



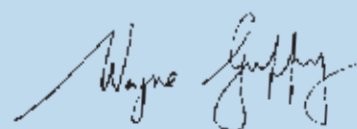
A message from the Mayor

Council has recently been talking with Police about trespassing individuals from the Upper Hutt city centre. This came about as a result of premises in the area being continually targeted by criminals. The discussions revealed that Police have little power to prevent vandalism or repeat offending due to New Zealand's legal environment. Many of the vandalism culprits are under 17 years of age and, although there is no age restriction for arrest, a suspect must be 14 before they can be prosecuted. The Upper Hutt Police are limited in their options to control the problem. They continue to refer individuals caught to the Ministry of Social Development and, if a culprit is Maori, the Police Iwi Liaison Officer is engaged. Children are also transported to school and some are supported into a better lifestyle. This is not fixing the problem, so after weighing up a range of options, Council has agreed to authorise the Upper Hutt branch of the New Zealand Police to trespass culprits from certain areas of the Upper Hutt city centre. We believe this approach is likely to prevent vandalism and consequently lead to its reduction. There are a number of set criteria and requirements that must be met. Council agreed to this proposal to further empower our Police to deal with this criminal activity and I am confident that we will now see less vandalism and associated activities in the area.

Now that the election is over and the National party are again governing the

country, it is interesting to look over just what the political parties' plans for the local government sector may have been—whether they were in power or coalition. It will be interesting to see whether the Act party (who continue in coalition after John Banks was elected), and the National party, carry out any of the policy objectives that they set out to achieve with Rodney Hyde. They had an overall goal to ensure that local government focussed on core activities and they wanted to review the two-tier structure of local government. National will continue to pursue issues raised, such as proven regulated performance and community-led (as opposed to central government-led) governance changes—including the future of governance for the Wellington region. United Future (another continuing coalition partner) also had plans for local government policy. This included a number of specific initiatives, such as an increase in the central government's local roading subsidy up to 80% and a review which aimed to abolish rates on residential and commercial properties and reduce the number of territorial authorities. So with the departure of the Honourable Rodney Hyde, we are assured of a new Local Government Minister, and most likely one who is looking to continue some sort of reform.

Finally, as we head into the Christmas season, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Spend time with your family and friends, and enjoy that summer holiday feeling. It is a magnificent time of year, and it's important that we spend it with the ones we love. Once again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead this city. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we continue to progress together in 2012.



Mural launch at Plateau

The recent Plateau School Grandparents day was celebrated with the whole school coming together for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the School Mural!

The mural was undertaken as a part of the schools travel planning work programme which includes safety, health and environmental aspects. The school travel planning is facilitated by Upper Hutt City Council Sustainability Education Officer Raven Cretney, pictured with Joshua Rangi, School Principal Nigel Frater, and Astaria Rangi.



The school's resident artist Pippa Thompson volunteered her time and has turned out something special that captures the whole school. The native animals on the mural represent the eight classrooms of Plateau School and is a theme used widely throughout the school. The mural reads *'Kia pai tehikoi mo te manawa – Walking feet are good for your heart beat.'* Plateau School principal Nigel Frater says, "The mural is fantastic. We are grateful to the Rangi whanau for writing the message for us."

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Upper Hutt Central Library—one year on...

The redevelopment of the Central Library was completed in October 2010, providing the community with a facility that is capable of allowing the delivery of contemporary library services and innovative programmes. The renovation has enabled the library to increase its capacity by 30%, expand and create specialised spaces, improve accessibility, and provide separate study and activity spaces. It also incorporates a number of new technologies.

So what's changed?

No longer hidden behind vegetation and walls, the new Library is more visible and welcoming to customers.



The introduction of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) has allowed the Library to improve its customer service delivery. By enabling a greater level

of self-service, we have been able to provide more staff on the floor to personally assist customers. Recorded enquiries have risen 141.5% as a result.

The increase to 26 Internet computers and the availability of WiFi has seen a large rise in the number of people using the Library for study.



Modern public libraries engage, inspire, and inform people—helping to build strong communities. The redevelopment of Upper Hutt's Central Library has provided for greater integration of its printed resources along with technological experiences in various formats, spaces for reading, comfortable seating, and places to engage, discuss or simply feel connected to the community and the wider world.

The library is now one of Upper Hutt's most popular places to visit. Visitor numbers for the last 12 months have increased by 14.7%. During the week,

the library averages over 1,100 people per day. Weekends regularly see over 800 visitors per day. Current Library membership is also at its highest with 19,113 members.



The additional space has allowed the library to expand its level of programmes and services:

- The Children's Library provides holiday programmes, hosts school classes, home school groups, a book club, *Sunday Family Storytime*, and delivers four preschool programmes.
- Regular adult programmes include book discussion groups, a writers group, *Tea and Tales*, craft groups, computer workshops, and *Friday Fables* for people with special needs.
- During the last 12 months, major events the Library hosted include *Healthy Homes*, *Happy Pockets* sessions and an expo, NZ Book Awards celebrations, National Poetry Day, and Seniors Week activities.

- Community sharing of information and ideas has increased significantly.
- The *Hot Seat* is a desk available for community groups, organisations, and individuals to provide free information.
- *Upper Hutt Jelly* is a group of self-employed people who work from home and meet in the library to share ideas and network.
- Regular clinics are also held by the Mayor and local Justices of the Peace.

The Library's innovative approach to programming has continued to garner widespread recognition. The Library was awarded commendation for excellence and innovation in adult and community education at this year's Dynamic Community Learning Awards in Wanganui. The judges noted our devotion to the whole community regardless of circumstance, and our dedication to providing opportunities for as many people as possible to grow and learn and feel included.



A word from Councillor John Gwilliam

Upper Hutt is truly an amazing place. I have had the privilege and honour to be one of your representatives on Council for the last seven years as we have addressed the challenges of Upper Hutt's future growth.

Growth however should not be simply for the sake of growth. We must do so in a sustainable way that does not detract from the inherent qualities of our environment that is so cherished by those who choose to live in Upper Hutt.

The community recently has had the opportunity to express its views regarding Upper Hutt City's vision for the future. With the assistance of consultants Urbanism+, those views have been collated and a strategic vision presented for Council's consideration. It has been particularly encouraging to see the high number of those who took the time to engage in this process. This bodes well for ensuring that we as Council make the right decisions regarding Upper Hutt's future.

That strategic vision will assist us in developing the ten-year Long Term Plan for Upper Hutt that we are required to adopt next year. With changes in the Local Government Act, the draft plan we put out for consultation early next year will be in a far more user friendly format, which will hopefully make it easier for the community to make submissions. I am looking forward to reading and hearing those submissions and I would invite all those who are passionate about Upper Hutt and

who care about its future to make the most of this opportunity to make a submission.



Keeping up with events in Upper Hutt

The *Rimutaka Trust Spring Festival* started off the season of outdoor events in mid-September. *Rugby World Cup 2011* became a buzz for many of us with goalposts erected by the railway station. Rugby greats David Campese and John Kirwan spoke at a *Legends Dinner*, while the success of the Cory Jane street parade, celebrating our hometown All Black, was an excellent example of everyone working together. Local Breeze Radio host Steve Joll anchored the event, while NewstalkZB radio sports host Jason Pine got his first interview with Cory and remarked on how outstanding it was that Cory spent several hours signing autographs after the event.

The annual *Upper Hutt Rotary Fireworks Fantastic* at Trentham Memorial Park drew a large audience again and provided a safe environment for fireworks celebrations.

The Christmas build up has been celebrated with the *Santa Parade* on Main Street and *Carols in the Park* at Harcourt Park, where the paddling pool is also now in full swing for the summer.

After the Christmas break there are plenty of activities in the city for you to enjoy. Much of the Greater Wellington Regional Council's outdoors summer programme is based in Upper Hutt, and includes a number of short walks with Kev the wandering kiwi.

Archibalds Stoneworks annual *Stone Carving Symposium* is on at Maidstone Park from 14 – 23 January 2012. Trentham Racecourse will host its

biggest event of the year—*The Wellington Cup* on 21, 23, and 28 January.

The *Big Truck Day* returns to Trentham Memorial Park on Sunday 5 February followed by the *Pelorus Trust Upper Hutt Summer Carnival* there on Saturday 25 February.

Upper Hutt's attraction for all forms of cycling and walking is recognised by the range of events for those activities held here. The internationally acclaimed *Merida Karapoti Classic* mountain bike race is on Saturday 3 March with *Bike the Trail* from Harcourt Park to Hikoikoi Reserve in Petone the following day.

The Speedway season at Te Marua runs until late April and Kartsport Wellington will be holding frequent racedays at their Kaitoke track.

The Upper Hutt Leader entertainment and arts pages have weekly stories and adverts. Upper Hutt City Council inserts its 2-page WOW (What's on where) events on the first Wednesday of the month and 2-page Activation events on the third Wednesday of the month.

The following websites will all help you: www.wowupperhutt.com, www.expressions.org.nz, www.huttvalleynz.com

The Council-produced free Community Calendar lists most of the annual events so keep it handy.

When you are visiting Council venues such as the City Library, H²O Xtream, Expressions, and the i-SITE Visitor Centre, check out the posters or talk with staff or call us on (04) 527 2141.



H²O Xtream upgrade

H²O Xtream will close at **5.00 pm on Monday, 6 February (Waitangi Day) 2012** and will reopen at **6.00 am on Tuesday 13 March**. The pool will be closed for roof replacement, plant maintenance, tiling, and interior painting. We are looking forward to reopening in March with the upgraded facility.

Council's Recreation Services team will continue to operate from the premises during the upgrade.

Be prepared!

Council sells the following items for emergency preparedness:

- 15 litre water containers (\$15.00). Remember to keep containers in a dark location and change the water every six months.
- Wind-up flashlights (\$30.00). Four uses in one: flashlight, FM/AM radio, alarm siren, and mobile phone charger.



Pay your rates automatically!

Did you know you can pay your rates automatically from your bank account?

Direct debit is our preferred method of payment. It ensures your rate payments are made on time. It also allows us to adjust and inform you of the amount you pay as rates change annually. You can choose from a range of frequency options to best suit your budget.

If you would like to pay your rates by direct debit, you will need to fill out a payment authority form for us. This form is available online and at Council. For more information on this and other payment options, call in to Council or go to www.upperhuttcity.com/rates

Upper Hutt tree protection provisions

Important message to residents within the residential conservation and residential hill sub-zones

Despite changes to the Resource Management Act that come into force on 1 January 2012, residents within the residential conservation and residential hill sub-zones are advised that all trees with a trunk diameter of 0.2 metres, measured at a vertical height of 1.5 metres will remain protected by rule 18.23 of the District Plan.

If you wish to view the full wording of rule 18.23, go to www.upperhuttcity.com and search under the key words "District Plan." Alternatively, you are welcome to contact the Planning team via email at askus@uhcc.govt.nz or telephone: (04) 527 2169.

The Council is currently undertaking a review of

District Plan tree protection provisions, including reviewing the Schedule of Notable Trees. Residents will have the opportunity to make submissions on the proposed District Plan changes in the new year.





Open for business

Council welcomes Mark Futter as the new Economic Development Manager. Mark comes from an extensive background in management and business development.

Mark's initial focus is three-pronged. He has begun work on the Economic Development Strategy for Upper Hutt 2012 – 2022. This will identify key focus areas and ensure that long term projects can align and leverage off one another.

Mark has also begun visiting local businesses to identify opportunities for growth, highlight areas where Council can assist businesses, and gain feedback for creating future partnership opportunities.

Thirdly, Mark is pursuing new business opportunities, actively positioning Upper Hutt as a great place to do business, economically, technologically, and environmentally. The current Revera development in Alexander Road is proving to be a great opportunity springboard for Upper Hutt as a viable, safe geographical location and for Council as a progressive, customer-oriented organisation.

The Good Idea Awards are now open for nominations.

"Often good ideas bring people together, help save money and resources, and look after the environment all at the same time," says Upper Hutt City Council's Sustainability Advisor, Roderick Boys.

In November, Upper Hutt City Council launched the Good Idea Awards. The Good Idea Awards have been established to inspire behaviour change and propagate good ideas

throughout the community. The inaugural Good Idea Award was awarded to Birchville, Brown Owl, Cottle, and Heretaunga Kindergartens for water conservation. All four Upper Hutt Kindergartens have each received a certificate and a \$50 gift voucher from Oderings in Upper Hutt. The kindergartens were recognised for their rainwater collection systems as water conservation is important year round, especially as we are a storage lake (Te Marua) down this year and next.

To make a nomination, go to: www.upperhuttcity.com/GIA



Christopher Howat waters Birchville Kindergarten's vegetable patch with water from the rain barrel.

Water conservation

A growing population and an increase in water-using appliances have the potential to significantly increase our water consumption. This is not just in Upper Hutt. Increased demand across the region could exceed Te Marua's bulk water storage capacity.

"Our community is realising that water conservation, even in Wellington's climate, is still very important and we are starting to see a growing awareness spread. What we need now is for the water conservation awareness to be

translated into widespread behaviour change," says Council advisor Roderick Boys. "If we all use a bit less, it will make a big difference."

Just as using less hot water cuts your power bill, using less water overall saves the city money. All reticulated water has to be treated, pumped, and distributed, which costs. Up to a third of the water each person uses daily is wasted, but there are simple things you can do to help conserve water such as:

- Turn of the tap when brushing teeth.

- Only wash full loads of laundry and dishes.

The Upper Hutt Community Calendar's last page has a checklist of many other things you can do to conserve water at home.

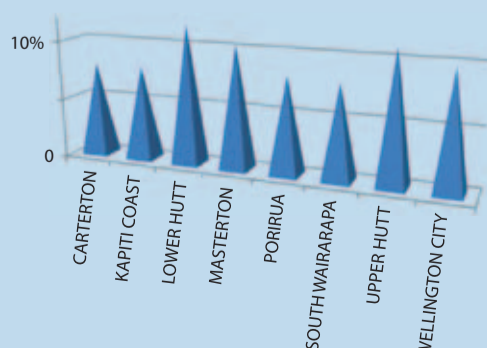
Read more about the city's water at upperhuttcity.com/waterconservation

If you suspect a leak, please call us on (04) 527 2170.



Home insulation uptake

The Hutt Valley is leading the Wellington region in the uptake of the government's Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart funding for insulation. Since the funding for insulation and clean heating became available, 5763 Hutt Valley homes have been insulated (or 11.5% of homes in both Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt).



"Warmer, dryer homes lead to healthier, happier residents" says Upper Hutt City Council Sustainability Advisor, Roderick Boys. "Homes that have benefited from insulation and clean heat installations are also likely to be significantly more energy efficient, saving resident's money on their energy bills" says Mr Boys.

The funding is available to everyone, irrelevant of income. If your home was built before 2000, you will be eligible for ENERGYWISE™ funding of up to 33% (limited funding may also be available of 60% if you have a Community Services Card)

Both property owners and landlords can access the funding. If you qualify for the ENERGYWISE funding, you also qualify for the Greater Wellington Regional Council targeted rate repayment scheme, so you can get your home insulated without any deposit required.

This means that for no upfront investment, you can improve property value, living conditions, and energy efficiency, as well as reduce maintenance costs. Landlords are also more likely to keep tenants longer with all of these benefits.

For more information please go to: www.upperhuttcity.com/energyefficiency