



UPPER HUTT CITY

Valley News

March 2011 • Upper Hutt City Council Newsletter



Mayor's message

2011 is shaping up to be an exciting year for Upper Hutt City Council and our community. As New Zealand and the world emerge from the recent recession, many new and exciting projects are appearing on the radar that the city will need to consider in the coming year.

As residents of Upper Hutt, I'm sure you'll all be aware how important State Highway 2 is in connecting our city to Wellington and beyond. It's a major economic route for the Hutt Valley and a vital route for Wellington CBD commuters each day. Which is why I find it concerning that the powers to be are not placing enough importance on SH2 or for that matter SH58. I will continually remind the decision-makers that SH2 carries as much traffic as SH1 and deserves equal importance and that SH58 needs an urgent safety upgrade.

As your elected representatives, we will also be involved in discussions, and making a submission on, the Alcohol Reform Bill that is currently before the House of Parliament. As a community it's important that we have our say on the issues that arise from alcohol in our community. We will also make a submission on your behalf on the Building Act Reform Bill as this will have far reaching



Wayne Guppy | MAYOR

effects on us all, not just the council.

Under the Local Government Act 2002, all local authorities in our region were required to enter into a Wellington Triennial Agreement (2010-2013). This agreement sets out how we will work together for the good governance of our district, cities and region by acting cooperatively and collaboratively. Many of the regional discussions we will have this year will concentrate on this agreement. Priority areas identified thus far include: regional transport, urban growth, infrastructure, economic development, Wellington governance and regional amenities.

Your council will continue to work hard this year to transform our CBD. However, we are not alone in the issues we face in our CBD. For example, the slump in the retail sector during the past three years is being felt in cities right across the country. We will continue to work closely with existing retailers and landlords to improve the situation and will work hard to attract new business. It's important that we all work together to get the best results for the city.

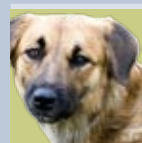
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won't help us turn the retail sector around. By working collectively and collaboratively I am positive that we will get the result we all want. There are many areas that we need to work on and some will include changes to the District Plan. There are some major developments on the horizon and they will inject life and people into our CBD which will be of huge benefit to retailers. It is an opportune time to urge residents to support our local retailers and shop locally. If they haven't got what you want, make some enquiries as I'm sure like all good retailers, they will be ready to help you as a customer.

While there has been a decline in the worldwide economic climate, over the last three years there have been some positive economic signs in Upper Hutt. In particular it is

pleasing to see the real estate sector and house values in our city are beginning to rise again. Our population also rose by 2.8% to 41,100. Most interestingly we've seen a 2.7% increase in the total number of businesses in the Upper Hutt region; the highest rise recorded for any area in the Wellington region.

As autumn fast approaches and as a leader of this community and council, I not only look forward to serving you but to ensuring that we move Upper Hutt forward and continue to be a city of choice within the Wellington region.



Wayne Guppy | MAYOR

City fights back against graffiti

Many Upper Hutt residents will have noticed the recent 'explosion' in graffiti. It ranges from simple, one colour nicknames (called 'tags') to complex arrangements of several colours. Graffiti defaces buildings and walls, looks untidy and gives a false impression of Upper Hutt. Graffiti can also cause some residents to feel unsafe. However, Upper Hutt Area Commander, Inspector Mike Hill (top right), stresses that while graffiti is on the increase other crime in Upper Hutt is actually on the decrease.

Graffiti is a problem in nearly every country and has been a community problem for around 30,000 years. Some call it art, but in New Zealand it's an offence. It's done without permission and it's against the law.

Upper Hutt City Council and the Police are working closely together to catch the culprits. Mayor Wayne Guppy and Area Commander, Inspector Mike Hill launched a joint project last month which aims to eradicate vandalism in our city through the 'tag the tagger' scheme.

A 'tag the tagger' booklet has been published which provides people with more information and advice about how they can help take action. The booklet has been distributed throughout the community and is available from www.upperhuttcity.com or by contacting the council.

Many of the offenders are young and are simply copying others. Police have apprehended a number of males and females, most under 17, and have been taking strong action with them. Those over 17 are being arrested. CCTV cameras positioned within the CBD have helped Police identify those 'in the act' particularly around the subway. Police are aware of one small group of 14 to 16 year olds whom they

have been working with for some time to reduce their level of offending.

Despite the explosion of graffiti, it has actually been quite difficult to catch culprits 'in the act'. The council and the Police are encouraging anyone who witnesses a graffiti offence occurring to act quickly by phoning 111 and reporting the act in progress. The Police will endeavour to get a car there as quick as possible.

Any information on the identity of taggers is also appreciated. Anyone with information can contact CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or email upperhuttpolice@police.govt.nz. A fund has been established as a reward for the identification of taggers currently unknown to Police and the provision of evidence that leads to a resolution of their case.

In addition to launching a scheme to catch the culprits after the act, the council and the Police have been busy working together on a suite of preventative measures which include: issuing trespass orders on offenders in high offence areas of the city; visiting all outlets selling paint and marker pens; engaging with suspects and those most at risk; launching a Facebook page for Upper Hutt Police to highlight the problem and publish photos of offenders from CCTV footage; encouraging victims to paint out the 'tags' as soon as possible.

Mayor Wayne Guppy says: "Much of the graffiti has occurred on lampposts and other utility boxes outside people's properties all over the city. While we at the Upper Hutt City Council have a policy where we will remove the graffiti when reported, there is a limit and of course there is a cost. So I urge you all to have a look at your properties and spend some time removing any graffiti and that will help us to improve the image of the city".



A word from Councillor Hellen Swales

I am looking forward to my first term as a councillor and having the opportunity to work for, and with, our community.

As a member of council we will be reviewing the Upper Hutt City Council annual and long term plans. As your elected representatives you gave us a strong mandate to represent you, and in electing four new councillors, you signalled it's time for change. I am not afraid to make the hard choices as this was what I campaigned for the opportunity to be a part of; a team to shape the future of our city and lay the foundations for our children.

The streetscape is the heart of our city's landscape and is something that I am very passionate about. The decline we have all witnessed over the past twelve months needs to be addressed. As individuals we are judged by our appearance and our city is no different. This is but one of the many challenges facing us. As one of your elected representatives I will be working hard to address this issue.

I encourage the community to take the opportunity to engage with council, through your representatives, to help determine our priorities and future planning for us as a community.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H Swales".

Inspire: Young Achiever Awards

Do you know a young person who deserves recognition for their achievements? Someone who perseveres to help others or the environment? Perhaps a young individual in Upper Hutt who has shown strong leadership qualities? Or a dedication to promoting culture or a particular sport that benefits others within the community? Or maybe that young person is you!

If any of these descriptions fit somebody you know, help them become an inspiration to other young people in Upper Hutt by nominating them for the Inspire: Young Achiever Awards 2011. Or if you think your own achievements deserve recognition – you can nominate yourself!

Inspire: Young Achiever Awards is proudly hosted by Upper Hutt City Council in conjunction with Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre and the Upper Hutt Leader.

You can submit your nomination online at www.uhyouth.com/inspire, or you can download and print the PDF form, fill it out and post it to Community Services, Upper Hutt City Council, Private Bag 907, Upper Hutt or fax it to 527 9818.

For more information phone Community Services on 527 2792.

Is your dog registered?

Dog registrations are due for renewal every year in July. Registration is a legal requirement of owning a dog in New Zealand under the Dog Control Act 1996.

Register your dog by 31 July 2011 and take advantage of reduced registration fees. From 1 August discounted fees no longer apply, so to avoid additional costs it pays to register your dog on time.

We understand that registration fees may be an additional burden to daily living costs for



some residents and we would like to provide you with the opportunity to set up an Automatic Payment with the council prior to July. Payments can commence from now but the final payment needs to be made before 31 July to ensure that full payment of registration is made before 1 August 2011.

If you would like to know more about this offer, please contact Animal Control on 527 2169 Mondays to Fridays (8am-5pm).

Annual Plan 2011/12 timeline

The draft Annual Plan 2011/12 sets out year 3 of the Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-2019, outlining what Upper Hutt City Council plans to do in the financial year

starting 1 July 2011. Public consultation on the draft Annual Plan is about to begin. The timeline for consultation is presented here.



An exchange of a lifetime for two Upper Hutt students

Upper Hutt students Shaun Lindsay and Georgina (GG) Blane recently returned from an exciting month-long sister city educational exchange in Mesa, Arizona, USA. Later this year Upper Hutt is expected to host two visiting Mesa students. This exchange marks the first for sister cities Upper Hutt and Mesa.

Mesa City is located near the state capital of Phoenix and is home to approximately 450,000 people. From 28 December 2010 to 28 January 2011, Shaun and Georgina were warmly welcomed and hosted by Mayor Scott Smith and their host families. The students attended classes at Mesa High School.

Shaun Lindsay is a year 12 student and wants to become a pilot. He is taking physics classes and is learning to fly gliders. He also plays the bass guitar. Georgina (GG) Blane is an 11 year student and in her third year of the Air Training Corps. She also flies gliders and loves super cars like the Koenigsegg CCXR.

Georgina and Shaun are both cadets with the Upper Hutt Air Training Corp and were selected by the Rimutaka Lions Club to take part in the exchange. The students self-funded their exchange with assistance from Rimutaka Lions Club, particularly Libby Gosse.

The exchange was a real cultural and educational immersion for Shaun and Georgina and has provided them with experiences that will last a lifetime. The students travelled around the state and also visited Falcon Field Airport and Commemorative Air Force Museum to learn about Mesa's deep aviation history.

Mayor Wayne Guppy hosted the students before they departed and presented them with gifts for their hosts. Councillor Dean Rabbitt, Director of Internationalisation at HIBS, arranged for college artwork to accompany the students to Mesa for display and a reciprocal gift of artwork from Mesa students is already on display at HIBS.

Visit www.mesaaz.gov to learn more about Upper Hutt's sister city.

Bike the Trail

Upper Hutt City Council co-hosted this year's annual Bike the Trail event which saw approximately 1,500 cyclists take to their bikes and cycle riverside from Harcourt Park in Upper Hutt to Hikoikoi Reserve in Petone. To avoid congestion, cyclists departed in waves of approximately 100 riders every 7-10 minutes. The council was delighted to see so many families and first time riders join the ride. Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt Mayors, Wayne Guppy and Ray Wallace took on the Mayoral Challenge and cycled with residents from both cities. Participants could choose to cycle the full 25km trail or start at Stokes Valley and cycle 12km to Hikoikoi Reserve and were provided with free transport back via buses and trucks. Congratulations to all those who took part in the event this year.

If you haven't already discovered the trail for yourself, why not get out this summer and see for yourself why



Did you know Upper Hutt City has a network of more than 50 parks? A map can now be downloaded from www.upperhuttcity.com which shows the location of each park and the facilities each has available.

it's considered to be one of the most popular walking and cycling trails in the region. Ideal for walking, running and cycling, the Hutt River Trail also provides river access for swimming, fishing and kayaking. In most cases the trail runs on both banks, offering shorter loop routes between bridges. Stroll the scenic leafy glades and open spaces and pass by many local parks.

Take up sport and springboard yourself into a new healthy active lifestyle



Over 30 local sports clubs and recreation groups were out actively promoting their activities at the recent Summer Carnival in Upper Hutt. Were you tempted to take up a new sport or activity or perhaps you enjoyed one of

the many 'have a go' sessions on offer? Why not get in touch with the club/group that interested you and get fit for life while having fun. Many clubs are taking winter registrations. If you missed the event and want to browse the range of sports/clubs on offer in Upper Hutt visit www.activation.org.nz

SwimStart can help your child become confident and safe in the water

The drowning rate is alarmingly high in New Zealand. In the first six weeks of this year alone, 26 people drowned. Is your child confident in the water? Investing in your child's water education will help them to stay alive in the water.

The SwimStart summer programme at H²O Xtream is designed to teach children the fundamental water skills. The programme is held in January each year and follows the proven method of fast skill acquisition where children participate in ten lessons over two weeks.

The programme is run at cost price to ensure that all parents, regardless of their financial



situation, can make the choice to help their children stay safe in and around water.

Already this year 43 children have joined the programme and the progress has been rapid. Children are taught in groups according to their ability ranging from non-

confident first time swimmers to those who are learning strokes and water safety skills like treading water.

H²O Xtream offers a wide range of classes providing quality swimming tuition for all ages and levels. From babies six months old through to adults, we have something for everyone. To learn more visit www.h2oxtream.com

Young coaches give back in Upper Hutt

Over the past six months the council's Activation team has worked hard through its Secondary Schools Transition Project to develop a huge range of sporting opportunities for young people in Upper Hutt to get involved in. Funded through Sport Wellington's KiwiSport grants, the project aims to increase sport and recreation participation by Upper Hutt secondary school students and school leavers and intermediate school children transitioning to secondary school.

The council's Activation team was delighted to assist 22 students to attain their level 1 coaching accreditation in cricket, football, hockey and tennis. KiwiSport funding enabled students to attend the coaching course at no personal cost. These qualified coaches will now benefit the whole community by developing our young people's sporting potential. Alison Law, Recreation Services Manager, hopes to see more students and volunteers take up this training opportunity in 2011 and increase the number of qualified people out there in our schools leading our young sports players to future success.

Nic Braun recently qualified through the course and said: "The course was fantastic. I learnt heaps and now have the confidence to go out and take a junior team at my college. Best of all, it was free thanks to the Activation project!"

The project has seen the launch of a new website, 'stay in sport', which provides young people with up to date information about the sports they want to play at the touch of a button. The site is divided into three sections providing young people with contact information about sporting opportunities available locally, in Wellington or more further afield. To learn more visit www.upperhuttcity.com/stayinsport.

The council's Activation team is now focused on assisting local clubs to drive up their membership. Michael Mercer, Active Schools Coordinator said: "This project has achieved some great things and has further potential for our community. Not only has it touched our local young people, but provided a huge boost to our clubs, schools and volunteers. In 2011 this work will continue and many more opportunities are available – so if you are an interested young person, club or community member please get in touch to find out more."



Men – are you taking your health seriously?

The council's Activation team is currently hosting a free ten-week men's health programme based at Orongomai Marae and H²O Xtream on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The programme is funded by the DHB Healthy Eating Healthy Action community project and has been designed and implemented together with Orongomai Marae.

The programme aims to encourage men to take their health seriously and advocate healthy living to their families and wider communities. Participants will improve their fitness through activities such as walking, pilates, hydrorobics and aqua jogging and guest speakers have been invited to present on important men's health issues

such as arthritis/gout, prostate cancer, nutrition and blood pressure. Participants will learn to grow their own vegetables in a community garden and encouraged to take what they learn and grow their own food at home with their families.

The next 10-week programme will kick off in September 2011. For more information please contact Dave Workman on 527 5113.

Here's your chance to learn how to make a real difference in your life.

Rates

Wanting to pay by direct debit but never got around to doing it? Simply log on to www.upperhuttcity.com/rates and download an authority form or ring the rates department on 527 2169 for assistance. If you're already paying via direct debit or automatic payment please ensure you adjust your payment amount in order to cover the increase in rates due to the recent GST increase.

A friendly reminder to get your 2010/2011 Rates Rebate Application in by 30 June 2011 if you have not already applied during the current rating year which commenced 1 July 2010.



Every drop counts this summer!

Congratulations to Madison Smith (age 4, pictured right), Lydia Holmes (age 8) and Max Lauridsen (age 11, pictured left) for their winning entries in the council's water conservation colouring competition last month. Each winner received a family pass to H²O Xstream and a certificate. For ideas on conserving water at home visit www.upperhuttcity.com



Upper Hutt Sustainability Officer appointed

Upper Hutt City faces some unique development challenges in the coming decades. The community and council have recognised the need for the integration of sustainability into the city's planning and operations to adequately address these challenges. The appointment of Sustainability Officer, Roderick Boys will provide the council with the much needed capacity to address the sustainability issues that relate to the economic, environmental, social and cultural dimensions of development for our city.



Roderick has both the policy and technical background needed to review, engage and resolve sustainability issues and opportunities across the diverse sectors of council operations. Development and implementation of the Upper Hutt City Sustainability Strategy is the first step in the journey to a sustainable future where Upper Hutt is still 'a great place to live'.

Roderick has only been with the council for a couple of weeks but is already diving in by conducting an audit of the council's waste and recycling. Roderick is also becoming involved with council's energy management in a bid to improve the efficiency of our operations. "This is a logical approach" says Roderick, "as savings in energy could then be used to fund other initiatives that generate even larger savings."

Roderick is in the process of researching and designing the council's sustainability strategy. "We will be undertaking community consultation later this year as this public input will provide valuable guidance and it is a vital component of the strategies success" says Roderick.

Roderick can be contacted on 527 2153 and is keen to hear from anyone who is interested in contributing to the discussion around sustainability in Upper Hutt.

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Play your part for a cleaner greener Upper Hutt

Recycling makes a real difference so let's keep a good thing going! Don't forget we now collect ALL your plastics (numbers 1 to 6 excluding expanded polystyrene).

In December 2010 the council sent all residents a magnetised recycling calendar to pop on your fridge as a reminder of what is being collected each week (enclosed with the Community Calendar). If for some reason you didn't receive a calendar and you would like one please contact the Technical Support Unit on 527 2170.

Magnetised calendars are also available from the i-SITE and the Upper Hutt Central Library. The weekly schedule is also published each week on the council's website as a quick reference for residents. For more information on recycling phone 527 2169 or visit www.upperhuttcity.com/recycling.

Make your next travel booking at the i-SITE

At the Upper Hutt i-SITE we will help you to find quality activities, attractions, accommodation, transport and more! This ensures you will experience the latest and greatest our city has to offer. If you are planning a trip around New Zealand we can assist with that too! We will take the time to talk to you and find out your needs, your expectations, and your budget. Then we will help you to put together an itinerary that meets your individual requirements – taking care of the bookings then and there.

i-SITE is New Zealand's official visitor information network, and with over 80 branches, you can be sure that once you have experienced the latest and greatest of what one place has to offer, i-SITE will help connect you with their equally friendly i-SITE colleagues at the next stop on your journey.

We offer:

- > itinerary planning and information

- > bookings nationwide – accommodation, activities, transport (including Interislander, Bluebridge, Transzscenic and Intercity)
- > free maps
- > local information – events, attractions, restaurants
- > ticketing for local events
- > Snapper services including Runciman school term passes, age enabling and Get about 30 day passes.

You can find us at 90 Main Street, opposite Noel Leemings. We're open Mondays to Fridays from 8am to 5pm and Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 9.30am to 2.30pm (closed on Christmas Day). Phone us on (04) 527 2141.

So, whether you've come from around the world or just down the road, start with the Upper Hutt i-SITE today!

Akatarawa Rd Bridge Replacement Programme

This programme will see the replacement of three bridges along Akatarawa Road, approximately 13-17km from the SH2 junction. The bridges have reached the end of their economic life and are required to be replaced for reasons of safety and to keep the road open for access and through traffic.

The contract to construct the three new bridges has been awarded to Brian Perry Civil (a division of the Fletcher Construction Company Ltd). Work is scheduled to begin shortly with bridge B1/4 (beside the Wellesley Camp). The contractor will install a bailey bridge while the work is carried out allowing the road to remain open while the old bridge is demolished and the new bridge is constructed.

Bridge B1/5 will be replaced during the second school term and bridge B1/6 during the third school term. The replacement of both bridge B1/5 and B1/6 will require the road to be closed for a five week period. A foot bridge will be provided for access across the river during those times.

The contractor will carry out a letter drop to all Akatarawa Road residents once the dates for each road closure has been confirmed.

For regular updates throughout the programme visit www.upperhuttcity.com/akatarawa where you can also register to receive emailed updates.

How prepared are you for a civil emergency?

Upper Hutt City Council has extensive plans in case of an emergency – but how prepared are you? The Christchurch earthquake is a wake-up call for us all to take action and make plans. By taking some simple steps, you can make sure you, your family, and your workplace are prepared for an emergency. Your community may be without outside assistance for at least three days. This means having essential food and water, a radio, a torch and a first-aid kit available. Your household will need at least three litres of drinking water per person per day (for a minimum of three days). Other survival items can be placed in a kit



OR can remain in the house for everyday use.

For more information pop into Upper Hutt City Council and pick up a copy of 'It's easy; get prepared for an emergency' or visit www.getprepared.co.nz or www.getthru.govt.nz

Four-in-one wind-up flash lights (torch, siren, radio, cell phone charger – \$30) are now for sale at the Council's Civic Administration Building, 838-842 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt (cashier's desk). 15 litre water storage containers (\$15) have sold out but will be back in stock again soon.