



Te Kaunihera o  
**MANUKAU**  
City Council

# CONNECTIONS

110 OCTOBER 2010

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# MESSAGE FROM LEIGH AUTON

## CEO MANUKAU CITY COUNCIL

**As we approach the deadline for amalgamation into a Super City we can be proud of what we've achieved as a council. In Manukau we may be a young city, but in 45 years we have succeeded in creating a strong legacy.**

The diversity of skills and backgrounds of the people in our organisation has given us enormous richness and depth. We have created a distinctive working culture which we can carry with us into the future. Staff can take our combined experience into the new council with pride.

I want to acknowledge the leaders who provided the strategy framework for Manukau and those who followed who have implemented the services and facilities that underpin our community's social and economic structure.

This city has given our staff an opportunity to develop themselves. There is a vast amount of work involved in building a growing city.

I'd like to honour all the people who will not be transferring their skills into the new Auckland Council. Thanks for your wonderful service. I wish you all the best for the future. We are a small community and I've no doubt your fortunes will interweave in various ways with the new council as members of the community.

I want to particularly acknowledge the large number of staff who have contributed their expertise to the council for the bulk of their working lives. Manukau City Council has a tradition of people committing to work for a great number of years to develop community services and facilities, building the infrastructure required to grow a viable economic base. A handful of these long-serving staff are acknowledged in this newsletter.

For some of our long-serving staff the amalgamation into one council has brought forward their retirement. For others it has prompted a review of other career opportunities available to them outside the council. I recognise that we are still in an economic downturn, and finding immediate alternative employment may be challenging. We have given HR the resources to provide one-to-one assessments and additional job interviewing and CV skills workshops for affected staff.

I have worked for the organisation for 32 years this October. I too will be taking this chance to redefine myself. I see this as a positive thing, the opportunity to do something different. I've greatly enjoyed working in Manukau and I will continue to be active in the community. I intend to establish my own business based in Manukau.

On behalf of the organisation I pay tribute to the relationships we have developed with our mayor and councillors. We've established a good working



relationship of trust between the elected and the appointed - another huge strength of our organisation. Our organisation has developed a multitude of relationships with its communities, particularly with local iwi, as well as with the business sector, and community, environmental and sports organisations.

I also acknowledge that the past months of transition process have been testing and raised various issues, some of which remain unresolved. Once the new organisation is in place, these outstanding issues will settle over time.

November 1st marks a change in leadership and a handover to another. For me, it is of deep significance to entrust the good management and leadership of our Manukau community from myself to Doug McKay, the Interim Chief Executive of the new Auckland City.

What drives the success of any organisation is its culture and engagement with the hearts and minds of its people. With the right cultural values you can empower people and unleash their talents and make an organisation a fun place to work. This is why people stay around. What will the culture of the new organisation look like? Many of you will have the chance to make an impact on the creation of a new environment melded from all the different geographic cultures of Auckland.

Kia kaha, kia manawanui  
Kia ora tatou katoa

# A WORD FROM THE EDITOR



**This is final issue of *connexions*. It seems unbelievable to be saying this. I've been writing and editing the staff newsletter for the past decade. *Connexions* was launched to staff in 1991. Previous editors have included Colin Dale, Bill Mudgeway and Steve Boughey.**

I want to thank all the hundreds of staff who have agreed to allow me to interview them over the past decade, to those who have shared their interests, stories, achievements, goals and projects. A staff newsletter provides a valuable conduit between staff who are geographically scattered, between management and people at the coalface, between a grave digger and a payroll clerk, or a librarian and a resource consent officer.

There are several people on the *connexions* team I'd like to acknowledge. First, Italia Toelei'u, Internal Communications Manager, with whom I have greatly enjoyed working for over eight years. She has been responsible for the overall direction and content of the newsletter. Italia has kept her ear to the ground for any lively potential stories, whether they be staff profiles or new initiatives that will affect staff. She has been the invaluable person on the spot to persuade nervy interviewees to give it a go. With her finely-honed sense of in-house politics she has always steered me in the right direction.

Photographer James Marshall has taken pictures of many hundreds of staff members over the years. He has the knack of putting people at their ease and getting the best from them. Even those who hate having their picture taken usually end up sharing a laugh and a joke with James!

In 2000 the newsletter became two-colour when it was modernised by design company Maxim. In 2005 it underwent a further makeover and became a four-colour newsletter.

In April 2007 *connexions* for the first time was made available to staff in an online format rather than as printed hard copies, in a bid to keep up-to-date with new technologies and to be more environmentally friendly and cost-effective. Advocate Advertising (ex-Hot Creative) then took over the layout of the online newsletter version.

Covering the transition of the Manukau City Council into the new Auckland Council has been a poignant experience. Many of the staff I have interviewed have been living with uncertainty and the effects of change for months. As we complete the production of this final newsletter, many are still waiting to hear confirmation of their roles. Despite all of this I have been impressed by their unwavering sense of responsibility and determination to do their best for the community they serve.

I wish you all the best, wherever fortune may take you next.

Kindest regards  
Sue Reidy  
EDITOR

## OUT-PLACEMENT SUPPORT FOR STAFF

**A career transition centre has been operating from the Civic Centre from September 8 to assist staff who do not have roles in the new Auckland Council.**

This **free** service is tailored to meet the needs of individual affected staff. The idea is to equip staff with the relevant practical skills, strategies and information to help them to take their next step, whether it be finding a new job or deciding to take semi or full retirement.

Grafton Consulting Group, the company that conducted workshops on CV preparations and interview techniques for staff during the year, has been selected to provide this service for two to three days per week until the end of October, depending on demand.

The first step includes a one-on-one assessment of each person. This will be followed by recommended attendance at a relevant workshop or further one-on-one sessions. Workshops may range from interview, job search and CV preparation skills to retirement planning. Again, the type and frequency of workshops will be determined by the level and type of need.

If you have not yet taken advantage of this service and would like to do so, please contact Natasja Kleijwegt, HR Organisational Development Coordinator, Ext 8517, [natasja.kleijwegt@manukau.govt.nz](mailto:natasja.kleijwegt@manukau.govt.nz)

# HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS 2010

## PARKS, SPORTS FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

### Duder Regional Park extended

In April the Auckland Regional Council purchased 13.7 hectares of land adjoining Duder Regional Park on the region's south eastern coast. The acquisition completes the park and will protect it from the effects of proposed development and subdivision. The additional land will allow a greater range of activity such as camping, horse-riding and campervanning and increase the prominence of the park by enabling a much better entrance.

### Stage two of Flatbush development

In April residents were given an opportunity to help plan stage two of Flat Bush. Located south-east of Manukau, Flatbush could be home to at least 40,000 people by 2020. About 10,000 people already live in the first part of Flat Bush.

Draft plans for stage two showed a proposed street pattern, street block and property sizes and where housing, shops and parks would be situated. The first section of land in the stage two area is expected to be released for development later this year, after a district plan change. Stage two of Flat Bush covers 350 hectares, in an area south of Flat Bush School Road and east of Murphy's Road, as well as vacant land around Barry Curtis Park. It does not include the Flat Bush town centre.

### New motorsport venue for Auckland region

The council is developing a 57-hectare international motorsport venue near the Auckland airport. The Colin Dale Park will cater for a wide range of motor sports and leisure activities and become a centre for regional, national and international events. The park will be assist in the development of New Zealand's future motorsport stars. Once resource consent has been granted, work is expected to begin on the first stage of the park in 2011.



### Manurewa Netball Centre

Work is underway on the staged redevelopment of the Netball Manurewa Community Events Centre. It's a partnership between council and the Manurewa Netball Association.

### Totara Park mountain bike track

Stages two and three are underway for the Totara Park mountain bike trails network in Manurewa. Physical works are scheduled for completion in October 2010. Stage one included a connector trail that starts from Redoubt Road car park and connects to the main loop. The main loop starts from the gully winding its way up to and along Redoubt Road and back into the valley. Overall the trail will be 3665m long.

### Papatoetoe multisports facility

After eight years of planning, work began on the new multisport facility at the Papatoetoe Recreation Grounds and Kingswood Recreation Reserve in March 2009.

When completed, the \$12 million project will provide a range of community sports grounds and facilities including: artificial hockey field, lighting towers, changing rooms, indoor practice nets, lounge areas and landscaping. The project is scheduled for completion late 2010.

### Papatoetoe Recreation Grounds

This project ties in with the development of the multisports facility. It involved developing six new tennis courts and a competition-sized hockey field and was completed in June 2010.

# HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS 2010

## Premier skatepark opens

The skatepark at Barry Curtis Park, south of Ormiston Bridge opens in early October. The skatepark will feature a large modern plaza area, a classic pool, skate-friendly materials and structures, entryways and paths and plenty of viewing and socialising space. Designed to host international events, the bowl will challenge local skaters for years to come. The plaza will incorporate classic street-style features such as stairs, ledges and hubbas. Special emphasis will be placed on transitional elements throughout the plaza that will improve flow and vary the terrain for all skill levels. The entryway and pathways into and adjacent to the skatepark will be skateable.

## New burial areas in Manukau

To meet the needs of the diverse cultures of the community the new area will have a traditional lawn cemetery, a granite ledger section replacing the decorated areas popular with the Pacific community, an area for the Asian community and a babies and children's area.

The project extends the capacity of burial sites at Manukau Memorial Gardens by an estimated 25 years. Residents of Manukau and the wider Auckland region will have access to more burial areas following the opening of a new \$3 million bridge and supporting roads project at Manukau Memorial Gardens.

## COMMUNITY

### Manukau's newest housing complex ready for tenants

Gallaher Court, the first housing units for the elderly to be built in Manukau in 26 years, were completed in April this year, replacing the nearby Tadmor Village. Manukau City Council's \$2.2 million two-storey complex is located in Alfriston Road, Manurewa. Its 16 one-bedroom units are of mostly brick construction. The complex is named in honour of local identity George Gallaher, a former Manurewa Town Board Chairman.



ABOVE: NEW GALLAHER COURT HFTE COMPLEX

## Manukau celebrates success of Community Swim programme

The cornerstone project of the John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation, launched in May 2008 by Manukau Mayor Len Brown, gained national recognition this year. Community Swim, the ground-breaking initiative that provides free lessons to year 3 and 4 pupils in Manukau, won the Project Collaboration Award at the 2010 New Zealand Sport and Recreation (SPARC) Sector Awards.

A partnership between Manukau Leisure, the John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation, and with the support of Manukau City Council, Community Swim last year provided seven free swimming lessons to 8500 year 3 and 4 students across 70 Manukau schools.

## ARTS & LIBRARIES

### Libraries programmes popular in 2009

Memberships at Manukau Libraries have increased by more than five per cent. Visitor numbers are up 16 per cent. More than 929,000 people have used the libraries' free programmes and services.

There has been a 32 per cent increase in requests for books as more people take advantage of programmes like Next Reads. Bookings for Learn.net have expanded four per cent from the previous year.

Issues of teen books have increased by 13 per cent. There has also been a significant increase in issues from the Chinese, Maori and Pasefika collections.

### Fresh Gallery Otara celebrated fourth anniversary

Fresh Gallery Otara, Manukau City Council's gallery with a focus on contemporary Pacific art, celebrated its fourth anniversary this month. Fresh Gallery Otara takes pride in programming exhibitions that have strong contextual and cultural references to the site of Otara and the local community. To date the gallery has shown the work of over 120 artists in almost 50 exhibitions.

### Manukau leads the way for Pacific Arts in the Auckland region

Manukau held the inaugural Manukau Pacific Arts Summit in May. Visual arts, heritage arts, music, poetry, dance, creative industry careers and dialogue all featured in the programme, which was designed to showcase Pacific arts in Manukau and to create discussion about its place in the community now and in the future.

# HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS 2010

## TRANSPORT

### New Manukau Motorway

The NZ Transport Agency's SH20-1 Manukau motorway extension recently opened. The new 4.5 kilometre, four-lane motorway connects State Highway 1 with State Highway 20 and includes interchanges at SH1, Lambie Drive and Cavendish Drive. The new motorway will replace Wiri Station Road as the primary route between SH1 and SH20. Instead of having to pass through 12 sets of traffic lights, motorists will use the new motorway. It opened progressively in three stages.

The first part of the new motorway to open were the southbound lanes in late August. These allow motorists to access the new interchanges at Cavendish Drive and Lambie Drive and provide direct connections to SH1 north and south.

The second stage was the westbound lanes which opened in September, allowing traffic to travel from SH1, Redoubt Road and Lambie Drive onto the new SH20 motorway. For motorists travelling along Roscommon Road, a detour via Wiri Station Road to Lambie Drive is in place to get onto SH20. This is to allow the connecting road between the Cavendish and Puhinui Interchanges and the westbound on-ramp to be completed. The Puhinui Stream will also be realigned during this time. After this work, the connecting road will open and the Cavendish Interchange will become fully operational.

In December this year the motorway project will be completely finished. Motorists will be able to access the motorway and the airport from Cavendish Drive. The new motorway will bring considerable relief to traffic on local roads such as Great South Road and Wiri Station Road, as through traffic will be able to completely bypass central Manukau.



### Manukau rail station takes shape

Work to dig out a trench where trains will arrive at the Manukau city centre rail station is now complete. About 47,000 cubic metres of earth have been dug out, creating a seven-metre deep, 300-metre-long trench between Lambie Drive and Davies Ave.

Manukau Station, due to open in mid-2011, will be a transport interchange where passengers can easily transfer between trains and buses. Next to the station will be a new tertiary campus, which Manukau Institute of Technology plans to open in 2012.

### Award for Botany Travel Plan

A plan to make it easier to get to and from Botany Town Centre has won a major planning award in May this year. The Botany Town Centre Travel Plan, which is the first of its kind in New Zealand, has won the New Zealand Planning Institute's Best Practice Award. The travel plan is primarily aimed at making it easier for people to travel to work at the town centre without always relying on the car. Shoppers will also benefit from some of the initiatives. The plan was developed by Manukau City Council, Opus and Botany Town Centre owners AMP Capital Investors.



BOTTOM LEFT: VIEW FROM FLYOVER  
TOP RIGHT: MANUKAU RAIL STATION

# HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS 2010

## STAFF SUCCESS

### Manukau City Council wins top HR Award

In March the council's HR Group Manager Craig Morris won the top award at the 2009/10 Human Resources Institute of NZ industry awards. He was named HR Person of the Year at the awards ceremony in February this year. Craig also won the Overall Generalist of the Year category. Since joining Manukau City Council in 2006, he worked tirelessly to develop HR as an integral function of the organisation and a model for best practice in the industry. He has always been a strong advocate of the learning and development of staff with a dedicated training calendar, and successful cadetship and new graduate programmes.

### Manukau win at 2010 inter-council sports

Manukau won this year's inter-council sports tournament, the last with all the Auckland local authorities competing separately. Twenty-four teams from 19 councils, including Auckland, Waitakere and the North Shore, took part in the tournament in Hastings in March.

Manukau wrested the trophy from defending champions Waitakere by coming second in all three competitions - touch, soccer and the novelty event.



### Manukau librarian wins top national awards

Raewyn Paewai, Maori Services Librarian, won two awards at the annual Te Ropu Whakahau Huia-aa-tau in Akaroa in March this year. She won both the Robin Hakopa and Meri Mygind awards. The Robin Hakopa Award was established in memory of a respected Maori librarian who worked at Auckland City Library until his death in 2000. The award recognises the recipient's commitment to promoting te reo and tikanga Maori within the library profession.

The Meri Mygind Award was established in memory of a senior Maori reference librarian in the National Library of New Zealand until her death in 2004. Meri worked tirelessly for the provision of services and facilities for Maori clients and was crucial in

the development of the National Library's Maori Reading Room. The award is presented to a female Maori member of Te Ropu who has shown initiative, creativity, dedication and promotion of Maori Services within Libraries, archives and information repositories.

### Directorate Challenge raised morale

The Directorate Challenge initiated by injected an element of fun and light-hearted competition, to bring staff together during a time of transition. The netball and basket ball challenges, the bake-off, project Manukau Runway, and the Amazing Race (final challenge) all proved a big success. Project Manukau Runway raised over \$1450 for Kidz First. The Great MCC Bake-Off raised \$600 for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.



## COUNCIL BY NUMBERS

### Manukau City Council and CCOs the big picture

\$95m	Current Assets
\$1.5b	Investments
\$4.8b	Fixed Assets
\$6.5b	Total Assets
\$20.2m	Net operating surplus for MCC and CCOs for the year ending 30 June 2010 (before tax)
\$362m	Council revenue for 2009/10
\$195.984m	Rates revenue (year ended 30 June 2010)
\$61.7m	Capital spend Transport
\$40.4m	Leisure and Recreation

LEFT L-R: HOLDING THE 2010 INTER-COUNCIL SPORTS TROPHY ARE GEOFF SIMMONDS, MARUAAO NGERE, LIZ HOGAN AND LUCY MAOATE

RIGHT L-R: DIRECTORATE CHALLENGE ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE TEAM - SCOTLAND

# DOUG MCKAY

## INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR AUCKLAND COUNCIL



Doug McKay, 54, has an extensive background in leading large organisations in both New Zealand and Australia. This includes senior roles with Carter Holt Harvey, Lion Nathan and Goodman Fielder. Most recently he served as Chief Executive Officer at Sealord and CEO and Executive Chairman of Independent Liquor.

He took up his new role on August 1st this year and will remain in this role for a fixed term to June 29, 2012.

He sees the role at the new Auckland Council as 'hugely challenging, exciting and unique', and says: 'The work of councils touch on the lives of people in some way every day.'

Mr McKay describes himself as 'an Aucklander, through and through.'

'I grew up in Waitakere, worked in Manukau and live in Auckland City,' he says. 'I went to university and teachers' training college in Auckland, and built my career here. We also chose to raise our family here. Auckland is a fantastic city with huge potential - that's what attracted me to the job.'

'His background in customer service, driving results-focused organisations, managing performance and leading staff through periods of change will be invaluable as the new council begins and develops,' says ATA Executive Chairman Mark Ford.

In the months before taking up his new role, Mr McKay worked closely with the ATA as it developed the structure and resources needed for the new council.

## FOR THE RECORD VALE MANUKAU

Manukau City was formed by the amalgamation of Manukau County and Manurewa Borough on 3 September 1965.

On that day, a Friday, a select group of about 250 people gathered at Homai College to witness the Minister for Local Government, Mr D.C. Seath, present a copy of the Order-in-Council proclaiming the city to the Manukau County Chairman, Hugh Lambie, and the Mayor of Manurewa, Harry Beaumont.

The venue was chosen because it lay right on the border of the county and the borough.

Mr Seath commented that the new local body, although called a city, was in effect a new form of local authority. He added: "Its administrators will be called on to deal with both urban and rural problems to an extent far beyond that which any individual county or other municipality is called upon to do so in this country."

Mr Lambie, who was to become the new city's first mayor, noted in reply that the occasion marked the formation of the most progressive unit of local government in Auckland.

The Mayor of Auckland, Dove-Myer Robinson, then wished the new city well. He added that he would like to see further amalgamations, and the number of local bodies in the region reduced from 32 to eight or ten.

All three speakers were in their way prophetic. Manukau City did face a unique range of challenges and problems.

It has in all sorts of ways been New Zealand's most progressive city. Even Sir Dove-Myer got his wish posthumously in 1989 when the number of territorial local bodies in the Auckland region was reduced to eight.

At the Manukau dinner of 1965 the dignitaries present - the men mostly garbed in dinner jackets and the women in evening dresses - tucked into a four-course meal of minestrone, fillet of terakahi, a choice of roast chicken or fillet of beef, and fruit salad and icecream, followed by biscuits and cheese, fresh fruit and coffee.

Now, forty-five years later, Manukau City is about to come to an end. One can only imagine how different the dress and the menu would be if a last supper were put on today.

### BRUCE RINGER

A personal note: This is my thirty-fourth contribution to *connexions* on the history of Manukau since February 2005. Readers might like to know that versions of most of them are available in revised format as *Manukau Topics* on the Manukau Libraries website [www.manukau-libraries.govt.nz/EN/ManukauOurHistory/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.manukau-libraries.govt.nz/EN/ManukauOurHistory/Pages/Home.aspx). See also at the same location the chronological survey *Manukau's Journey* and the pictorial database *Footprints*. It seems likely that these heritage resources will survive the demise of Manukau City itself.



# 3 MINUTE SNAPSHOT

## MARSH TAHU

Support Analyst, Information Management



### MY SIXTH ANNIVERSARY IS COMING UP

Believe it or not, I joined the council six years ago on October 31st! Before this I worked for a North Shore IT company on their service desk. Working from 9pm to 5am for a year became too hard. I've always been good at science, so working at IT has been a natural fit for me. I'm a people person and very positive. Working on the front line to help staff is something I really enjoy. I also like working for local government.

### SPORT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BIG PART OF MY LIFE

I was born and raised in Glen Innes. My iwi is Nga Puhī. I started playing rugby league at the Mt Wellington club at the age of four and continued until I was 12. As a boy I played with former professional rugby league footballer Logan Swann! At age 12 I switched to rugby, which I played until I was 16. I played on the Marist team and we won three Auckland championships. I made the Auckland rugby regional team at 16, and then I took up touch rugby.

I'm a family person. Family and sports go hand in hand. Over the summer I'm booked up solidly with sport in my leisure time. I also spend a lot of time at the gym. My father at almost 60 is a personal trainer. He started me early on a fitness regime. I've always tried to stay in shape.

I coach and play touch in a team with my cousin that includes 10 under-privileged kids from Glen Innes.

My cousin and I wanted to put something back into the community. Last year we pulled together a group of boys aged 14 to 17 from the local community centre to form a team. We train on a field in Okahu Bay. These boys don't work or go to school. They had no discipline or respect for anything or anybody. It took them only a few weeks of training with us before we saw changes. We've seen them go from no respect to respect. The boys love the team, it's given them a type of family, a cool group to belong to instead of a gang. It's given them an identity, confidence and discipline. They're discovering things they didn't know they could do athletically. They've also got a focus now that they didn't have before. I would never walk away. As long as I can walk and run, I'll be there for them.

### MUSIC IS A STRONG ASPECT OF MY LIFE

I play acoustic guitar and drums. I play my guitar every night after work when the chores are done. Although I learned some classical guitar at school I've pretty much taught myself. I've also picked up tips from friends.

My father used to be a mobile DJ. I now have my own DJ gear and mix music at home. Dad has definitely been a role model for fitness and music. When I was growing up he'd always have a gig on in the weekend and I'd help him put records in crates, carry them and then set up. I have broad musical tastes - everything from classic, R& B to hip hop.

# NEW MANGERE ARTS CENTRE LAUNCHED

The long-awaited Mangere Arts Centre - Ngā Tohu o Uenuku was officially opened on September 3rd by Mayor Len Brown. The opening celebration was followed by a full weekend programme of live performances as well as an inaugural art exhibition.



'Although construction began in August 2009 on the new arts centre, community consultation began 15 years ago, so it's been a long time coming for the Mangere community,' says Leisa Siteine, Group Manager, Manukau Arts. 'It's a wonderful new facility, designed to meet the needs of the Mangere community as well as the wider region. The centre will become a great source of pride and provide many creative opportunities for local artists and arts groups including visual artists, musicians and performers.'

'My involvement included community consultation, development of the facility, setting up the staffing and management structure and being on the selection panel to appoint the new Centre Manager Naomi Singer,' says Leisa. 'To ensure that the arts integrity of the project was preserved, Project Manager Dena Gilmore, Arts Policy Advisor Priscilla Thompson and myself were members of a project team which included representative builders, architects, project managers, IT staff, and property managers. We all met weekly for a year until the project was completed.'



The purpose-built complex will showcase a range of visual and performing arts and cultural activities that reflect the unique character of Mangere's 60,000 people. Located on the corner of Orly Avenue and Bader Drive, the new centre features 390m<sup>2</sup> of performing arts space, 217m<sup>2</sup> of gallery space and 56m<sup>2</sup> studio space. It also includes a large outdoor courtyard, several foyers, offices, dressing rooms, a community kitchen and space for a future cafe. The centre will reflect a particular focus on Maori and Pacific visual and performing arts and be open seven days a week.

Around 200 guests attended the opening of the centre's inaugural exhibition, 'manu toi: artists and messengers', curated by Maori Arts Manager Nigel Borell. The exhibition featured a mix of photography, multi-media, video, sculpture and Maori weaving. Professor Robert Jahnke, one of the exhibiting artists, was the guest speaker.

The first theatre event at the new centre was a performance by local Manurewa comedy company the Kila Kokonut Krew, with a reprisal of their sell-out show *Once Were Samoans*.



TOP L-R: LEISA SITEINE, SIAPO FALETANOAI, DENA GILMORE, CARLA HODGSON, NAOMI SINGER

# THE NEW REALITY

If you have secured a role in the new Auckland Council what will be different after November 1 and what will remain the same?



## What will happen after November 1st?

- **New leadership** - New Auckland Council mayor, CEO, councillors and community boards.
  - **Manukau Payroll** - SAP software is being implemented as the HR/Payroll system into Auckland Council and Auckland Transport. Until Manukau transfers to the SAP system next year, there will be no change in the way that current MCC staff who have roles in the new Auckland Council receive their pay. Staff will still complete Time and Labour and update their employee details through Employee Self Service. Payslips will still be accessed through Employee Self Service. All MCC managers with roles in the new council will continue to have access to PeopleSoft to be able to manage time and leave approvals. However, all staff and managers going to Auckland Transport or any other CCO will be moved to the new payroll systems and not have access to PeopleSoft after November 1st.
  - **New staff intranet** - The new intranet will function as an umbrella intranet and become the primary communication channel for staff. It will sit above the existing legacy intranets and contain organisation-wide communication updates and news for staff, standard HR information, as well as a consolidated contact list of all Auckland Council staff. It will also link to the new 9th Knowledge Base (customer service knowledge base). All other information will remain on the legacy intranets which staff will still be able to access. The intranet will be one of the first ways that staff will be able to see how the new organisation is taking shape. One of the key aims of the new intranet will be to ensure that staff know where to find the information they need to do their jobs from November 1st. Staff will be encouraged to actively provide feedback on the site. The intranet will be developed over time. Live testing on the intranet commenced mid-September.
- **New website** [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) - This website currently provides information about the upcoming local body elections and also building consents and property. It will operate in the same way as the new intranet, in that it will function as an umbrella website sitting above existing legacy websites.
  - **Manukau offices** - These will become the Southern hub of the new Auckland Council and function as a service centre. There are no planned major refurbishments of internal environments. At the time of writing the final location of some teams and the future of some of the leased spaces was yet to be determined.
    - Civic Centre will accommodate a similar number of staff - approximately 400. From November 1st key changes will include:
      - The Otara and Papatoetoe local board member will be accommodated in the current mayoral suite on level one of the Civic Centre, and some local board administration staff for the southern local boards will be accommodated within the tower.
      - Half of the new council's IM team will be based in the Civic Centre and the other half will be based in the Auckland CBD.
      - The new council's Property CCO will be based in the Civic Centre.
      - Community Services staff currently in Sharkey Street will move to the Civic Centre at a time yet to be determined.
      - Kotuku House will continue to accommodate the Customer Centre on the ground floor (to be known as the Southern Service Centre) and the Call Centre on level two, as well as the regulatory functions.
      - ANZ Building and Sharkey Street offices - the future of these leases is yet to be finalised. In the meantime, a number of IM staff will remain in the ANZ building until the Civic Centre offices are available.
  - **Manukau Parks** - staff will move from the Sharkey Street offices to Kotuku House at a time yet to be determined. All staff except those on fixed term contracts (yet to be finalised) were slotted into the new Auckland Council.
  - **Manukau Libraries** - individual libraries will remain in their existing locations and there will be no disruption to services. Franklin and Papakura Libraries will be included as part of the Southern libraries hub. From November 1st Auckland Libraries will become the largest library system in Australasia, comprising 55 libraries and four mobile libraries, along with several small rural libraries operated by volunteers. The new combined collection will consist of approximately 3.5 million items including fiction and

# THE NEW REALITY

non-fiction books, CDs, DVDs, console games, audio books, foreign language collections, magazines, and reference materials, plus over 100 databases providing access to the world's information and a choice of over 200 learning programmes, activities and events.

- **Liquor Licensing** - These services will be split over the southern, northern, western and central areas of greater Auckland. The services currently at Kotuku House in Manukau will operate as a southern branch office of Auckland Council's Liquor Licensing. However, from November 1st their responsibilities will cover a bigger geographical spread and include Papakura and Franklin. No Manukau Liquor Licensing staff will lose their jobs. Staff from the existing Papakura and Franklin Liquor Licensing offices will be absorbed into the Manukau branch office - to be confirmed.
- **Manukau Memorial Gardens** - Business as usual!
- **Community Services** - There will be a new structure referred to as Community Development which will include not only Manukau but also Papakura, Franklin and Otahuhu. The managerial roles for Community Services, Community Advisory Services, Community Safety & Health and Youth & Children's Services have been disestablished, as has the role of Pacific Island Advisory Coordinator and five other administrative assistant and business support roles. New managerial roles will be established with different titles.
- **Council-controlled social housing** - Housing for the elderly will remain under the council's ownership and management. Social housing will be managed by the Community Services section of the Auckland Council. Tenants will have a different landlord (the Auckland Council), but on the whole, nothing else will change.
- **Emergency Management (EM) & Civil Defence (CD)** The new structure which will also incorporate Rural Fire will include a staff of 35 spread across the greater Auckland area. Five of these staff will be based in the southern zone in Manukau. This new department will have a greater resource capacity to provide a more focused CD and EM response and recovery at a local level. A local EM controller will have two full-time EM coordinators supplemented with an EM coordinator specialising in welfare. There will also be a full-time deputy principal rural fire officer. The new structure will allow Manukau to maintain, as well as to improve on its relationships with existing community networks, such as civil defence community volunteer groups.
- **Rubbish collection** - Local contracted rubbish collection services will remain as they are until the new council has an opportunity to review them.
- **Water supply** - Aucklanders will receive their water and wastewater services direct from Watercare from 1 November 2010. Manukau Water will be integrated into Watercare.
- **Parking Operations** - The Southern area of the new Auckland Council will have 26 parking officers, two parking supervisors, one area manager and an administrator, based in the Civic Centre. This represents an increase in staff numbers to accommodate the added responsibility for the Franklin and Papakura areas. There will also be satellite parking operations offices of the Auckland Council based in other areas.
- **Arts & Culture** - All Manukau Arts staff will retain their current roles in the new council. The new Arts & Culture South Area will include the current Manukau City plus Papakura and Franklin District Council. The physical offices will remain in the current MCC buildings. The new Arts & Culture South team will consist of approximately 32 staff, including an art advisor and a marketing co-ordinator, responsible for seven art venues, Maori Arts, Pacific Arts, and Art Events.
- **Customer Centre** - This will become the Southern Service Centre. Most frontline staff have been confirmed in their roles for the new council, although with a change in reporting. There will be a new manager responsible for customer service staff at Kotuku House, Pukekohe and Papakura, in addition to the cashiers and reception at the Civic Centre. Staff giving regulatory advice to the public will also remain in the Southern Service Centre, but will have several different reporting lines into the new regulatory departments depending upon their speciality.

There will continue to be local service centres where customers can interact with the new Auckland Council. While customers will be able to access what they need from the local service centres associated with where they live, or the property they are enquiring about, there will be a process in place to assist with services that are provided from other service centre locations in the region. The hours of operation will remain the same.
- **Call Centre** - There will be a new 'virtual' Auckland Council call centre, with a new phone number for day one. This will operate as an umbrella number, sitting above existing legacy numbers. Customers may be transferred to their legacy call centre that has access to the systems and processes relevant to where they live or the property they are enquiring about. All existing phone numbers will still remain active.
- **Mail** - There will be a new address and a new contact email address for the Auckland Council. These will be disseminated to the area best placed to respond and information will be made available on the new Auckland Council intranet.
- **Building consents** - These will continue to be processed for the Manukau area from Kotuku House.

# HOUSEKEEPING

As October 31 draws closer, there are some practical housekeeping details to remind you about, to ensure that the final changeover goes as smoothly as possible.

If you're one of the staff members who does **not** have a role in the new Auckland Council:

- **Keys for mobile draw units and cupboards** - Please leave these in the key barrel of that cupboard or mobile unit, or celloaped to the top of the desk on your last day.
- **Keys to council buildings/doors and access cards** - Please give these to your Team Leader/Manager on your last day.
- **Desks** - Please leave your desk as clean and tidy as possible on the last day.
- **Files** (hard copy manila files) - Speak to your team leader about assessing and archiving these.
- **Incomplete projects** - Discuss the most appropriate process for handover with your team leader in the weeks leading up to October 31st.
- **Laptops** - These are council property and must be left on your desk when you leave.
- **Intellectual property** - A gentle reminder that all files contained within the council's computer system belong to the council and must not be removed or deleted from council records or systems. However, a copy of non-proprietary information may be taken by an employee where the information will not have a detrimental impact for the council, will not unfairly advantage the employee or be used inappropriately or maliciously.
- **Cellphones** - Please leave cell phone, charger and any accessories with your current manager or send to Gordon Parkes at 3 Osterley Way. If you have any enquiries please call Gordon Parkes on extn 5133.
- **Council vehicles** - The option to purchase applies only to managers' vehicles. No decisions had been made about dedicated vehicles at the time of writing. Staff will be notified about this on the portal closer to November 1st.
- **Storage cupboards, filing drawers** - Please remove only your personal belongings.
- **Other assets** - The 'Final Pay Clearance' form on the portal under the HR tab <Human Resource Policies outlines the standard items that must be returned when a staff member leaves the organization. It includes cell phones, security cards, computer equipment, cupboard keys, purchasing cards, fuel cards, company vehicle and keys, cameras, uniforms and protective clothing, etc.

The general principle to be applied to all items purchased by the council is that they remain the property of the organisation. However, there may be some instances where it may be appropriate for an exiting staff member to retain or purchase certain

items with the written consent of their manager.

This can include assets:

- that have no financial value and are not likely to be of any further use to the council
- that have a financial value but are not likely to be of any further use to the council (purchase)
- which the council was intending to dispose of in accordance with its asset management plan.

*If in doubt, ask your team leader.*

If your role remains **unchanged** under the new council, but you are moving to a different building:

- Remain at your existing desk until instructed otherwise by your manager
- Transfer of your computer, files, etc, ditto above
- New phone extension - you will be advised at the appropriate time
- If you are being transferred outside Manukau to another Auckland Council office make practical arrangements with your new manager.

If you have any further queries, please email the following:

**Vehicles:** [carfleet@manukau.govt.nz](mailto:carfleet@manukau.govt.nz)

**Access cards, council facility keys:** [kelsey.mead@manukau.govt.nz](mailto:kelsey.mead@manukau.govt.nz) or [nooroa.nia@manukau.govt.nz](mailto:nooroa.nia@manukau.govt.nz)

**Computers:** [servicedesk@manukau.govt.nz](mailto:servicedesk@manukau.govt.nz)

**Cellphones:** [gordon.parkes@manukau.govt.nz](mailto:gordon.parkes@manukau.govt.nz)



# THANKS!

## LONG-SERVING STAFF TAKE A BOW

Resource Management Planner Forbes Neil joined the Manukau City Council in 1965 and is now its longest-serving staff member. By November 1st he will have clocked up over 45 years of local body service. He is closely followed by Operations Manager Ken Morris and Garth Vipond, Principal Specialist, Transportation and City Planning, who both joined in 1966 and have each accumulated 44 years of service.

There are an additional 17 staff who have worked at the council for between 30 and 40 years and 72 staff who have worked here for 20 to 30 years. These are impressive statistics by anyone's reckoning. However, a long-service record has not guaranteed roles within the new Auckland Council and some of these long-serving staff either do not have roles within the new council or were not confirmed in new roles at the time of writing.



**KEN MORRIS** Maintenance Operations Manager **Ken Morris** began at the council in October 1966. He arrived with an electrical apprenticeship and two previous jobs under his belt. His role at the council was to establish an electrical department for the fledgling Manukau city. The council had sufficient properties to justify its own electrical department.

'I started with one apprentice and gradually took on more staff. Between 1966 and 1975 I was promoted from Electrical Foreman to Electrical Supervisor, with 13 electricians reporting to me. This move from outside work to an office administration role took me from wages to a salary and regular work hours. I remained Electrical Supervisor until I shifted to the 'White House' (Civic Centre) in 1976. At this point Manukau Works was set up - a council-owned work unit with independent management, which was responsible for facilities maintenance.

'In 1989 I became a Specialist Services Advisor, supervising contractors who maintained the services within the council's offices - plumbing, electrical, air conditioning, phones and computer wiring. The biggest change I experienced in my work was when the Government passed legislation in 1989 requiring local bodies to contract out their trade work, formerly done in-house, to external service providers - electrical, plumbing, carpentry, water, sewerage and drainage and roading services.'

Ken's current role involves supervising maintenance for every council building, including swimming pools. 'We currently have a services maintenance contract with UGL.

'The highlight of my time here has been working with a high calibre of staff. I get around all the sites and enjoy the people I interact with on a daily basis. I am part



**FORBES NEIL** began work as Assistant Planner in 1965 at the Nathan Park Homestead, where the Engineering and Planning office of the Manukau County Council was then based. His early project work included foreshore surveys to document what coastline had been lost to the sewerage works and to the Auckland International Airport.

In December 1976 Forbes and his colleagues moved into the newly opened Civic Centre. In the mid-

80s Forbes was involved in the forward planning for Burswood on the north side of Te Rakau Drive. From 1980 he worked intermittently on a project to transfer old files into the new property identification system. In 1989 Forbes moved into Building Consents, liaising between the planning and building staff to ensure that new buildings comply with the District Plan. Forbes is still in this role 21 years later. He will retain his current role within the new Auckland Council, operating from the Civic Centre servicing consents for Manukau residents.

# LONG-SERVING STAFF TAKE A BOW

of a team of four in council. Working with staff such as Gary Simes, Operation Manager, Compliance, has been an absolute pleasure. My job would be impossible without his assistance.'

Ken's current role has been disestablished in the new Auckland Council. He is currently reviewing his future options.



## **GARTH VIPOND**

**Garth Vipond's** first role at the council on November 1st 1966 was processing resource consents at the Nathan Park Homestead. 'In the late 60s I became involved in a South Auckland transport study, which established the key roading links needed to enable Manukau to grow. The development of Te Irirangi Drive was a direct result of this work.'

Following this, Garth became the council's demographer, the person responsible for population forecasts, providing information for the forward planning section of council. In the early 80s Garth once again became involved in transportation projects, including the development of the East Tamaki corridor.

In the early 90s, recognised for his problem-solving abilities in transport projects, Garth found himself the link between the council and Transit New Zealand for any major motorway projects. In the mid-90s he worked on the planning aspects of the State Highway 20 Mangere Motorway extension to Massey Road and George Bolt Memorial Drive. Garth was also involved with the Highbrook connection to the Southern Motorway for almost eight years, planning the new Cavendish Drive route to link with SH20. Recently he has been involved with the new Manukau Harbour crossing and forecasting future land uses for the AMETI project. He has also been providing feedback on traffic-related matters associated with a number of public and council plan changes.

## **RON WOOD**

**Ron Wood**, Payroll Interface, joined the council 37 years ago in 1973. He currently provides support for the payroll operations as a coordinator for the Time and Labour and CHRIS (Complete HR Integrated System).

'When I started the prevailing attitude was that you learned on the job. This isn't so easy today - you have

to have qualifications. Back then you learned quickly or you didn't survive. There weren't any mentors - you just had to get on with it. I taught myself basically. When I joined the council you could only do part-time study if you were an accounting, engineering or town planning cadet. I don't recall ever being encouraged to study. I found my niche. There have been ongoing fresh challenges for me.

'I became paymaster in 1977 and remained in that role until 2002 when the council set up the BTP (Business Transformation Project) to implement PeopleSoft software to staff. I was seconded onto the project as a subject matter expert. I enjoyed this work, having challenging interactions with smart people. I was involved in the set-up of PeopleSoft HR system and the interface from this to CHRIS Payroll. I was then asked to remain as a subject matter expert for the Time & Labour implementation.'

Now in his late sixties, Ron says he is happy to retire after November 1st when his current role has been disestablished, following the decision to use SAP software at the new council. 'I'd like to do some trips around the country with my wife. My grandchildren will also keep me busy.'



## **CHERYL FOWLER**

Thirty-four years ago, in 1976, **Cheryl Fowler**, Manager Customer Services, Manukau Libraries, joined the council. Over the past three decades she has witnessed huge changes at Manukau Libraries. From no-tech beginnings - hand-written book cards and card catalogues - she experienced the introduction of computers, barcodes, then the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) issue system.

'Technology changed the way we work with our customers' says Cheryl. 'Librarians are now out on the floor responding to queries. The changes have enabled us to develop the range of services over the years. We offer CDs, DVDs, magazines and computers with internet connections as well as books. Libraries are open all day Saturday and Sunday and our customers also have access to library resources from home with the on-line catalogue and e-resources on the library website.'

'Use of Manukau Libraries continues to grow and it is heartening to note that over the past year the number

# LONG-SERVING STAFF TAKE A BOW

of people visiting the libraries has increased by 10 per cent and the number of items issued has increased by nine per cent.'

One of the highlights of Cheryl's career was her role as Project Co-ordinator for the development of services and collections for the council's new \$3.2-million flagship Botany Library, opened in 2004.

'I feel really positive about the future of our libraries. Amalgamating into a Super City will provide greater access to more books and related resources for all residents across the whole of Auckland.'

'I've been able to progress my career from librarian to manager within one organisation. I've enjoyed working for Manukau and its philosophy of service to local communities.'

In Cheryl's new role for the new Auckland Council she will be responsible for nine of the 16 South branch libraries, reporting to the Manager, Local Libraries South.



**STELLA CATTLE**  
Events Coordinator **Stella Cattle** joined the council 34 years ago in 1976.

'I was at the time a 34-year-old mother and took the job as Overdues Clerk at Manukau Libraries to see my kids through school. I typed endless reams of overdue notices. It was the most boring job on earth, but for me, it means to an end.'

'Fortunately, after 18 months I transferred to the engineering laboratory at East Tamaki to become an administration clerk. I went out testing roads in a Benkleman truck, taking readings to test road quality.'

Her next move up the council career ladder required Stella to combine three different roles: Manager of Corporate Support and PA to Wayne Goodley (then Director of Corporate Resources), as well as Secretary to the Senior Management and the Organisational Management teams.

Today Stella is the council's Civic Events Coordinator, a role she has handled with aplomb for almost a decade. She works closely with the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer planning everything from high level functions involving the Prime Minister and Governor General, to the quarterly citizenship ceremonies, which can involve 700 to 1000 people.

Stella is the person who ensures there is the right number of chairs and tables for an event, liaising with members of the team to hire everything from sound systems and catering to the Portaloos. She arranges the invitations, sends information to the speech writer and attends site meetings, as well as managing a myriad of other details which go towards creating a memorable function. It may be an ANZAC Day service or the hosting of an overseas dignitary. Recently Stella assisted in the arranging of an event for the Oceania section of the inaugural Singapore Youth Olympics. Manukau had been chosen to host the Olympic flame and lighting of the Olympic cauldron at a ceremony in the TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre.

'My job is to ensure that every function runs smoothly. I'm always there in the background of every function keeping an eye on things. It's fun, but it can also be very stressful at times.'

For eight years Stella was virtually a one-woman band. For the past two years she has enjoyed being a member of the council's Events team.

Post November 1st, Stella's role has been matched to Civic Events Coordinator for the southern region of the new Auckland Council. This means she has the good fortune to remain working in Manukau in basically the same role as she currently occupies, only with less contact with the mayor and CEO.



**GARY STEPHENSON**  
Customer Advice Manager **Gary Stephenson** joined the council 30 years ago in 1980 after working for Auckland City Council as an Environmental Health Officer. He became involved in a similar role for the Manukau City Council in food safety. His work in the area covered air and noise pollution as well as animal management. He reckons he's changed roles at council on average every three years.

Prior to his current role, he was Negotiated Settlements Manager. This involved enforcements in the areas of town planning, environmental, noise control, abandoned vehicles and graffiti. 'I was very customer-focused, had developed communications and negotiations skills and enjoyed this work. It's important to put a human face to our enforcements and liaise skilfully with individuals for whom council enforcement could otherwise be a stressful experience.'



# LONG-SERVING STAFF TAKE A BOW

Gary completed his Bachelor of Business Studies part-time three years ago. He has no role within the new Auckland Council and after 30 years here he is now assessing his future career options.



## **TOM MCLEAN**

Financial Analyst **Tom McLean** has had 45 years' experience working for local government, starting in 1965. He spent a decade working for Auckland City Council before becoming Assistant Clerk in 1975 at Mt Wellington Borough Council, and Town Clerk in 1983. After several years of part-time study Tom qualified as a chartered accountant in 1977. In 1986 the Mt Wellington Borough and Otahuhu Borough were amalgamated to form Tamaki City. In 1989 when the

last major local government reforms took place, Tom became Chief Executive at Papakura District Council until 2002. After a short break he was appointed to Manukau City Council as Financial Analyst. 'I've been involved with the annual plan and LTCCP (Long-Term Council Community Plan) ensuring submissions were dealt with and that managers provided advice and information to the council.

'Looking back, my motivation has been to be involved in community. To work in local government you need to have a strong service ethic in your make-up. It's not all about the money. It's about people and I've worked with some great people, some of whom are still here - Felix Groenstein and John Skelton. After 45 years in local government I'm still learning. I'm a great believer in life-long learning.

'The highlight of my career was working at Mt Wellington Borough. It felt like being part of a family. It was a small organisation so we all pitched in and helped. Papakura underwent a series of cycles, reflecting diverse opinions about how things should be run. From 1989 to 1998 we implemented many innovative ideas - selling airport shares, contracting out services (works, planning and regulatory) and franchising the water system in 1996/7. I believe these strategies resulted in savings and greater efficiencies. When I began, Papakura District Council had 150 staff, by the time I left staff numbers been reduced to 32. We were constantly questioning if we were providing services in the best possible way and for the least cost.'

Tom has accepted a position as the Relationship Manager for the Mangere-Otahuhu and Otara-Papatoetoe local boards and will oversee a staff of seven, providing advice to, and services for both boards.

## **THEO TER BORG**

**Theo ter Borg**, Manager Collection Services for Manukau Libraries, started work at the council in 1977, first as a university student processing library books. He became Library Assistant at Mangere East Library and gained his NZLA qualification after doing a series of block courses at Wellington Library School.

His current role involves book buying, cataloguing and processing of books at the Manukau Library Central Services based in Ronwood Avenue. Manukau Libraries has had a \$3.7 million budget per annum for purchasing books, electronic resources, music CDs, DVDs, etc. 'Manukau has always been very supportive of reading and literacy.'

Theo purchases books for 13 branch libraries, plus a mobile library, five rural libraries and a research library. 'We try to match the right books to the right communities. We rely on information from publishers, reviewing journals and customer suggestions. We analyse collections which are popular and buy in these subject areas.

'It's been exciting working in an expanding library system and I've been given lots of opportunities within it.'

Theo's career highlight was working on the establishment of the Tupu Dawson Youth Library as Library Co-ordinator. 'It was a new concept, the first dedicated youth library in New Zealand. We had the opportunity to be innovative and to meet the needs of a specific community. It was a really exciting thing to do. We had an overwhelming immediate response. The library is still very popular.'

Theo has accepted a new role of Manager Collections South, which will include Papakura and Franklin libraries.

## **THANK YOU!**

# FAREWELL, THANK YOU, ALL THE BEST

Staff and networks within the council convey their own farewell messages.

## AN INTEGRAL VOICE

### Te Whanau Awhina

At a hui in September 1990 as part of an EEO plan 26 MCC Maori staff explored the concept of developing a Maori staff network. Support was unanimous and a proud twenty years later Te Whanau Awhina has become an integral voice for Maori staff and the organisation. Over the last twenty years we hope that the time has allowed you to be able to express your Maoritanga in a way that has made this organisation greater as a whole.

Kia ora to our past committee members who set the path and vision for us all, and to Abe Turei (Parks) who as a young/er man was co-opted as a member on the founding committee. We wish to acknowledge Colin Dale, Leigh Auton and Robyn McCulloch for their leadership and support over the years. We leave behind many achievements and memories and can feel proud that as an organisation we have come to know the concepts of whanau, manaakitanga, aroha and whakawatea. Let us be kind to one another as we venture into this new chapter and reassured that we will continue to pursue another twenty years for the mutual benefit of our members in the Auckland Council.

Tawhiti rawa tou haerenga haere tonu  
Nui rawa ou mahi te mahi nui tonu

We have come too far, not to go further  
You have done too much, not to do more

Noelene Mudgway and Sharleen Pihema  
CO-CHAIRS, TE WHANAU AWHINA

## DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

### Fala Pasefika

I'd like to thank all the past Fala Pasefika committee members for their dedication and commitment to Manukau City Council's Pacific Island staff Network. Their efforts have paved the way for the current Fala committee to continue the work of supporting and promoting our Pacific Island staff. The best traditions of Fala Pasefika is reflected in the current committee of which I am proud to Co-Chair. I would also like to acknowledge the support of Robyn McCulloch, Leigh Auton, Craig Morris and many more who have shared Fala's journey since 2002. We commit to pushing forward into the new council with the same dedication and commitment for the mutual benefit of our members as well as the greater Auckland council.

Soifua  
George Setefano  
CO-CHAIR, FALA PASEFIKA

## AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

Farewell to all my friends and colleagues at Sharkey St, Civic Centre, Kotuku House and Fala Pasefika. Working with you has been an incredible journey, which I will always treasure. I wish you all the best for the future.

Mounina  
Faama Viliamu  
PACIFIC ISLANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

## OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN

### Yatra Network

Change is inevitable and most times it is a product of external forces like politics, education, war, new technology or new location. We from the Indian staff network - Yatra would like to say farewell to those that leave us soon on our journey forward and wish them all the best in their new pathways ahead. For those that still travel together into the new organisation we would like to hold your hands and try to make the journey a safe and new experience working towards a vision of better Auckland for all.

It is hoped that whatever the roads we take our paths will cross sometime in the future so that we can spare a moment to share our past and progress achieved in terms of experience gained.

Birandra Singh  
CHAIRPERSON, YATRA

## MY ENCYCLOPEADIA

### Message for Garth Vipond, Principal Specialist, Transportation and City Planning

I really loved working with you, you were my encyclopaedia, you knew everything... It really was a pleasure working with you. All the best for your future endeavours. Best wishes.

Farida Dean  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNER

## A RAY OF SUNSHINE

Kia hora te marino, kia whakapapa pounamu te moana,  
kia tere ai te  
karohirohi i mua tonu i o koutou huarahi  
May the calm be widespread, may the sea be as the smooth surface of the greenstone, and may the rays of sunshine forever dance along your pathway.  
Noho ora mai

Brya Taylor  
MANAGER, COMMUNITY ADVISORY SERVICES

## BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS

I would just like to say a BIG thanks to Italia Toelei'u and Sue Reidy for making it all happen with *connexions*. We shared many lovely and beautiful moments, filled with joy and laughter over the many years. I always looked forward to the next edition and the next and when it did come out, it was usually very beautiful. Our team has contributed well to *connexions* and I particularly like the fruit bowl article which captured our emotions, joy and happiness. I am going to miss you, *connexions*, and the people who make it all happen.

Ying Wong  
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE



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