what chemicals needs to be reviewed to alleviate concerns and fears in case of an emergency similar to the Tamahere experience. The emergency response services need to know beforehand what they're dealing with." To which BayBuzz adds: "So do the residents."

The minutes also note objection to BayBuzz meddling in such matters: "Some in the industrial community had concerns about the approach by BayBuzz questioning the activities undertaken and safeguards around those activities." To which we respond: "Too bad!"

### Sports Park

The appeal of the Land Protection Society against the park has been rejected by the Environment Court. Moving on, the Hastings Council has revised the public briefing process created to help secure Councillor Anne Hunt-Wilson's support for the project. Going forward, sessions will occur quarterly. The public will no longer be required to submit questions in writing in advance of the sessions. And briefings will be chaired by a yet-to-be-named "independent person" to end the confusion caused by Lawrence Yule presiding both as Mayor and as Chair of the Sports Park Trust.

Also – why are we not surprised?! – the Council revealed that its one-of-a-kind-on-the-North-Island velodrome is now competing before Bike New Zealand against bids from Auckland and Wanganui for rival facilities.

### Hastings Arts Funding

If you are involved in an arts project, festival, performance or workshop that directly benefits the residents of Hastings district, you can apply to the Hastings Council for funding in the September 2009 funding round. Application deadline for this Creative Communities NZ programme is September 11. Information is on the HDC website, or contact Christine Ennis at [christinee@hdc.govt.nz](mailto:christinee@hdc.govt.nz) or 871-5000, ext 5502. Napier City Council also has a September funding round under the same programme. Contact Creative Napier at 834-3934.

### Woodburners

Environment Minister Nick Smith announced a review of the air quality standard that would require large-scale replacement of woodburners in Hastings and Napier. Hawke's Bay's very own chief public health advocate, Mayor Lawrence Yule, has been appointed to the Technical Advisory Group advising the Minister. Terms of reference stipulate that: "The actual ambient standards (i.e. concentration thresholds) are not under review." Everything else is! The group makes its recommendations to the Minister in October, and he reports back to the Cabinet in February 2010.

### Stoneycroft Homestead

In May 2008, the Hastings Council decided to seek proposals from the community on how the historic Stoneycroft House and grounds might be used. Expressions of interest were narrowed down to three – Hawke's Bay Digital Archive (proposing establishment of a state-of-the-art digital archive facility incorporating archive storage & exhibitions and a public meeting space); the Hawke's Bay Woodturners Guild (proposing establishing a woodturning clubroom and learning centre); and Peter & Nicola McIntosh (proposing to establish a Food and Wine Visitor Centre).

In July, Council staff recommended the Food & Wine Centre option (noting that the Woodturners use could co-exist with either the Centre or the Digital Archive). However, when the decision came before the HDC Community Services Committee and presentations were made, one could only be incredulous about the recommendation.

The Digital Archive proponents presented a strong case, endorsed by local and national experts in the historical preservation and archiving field, as well as by prestigious supporters in the community who seem more than able to raise the private funding their project entails. The Wine Centre presenter acknowledged minimal relevant experience (the staff paper termed them "new to the business") and offered no evidence of support or involvement from Hawke's Bay's well-oiled wine community. HUH? It seemed like no contest.

After a private exchange between the Mayor and the CEO, the item was adjudged not yet ripe for decision (I'll say!). The matter was remanded to staff to "develop further information" from all parties.

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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.

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## GUEST BUZZMAKER

### Diana Kirton, DHB Board Member



# Mental Health Unit Needs Tick

Anyone following the story of the Hawke's Bay District Health Board over the past eight years will understand that the organization has experienced tough times. Chief executives have come and gone. Managers have come and gone. The board itself has come and gone, and come back again. From a personal viewpoint it's great to be back! But this time it's without the distressing media headlines of a year or two ago. With the prospect of a brand new chief executive to join us in a couple of months we look forward to a fresh start.

However, the current economic climate has put a damper on many of the initiatives the board would like to have progressed. The Ministry of Health's national capital committee has put plans for the Hawke's Bay hospital campus redevelopment on hold due to lack of funds. While some parts of the campus have had a recent revamp, there are parts that are well overdue for demolition.



DHB's Mental Health Inpatient Unit

In particular, the mental health inpatient unit is top of the list. This outdated relic of the 1970's is a blight on a vastly improved mental health and addictions services landscape. These services have made monumental progress following major reforms started in 2001. The regular coats of paint and ad hoc decoration of the old building have made some cosmetic improvements. But the whole building is well past its use-by date.

High hopes were held that the sale of the old Napier hospital site would provide capital for a full rebuild. The tragedy is that the sale fell through and hopes for the new mental health facility fell over with them. Other health boards have had the luxury of new mental health inpatient units based on a design of best practice, whereas Hawke's Bay continues to struggle on with the old institution-style building.

Mental Health has traditionally been the poor relation when it comes to health funding. But the last decade has seen quite a turn around in priorities. The ring fencing of mental health dollars has prevented funds from being skimmed to prop up medical and surgical services. Nation-wide campaigns to de-stigmatise mental illness have made a huge impact on public attitudes toward mental illness. At last, the voices of mental health consumers and their families are being listened to when new and innovative services are being developed.

Hawke's Bay has been a national trendsetter in a number of areas of mental health services.

We have won praise and awards for ideas such as the "friendly landlord" scheme, "knowing our people" project and the consumer driven organizations such as "Whatever It Takes" and "The Lighthouse".

The average person on the street wouldn't have a clue what these services involve. But for thousands of Hawke's Bay people suffering from a mental illness, these services provide the support they need to live in the community free from risk to themselves or to other people. More importantly, hundreds of people who would have previously been destined to spend long periods living in the inpatient unit are now living at home. Many have real jobs and now take their place in the community.

However, no matter how responsive the services in the community are, the reality is that sufferers of severe mental illness will have episodes where intensive treatment is required. There will be times when their world falls apart and they need to be stabilized in a hospital setting. This is the time when they most need an environment that is safe, welcoming and nurturing. Anyone who has been to Hawke's Bay's inpatient unit will agree that the building is far from this ideal.

The renowned Fred Hollows performed amazing ophthalmologic procedures in sub-standard third world conditions. In Hawke's Bay, our skilled and dedicated mental health staff are putting up with these same third world conditions right here.

Waitakere and Waikato hospitals have new up-to-date facilities. Our neighbours in Palmerston North have a new inpatient unit complete with a "Garden of Tranquility". The public outrage would be deafening if our accident and emergency centre looked like the mental health unit, but acceptance of these sub-standard conditions for mental health sufferers tells us we have a long way to go in advancing community attitudes to mental health inviting the same outraged response.

The plans are already drawn up, everyone from consumer advocates to medical specialists has agreed upon the design. We just need the big tick now from the national capital committee. In many respects, it is up to the wider community to help the District Health Board fight for better mental health services needed in this region.

## Past Its Use-by Date

By Tom Belford

Think for a moment about the worst motel room you've ever stayed in. Dingy. Too hot or too cold. Cramped. Poor light. Outdated furnishings.

Now think about how your immediate surroundings affect your mood. They can inspire and lift you up ... or pull you down. These things matter, don't they?

If you're reading this article, you're probably relatively comfortable, and in a reasonably positive and stable frame of mind.

Which means you – fortunately – are not in DHB's Mental Health Inpatient Unit.

The Inpatient Unit is where our community's most severely ill are cared for. And they are well cared for by a committed, able staff directed by Mike Connolly, Clinical Leader of the Mental Health Inpatient Service. There's no problem with the quality of clinicians and caretakers.

But take a walk through the physical facility, as I have, and you must conclude that patients are being helped *despite* their surroundings. As Mike says, "People recover here in spite of the environment."

The Inpatient Unit is a 22 bed facility. Five beds are in a secure wing, to care for those representing a significant danger to themselves or others. The Unit generally operates at 80% to over full capacity, with the typical patient staying an average 18 days.

Patients might be referred from community mental health care providers, the hospital, brought in by the police, or simply appear on the doorstep. Over the course of a year, typically 360 admissions would be made to the Unit. Forty percent of these will be first presentations, the balance repeat admissions. This compares with roughly 2,000 patients who are seen in an average month by the Bay's community mental health providers, mostly NGOs.

Out of DHB's total annual budget of some \$32 million for mental health and addiction services, \$5.8 million is spent on inpatient and intensive care services. While overall mental health spending includes addiction programmes, the Unit's patients are not there for addiction treatment, though addictions might be part of their profile.

The first section of the Inpatient Unit was built in the early 1970s. Time has taken its toll. However "state of the art" the building might have been thirty-some years ago, it is seriously deficient now ... well beyond its use-by date.

The physical layout makes it difficult to segregate patients who should not be

intermingled or to provide privacy – for example, separating living quarters for men and women, or providing a suitable environment for a young woman, with infant, suffering from post-partum depression.

The facility has leaky roofs and the stained carpets to prove it. Fresh paint is needed ... with more nurturing colours. Maintaining comfortable temperatures – instead of too hot in summer, too cold in winter – is virtually impossible. In short, modernization all around is required.

The most appropriate fix, given the outmoded nature of the facility, would actually be a complete re-build. And this is precisely what the DHB wants to do, at a cost of \$18 million. A capital expenditure of this size far exceeds the capital pool normally available in the HBDHB budget, hence a proposal must be submitted to the Ministry of Health's National Capital Committee, where it will compete with applications from other DHBs. This investment is the top capital priority of our DHB.

At one point, local health officials had hoped that proceeds from the sale of the Napier Hospital site, which might have netted \$14 million or so out of a \$20 million sale price, would have sufficed to move the project forward. Of course, that deal has fallen apart and is the subject of litigation.

And so, unless a philanthropic "angel" steps forward in Hawke's Bay, the fate of the Inpatient Unit lies in the hands of Wellington's bureaucracy. All the more reason for concerned citizens in our community to make their views known to MPs Foss and Tremain.

Meantime, the best the Bay's mental health caretakers can expect in the foreseeable future is a cosmetic bandaid here and there for the Inpatient Unit.

### From MP Chris Tremain...

I have visited the Mental Health Inpatient Unit together with my colleague Craig Foss.

While I am no expert in Mental Health facilities, without an ability to compare one facility against another, it would appear to me that the Hawke's Bay facility is well beyond its use-by date.

I was sufficiently concerned about the facility to warrant the request of a visit from the Minister of Health. This will occur in August.

Funds to develop the facility were originally put aside from the sale of the Napier Hill site by the DHB of the time. It would appear that these funds can no longer be relied upon.

Aside from this indication of funding no commitment has been given from the Health capital funding pool or the Minister at this point in time.



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# Dairying And The Mohaka



Clear water above confluence of Taharua and Mohaka



Murky, algae-filled water below confluence of Taharua and Mohaka

Intensive farming affects water quality – not exactly a news flash. However, this issue is one tough nut to crack and one that is creating plenty of anxiety for both central and local government, land users, resource managers and groups like Fish and Game New Zealand.

Around the country, the approach to managing this issue is variable. Some like the Manawatu-Wanganui region have decided to take the matter head on with tight rules linking land use with water quality. Some regions are considering catchment specific approaches; others are looking at dedicated discharge plans. Hawke's Bay does not escape this problem.

While we don't have the intensive land use that some regions do, we do have areas where the impacts are evident. One such area is the upper Mohaka River in the Taharua valley. This small area of the region contains a third of the region's total dairy herd, some 9,000 dairy cows. The Mohaka River is also the only river in the Hawke's Bay region that has a Water Conservation Order over it to protect, among other things, the nationally outstanding trout

fishery. And without a doubt, putting a third of the region's dairy herd into a small valley containing a unique and outstanding trout fishery is chancing fate.

The Taharua River flows through a small pumice in-filled valley at the very headwaters of the Mohaka River. The soils in the valley are light and free draining. In the late 90's large areas of the valley were converted from light pastoral farming and forestry to intensive dairy platforms. Since the conversion of land to dairy farming, the quality of water flowing down the Taharua River has declined, with increasing levels of nutrient (mainly nitrogen) in the water. The initial evidence suggests that this is not a coincidence and the changes are related.

The issue came to a head recently when the dairy farm owners sought consents to discharge dairy shed effluent (FDE) to land. This is the only on-farm activity that the Hawke's Bay Regional Council has chosen to exert any control over. Through the consent process it quickly became evident that discharging properly managed FDE to land was not going to have a significant effect on water quality in the nearby Taharua River.

Instead, the increase in nutrient is almost certainly the result of concentrated urine patches from 9,000 dairy cows leaching nutrient into the groundwater and then appearing in the surface waters of the nearby Taharua River. Despite the seemingly clear link to land use and water quality changes in this catchment, the Regional Council was powerless to control the wider activity of farming and its insidious effects. This is simply because the current Regional Resource Management Plan (RRMP) has no specific mechanisms in it to deal with situations where land is being used beyond its sustainable capability.

In fairness to the Regional Council, at the time the RRMP was being written, managing land use sustainably was not an issue that was obvious. Like much of the rest of the country, the subsequent intensification of land use has overrun the planning instruments intended to control it.

During this time, anglers have been complaining that the trout in the upper Mohaka River are becoming smaller and there are less of them. Their claim is supported by figures F&G has obtained through assessments such as drift diving. This is naturally of concern to us given the significance of the fishery and the fact that it is protected by a Water Conservation Order.

The evidence on trout size and abundance was not definitive, however, and more intensive monitoring is now underway to determine exactly what is happening to the upper Mohaka trout fishery. A substantial study is looking at the available food supply for trout and how the changes in water quality are impacting on the food and subsequent trout growth. While still in the early stages, initial evidence suggests that trout in the sections of river affected by increased nutrient are showing lower growth performance compared to the unaffected sections.

To some the issue is difficult to comprehend. A decline in water quality is something that

is hard to put adequate words around to give it credence. To try and give people an appreciation of the significance of the changes that have occurred we recently dived the Mohaka River. We videoed the river as we swam from an area of unmodified catchment above the confluence of the Taharua River and then well downstream in the Mohaka again. We did this all on the same day and after a long period of settled flows in the peak of summer. This video is available in the online version of this story at [www.baybuzz.co.nz](http://www.baybuzz.co.nz).

The intention is to give those who struggle with the concept of the need to manage land use some appreciation of an unmanaged situation. The impacts are real and indisputable. The real challenge is now to develop some tools to manage this and for this we will work hard with our elected Regional Councillors to help achieve the vision they sit under – "Our vision is for a region that develops and prospers within a clean and healthy environment."



Algae at confluence of Taharua and Mohaka



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# Water Harvesting

By Tom Belford

The Regional Council has completed a “pre-feasibility” inquiry into potential water harvesting and storage in Central Hawke’s Bay.

A substantial amount of “desk top” analysis has been done to develop a scenario envisioning five dams with supporting and inter-connecting infrastructure. Approximately 800 hectares would be flooded in this scenario.

Through both one-on-one sessions and three public meetings in CHB, that scenario has been floated to potentially affected farmers, tangata whenua and others in the region. CEO Andrew Newman says the pre-feasibility analysis is in the public domain, but it has yet to appear on the HBRC website.

Feedback is said to be positive overall. Those whose land might be directly affected have expressed the expected emotional connections to their land, as well as concerns about potential compensation for land foregone. Newman says that if affected farmers cannot be persuaded in one case or another to make their land available, the Regional Council will move on to alternative sites.

Mike Mohi, Chairman of the HBRC’s Maori Committee, reported that Maori leaders have voiced significant concerns that will need to be met. Their worry is the potential degrading of water quality in the Tukituki and its tributaries from run-off, if the amount of land irrigated in the catchment increases from roughly 5,000 hectares to 30,000 hectares. Mitigation measures will need to be robust!

That’s a sentiment echoed by Iain Maxwell, Regional Manager for Fish & Game, who says the key issues for conservationists will be ensuring effects of increased land use intensity are mitigated and that the flow harvesting regime won’t affect in-stream values — as he puts it: “No creaming off all the top-end flows and flat-lining rivers.”

He comments: “We are adding our support to this initiative as an alternative to further direct takes from the region’s water bodies, or deeper bore takes that have as yet un-quantified impacts on the region’s rivers. At this stage, the investigations are simply a desktop exercise

with further field investigations ... It would be premature to judge them without due consideration of the facts after a series of more detailed investigations occurs. If designed and managed appropriately, there are potentially significant benefits to river flows, with storage able to supplement summer low flows with releases of additional water. We are carefully optimistic that these schemes could benefit all sectors of the community.”

## What next?

HBRC staff will bring forward to the August 26 meeting of the Council a proposal for a full feasibility study. The full study would include detailed geophysical and hydrological analyses; examination of environmental effects and cultural issues; implementation scenarios; economic analysis; identification of key stakeholders, shareholders and investors and their roles; and a plan for robust public consultation.

Regional Councillor Tim Gilbertson, who represents the CHB district, has recommended creation of a “community liaison committee” to help clear the path for the project ... to dispel the perception, as he puts it, that “this is a proposal to help dairy farmers rape the Tuki.” Ironically, Councillor Gilbertson — normally a fervent “less is better” advocate — shows all the exuberance for this initiative that one might customarily expect from an elected official about to be handed the biggest public works project of his lifetime for his district.

Indeed, Tim calls the irrigation scheme “the most important economic development for the region since refrigeration.” It appears that miserly Councillor Gilbertson has finally found a government programme to believe in!

Personally, I share the “careful optimism” of Iain Maxwell, and hope that his group and others, like Maori leaders and the Hawke’s Bay Environmental Water Group, will keep the Regional Council’s feet to the fire with respect to guaranteeing that environmental values are fully protected.



Tukituki tributary



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**MARY DOYLE**  
LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

# Big Mac Attacks Havelock

By Tom Belford



Hastings McDonald's

The infamous Golden Arches of McDonald's are soon to "grace" one of the main entry points to Havelock North. Passions will run hot as spilt coffee in your lap on this one!

Two properties have been sold to McDonald's, just off the roundabout after Havelock Road crosses the Karamu Stream.

The area in question is zoned Industrial, and within this zone only commercial activities that do not occupy more than 100 square meters are permitted as a matter of right. That would seem to be too small a footprint for the typical McDonald's operation. If so, the fast food operator would need a resource consent to proceed with a store. In any event, a building permit would be required.

At this point, no formal application for any necessary permit or consent has not yet been submitted. A McDonald's corporate staffer told BayBuzz: "We are still very early in the process."

It is not immediately clear what form of public consultation, if any, would be required. Consequently, BayBuzz has begun some "consultation" of our own.

So far, 150 people have shared their opinions with BayBuzz. Here's what they say.

35% – I'm philosophically opposed to McDonald's very existence, as a ruiner of people's health and the worst kind of American cultural and culinary export. I do not want a McDonald's anywhere in Havelock North.

9% – I can tolerate the existence of McDonald's somewhere in Havelock North, but not at this prominent gateway location to our village.

16% – Whether I (or anyone else) like it or not, McDonald's has just as much right to sell Big Macs in Havelock North as does Jackson's Bakery to sell sausage rolls. They can locate anywhere the zoning allows, including on these properties.

27% – I accept that McDonald's has a right to do business in Havelock North, but I'd like to see the Council negotiate some kind of building permit that keeps the style and "look" of the store somehow in tune with other shops in the village, and spares us from a garish entry to the village.

9% – I love McDonald's... they offer inexpensive, convenient (especially for parents with clamouring kids in the back seat) and tasty food. I'd welcome a store in Havelock North, and this location is acceptable.

4% – I love McDonald's and would welcome one in Havelock North, but perhaps there's a better location.

So, while 35% of respondents sound like they will lie down in front of the bulldozers, barely a third of that number, 13%, would positively welcome McD's to Havelock North. A 52% majority seems resigned to the right of McD's, under the current district plan and its zoning, to locate in the Village. However, most of these would prefer either a different location or an effort by McD's to come up with a design that integrates with the community.

Here's where it gets messy! Of those who say they live in Havelock North (56% of the respondents to date), a larger 45% are prepared to man the barricades. Read *What YOU Say About McDonald's* for a sampling of what people said in their open-ended comments!

It will be interesting to see how Havelock North Councillors Bradshaw and Kimber play this one! They can expect a lot more intensity from the nearly half of their constituents who oppose the outlet than from those who unhappily accept it.

To help our Councillors along, BayBuzz will do two things:

1) We'll keep our Mac Attack survey open online so more people can give their opinion. You can take the survey at [www.baybuzz.co.nz](http://www.baybuzz.co.nz) – just click to the survey from our home page. At the end of the survey, if you want to receive updates on this specific issue, leave your e-mail address and we'll put you on our Mac Attack Alert List.

2) We're partnering with a class of Year 12 Geography students from Iona College to do some further surveying. We'll report their findings later.

Get your opinion in. Take our BayBuzz survey.



Taradale McDonald's

## What YOU Say About McDonald's!

*HN needs to retain its individualistic nature by not looking like all the other towns and cities plagued by the golden arches, especially at the gateway to the village!! People come here because McD's, KFC etc is not here ... it has character. Go to Hastings for all that stuff!*

As long as the first thing that you see when you come into Havelock isn't like the Hastings McDonald's but a discreet version of it, then I don't have huge objections.

*This idea would ruin EVERYTHING that Havelock North stands for. When I (a local resident) think about Havelock, the words that spring to mind are... sophisticated, stylish, classy, elegant, exclusive etc. Yet MD's does NOT stand for any of these. When I think of MD's I think... trashy, fatty, tacky and cheap. HENCE... MD's will not fit in Havelock North!*

Havelock North folk may feel they are too posh for Maccas. Too bad.

*If Council would like to see how McDonald's can fit into a town without displaying prominent golden arches, they should contact Freeport, Maine, USA. The town held the line on its building design codes and McDonald's operates in a early period house on a major intersection with Main Street. There is a very small McDonald's insignia (including very small golden arches) over the front door.*

I feel strongly that McDonald's should not be the first thing that is visible to as you enter Havelock North. A discreet building may be acceptable, but there is still the issue of parking, litter, location and those hideous golden arches.

*It's about time they finally came to Havelock.*

If you've seen any McDonald's built in recent years, they are actually well designed. I think there is this misconception they will build a monstrosity like the one in Hastings or any other McDonald's in the world built between 1970 and the mid 1990s.

*I am also concerned that traffic entering and exiting McDonalds would be a hazard so close to the roundabout.*

As I understand it the 'Restaurant' is likely to require resource consent. Hopefully the HDC will ensure this is publicly notified so that both McD's and the Public get a fair say. My view is that their building design should be sensitive to visual amenity and the Village Character - this character has already been incrementally eroded by more recent developments. The high profile entry location is important as it will 'set the scene' for Havelock North, a poorly presented development may 'make or break' the current high level of desirability of Havelock North as a place to live (Currently ranked by the Listener as 4th to 5th most desirable in New Zealand!).

*Make sure it's 24 hours to benefit off early Sunday mornings after the clubs shut.*

HN is hardly a 'village' anymore - there is no 'look' - what is the 'style'? This will be a positive move for HN and bring in a lot more business for the whole area.

*I am a 17 year old day girl at Woodford House and I was appalled too hear the news that McDonald's might be coming to Havelock North. The Village will lose its unique quaint image and atmosphere. It will ruin local businesses, and further add to the obesity problem ... With the tacky addition of a 'maccas' Havelock North would no longer be a destination, just another ugly town to drive through ... Once one fast food restaurant comes, they all come! Do we really want two Hastings in Hawke's Bay?*

Too many over-priced coffee shops in Havelock North. I would rather eat at McDonald's than

some of the places I have tried. Havelock is all pies, sausage rolls and over-priced cakes.

*I am also concerned that traffic entering and exiting McDonalds would be a hazard so close to the roundabout.*

If you've seen any McDonald's built in recent years, they are actually well designed. I think there is this misconception they will build a monstrosity like the one in Hastings or any other McDonald's in the world built between 1970 and the mid 1990s.

*Havelock North is no longer a village, it is a mish mash of building styles from rubbish to sympathetic. The village atmosphere was lost yrs ago when the few remaining character buildings were demolished in the name of progress. All that can now be done is to appeal to McDonald's to build a tasteful building.*

What's so special about either Havelock North or its Noddy-town architecture that disqualifies McDonald's from setting up shop there? How precious can Havelocktytes be?

## Havelock North Framework for Future Development

In September 2008 the Hastings Council approved for public consultation the Havelock North Village Centre Framework for Future Development. And since then, the community has had numerous opportunities to respond and comment. Extensive materials -- including a Framework summary, summary of public feedback, maps, Q&As -- are available at the library and on the HDC website for review. The web address is:

[www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/havelock-north-village-framework-future-development](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/havelock-north-village-framework-future-development)

The introduction to the website coverage says:

"The coming years will see Havelock North continue to develop and grow, so it's important to ensure this growth enhances the qualities which make the Village such an attractive and distinctive place.

Unsympathetic development can undermine the very attributes which make a community attractive in the first place. That's why Hastings District Council has proposed a Framework to guide land use planning for the future of the Village centre."

So far, public feedback has centered on:

- Connections / Pedestrian links
- Village character and landscaping
- Parking & Traffic
- Urban Design
- District Plan – height of buildings, mixed use, building setbacks
- Design Guidelines
- Development sites – particularly St Columbas site and top of Joll Road

Ultimately, any new regulations affecting development in Havelock North must be incorporated in the District Plan. The Council intends to propose a Plan Change in early 2010. At that time, the public will again have the opportunity to comment and make formal submissions.

## Cutting To The Core (cont. from p.1)

Getting the pitch on Lawrence Yule's sports park. Studying a model of Barbara Arnott's new museum and art gallery. I don't think he checked out the miserable Mental Health In-patient Unit or chatted with folks in the local WINZ office... or asked the mayors about their infrastructure backlogs. And no way did he venture near the Haumoana coast!

But I wasn't there. Maybe he did ask the tough questions. Maybe he did get back on his plane and say incredulously to his aide: "What are these guys smoking?! No way are we pouring money into a velodrome a few hundred peak athletes will use, or putting millions into a museum that has fewer visitors per year than the local McDonald's! What do the poobahs at our next stop want?"

### Local poobahs

Speaking of our local poobahs... The grandest, by virtue of wearing a second hat as President of Local Government New Zealand, is Mayor Yule. But Mayor Arnott and Regional Chairman Alan Dick follow the same pattern.

Let central government come down with an edict on clean air or drinking water or functional septic tanks or tough building standards or freshwater management and our local officials go ballistic. First, as a matter of general principle, they attack the Wellington bureaucrats as numbskulls in the Hawke's Bay Today (and DomPost if they score big time). Then they authorise council staffs to spend valuable time preparing letters and submissions of complaint (essentially, patch protection) to various ministers and parliamentary committees. [By the way, have you ever been consulted on one of these submissions, ostensibly made on your – the ratepayer's – behalf?]

Then they go winge to Rodney Hide about the burdens and infringements of central government.

On the other hand, let the faintest smell of money for local projects waft from Wellington to local nostrils, and our local poobahs can't get to the Hawke's Bay Airport fast enough!

Then there's the Rodney Hide problem. He's their Minister, after all, but here he is, raising all these nasty questions about fiscal integrity and the role of local government. It's the ultimate disloyalty... like the Defence Minister contemplating eliminating the Navy.

Said Lawrence Yule at the Local Government NZ meeting: "I would like to publicly state that as a sector we are philosophically opposed to rates-capping and the formal definition of core services, and such approaches challenge the very heart of our democracy."

Mayor Yule and the other poobahs don't seem to realise that it is they who have created – indeed invited – Rodney's opportunity for populist political grandstanding. How? By resisting meaningful efforts to implement shared services and other cooperative efficiencies. By keeping their financial reporting impenetrable. By steamrolling ahead with pet projects without convincing public mandates.

Recently, I asked all Hastings Councillors how they justified approving a \$1 million

contribution to the HB Museum & Art Gallery, when their own survey of ratepayers showed that 46% wanted no contribution at all, and another 24% wanted a lesser one. Only Councillor Bradshaw and Mayor Yule even deigned to reply. Meanwhile, Councillor Bradshaw had to scratch his way toward a Council agreement to call upon the Council CEO to meet an "indicative" target of finding 5% in savings over three years.

So, who in fact better reflects the attitude of today's ratepayer – Rodney Hide or our own local elected officials? One need not agree with Hide's ultimate stance or sledgehammer solutions to accept that he has his finger on the ratepayer pulse. And the examination of issues that he has triggered will carry into the 2010 local body elections.

Someone – and maybe more than one player – will try to frame a "local government reform" debate in 2010 local body elections. It might be Hide and his Cabinet study. It might be John Key with a political compromise. It might be our incumbent local elected officials, who have a pre-election epiphany. Or it could be a coalition of citizens who just say "Enough is Enough."

But it's a safe bet... the status quo won't survive.

## The Burping Cow Problem

By Tom Belford



On July 15, Environment Minister Nick Smith and Ambassador Adrian Macey, NZ's chief international negotiator on the climate issue, made a splendid presentation to a public meeting in Napier on Government's emerging global warming policy.

Specifically, they described the policy challenges Government faces in setting emission reduction goals for the nation, as well as the daunting obstacles to reaching an effective international accord later this year in Copenhagen.

If you believe global warming is for real, and that serious national and international commitments to curb it are urgently required, you would have been gratified by the evidence these presenters provided that: a) the National Government is "for real" on the issue; and b) sophisticated, knowledgeable officials are calling the shots.

Of course not everyone is a believer, and that was true of some at the meeting who represented the farming sector.

Those most in denial still reject the overwhelming weight of scientific evidence... rendering themselves irrelevant to the public debate and doing a disservice to their sector.

Farming leaders should focus on securing equitable, informed treatment for their sector under any emissions regulatory regime, and on using science to find solutions for the methane emissions their cows produce, rather than on denying the visible, measurable evidence that

accumulates daily about the global warming impacts that are already upon us.

But despite some strong contrarian views expressed by farmers at the meeting, Minister Smith held his ground, leaving no doubt that the farming sector will need to shoulder its share of the emissions reduction burden, but also making clear that the Government was not foolish enough to strangle New Zealand's most dominant industry.

As most know, in NZ our methane-burping cows are the chief contributors to the nation's greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 32% of all NZ emissions. Methane has a twenty times greater impact on the "greenhouse effect" than carbon dioxide. Transportation is the next largest sector in terms of emissions, at 20%. Followed by nitrous oxide from agriculture at 16%.

So, solving the problem of the burping cow is an extremely significant challenge to New Zealand.

Indeed, a challenge to the entire planet, since about 18% of all greenhouse gas emissions worldwide are attributable to livestock, according to the UN's Food & Agriculture Organization. India has the worst cow problem, with 283 million cows (and 485 million livestock of all types).

So important is the burping cow that one could make an argument that New Zealand, if it wishes to be recognised for global leadership on climate change, should spare no effort to become the nation that solves the methane problem. NZ should pour resources into a scientific quest to solve this problem — NZ's scientific equivalent of putting the first man on the moon — as its main contribution to the cause.

What this small nation cannot do in quantity (representing only 0.2% of global greenhouse gas emissions in the first place), it could do in quality... in this case creating enormously valuable intellectual capital that it could offer to contribute free to the rest of the world.

That would be a bold undertaking. It would show New Zealand punching beyond its weight. It would contribute significantly to solving a global challenge. It would help protect the access of NZ's agricultural sector to international markets, which will begin inevitably to penalise nations that do not pull their weight in the fight to curb global warming.

Minister Smith... turn up the heat on your new Centre for Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research! And while you're at it, add "farming" soil carbon to your research priorities as well.

## Rationing: Health Care's Dirty Word

By Tom Belford

A thought-provoking article recently in the New York Times posed this health care scenario:

"You have advanced kidney cancer. It will kill you, probably in the next year or two. A drug called Sutent slows the spread of the cancer and may give you an extra six months, but at a cost of US\$54,000. Is a few more months worth that much?"

If you can afford it, you probably would pay that much, or more, to live longer, even if your quality of life wasn't going to be good. But suppose it's not you with the cancer but a stranger covered by your health insurance fund.

If the insurer provides this man — and everyone else like him — with Sutent, your premiums will increase. Do you still think the drug is a good value? Suppose the treatment cost a million dollars. Would it be worth it then? Ten million? Is there any limit to how much you would want your insurer to pay for a drug that adds six months to someone's life?

If there is any point at which you say, 'No, an extra six months isn't worth that much,' then you think that health care should be rationed."

For anyone thinking seriously about how the New Zealand public health system will meet the expense of providing care for a rapidly aging population, this is a pertinent scenario. While posed in the context of current policy debate in the US, similar examples of the "workings" of health care rationing can be drawn from British and Australian experience.

[For link to Times article, go to: [www.baybuzz.co.nz/archives/1562](http://www.baybuzz.co.nz/archives/1562)]

Indeed, the handling of the cancer drug Sutent, mentioned above, caused considerable controversy in Britain when its use was first declined by that country's National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (with the ironic acronym, NICE).

According to figures just released by Statistics New Zealand, the number of people aged 50 and over will grow 63% in the 25 years from 2006-2031, compared with only 5% for those under 50. Coincidentally, an update by health planners at a recent meeting of the Hawke's Bay DHB emphasized the significance of our region's aging population (along with our region's disproportionate Maori population) as a "structural" cost driver — older folks come to the hospital with more complex medical needs and they stay longer. A "fact of life" one might say. And those over-65 are also more likely to be over-prescribed, driving up those costs as well.

The issue of rationing health care is immensely difficult, economically and ethically, forcing trade-offs that are only likely to become more excruciating. But rationing and the debate around it is unavoidable.

Of course, New Zealand's most recent example is Herceptin, the breast cancer drug. Here's how a critic writing in an American thought journal, *The Atlantic*, described the pre-NZ election situation:

"You can err on the side of patient safety or on the side of cost. New Zealand chose the latter. It just didn't want to admit its priorities, preferring to conflate economic and medical questions. No public figure wants to seem heartless, after all.

That surely accounts for the most damning inconsistency in New Zealand's policy. When Pharmac was denying Herceptin to early-stage patients, it was fully funding the drug, without limitations, for women with advanced metastatic cancer, who are just buying time. A purely rational calculation would suggest the opposite course: letting patients with advanced cancer die while shifting the money to early-stage patients who, if treated, might survive for decades. But once a treatment has become standard practice, taking it away is hard."

We all know how this one turned out.

As individuals, we need to give the rationing debate the most sober thought we can. Although the critical decisions will be made in Wellington, as "objectively" as we might wish them to be made, public decisions this fundamental will always be political... in the sense of requiring at least tacit public acceptance. Consequently, we should still expect our locally-elected Health Boards to help inform and lead us through the tough choices ahead.

One can only hope our Hawke's Bay DHB is up to this leadership task, educating and engaging the public appropriately.

# ARTS & Lifestyle

Roy Dunningham  
Guest Columnist



## A Heart For Hastings



Hastings City Art Gallery

The Hastings City Art Gallery (HCAG) is my favourite space in New Zealand for viewing art works. Both the space and the light are sufficiently generous to accommodate the largest contemporary work and yet flexible enough to provide intimate areas for small scale work. It could and should be the jewel in the crown of the Hastings CBD. Sadly, it has not fulfilled that promise.

The staff has been first rate. The Gallery however, (or Hawke's Bay Exhibition Centre as it was previously called), has been beset with problems, largely out of its control, and has never achieved a real presence in Hastings. While it was under the administration of the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust (HBCT) the Centre languished. The Hastings District Council seemed uninterested in it and the Centre always appeared the poor relation of the Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery in Napier.

Inadequate funding, limited staffing and failure to expand (the original plan has never been completed) have curtailed the quality, variety and rotation of shows at the Centre. People, generally, stayed away from the middle of Hastings. The lack of "street presence" of the Centre has been compounded by poor parking access and an increasingly bleak approach from Eastbourne Street. Putting the café on the Lyndon Road side has further depopulated the Eastbourne Street entrance area, making it even less inviting.

In 2007 the then Exhibition Centre was withdrawn from the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust and placed under the administration of the Hastings District Council. Under the stewardship of Keith Thorsen a visionary group was formed to create a new strategic plan for the Centre. This plan (a brilliant and exciting vision for the future) answered criticisms which the McDermott Miller Report of 2000 had made, citing a lack of direction from the Cultural Trust. The plan was adopted by the HDC and, under a new director, the Hastings City Art Gallery was born.

The initial results were positive. The HDC assumed a greater sense of ownership and responsibility toward the Gallery. Maintenance problems have been dealt with promptly and a much needed new colour scheme applied to the building. An energetic and varied programme of exhibitions has seen significant increases in attendance – roughly double this year over last year.

Wonderful, I hear you say. Well, not entirely.

### Financial bombshell

The release of the Council's Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-19 contained a financial bombshell. It indicated a flat line budget for the next ten years. This same Draft Plan, on another page, stated a commitment to "full implementation of the Hastings City Art Gallery Strategic Plan."



Hastings City Art Gallery entrance

The justification offered for this inconsistency was the tight, current financial climate. This is not, however, a case of putting things on hold and just ticking over.

Years of neglect have left the HCAG seriously under-developed and under-resourced. Even more seriously it was, I believe, a decision that threatens the actual existence of the gallery, which really is unsustainable at current funding levels.

Much of the success of the last year has been due to extreme efforts by the staff and members of the art community. For example, graphic designers have contributed services either free, or at greatly cut rates. The curator of the outstanding exhibition, "Mind Games: Surrealism in Aotearoa" gave a huge amount of additional, unpaid time sourcing and collecting the artworks for the show. You cannot take professional people for granted like that indefinitely.

Four full time staff is an absurdly small number to run a gallery like this. It invites stress levels that result in staff burn-out and allows little scope for initiating, researching and presenting good shows, let alone fulfilling even some of the aims of the Strategic Plan.

To their credit, Council has graciously acknowledged that a mistake has been made and, so far, some modest increases in funding have occurred. However, I have to question the way that arts funding has been allocated. Included in the Draft Plan is \$1,000,000 to the building fund of the Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery (HBMAG) in Napier.

The Council does, quite properly, pay an annual sum towards the Museum collection of the Cultural Trust which is housed in Napier. The collection is our history and is our collective responsibility. The \$1,000,000 for the building fund, on the other hand, is over and above this. I would normally support this too if I felt that it wasn't at the expense of Hastings City Art Gallery.

Up until now, the two institutions have been more or less complementary, with HBMAG concentrating on the historical side and HCAG on the major art shows. I see though that the plans for the new HBMAG provide for a comprehensive art gallery. One must ask where will the major art shows like the HB Invitationals go in the future if we have a well resourced gallery in Napier and a severely undernourished one in Hastings?

### Maori cultural centre

I would also question if the Council has a clear vision for the proposed Ngati Kahungunu Centre. Hastings is the natural centre for the Kahungunu region and a dedicated cultural centre

is overdue. Council thinking at present seems to be aimed at a development separate from the HCAG. Surely a partnership with a Kahungunu Centre based on a flourishing HCAG is a more logical use of resources.

Contemporary Maori culture can be as dynamic and leading edge as any (just have a look at what happens at Toi Mairangi), and is perfectly compatible with the aims of HCAG. There

are precedents of Kahungunu and the Gallery working successfully in partnership. The 2002 "Ka puta, ka moe" exhibition of the 19th century portraits by the Napier photographer, Samuel Carnell, was an outstanding example. There was huge involvement of Kahungunu expertise both in the exhibition and the supporting cultural events. It was a joyous occasion and attendance figures for the first month were six times those of the previous month.

So what can a well-developed art gallery actually do for Hastings?

An Opus International survey 10 years ago asked what people liked most about Hastings. The responses focussed mainly on things outside the city. Hastings, it seems, was like the tin man in "The Wizard of Oz" – lacking a heart. The excellent Council redevelopment of the CBD has certainly improved things, but there is still work to be done. Hastings will never be a "city of the seven hills" or the "Venice of the South," but it has always had energetic and creative people – from the arts community through to business people like Sir James Wattie and our winemakers... and that is our strength.

New Zealanders are becoming increasingly aware and knowledgeable about art. Each year about 1,000 Hawke's Bay secondary students study art at senior level. We have two full time tertiary art schools and increasingly people are looking to the arts to express community pride and identity.

We don't have a huge past to focus on in Hastings, but we do have a dynamic present and future. With our full support, a flourishing Hastings City Art Gallery would proclaim our self belief and would provide a heart for our city.



Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery, Napier

Brooks Belford



# Mama Mana



Delicia Sampero

Mama: any respected member of the community from whom one learns something of value. The Mirror Mama Project now on view at Hastings City Gallery has much to teach. It invites us to share, however briefly, in the cultural journeys of ten women who immigrated to New Zealand from the Pacific Islands, Africa and the Middle East. Their personal stories of loss and separation, connection and community compel us to think more deeply about their individual lives. At the same time, the exhibition raises broader questions of personal identity in the context of cultural heritage. As painter Delicia Sampero, the instigator of the Project says, “A personal story, well told, will reach beyond.”

With the help of Mary Ama and the Pacific Arts and Culture Centre at Corbans in Waitakere City, and RAS (Refugees as Survivors) in Auckland, Delicia became involved with six Pacific Island Mamas and four refugee Mamas. Each one is skilled and committed to a traditional craft or art form of her native culture. Delicia’s purpose was to paint their portraits. But the fine hand work was of such quality and significance that it too became part of the exhibition, along with the text of brief personal statements.

Sampero’s large and vivid portraits dominate this intimate exhibition installed in one of the Gallery’s smaller installation spaces. Richly hued faces stand out against neutral, silver backgrounds. Luminously portrayed and robed in the striking colours of their homelands, most of the subjects look directly at the viewer; their gazes clear, direct and unhesitant.

For Sampero, portraiture is powerful way of establishing connection—between herself and her subjects, and between her art and the viewer. Although the paintings were

completed in two months—“the fastest I ever painted”—much time was spent developing relationships with the women despite language barrier with the refugees and the need for translators.

“I try to portray the person in the best way I can and also give them mana,” Delicia says. “I want them to love themselves in what they see.”



Some of the women were terribly nervous in posing. It’s very exposing. They are so often in the background, I wanted to celebrate them.”

But Sampero invited the women to do more than pose. “I was so impressed by the Mamas. I wanted them to play a part not just through the portraits but also through their own creative work. The handwork provides a way for the viewer to connect to the woman’s environment, to the elders or teachers from whom she learned, and to the importance of her creativity. If viewers experience the person’s own work and then look at the face and read a bit of her story, it’s like a map.”

Tueke Malage comes from the Pacific island of Tuvalu noted for its raffia art. Beneath her portrait hangs a stunning example: stars of brilliant colored raffia stand out from a black ground, as if the night sky were full of giant flowers. Her statement reads:

“I am making a star for all people in my birth family. The central one is my mum; the other ones are for my siblings. The stars make a picture and hold each other in place – a sea of stars connecting us from one place to another. Our ancestor navigated the sea by following the stars. I navigate my path in this new land by contemplating on the stars.

Sefuiva Saifoloi is from Samoa. Weaving plastic strapping with natural fiber, she has created a striking woven panel of greens, yellows and blacks.

“As I weave, memories pass through my mind. I remember being a teacher in Samoa. I think of my children and grand children and their stories. When I first came here I was a sewer, a factory worker, a stranger in a new land; and then slowly I became a part of the new land.”

Rachel Gabire is a refugee from the Congo.



She is a master embroiderer and beneath her painting hangs a stunning example.

In my country the women do embroidery, usually flower designs; but traditionally our art is all about dark and light, like the stripes of a zebra. My father, mother, siblings, aunties and uncles and one of my children have been taken from me and are now in heaven. For ten months I have been living in New Zealand. I picture flight. I picture angels, flowers, peace. I picture transformation from darkness.

Delicia says that many of the Mamas are now part of her life and part of her community, just as she is now part of theirs. “Much of the exhibition,” says the artist, “is about making connections despite our differences.” But the Mirror Mama Project is also about what can happen when art making gets out of the private realm of the studio and becomes, in Sampero’s words, a “social working ground” for individual and cultural affirmation and understanding.

“I wanted to be useful to them,” says Sampero of the Mamas. “I feel like I’ve contributed something to their lives through this project as they have to mine.” In so doing, Sampero enables us too to appreciate these lives, and to share in a community of wise women that we might otherwise never see.

**COUNTERPOINT**  
Tim Gilbertson



**Mark Sweet**  
Columnist



**The Great NZ Contradiction**      **The Romance of Wine**

Given that we are over-governed, over-regulated, and therefore grossly over-taxed, it is a cause of abiding wonder that so few of us recognise that the state is the enemy of the people, and that most taxation really is theft.

After almost fourteen years involvement in local government, I can categorically state that there is nothing that the state does that could not be done more efficiently by individuals or private groups. In fact, as soon as the state is involved, everyone within miles has their hand out and the price of everything from paper clips to ocean liners goes through the roof.

The cost of building prisons is a testament to that fact. During the last round of prison construction, the actual costs were five times the budgeted costs. It cost more to build a prison cell (some \$8,000 per bunk) than it cost to build a five-star hotel room (\$6,000 per room including gold-plated taps). In the civil service there is minimum accountability and maximum roting!

The Chief Executives of public enterprises are paid according to the size of their operations and the number of staff they employ. Thus, although they must strenuously deny it, the objective of every chief executive is to increase staff numbers and revenue, and therefore increase his or her salary. Why would they not? The result is the opposite of the private sector where cost control and efficiency are the key to survival. And the result is a bloated inefficient public sector which is crippling our economy.

It is therefore the height of irony that any calls to cut the public sector spending are greeted with howls of protest, as the great unwashed confuse cost and numbers with results. This attitude is aided and encouraged by civil servants and politicians. It never ceases to amaze that politicians will say that they have increased spending on education by trillions and stand there smiling. There is no necessary connection between expenditure and results.

I once pointed out to an MP that I too had increased spending by building two new woolsheds and buying three more land rovers, but for some reason I had not made any more profit. He was not amused or impressed.

But what is most extraordinary is that the public doesn't care and indeed appears uncomfortable with calls to reduce the

criminal wastage that we call the civil service. Everyone I have ever met has a story of unbelievable duplication, waste, and stupidity in relation to the spending of our hard-earned tax dollar, but very few have any strong desire for reform.

This is the great New Zealand contradiction.

We know we are stuffed. We know we are falling behind Australia and everywhere else in the world because we are over-governed, over-taxed and over-regulated. We know our children are leaving in droves and not coming back because we are so hopeless. Yet we continue to ask for more money from the government to cure the very ills caused by excess government in the first place.

Perhaps the most graphic example of how totally inept our rulers are and how pathetically servile we are towards their ghastly ineptness is the case of the defunct hospitals littering the land. In the last twenty years the government has closed down hospitals at a great rate and for valid reasons – Napier, Waipukurau, Pukeora and Dannevirke in this area alone. These institutions were closed down and allowed to rot for years. The value they had was destroyed by neglect and vandalism. The government had years to plan a sensible and profitable way of de-commissioning them, but they rotted away... and still do. Finally, most were sold at knock down prices. All except Napier. The cost of failing to dispose of the Napier Hospital site runs into tens of millions.

Yet still in the face of such monumental incompetence by generations of politicians, we still believe that government spending is the way to save the nation.

And finally, when the government does do something vaguely worthwhile – like building a naval inshore fisheries patrol vessel – it doesn't have a gun on it. If ever you needed a symbol of how sad we have become, it was lying in Napier Harbour last week. A brand new billion dollar dinky toy – smart as paint, goes like a rocket – but won't do the job it is designed for because joe-at-the-ministry forgot that essential element that characterises all fighting forces the world over except ours... the gun on the front.

If I wasn't in line for a council contract, I'd be tempted to do something about it.

**GIMBLETT GRAVELS**

When Amy Bertha Crawford married William John Gimblett in Havelock North on 14 August 1898, little did she know that with her new name came the promise of immortality. William owned land to the west of Omaha Road, from Fernhill to Ngatarawa. Farming with his two sons, John Samuel and William Crawford, would not have been easy. The soil was thin and smattered with river stones. What grass grew was soon burnt off in the early summer. The heat stored up in the stones like a hangi, shrivelling the roots, and the radiant heat withered the fragile shoots. It was regarded as the most infertile land on the Heretaunga Plains.

Not far away in Frimley, J N Williams was growing so much fruit he established a canning factory, and his winery annually produced 20,000 litres and caret, hock and Madeira. His land was on deep alluvial soils deposited by the Ngararoro River before it changed course in the great flood of 1867. The Gimblett land was part of the old river bed.

Prior to the flood the Ngararoro flowed from Roy's Hill through where Heretaunga street is today to the foot of the Havelock hills then in a route to the sea where the Karamu creek now flows.

When viticulture expert Romeo Brogato visited Hawke's Bay in 1895 he recognised the region as "the most suitable for growing vines." He described a Pinot crop from Henry Tiffen's Greenmeadows Vineyard as "among the finest I've ever seen."

If Romeo Brogato had been shown the land on which William Gimblett was to farm, it is likely he would have recognised the ground as similar to parts of Bordeaux in France. Graves could have come to mind, named after the gravel nature of the soil.

Father Yardin from the Catholic Mission in Meeanee had made the comparison as early as 1890. In a talk given to the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute on 11 August he said, "In France, and elsewhere, the vineyards most celebrated for the excellence of their wine are on stony soils. In the best vineyards the land is

so much covered with small stones that the soil itself has been completely hidden." In Hawke's Bay he observed, "we have the proper soil ... composed of sand or gravel, and which can be well drained."

Curiously, Father Yardin's observations and Bragato's predictions needed a hundred years to mature.

Bragato envisaged, "a competent body in each district would determine the suitable varieties ... each district would subsequently gain notoriety for the wines produced as in the various famed wine districts of the Continent."

Father Yardin recognised the terrior value of stony soils in saying, "... the grapes, receiving the action of the sun directly and through radiation, may attain their finest qualities."

These century-old opinions have now blended in the creation of the Gimblett Gravels Winegrowing District, which resembles an Appellation in the French model, and is defined by its stony soil.

The Gimblett Gravels brand is taking the wine world by storm because in the words of Jancis Robinson they produce "the closest comparison to the Bordeaux wines of any wine region (in the world) today."

In February this year she and two other highly respected names within the international wine community, Michael Schuster and Neal Martin, were the principal judges at a double-blind tasting of six Gimblett Gravels wines against six Bordeaux wines.

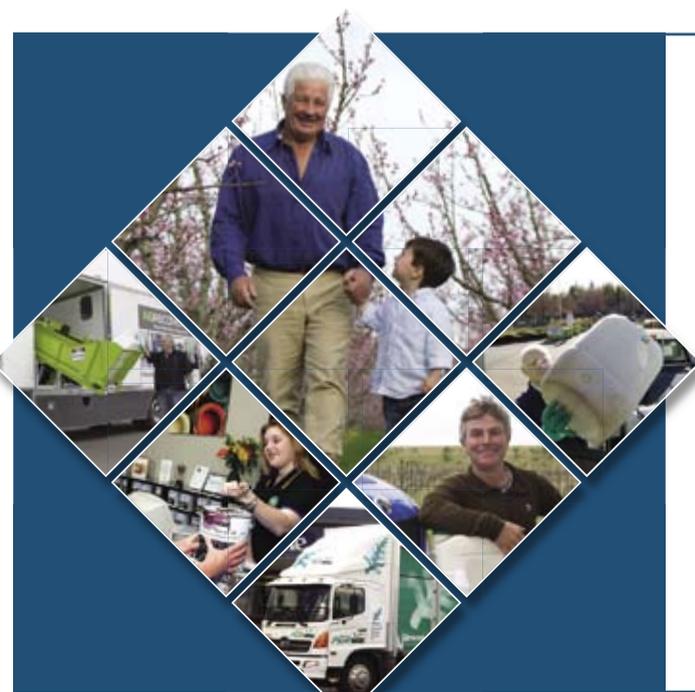
Michael Schuster commented, "there was a lovely freshness in all the wines, and it was quite difficult to tell which was which." And Jancis Robinson confirmed the Gimblett Gravels challenge to Bordeaux when she said, "it wasn't evident as to which wine was which."

Of the six top wines chosen two were from Gimblett Gravels. The winner was 2005 Chateau Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac, Bordeaux, costing \$2,215 per bottle. In fourth place came 2006 Sacred Hill, The Helmsman, and sixth was 2006 Newton Forrest Cornerstone, both priced under \$100. Sitting between them in fifth place was 2005 Chateau Haut-Brion, St Steppe, Bordeaux, costing more than a return airfare to London at \$1,950 a bottle.

For decades, nobody valued the stony land farmed by William and Amy Gimblett, but the Gimblett Gravels Winegrowing District is today a treasure of immense value, and is promoting Hawke's Bay as the premier wine growing region in New Zealand.

It is a salutary lesson in wise resource management that 20 years ago those who recognised the wine growing potential of the Gimblett Gravels battled with the Hastings District Council to save a large portion from being quarried.

The story of how C J Pask first came to plant a vineyard on Gimblett Gravels, and the fight to preserve the resource led by Dr Alan Limmer, are next issue's theme in The Romance of Wine.



**Don't let this opportunity go to waste**

Economic prosperity in the last 20 years has increased average per capita income, but it has also dramatically increased the amount of waste. Waste is a significant risk to human health and the environment, and tangible evidence that we are making inefficient use of resources.

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Pick-up day in Havelock North

**Brendan Webb  
Columnist**



# Dead Letters

There's something deeply satisfying about having someone you don't know take away your rubbish each week with such noisy enthusiasm. Alongside Radio New Zealand's early morning bird calls, the roar of the recycler's truck is a welcome weekly reminder that the sins and excesses of the past seven days are about to become memories.

Wine empties and stubbies vanish forever in a waterfall of crashing glass, no longer sitting on the verge under the scrutiny of the neighbours. I don't want to know where my unread circulars go or whether my empty merlot bottles will one day form part of Auckland's northern motorway extension. I just want them gone from my daily life, and especially from my garage.

Anyway it's not rubbish any more. It's recycling, it's helping the planet and it provides jobs for Chinese.

I grew up with rubbish rather than recycling. Our kitchen chip heater operated like a household industrial furnace, melting down vast quantities of household rubbish, including animal bones and mum's baking failures. A44-gallon incinerator down the back yard handled the serious stuff. Our family's incinerator always seemed to be set on smoulder. Kids played for hours in the backyard, wreathed in toxic fumes from melting linoleum, old cardigans and empty paint tins.

The incinerator is banned from the back yard these days. In its place stands the wheelie bin, which I trundle to the roadside every Tuesday morning for its rendezvous with Wheelie Bin Man.

I always hide because I know my bin is always grossly overweight, sagging on its plastic axles. Once he's gone, I emerge from hiding and assure myself that my six-day old red Thai curry, now embalmed in congealed rice, will soon be fertilising Mother Earth, along with that whiffy chunk of cheese.

The green wheelie bin has not only replaced the incinerator, it has probably single-handedly killed off that flawed but legendary Kiwi invention, the home-made trailer.

I've owned two trailers in my life and both disembowelled themselves under the soggy weight of lawn clippings and dead mattresses that waited in vain, sometimes for years, to be taken to the tip.

Every post-war Kiwi trailer was different. All were experimental. Special tail-gates and axle assemblies off Morris Oxfords were welded, modified and welded again. Some trailers were made from the complete back end of Vauxhall Velox cars. Few had brake lights that worked.

My father always borrowed trailers that had no warrant of fitness, no current registration and safety chains with no shackles. Their tread-free tyres were slippery testimony to the thousands of miles they had already travelled on the family car. Dad always made our dump run late in the afternoon, hoping the lower angle of the sun would dazzle a parked traffic cop. The trailer was always illegally overloaded and dangerously secured by dad's extraordinary collection of ropes, with knots so solid they eventually had to be sawn off.

Our destination, the old Roy's Hill dump west of Hastings, is now just a few grassy hills entombing decades of city waste, sitting on the border of the region's premiere red wine country. It may have a future life growing grapes on its shingle soils to produce a full-bodied brake-fluid red, with subtle hints of car battery and mattress.

Recycling day has given me an insight into how people live. On the morning dog walk I pass little piles of plastic bags, bottles and cartons of newspapers, some fastidiously bundled and tied with string by retired men in Summitstone units with safety screens on their doors. One box of the week's empties had six empty scotch whisky bottles in it. My recycling studies suggest that Tui, followed by Export Gold, is New Zealand's beer of choice.

When I lived on the edge of Havelock North, just inside the boundary, people started bringing their recycling to me. They were lifestylers who lived beyond the authorised ambit of the recycling truck. So the lifestylers would emerge from their pine-forested retreats at dawn, furtively depositing their household recycling in big orange bags, along with pallets of empty gin bottles.

I still get a lot of unwanted recycling delivered these days, even in the heart of town. It arrives in my letterbox which has become overcrowded since Harvey Norman, Noel Leeming and the blokes moved in, along with the friendly teams at Tremains, Pizza Hut, Farmers and the lady who drops off the returnable catalogue that we never open.

People more elderly than me repel the junk mail juggernaut with polite "No Circulars Thank You" signs, the capital letters indicating they're being firm but polite.

I should get a "no junk mail" sign but I always hesitate to buy one. I'm slightly put off by the fact it uses an American slogan instead of something more Anglo-Saxon and bluntly offensive.

Anyway, being polite doesn't work. "No junk mail" signs still don't stop Americans getting buried by 4 million tonnes of the stuff every year. I've got a far more direct phrase for direct marketers – but I'll need a bigger letterbox.

# Taco Bell Coming Too!

The OECD just reported that Kiwis are the third-fattest people in the developed world. Responding aggressively, the hard-charging American purveyor of Mexican food, Taco Bell, immediately announced plans for a nationwide NZ campaign, to be launched by an outlet in Havelock North.

According to OECD's Health Care Data 2009, latest statistics show that 26% of New Zealanders are obese, outweighed only by #1 United States at 34% and #2 Mexico at 30%.

Said Pepe Martinez, director of marketing for Taco Bell NZ: "We should be proud that we are within striking distance of first position. If Kiwis suck it in, we can achieve #1 by the time of the Rugby World Cup in 2011. Nothing beats Mexican food when it comes to adding fat. We're planning a nation-wide expansion, starting with Havelock North, where there's a great location on Te Mata Road."

He continued: "With the NZ Government choking the anti-obesity education program, and re-opening the school doors to fast-food, we thought ... Hey, this is better than sliced bread, the NZ fat market will be bigger than ever ... we'll get all the business we can swallow. Besides, we can't target #2 Mexico ... that would be like sending coal to Newcastle."



Asked why Taco Bell NZ decided to feast on Havelock North, Mr Martinez noted the recent announcement that McDonald's is coming to the village. "We take that as a gauntlet thrown in our face. But we never shrink from the challenge of competing butt-to-butt with those Macmeisters. I'll stack up the fat content of our tacos any day against their skinny-ass little burgers."

Martinez said Taco Bell was already planning its first Havelock North promotion. "We'll kick-off with a Taco versus Mac Smackdown right at the village fountain. Prizes for the kids."

BayBuzz will cover the competition with a live webcast. Stay tuned.



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**BayBuzz Birthday!**

Dear Friend,

Two years ago, BayBuzz posted its first blog article. It dealt with poorly heated classrooms at William Colenso College.

Who would have thought... two years later a National-led Government has just officially launched Warm Up New Zealand, a \$323 million programme to provide warmer homes, and Mark Cleary, then principal at Colenso, has switched sides to become acting principal at Woodford House!

I think about eight people read that original post, including relatives of myself and then co-editor Mark Story (who has moved on to HB Today reportorial fame). But this month, BayBuzz will deliver nearly 10,000 page views to over 1,600 monthly unique visitors to our website ([www.baybuzz.co.nz](http://www.baybuzz.co.nz)), and another 300 plus subscribers will read our weekday email articles.

This August newspaper also begins our second year of publishing BayBuzz Digest, which reaches 10,000 homes spread over Hastings, Havelock North and Napier. The Digest has made BayBuzz a family affair, dragging in my wife Brooks as indispensable publisher and editor of our arts features.

There are many friends to thank, starting with dozens of BayBuzz Friends of who have donated so far in amounts from \$25 to over \$1,000 to support a fresh voice in Hawke's Bay to speak out on the issues and to help hold our elected officials accountable. We've also received important financial support from a cadre of thirty advertisers (and growing) who don't mind being associated with a bit of cage-rattling.

I emphasize "donated so far" because that's a hint to all you readers who think this kind of undertaking - with printing, distribution and web bills to pay - is cost-free! We need the financial support of more BayBuzz Friends ... and I hope you will join us. More advertisers are welcome too!

Another huge contribution has been made by dozens of guest writers - concerned, knowledgeable citizens, as well as Mayors, MPs, Councillors, and Ministers of all political persuasions - who have volunteered their time and talents to help fill our pages with insightful commentary and occasional wit.

And able folks at Grow Advertising and the web team at Mogul have made our newspaper and blog/website look great.

Finally, our efforts are helped immensely by the feedback we constantly get by mail, email, blog comments, calls and face-to-face chats on the street from folks who offer information, expertise, encouragement and, yes, even criticism.

All this combined effort, complementing the work of many activists of much longer community standing, has had impact, perhaps most visibly with respect to protecting Ocean Beach and making better management of our waterways a priority, but also less visibly in terms of more mundane issues of Councils' day-to-day accountability and transparency. Councils know they're being watched like never before.

Thanks to all of you. We look forward to year three. There are more cages to be rattled!

Sincerely,

*Tom Belford*

P.S. Some terrific local businesses want to encourage your support of BayBuzz. They're offering discounts of various kinds to Friends of BayBuzz. Use the coupon below if you'd like to contribute and take advantage of their offers.

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