



UPPER HUTT CITY

Valley News

June 2011 · Upper Hutt City Council Newsletter



Message from the Mayor

It has certainly been a very busy time over the last month or so at council with the Annual Plan round, the budget implications, and of course the beginning of a project that will take a little bit longer—the review of the Long Term Plan 2012-22. Many of you have been involved in the early stages of the city vision consultation: “Your city, your way – Upper Hutt 2022.” In April we had the stakeholder focus group public sessions and the Councillors sessions. Then on 16 May we had the communication meetings which provided feedback to the community, councillors, and council staff. This helped lay out to everyone the way council is proposing to head. Council is expected to receive the city vision report on 6 July. This final report will outline an implementation plan. Many of the initiatives will form part of the Long Term Plan which comes into effect next year. There will be another round of public consultation in September/October this year on the proposed projects, and further consultation in April/May 2012, before the plan is finally adopted in June 2012. So the community has many opportunities to be involved in influencing the direction our city will take over the next 10 years and I urge you all to be a part of it.

The city vision and strategy think-tanks have prioritised a



number of areas that we believe we need to focus on.

- 1. Environment** – including the need for open space and a sustainable future.
- 2. Transport** – focussing on bringing people to the city centre, prioritising pedestrians, strategic parking provision, improving cycle connections, and station improvements.
- 3. Social/Community** – concentrating on city wide community wellbeing, neighbourhood improvements, community facilities, and growing cultural and recreational facilities.
- 4. Employment** – getting on the radar of people and businesses, attracting major employers, strengthening the employment skill base, finding high value small business opportunities, and finding new economic and industrial opportunities.
- 5. City centre** – this includes the CBD, which is an issue for all of us. It includes enhancements relating to safe and well-used public spaces, the rail to Main Street connection, city centre management and advocacy, expression of place and heritage, and a vibrant retail sector.

Wayne Guppy | MAYOR

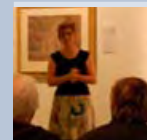
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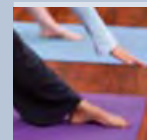
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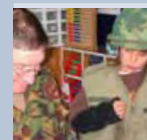
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An intergenerational programme of storytelling in the Spirit of ANZAC

there are many projects that will come out of those areas of interest and importance. One proposed enhancement is around making it easier to enter the CBD following arrival into Upper Hutt via State Highway 2 or the railway station.

This is certainly an exciting time for Upper Hutt and we all now have an opportunity to mould the future. I can assure you as Mayor that once many of these projects have been modelled and costed, and we all agree as a community that these are the improvements we want in our city, we will be locking them in and making sure we have a satisfactory financial model as we work through the projects over the next 10 years.

On a separate matter, we have been aware at council that the cost of insurance for 2011-12 would be increasing following the tragedies that have occurred in Christchurch

with the two major earthquakes, the tragic events in Japan, along with the issues in Australia. The indications at council are that cover for insurance for 2011-12 would result in an increase in the level of premium in the order of 4 times our 2010-11 premiums. We are working with brokers and other councils to explore other options that are available in the commercial market for cover for these assets. However, the impact for council using the above assumptions is a cost of insurance of some \$266,000 more than the 2010-11 period. This is a huge impact on council and will have a corresponding impact on all of us in the community.



Wayne Guppy | MAYOR

Stormwater replacement near the station

Notice of works

A stormwater pipe replacement project will soon be underway near the Upper Hutt railway station. The Station Crescent project will involve installation of a new 1 metre diameter stormwater mains pipe of approximately 130 metres in length, to connect to the stormwater main in Park Street.

E. Carson and Sons Ltd will be carrying out the work under the supervision of Capacity (on behalf of Upper Hutt City Council). The installation will be from behind the Mitre 10 MEGA site along and across the railway corridor to Station Crescent.



Trains will not be affected by the work but pedestrians and road traffic can expect slight delays around the area. While every effort will be made to minimise any inconvenience you may hear some construction noise during working hours. The work site will also be adequately sign posted for the duration of the project. Council does ask that pedestrians take extra care when moving near or around the affected area.

To minimise disruption, the work should only be undertaken between the hours of 7.30 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Work may be extended to between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm on Saturdays if required. The project is expected to begin early July 2011 and should take approximately 6 weeks.

Pinehaven Stream study update

The Pinehaven Stream Flood Hazard Assessment is currently in Phase 2 of the project. Phase 1 aimed to obtain a better understanding of the actual flood hazard risk to the Pinehaven catchment and was completed in June 2010. As part of this assessment a hydraulic model of the Pinehaven Stream was developed, which was used to produce detailed flood hazard maps for the catchment. Residents affected by predicted flood extents were sent flood hazard information sheets. Copies of the Phase 1 report are available for viewing at the Upper Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council offices as well as the Upper Hutt Central and Pinehaven Libraries. Now that we have a better understanding of the overall problem, we are carrying out an options assessment

which aims to assess a range of flood management and mitigation methods available to us.

Local consulting firm, SKM have been employed to lead this assessment and we have had a number of workshops to date with key staff from UHCC and GWRC regarding the process to date. A full range of options will be available from the consultant by the end of June 2011. From here we will evaluate these options based on a range of financial and non-financial criteria and a selection of preferred options will be made. We are expecting to present these preferred options to the respective councils around September 2011 and then to the public, with the way forward being largely determined by decisions at the political level.

Akatarawa bridges update

Last year council began the process of replacing the three timber truss bridges on Akatarawa Road. The existing bridges had reached the end of their economic life and were in a poor state of repair.

The new bridges will be two lanes and will also include additional width to allow for pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorised users. The reinforced concrete design of the bridges will reduce annual maintenance costs.

The remote location and difficult access to the sites are presenting the contractor with a number of technical challenges, but the work is continuing at a steady pace. The first bridge, by the Wellesley Camp, is due to be opened this month and construction of the second bridge is well underway with the new deck due to be put in place by the end of June.

One of the removed bridges has been delivered to Staglands, who are exploring ways to incorporate it into their heritage display.

The project is expected to be complete in October 2011.



A word from Councillor Glenn McArthur

Firstly, I'd like to thank all the voters who elected me to council, giving me the opportunity to make a difference. My first six months have been very informative and interesting and I am certainly enjoying the challenge.

Upper Hutt is indeed a great place to live and with the completion of the Library refurbishment and Maidstone Park redevelopment happening, I believe we are certainly moving in the right direction in providing modern amenities for the community. The Kobus Mentz report is proving to be a great initiative from this council and the input received from all sectors of our community has been heartening and confirms a vision for our city that our whole community shares. The input from all council officers has been immense and their



knowledge and passion was greatly appreciated by both council and the consultants.

The next challenge as we receive the final report and its recommendations, will be for your council to have the courage and commitment to make the best decisions for our city to continue our growth and progress, plus make a contribution to the Wellington region as a whole.

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges for us over the coming months, is to work through the implications of the PricewaterhouseCoopers report on the regionalisation of the councils in the Wellington region. It will be imperative that we make a strong case for Upper Hutt to retain its identity and voice in the region, and to achieve the best outcome for our community.

Draft Annual Plan 2011-12

Consultation on Upper Hutt City Council's draft Annual Plan 2011-12 occurred during April and May 2011. On 24 and 26 May, those wishing to be heard in respect of their submission made a presentation to councillors. This was followed by a meeting on 9 June, where councillors considered all submissions and made key decisions on the draft Annual Plan. It is expected that the Annual Plan 2011-

12 will be formally adopted on 22 June and will take effect from 1 July 2011. This includes formal decisions surrounding key projects such as the development at Maidstone Park, extension of the Hutt River Trail, H₂O Xtream maintenance, and the sustainability related initiatives.

Upper Hutt Business Awards 2011

Now run bi-annually, the Upper Hutt Business Awards have become a major highlight on the business calendar. Nominations closed at the end of May and judging is underway. This year's event will be held at Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre on Wednesday, 13 July 2011. Tickets are available from Expressions at \$65.00 each, or \$600.00 per table of ten. Tickets can be booked via telephone on (04) 527 2168 or in person between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm Tuesday – Sunday.

Experience Upper Hutt has taken the lead in establishing the event, with the Upper Hutt Leader as its major sponsor. Other partners include Upper Hutt City Council and the Upper Hutt Chamber of Commerce (now merged as the Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce).

The awards provide an opportunity to recognise businesses across the city that are striving for success whilst contributing to our local and wider economy and community.

A range of personal business, professional, trade, education, sustainability, retail, employer, employee,

and hospitality awards are sponsored by several local and national organisations. The Chamber of Commerce has awards for achievements in exporting and general business.

Previous award evenings have been a major talking point amongst the Upper Hutt business community for their success and the value they contribute to business networking.



New Zealand Museum Award for Expressions

Congratulations to the Expressions Arts and Entertainment Trust who won national recognition from their peers at the New Zealand Museum Awards 2011, for the touring exhibition 'Bohemians of the Brush: Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists'.

The exhibition tells the story of 19th Century painter, James Nairn and his colleagues who developed an indigenous impressionist style, with the Pumpkin Cottage of Silverstream as their rural haven. The exhibition was developed to celebrate the 2009 gift of the Pumpkin Cottage Paintings Collection by Akatarawa couple Ernest and Shirley Cosgrove.



From a field of ten finalists in the coveted 'Exhibition Excellence Awards,' Expressions won the 'Small Museum' Award.

Judges, Priscilla Pitts (NZ Historic Places Trust), Greg McManus (Rotorua Museum), and architect, Ian Athfield said:

"This is a transformation project. Expressions has built an endearing story around a gifted collection, which enabled it to transcend beyond the local.

For a very small gallery, it showed an extremely professional and well thought out approach. Bohemians of the Brush came to be about more than the works of art—it gave credence to the artists and the nurturing culture around the creation of the works and the community at the time. In the process, Expressions has used this opportunity to nurture its own growth and take on an expanded role in its community."

'Bohemians of the Brush: Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists,' now in the second year of its national tour, can be viewed at Te Manawa Palmerston North 18 June – 11 Sept 2011, Aratoi Masterton 23 Sept – 20 Nov 2011, and Rotorua Museum 3 Dec 2011 – 5 Feb 2012, and finishing at The Suter Nelson 4 May – 3 June 2012.

The stadium of 4 million

Since winning the bid to be hosts, making New Zealand a 'Stadium of 4 million' has been a consistent message from organisers of the upcoming Rugby World Cup 2011. The first game is in Auckland on Friday 9 September and the Wellington Regional Stadium (Westpac Stadium) stages the first of its 8 games on Sunday 11 September. Upper Hutt residents will remember the 'red invasion' of the city by British Lions supporters on their last tour here. The city is prepared for a similar invasion during the Rugby World Cup 2011 tournament.

With the frequent train service to the Stadium, Upper Hutt is a good choice of location for visitors to stay. The Upper Hutt i-SITE Visitor Information Centre will be well equipped to handle enquiries and related bookings for visitors and residents seven days a week.

Council has appointed part-time Rugby World Cup Coordinator, Liesl Harlen to coordinate and promote activities that will be happening in the Upper Hutt region

during RWC 2011, to local residents and visitors. The focus is wider than just rugby, and on the opening weekend of the tournament (Saturday 10 September) the Rimutaka Trust Upper Hutt Spring Festival will bring what is likely to be the largest crowd of the year into Main Street, Upper Hutt.

Ms Harlen has been busy working with a wide range of people and groups in the community with the objective of creating a real buzz in the city and further afield. She wants the word to get out that there is plenty on offer here in Upper Hutt.

One highlight will be the Sporting Legends dinner at the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club on Friday 7 October, with rugby greats John Kirwan and David Campese as guest speakers.

Find out what else is going on in Upper Hutt during Rugby World Cup 2011. Go to www.upperhuttcity.com/RWC2011

Bringing conferences to Upper Hutt

Upper Hutt has a great range of venues that can host conferences, meetings, events, and especially weddings.

Many residents are involved with organisations that have regional and national conferences that could be staged in Upper Hutt. By bringing these conferences to our city there is a flow-on of benefits to local business through venue hire, catering, and overnight accommodation bookings.

If you need advice on how you might bid for one of these events and where it could be located, just contact the staff at the Upper Hutt i-SITE Visitor Information Centre.

Each year the Upper Hutt i-SITE also participates in the Wellington Conference and Events Expo. This year it is at the TSB Arena on Wednesday 13 July 2011. Staff will

be promoting Upper Hutt venues to a host of invited business people.

For more information call the Upper Hutt i-SITE on (04) 527 2141 or call in at 90 Main Street, Upper Hutt.



60 activities for over 60s

Council is soon to release an Upper Hutt activity booklet for the over sixties. "60 Activities for the Over 60s" provides a handy list of local activities to get involved in. Whether it be creative endeavours, a new hobby, recreation or re-connecting with previous interests, this booklet is sure to offer something for everyone.

The booklet has been put together in response to feedback from our 2008 Survey for Upper Hutt Older People which revealed that senior residents wanted more information

about things to do in Upper Hutt.

Copies will be available from the various council facilities, www.upperhuttcity.com or by contacting Community Services on (04) 527 2794.



Lively Places

One of Activation's most exciting programmes, Lively Places, gives you as a member of the Upper Hutt community the chance to try something new and active for free during winter.

There's a huge variety of indoor physical activities available for both men and women, during the day and evening, and from Timberlea to Pinehaven. All for free!



This is your chance to get out and about, beat the hibernation trend, see what is available in Upper Hutt, and make winter your new time to get active. Drag your friends along with you or step out to meet some new people. The opportunities are there, you just need to grab them.

All the activities are for beginners, there is no level of fitness required, and each instructor will teach you the very basics, encouraging you as you participate.

All these activities are run in Upper Hutt on a regular basis, so if you enjoy them, you can continue on after the Lively Places programme has finished.

It's simple, it's enjoyable, and has become a real favourite in and around Upper Hutt.

So come on, get up off the couch, drag your eyes away from the telly, and join us for some exciting activities in a fun, safe, and encouraging environment.

Lively Places for 2011 is currently in the planning stages and is due to start in July (dependent on funding).

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Heritage on show during September

Upper Hutt has many organisations working hard to preserve the heritage of our city and share it with local residents and visitors.

Silver Stream Railway Museum is open every Sunday from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, where you can still enjoy and experience a steam train ride. Golder Cottage is open every Saturday from 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm and at other times by arrangement. It is run by a volunteer trust and has become a widely accepted, quality experience as a pioneer centre, reflecting early days in Upper Hutt.

Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre is home to the Pumpkin Cottage Paintings Collection and they have developed the award winning touring exhibition—Bohemians of the Brush: Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists. This local heritage exhibition will be shown by our Masterton neighbours at Aratoi Museum and Art Gallery from 23 September to 20 November 2011.

Upper Hutt i-SITE staff have worked closely for many years with the Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council to arrange an annual Heritage Month for the Wellington region. This year we have chosen September as Heritage Month in order to share our history with Rugby World Cup visitors. Organisers are still calling for interested parties to offer events for September and proposals are due by 1 July 2011. The theme is "Heritage and Sport and Recreation."

Upper Hutt has some fine sporting heritage, which includes being home to the oldest sporting trophy in New Zealand, the Ballinger Belt at the National Rifle Association in Trentham. It is expected to be on display at Expressions and the Upper Hutt Central Library during September.

For more information go to:
www.wellingtonheritagepromotions.org.nz
or call Upper Hutt i-SITE on (04) 527 2141.



The Ballinger Belt

H²O Xtream Swim Squad

The very successful Swim Squad at H²O Xtream offers swim training in a natural progression from the WaveBreakers Learn to Swim programme. The training encompasses four levels, concentrating primarily on technique in Levels One through Three, with an introduction to conditioning in Level Four. The Swim Squad coaching team consists of four qualified and professional instructors, each training members at a specific level.

Members begin Level One with Ian Blake and naturally progress as they improve to Rhiann Collins in Level Two. Brian Newth, Olympic

participant in the Modern Pentathlon and Olympic Flag bearer, will further develop their technique in Level Three. When Swim Squad members reach the top level, they will be coached by H²O Xtream's Senior Coach, Mike Kay—an accomplished international high performance coach.

Members who wish to swim competitively are also welcome to join the Breakers Swim Club.

If you are interested in finding out more about the H²O Xtream Swim Squad, contact H²O Xtream on 04 527 2113 or go to www.h2oxtream.com



The Swim Squad principles of coaching

Direction

Coaches understand what they are doing and how the human body develops, ensuring the experience is constructive and fun for the members.

Consistency

All the coaches give the same messages, keeping the communication consistent and clear.

Consistent and simple

Squad members thrive in a consistent environment.

Patience

All children develop physically at different rates. Our coaches understand they must be patient and prepared for some swimmers to take more time to reach their potential.

Discipline

Taught discipline becomes self-discipline with time. Coaches achieve far more with focussed trainees.

H²O Xtream closure

We are expecting H²O Xtream to undergo its triennial maintenance closure from 1 – 28 August (reopening Monday 29 August).

The most significant work will be a new roof over the pool. This will also include new skylights and a safety system for maintenance contractors. A large amount of work will also be undertaken in the plant room, which can only happen when the pool is not operating.

A new lighting system will replace the lights over the pool with uplights around the walls. This project will also

include the woodtex ceiling being repainted in order to provide a bright white surface for reflecting the uplights.

The entire facility will be having a general spruce up, with work such as painting of public areas, replacement of broken tiles around the edges of the pool and concourse, sanding and revarnishing of all the wooden seating, cleaning tiles in the pool and major cleaning of all other areas.

We look forward to being able to offer a revamped, bright and sparkling facility to our customers on 29 August.

The Spirit of ANZAC

April showcased one of council's most recent initiatives, the Spirit of ANZAC. The project involved local seniors telling their experiences of war time to school students and the general public. The project got underway with Councillor Pat Christianson visiting Plateau School to share her childhood war experiences with three classes of Year 4 – 6 children. Five other speakers told their stories to a further 16 classes from local schools and answered questions about life during war-time.

The storytelling was taken to the public on 23 April when the speakers told their stories to an avid crowd on Main Street and in the Central Library. Live old-time music and ANZAC themed displays in Main Street shop windows added to the lively event. The day was capped off by final speaker Stan Young (a member of the historical 1945 Kiwi Army Rugby Team) and a documentary about a leading Army plastic surgeon, who lived in Upper Hutt.

The project was developed to provide an intergenerational programme, giving local seniors a chance to share their war related experiences, while providing local children with the opportunity to hear these stories and ask questions about what life was like at the time. Beryl Harris, a member of the Upper Hutt Seniors Action Forum co-organised the project with Community Services at Upper Hutt City Council, and the Trentham Army Camp also provided support. The City Library's Archivist recorded the speakers for the City Archives and copies of their stories can be accessed from the Upper Hutt Central Library.



Walking and cycling strategy

The council has commissioned Christchurch consulting firm ViaStrada to assist with the preparation of a walking and cycling strategy for Upper Hutt. The strategy will set out how the council intends to provide for pedestrians and cyclists in the future, and how future work will contribute towards the initiatives outlined in the council's Long Term Plan. The strategy's draft vision is that 'people of all ages and abilities choose walking and cycling as a part of everyday life.'

The strategy will be available for public comment in August 2011.

