



Committee for Auckland

www.aucklandnz.org

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Members' Update

June 2009

Changes for Auckland

Committee for Auckland hosted 85 Members and associates at a half day workshop on 5 May at SkyCity. The workshop was opened by Rodney Hide, Minister of Local Government, who made clear the Government's rationale and approach to the options presented by the Royal Commission's report.

Workshop participants worked in four sessions to strengthen the proposals for change and bring added features and practical ideas for Auckland's successful transition. By the next day the main thrust had been communicated to Minister Hide.

The meeting favoured powers for the Mayor and a small team of independent advisers, and retention of the 8 positions elected at large as some hope of creating a willing Council.

Real roles are needed for local boards particularly as a means of keeping the Auckland Council focussed on the macro issues. Place –shaping for distinctive local areas is being explored further – what roles and functions does this imply?

There's a preference for arm's length governance for the delivery entities, particularly for transport, and a desire to explore the features of SOEs for very effective governance of the council controlled organisations. Apparently a lobby for transport to revert to a department within the Auckland Council has gained some ground. The working group has put a counter view to the Minister.

A strong contingent will re-examine the scope and form of waterfront development agency - the Government is so far not clear whether this is a stand alone or a Council controlled entity. Would a whole of waterfront approach - coast to coast - conceive a world class waterfront, then developed by one agency, precinct by precinct?

The Working with Government group is looking to design new mechanisms for working with central government as the Government is neither convinced about a Cabinet Committee for Auckland nor a Minister. Is there still a Minister for Racing?

Five working groups of about 40 Members are preparing submissions for the Auckland Council Bill, due to be submitted on 26 June, and also to the more substantial legislation in October.

The first Bill is the Local Government Reorganisation (Auckland Council) Bill which sets up the high level for the Auckland Council:

- A Mayor elected at large by all Aucklanders.
- 8 Councillors also elected across Auckland and 12 elected locally in wards.
- The Mayor has a vision and leadership role and moderate powers.
- The Mayor appoints the Deputy mayor and Committee Chairs
- 20-30 local boards with up to 150 locally elected people
- the Local Government Commission is given the job of defining the number and boundaries of the boards, and will alter the southern boundary of Auckland
- the Auckland Transition Agency is established
- this Bill enables Watercare Services Ltd to assume all the water systems from the local authorities

Making Your Point

Members are also encouraged to make a submission themselves. To find out more about how to make a submission to the Select Committee, see:

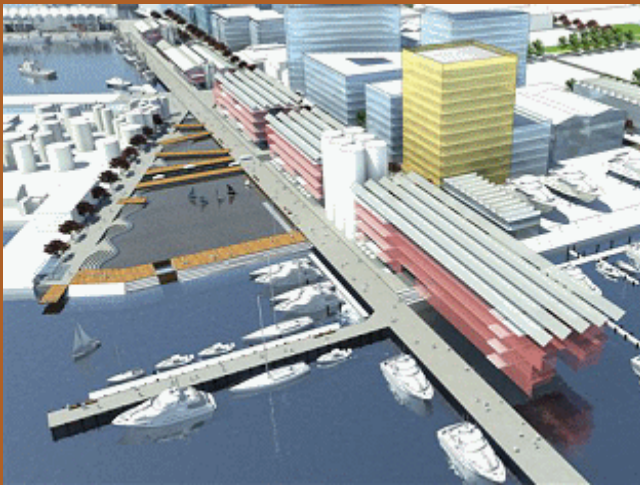
http://www.parliament.nz/NR/rdonlyres/6092F83E-CE78-4C66-A50A-CC4490DC9034/103478/makingasubmission2007_1.pdf

Special thanks to The Conference Company, Barbara Udale, speakers and the facilitators, and Sky City Entertainment Group for their pro-bono contributions to Changes for Auckland.





Jellicoe Street



Jellicoe Street On The Way – Designers and Drilling!

A waterfront stakeholders' meeting recently enjoyed seeing the first fruits from a design team that's been called a Dream Team. And the drilling rig is on site sorting the seawall already.

Taylor Cullity Lethlean and Wraight and Associates are designing Jellicoe Street and the Water Space, and Fearon Hay won the design competition for the first private site development, [Site 14](#), on North Wharf.

The work on Jellicoe Street has a great layered and a patinated (is that a word?) feel to it, befitting the rusting environment close to the sea.

What's most striking about the way the plan is being made however is a new level of cooperation with the marine industry, putting in place a showcase on the water and enough space and facilities to grow the industry.

Super Growth for Super Yachts

Several things are on the go. Alongside these designs, a very motivated marine industry is figuring out how to take the sector to a \$2 billion earner for the country. Long time Committee for Auckland friend Peter Walker reports that \$2 billion is highly possible – even if current times mean more refits than new super yacht construction.

NZ is second or third in the world for super yacht production, and the heart of the sector is on Auckland's waterfront. From Westhaven, Auckland generates marine export sales of \$119.8m, with Westhaven's total turnover at \$397 million, with about \$30m earned from servicing superyachts ([Growing Auckland Growing NZ](#)).

While 58% of total marine revenue is generated in Auckland, its companies are supported by firms in Whangarei, Hamilton, Tauranga, New Plymouth and Invercargill.



Exhibition Convention Centre

Auckland could be a step closer to getting a large-scale exhibition convention centre; good news for a project the Committee for Auckland has been backing since 2004.

And given that Hamilton has recently announced the development of a \$64m Convention and Exhibition centre, including a 5000 seat multipurpose facility, a 1500-seat conference tiered plenary and multiple indoor and outdoor exhibition spaces to be completed by July 2011, it is time we just got on with ours!



Hamilton (Claudelands) Exhibition Convention Centre

Prime Minister John Key, Tourism Minister, recently committed \$250,000 towards scoping a potential 4000-seat convention and exhibition centre for Auckland. The Auckland City Council is also putting in \$20,000 towards a feasibility study and \$30,000 towards a business case.

The Prime Minister Key says that the lack of a large-scale convention and exhibition centre capable of attracting big conferences, means we may be missing out on "thousands of high-value visitors that could be interested in coming to New Zealand."

Committee for Auckland Member, and Tourism Auckland chief executive Graeme Osborne said a convention centre had the potential to bring \$75 million to \$100 million into New Zealand per annum in new visitor spend of which \$60 million could go to Auckland. These figures came from joint work commissioned by Auckland City, the Conventions Industry and the Committee for Auckland and will need updating.

Today's convention industry attracts 70,000 people and a spend of \$250 million a year but there are hopes to grow it to \$500 million by 2015.

Ministry of Tourism's Ray Salter said the ministry would present preliminary information to the Minister and Council members by October. The study would look at the demand for a convention centre, its cost and funding, and the preferred location. Initial estimates have put the cost at around \$280 million to \$300 million to build.

"The Auckland Committee had already done a lot work on it in 2006. We are really keen to update the market situation", he said.



OMEGA Update



Omega has matched 103 skilled migrants with professional New Zealanders. Through this mentoring programme, of those who have completed the programme, **70% have gained jobs that match their skills and experience in their profession at the appropriate level** over the past year.

In this first year Omega has learned over and over, the value of early intervention in the job placement process. The right match at the right time welcomes talented people, makes a difference straight away in the workplace, and boosts the Auckland, and hence New Zealand economy.

The right match the first time can also prevent years of 'underemployment', during which people's skills lose their currency, and talented people lose confidence. The better we are at placing internationally qualified people in the right jobs, the more unskilled jobs come free for less skilled people. It's a double-boost.

The pace has picked up for Omega with Davanti's new software system (called SalesForce) which helps with the matching process. A special thanks to Gen-I and Davanti's Robert Carter for the little black box.

Maintaining A Talent Pipeline

Omega is concerned with integrating skilled migrants who are here now, and with the longer term view that, with talent currently displaced over the globe, smarter countries will be strategising on how to secure that talent to grow economies coming out of recession. Even in this time of rising unemployment, **38% of NZ companies are still experiencing skills shortages today.** We need to maintain a talent pipeline.

We also need to play our role in creating innovative, diverse organisations. Omega's partners share best practice and can build strong industries and a stronger New Zealand through their collaboration. That's why we're inviting 12 shareholders to the table from the industries where skill shortages constrain Auckland and New Zealand's growth.

Building A Network of Organisations.

Across Omega's supporters we have **generated a quarter of a million dollars in additional pro bono support from over 60 companies.** Already managers are passing on practices that work – like the Transfield way of integrating 250 new Kiwis up and down the country in pairs, generating \$170 million in new revenue. Omega's next step is to make this practice exchange more systematic.

Omega Inc

September 2009 is the handover from Committee for Auckland's support and Tindall Foundation funding, to become an independent entity. We are delighted to **announce the support of BNZ, Genesis Energy and ANZ as initial shareholders,** on board for 3 years. Discussions with three more shareholders take us to the complete ticket of 12 shareholders from 6 skill short industries.

The Omega team is now at full strength with two new staff members on board: **Ian Scott, Programme Manager**, has a degree in business management from Manchester University and 10 years professional recruitment experience.

Omega's Intern **Ronel Jacobs, Programme Co-ordinator** recently arrived from South Africa. Ronel has a Human Resource Management degree, and specialised in managing temporary staff in the banking and financial services, IT, educational and call centre industries. They both bring a wealth of experience to their respective roles, as well as an intimate understanding of the hurdles encountered by migrants attempting to enter the New Zealand workforce for the first time. View their profiles on www.omega.org.nz and:

View my profile on 

We welcome them both aboard!



Philippe Legrain on Talent and Productivity

Omega, in partnership with the Office of Ethnic Affairs hosted Philippe Legrain, international author and economist, hosted a well attended business event at deloitte. Pansy Wong, Minister of Ethnic Affairs opened the event on 19 May.



Speaking on **'Harnessing International Talent to Boost Innovation and Productivity'** Legrain challenged the audience to embrace diversity.

"New Zealand's diversity is not just escapable reality – it is a lifeline to the world and can be a launchpad for recovery". He went on to say that "embracing diversity is not just a luxury for the good times. On the contrary, it is precisely at difficult times like these that it is important for everyone to do everything possible to make the most of the widest pool of talent available. Now of all times, New Zealand simply cannot afford to let its many talents go to waste. Their individual skills and collective diversity can be a vital source of competitive advantage for NZ businesses both locally and globally." For the full speech, see www.omega.org.nz

At the event, Transfield, NZPost and The Conference Company presented fascinating case studies of the initiatives from the workplace.

Thank you to all our speakers, sponsors and attendees.



Future Auckland Leaders Update

The Future Auckland Leaders are in the home straight, completing their legacy projects before graduating from the 2 year programme later this year.

Building Stronger Communities

Onehunga Primary School is part of a pilot programme to better connect primary schools with volunteers in their local communities. The aim is to enhance learning opportunities, and build stronger communities.

- 1. Hippy Childcare Assistance:** This programme supports parent/child interaction in the school environment. It requires the full attention of the parent, and younger siblings are supervised by volunteers during this time.
- 2. Reading Assistance:** Assistance with reading comprehension and sorting out readers after class – is immeasurably assisted by volunteers.

The pilot runs from June 22 to the end of Term 3. The school's website is being used frequently and the suggestion of building an online volunteer registration section has been well received.

To attract volunteers to the programme, the group will engage a 'celebrity' to support the pilot. Should you wish to volunteer please do not hesitate to contact:



Susanne Ritzenhoff | General Manager
 Level 11, Wellesley Centre, Wellesley St
 PO Box 7263 Wellesley St, Auckland 1141
 Phone: (09) 309 8324 | www.qtheatre.co.nz
Coming to 305 Queen Street

Asian Angels

The team had a very successful 'clinic' with Committee for Auckland Board Member Dave Tapper in May. This team is exploring the potential for mentors who are resident Asian migrants to assist NZ businesses breaking into Asian markets or looking for capital from Asian investors, but need a guide.

Two mentors and two organisations have already been matched, to see how mentoring might be most effective. A business plan to address a long term programme is to be developed.

Comments from the Prime Minister in the NZ Herald suggest an interest in leveraging Asian migrants as a bridge to Asian markets and Asian investors. The most recent feature in the Listener also painted the opportunity quite clearly. The Committee has signaled to the Prime Minister that our initiative could be scaled up.



People Valuing People

The group is preparing a programme of activities for the Auckland City Mission and Ngati Whatua O Orakei to make new connections for Auckland's homeless people. (Over 70% of inner city homeless people are Maori). Team members are working closely with the Homeless committee to take ideas to outcomes.

There is exciting progress. A four month menu of activities has been developed. On Saturday 20th June a group of homeless people will join in a planting day at Orakei Marae.

Other planned activities include the celebration of Matariki (Maori New Year) and Te Wiki O Te Reo (Maori Language week).



Wise Guides / Auckland Guides

Time rich Aucklanders with a love for their city are being called on to volunteer as city guides to Auckland's numerous visitors. The first practice run with the Guides will be based near i-sites (SkyCity and Viaduct Harbour in the week of 22 July, to be followed by a 7 week pilot.

The aim is to recruit and train up to 20 guides, and to secure the services of a voluntary Volunteer Manager, who has previous experience managing volunteers at MOTAT.

Two names are on the table; "Wise Guides" or "Auckland Guides". One appeals to potential partners – Tourism Auckland and the other to a national brand - should the concept be scalable.

Committee for Auckland Members, Tourism Auckland and Heart of the City are considering a variety of assistance - communications assistance, training, and links with i-site staff, funding and the use of premises as a base for the Guides.

In the Committee's usual way, most costs are being covered through "in-kind" support and voluntary assistance. Costs of a daily allowance to volunteers for travel and parking, and are anticipated. The group is looking for contributions of up to \$20,000 to support costs.

If you are able to assist with either of these needs, please contact Craig Brown at UniServices on ph 09 373 7544 or email craig.brown@auckland.ac.nz



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New Members

Campbell Roberts
Director, Business
Salvation Army



Campbell Roberts has been an officer in The Salvation Army New Zealand Territory for 38 years. He currently holds two appointments, Territorial Director Social Policy and Parliamentary Relations and Territorial Social Programme Secretary.

Campbell's passion for ministry is working out the gospel in the context of the life of New Zealand. This ministry calling has led to leadership in New Zealand community and national media spokesperson in issues of poverty, prison reform, housing, and unemployment

In addition Campbell has led and been a member of a number of Royal Commissions, Government Task Forces, Government Boards, Working Parties, and Mayoral Forums on a range of social issues and policies affecting New Zealand.

He is a trusted national media spokesperson on issues affecting the poor in New Zealand. The Speaker of New Zealand's House of Representative said recently "Campbell Roberts is the most effective non party political voice in New Zealand. He is a leading New Zealand advocate for those on the margin's of New Zealand society."

Linley Wood
Chief Community Partnership Officer, ASB



Linley Wood is Chief Community Partnership Officer at ASB Bank, a subsidiary of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. An important part of ASB's vision is to be world class for communities, and it is Linley's responsibility to develop and implement the strategy that will assist ASB people to provide practical and constructive support to the local communities in which they operate.

Linley is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand and also leads the Corporate Communications team at ASB.

With over 20 years' experience in financial services, Linley's previous roles at ASB have included leading the teams responsible for Group Strategy, Innovation & Design and Process Improvement. Prior to that she was ASB's General Counsel and Company Secretary.

Upcoming Events

The next **Dialogue Lunches** are to be hosted on the following dates from 12 Noon -1.15pm.

Monday 20 July

Hosted by Greg Mikkelsen
Gen-I

Monday 17 August

Hosted by Albert Brantley
Genesis Energy

Monday 7 September

Hosted by Garry Smith
Auckland District Health Board

Monday 19 October

Hosted by Jan Dawson
KPMG

Monday 23 November

Hosted by Michael Shirley
Sinclair Knight Merz

For all events, please RSVP to celia.fowler@aucklandnz.org or ph 300 1234.



Future Auckland Leaders Graduation

Tuesday 10 November, from 5.30pm

Venue: Auckland War Memorial Museum

Dress: Semi formal

The evening will celebrate the Graduands and showcase their projects. Tickets - \$150 per person.

Further Information

For further information about the Committee for Auckland, see our website www.aucklandnz.org or contact Executive Director Kaaren Goodall ph 300 5593 kaaren.goodall@aucklandnz.org



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