



UPPER HUTT CITY

Valley News

November 2010 · Upper Hutt City Council Newsletter



Mayor's message

As we emerge from a rather long wet winter and early spring, I would like to thank you for the overwhelming support that I received during the recent elections. Having such a massive mandate is very pleasing and I thank those who supported me and my passion and commitment to this city only continues to grow.

In front of family and friends, the new Council was sworn in on 20 October. I would like to congratulate the three new Councillors and the returning Councillors on their success, I know from spending the last few weeks with them that they will be very dedicated. I'm confident that when it comes to making the right decisions for our city, as a collection of eleven individuals, we will operate and work as a very cohesive team.

I would also like to thank all candidates involved in the elections, especially the three experienced Councillors who were defeated: Katy Austin, Heather Newell and Barry Timms. They were all very experienced and held positions of responsibilities including chairs of various committees. They made big contributions to Upper Hutt City and I enjoyed being their Mayor and working with them.

There are some very challenging times ahead

for Upper Hutt City Council and the Wellington region and some big decisions to be made or debated during the next three years. Now that Auckland is settling in under one governance as the Auckland Council, that debate I am sure will take place in other regions of the country and that includes Wellington. That doesn't mean that we have to imitate what has occurred in Auckland but we will certainly need to ensure that councils in the Wellington region are working closely together.

As the country emerges from the recession and the economic climate improves I will make sure that every decision that we make places Upper Hutt in a better position so that it becomes the number one choice for people who want to live here and bring up their families. These are exciting times and I look forward to leading this new Council.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Enjoy your time with family and friends and if you are travelling away, drive safely.



Wayne Guppy
Wayne Guppy | MAYOR

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New Council for Upper Hutt City

On Wednesday 20 October, Mayor Wayne Guppy and ten Councillors were officially sworn in at a triennial meeting held in the Council's Chambers. The Council re-elected Councillor Peter McCardle as Deputy Mayor.

The new Council comprises three new Councillors; Glenn McArthur, Hellen Swales and David Wheeler. Re-elected Councillors include Mary Archibald, Pat Christianson, Nellie Gillies, John Gwilliam, Peter McCardle, Dean Rabbitt and Nick Thomas (previously on Council 1998-2004).

The new Council members will get right to work; their first round of scheduled meetings starting on 1 December is approaching fast.



Council bids a sad farewell to former Chief Executive, Max Pedersen



Upper Hutt City Council's Chief Executive, Max Pedersen, stepped down as Chief Executive after 17 years at the helm to take up the position of Chief Executive with the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. Max started working for the Council as Director of Corporate Services

in January 1990 before accepting the position of Chief Executive in July 1993.

The Mayor of Upper Hutt, Wayne Guppy, said "Max leaves the Council in excellent shape. He not only led our city council in outstanding fashion but was also held in high

esteem by his peers at councils throughout the Wellington region. I have not only enjoyed, but feel privileged, to have worked with someone of Max's ability and calibre. Over the years we worked collaboratively on many tough issues that faced Upper Hutt. He provided the politicians with unbiased factual information to help them make the right political decisions. It would be fair to say that Max contributed an enormous amount to this community and he should be well satisfied that he has made a difference here."

Chris Upton, Director of Business and Leisure Services, has been appointed by the Council as Acting Chief Executive in the interim. The process for appointing a new Chief Executive has commenced.



A word from Councillor Dave Wheeler

Kia ora and hello. I'd like to thank everyone for their vote of support in our local body elections. It certainly sent a strong message to the Council that one of my main issues that I outlined struck a cord with the public who, like me, are very concerned with our CBD.

I don't expect miracles to happen overnight, but through a consolidated effort and a long-term vision, we can turn it around, and issues of safety, cleanliness, graffiti, empty shops, retail mix, colour and vibrancy can be addressed and resolved.

The Maidstone development is another of my passions that I'd like to see come to fruition. It's



been a long time coming and would be great to see a lot of our sports people playing locally instead of commuting outside the area. It makes economic sense to have a facility that can be used by a multitude of codes where costs can be shared and facilities well maintained.

The first few months for me I expect will be a time for listening and absorbing as I get to grips on how the system works. There will be exciting and challenging times ahead. For example, we have the situation in Auckland where a super Council has been formed. Will Wellington go the same way? We'll be watching with our eyes wide open as to whether it's a good thing or not.

An award-winning city

Our pragmatic response to the literacy needs of our community wins local government award

Upper Hutt City Council's project, *A Book in Every Backpack*, scooped the Council-Community Relationship category award at the 2010 New Zealand Post Group Local Government Excellence Awards in Queenstown on 5 September. The awards celebrate and recognise local government projects that showcase best practices, innovation and excellence across New Zealand.

Upper Hutt City Library works in partnership with 12 Upper Hutt schools to deliver the project which ensures that every child within the city, regardless of their circumstances, joins the library and visits on a regular basis.

The judging panel was particularly impressed by the level of community engagement and the strength of the partnerships involved. "The panel saw huge ongoing potential to children in the district" said Peter Fa'afiu, New Zealand Post Group's Government and Community Relations Manager.



Left to right: Peter Fa'afiu (NZ Post Group), Frances McEwen, Debbie Duncan and Chris Upton (Upper Hutt City Council).

Upper Hutt's Titiro Whakamua scoops a prestigious regional award

Congratulations to Upper Hutt's Hutt Valley Teen Parent Programme (Titiro Whakamua) who took out this year's regional award in the category of Education and Youth Development at the prestigious Wellington Airport awards ceremony held on Thursday 23 September. The award recognises not only the fantastic service the programme provides to the community but the value of the programme's volunteers.

The Hutt Valley Teen Parent Programme maintains and develops the education training paths of teenage parents beyond the birth of their children, fostering positive parenting skills, enhancing self-esteem and employment prospects of participants. The school operates five days

a week, with an early education centre attached and bus services to get the students and their children to school. Volunteers provide an important part of the service, assisting students in the classroom with their studies, mentoring life and parenting skills and helping students transition into working life. Students reside throughout the Hutt Valley with some travelling from as far as Wainuiomata to participate.

"This programme is helping to develop some very proud and confident young mothers who are determined to better their future and their children's future" said Andrea Curtis, Director of Community Services.



Left to right: Hon. Paula Bennett, Sheree Clark (student) and Debbie Whitley (Teen Parent Programme).

National recognition for H²O Xtream's Women Only Swim Night

In October, H²O Xtream's Women Only Swim Night received national recognition at the New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA) Industry Awards with a 'Highly Commended' award for Outstanding Community Recreation Project.

Launched in October 2009, the weekly session from 7pm on Sundays has grown from strength to strength, with more than 100 women regularly attending and utilising the pool at what was traditionally one of the quietest periods of the week. The session was created after extensive consultation with the Upper Hutt community and a gap in provision was identified. From lane swimming and learn to swim classes to 'have a go' sessions including hydrosports and Aqua Yoga, there's something for all abilities to get more Upper Hutt women, more active, more often.

For more information visit www.h2oxtream.com, pick up a brochure from the facility or phone 527 2113.

Upper Hutt's redeveloped library; a resounding success with the community!

Over 1,400 people visited the library on its first open day to see for themselves the exciting new changes that have taken place. The library opened bigger and better than ever on Wednesday 27 October. New furniture, lighting, technology and a rearrangement of collections are just a few of the exciting changes that have made the library larger, more user-friendly and comfortable.

Casual modern lounge seating in the new light and airy Rotary Lounge with views onto Fergusson Drive has proved very popular with locals meeting to relax over coffee. Visitors gravitate to the lounge to sit, chat or read in the sun. The open-plan Rotary Lounge has been strategically designed to allow it to be transformed into an area to host popular programmes and events.

The redevelopment has seen the existing structure upgraded and extended to provide 30 percent more additional space overall and 75 percent more space for the children's library. This enables the library to host more programmes and activities for all ages and to improve access to their collections. Much of the shelving has been lowered and books of a similar interest are now grouped together.

The innovative new layout strengthens the library's role as a dynamic community hub – a focal point for community learning, lifestyle and leisure. Debbie Duncan, Library Manager said: "Upper Hutt Library is one of the community's most well used facilities, offering a wide range of services to our residents. It's also a place where people can come and relax. By investing in these modernised improvements, we're ensuring that the wonderful resources our library has to offer will be enjoyed well into the future."

Visitors of all ages are embracing the new self-check technology (radio frequency identification or RFID) which now allows you to self-check in and out your items quickly and easily. This frees up staff to spend more time helping

customers. Upper Hutt City Library is the first public library in the region to install this smart RFID technology and the first library in the country to enable self returns.

Free wireless internet access is available throughout the library and a new children's learning centre equipped with 12 new computers provides more opportunities for young people to connect with the world.

Out the front, new outdoor seats have been installed in a landscaped garden setting and well-lit landscaped paths lead around the sides of the library connecting the library to rear parking.

There's something for all ages at the library! Come and visit us soon and see for yourself the exciting new changes we've made to bring you the very best service.

Summer Reading Programme 2010

Get in quick! Only 250 spaces available



In late November, registrations open for the Upper Hutt City Library Sweet As Summer Reading programme. This fun, incentive-based reading programme for children aged 5-12 years runs for six weeks during the summer school holidays.

Two hundred places will be available at the Central Library. Registrations begin on Saturday 27 November (until Sunday 28 November). Registrations will continue on Monday 29 November if any places remain. Fifty places will be available at the Pinehaven Library and you can register on Saturday 27 November or the week thereafter during their regular opening hours.

For more information please contact Frances McEwen on 527 2182 or frances.mcewen@uhcc.govt.nz

We've been excited to hear what you think. Here are some of your thoughts left in our visitor's book...

'Absolutely Fabulous!'

'Do they make medals for librarians?'

'What a remarkable building! What remarkable vision!'

'Great transformation!'

'Lovely natural light'

'Amazing – so easy to use now!'

'Impressive, Love it!'

'Way flash for UH!'

'Big thumbs up!'

'Brilliant, feels very warm and comfortable!'

'Very spacious'

'A tremendous asset for UH!'

'Good investment!'

'Incredible – the best library ever!'

'It even smells new!'

'It rocks!'

'Super duper!'

'Love the new system!'

'Great new set up! Very clear and organized!'

'Great self-service!'

'Superb – like a new library'

'Love the light and space!'





When was the last time you had this much fun?

Upper Hutt is a great place to live whatever your interests or lifestyle. From exciting events and festivals to first-class local amenities, the Council plays an important role in ensuring there are opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

Our city is blessed with stunning landscapes, a vibrant culture and recreational opportunities galore. This summer make sure you make the most of the first-class facilities and activities on offer.

When was the last time you or your family visited H²O Xtream, Upper Hutt Library, Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre or one of the many parks and reserves?

To find out what's happening at any one of these popular spots and more and how you can get involved in all that Upper Hutt has to offer visit www.wowupperhutt.com – our easy to use online events calendar will help you discover the many things happening right here in your back yard.

Take a friend or your kids, and get out and enjoy Upper Hutt this summer. Here are just a few ideas to get you inspired:

- > cool off at H²O Xtream, the Harcourt Park Paddling Pool or the Hutt River
- > cycle the Hutt River Trail, Tunnel Gully or the Rimutaka Incline
- > take some time out and venture to one of the many walks found in our region, ranging from vast open spaces and panoramas, to native bush tracks and river trails
- > pack a picnic and enjoy it at one of the many scenic parks or reserves in Upper Hutt

- > dust off your tent and 'pitch up' at Harcourt Holiday Park or Kaitoke Regional Park
- > set your sights higher by reaching the peak of Mt Climie
- > drop by your local library and pick up some light reading for a bit of sunny R&R in the library or in one of our tranquil parks
- > younger ones will enjoy taking part in the popular Children's Summer Reading Programme at the library
- > browse a gallery exhibition while your children indulge in creativity at Expressions
- > drop by the local i-SITE for more ideas or information on how to make the most of what's on offer in Upper Hutt.

Get active this summer

Have you heard about the Council's highly successful Activation programme which assists more people to become more active, more often? The Activation team have been busy developing a summer schedule bursting with fun ways to help you get active. From Tai Chi, Zumba and Women's Only Swim Nights to the always popular events such as the ZM Run Swim Series and Kev the Kiwi walks; there's something for all ages and abilities. Every year we provide new and exciting leisure, swimming and fitness programmes in our parks, recreation centres and aquatic facilities. Visit www.activation.org.nz for more information.



Get water wise this summer and make every drop count!

The Council has kicked off its annual summer water conservation campaign and is calling upon residents to use water wisely.

During the summer months Upper Hutt City experiences more than its fair share of warm dry weather leading to increased water consumption. A large proportion of this increase in water use is attributed to garden watering. In Upper Hutt year-round water restrictions are in place.

As a community, it's important for us to use water more conservatively especially during the summer when supply is low. And in the near future it will be even more vital to use water conservatively when Greater Wellington Regional Council proceeds with essential seismic strengthening work to the Te Marua supply lakes which will see a lake at a time temporarily out of commission.

You may have noticed this month, large community signboards appearing at busy main route intersections throughout the city and an advert in the Leader. As well as serving as a useful reminder to make every drop count, the signs and adverts also serve to inform residents and businesses of the city's current water consumption levels in relation to the city's target level.

The Council's campaign aims to raise awareness of the issue and the need to use water responsibly. The Council

will keep people regularly informed on how much water we each use on average per day and to encourage us all to take steps to use water more responsibly.

By doing the right thing and working together we can keep the cost of water manageable and minimise the chance of having additional water restrictions imposed in summer. Working together means everyone doing their bit – from the Council to other businesses and individuals.

It also makes financial sense to conserve water; water after all costs you money as a ratepayer. The more water we all use the higher the bill the Council pays to Greater Wellington Regional Council for our city's bulk water supply and the less we have available to spend in other important areas. The less we use will also delay

the need for an expensive new water source such as a storage dam estimated at \$150M.

So the message is clear this summer; play your part – do the right thing and make every drop count! Don't leave taps running, water your garden responsibly, mulch, have a shower not a bath, fix your leaky tap and report leaks to the Council. For more ideas on how to conserve water visit www.upperhuttcity.com



Recycling made easy



Did you know we now collect ALL your plastics (numbers 1 to 6 excluding expanded polystyrene)?

A magnetised recycling calendar will soon arrive in your letterbox with the Council's community calendar. You can pop it on your fridge as a reminder of what is being collected each week. For more information visit www.upperhuttcity.com/recycling or phone 527 2169.

Changes in capital values

Council's valuation services provider, Quotable Value, recently completed a three yearly revaluation of all properties in Upper Hutt City. Valuation notices were sent to property owners in early October. Owners were able to object to the new valuations up until 12 November.

Overall, there was a four percent reduction in the city's total capital value. Within this there was a range of movements for specific groups and individual properties. Capital value reductions have generally been small for

residential properties and on average larger for commercial and industrial properties.

As in previous years, Council will now review its overall rating system in the light of the outcome of the revaluation and the new capital values will be used in setting rates for 2011/2012. However, an altered valuation does not necessarily mean a change in rates liability. Council expenditure determines the amount of rates required and valuations are the means to allocate the rates requirement to individual properties.

What's on Where (WOW)

Your one stop shop to discovering what's on offer in Upper Hutt

Look out for the Council's refreshed What's on Where (WOW) double-page feature in the Leader on 1 December. It's packed full of fun ideas for all ages. There's now so much going on in the city, especially over the summer months that we've had to double the size of our monthly WOW feature. We've also taken the opportunity to give it a new vibrant style, making it even easier for you to read and find out what's going on in your city.



Remember to tell your friends and family who live outside of Upper Hutt about the website and encourage them to visit Upper Hutt as well!

If you're involved in organising an event or activity, you can submit the details for consideration via the online form at www.wowupperhutt.com or contact the i-SITE Visitor Information

Centre on upperhutt@i-site.org or 527 2141. Every effort will be made to promote suitable events and activities where possible.

WOW will feature in your Leader twice a month (first and third Wednesday) in January, February and March and will continue on the first Wednesday of the month thereafter.

A live online version of WOW with expanded information and links will also be available. From 1 December visit www.wowupperhutt.com and while you're there why not bookmark it as a favourite for easy access!

Reminder

Saturday 4 December, from 2pm – Upper Hutt Leader Santa Parade 'Anything Christmas'
For more information visit www.wowupperhutt.com

Noticeboard



Annual Report

The 2009/2010 Annual Report is now available. Pick up a copy of the report from the Council's Civic Administration Building or Central Library or view it online at www.upperhuttcity.com

Are you prepared for a civil emergency?

Four-in-one wind-up flash lights (torch, siren, radio, cell phone charger) are now for sale at the Council's Civic Administration Building, 838-842 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt (cashier's desk). Fifteen litre water storage containers will be available in the New Year. Be in quick, stock won't last! (offer subject to availability)



Christmas and New Year opening hours

The Mayor, Councillors and staff extend warmest best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

Emergency Services | requests for council emergency after-hours services should be made by phoning 527 2169

Civic Administration Building | open throughout Christmas period, except for the public holidays on 27 and 28 Dec and 3 and 4 Jan, and will provide the following services from 8am-5pm: cashier's office, rates office, building consents and enquiries and planning enquiries

Central Library | 24 Dec 10am-5pm; closed 25-28 Dec; 29-31 Dec 10am-5pm; closed 1-4 Jan; 5-7 Jan 10am-5pm; normal hours resume 8 Jan

Mobile Library | the regular service will finish on 24 Dec and resume on 10 Jan

Pinehaven Library | closed 25-28 Dec; 29 Dec 12.30-4.30pm;

closed 30 Dec; 31 Dec 12.30-4.30pm; closed 1-4 Jan; 5 Jan 12.30-4.30pm; closed 6 Jan; 7 Jan 12.30-4.30pm; normal hours resume 8 Jan

H'O Xtream | 24 Dec 6am-6pm; closed 25 Dec; 26-28 Dec 8am-9pm; 29-30 Dec 6am-9pm; 31 Dec 6am-6pm; 1-4 Jan 8am-9pm; normal hours resume 5 Jan

Expressions | 24 Dec 10am-2pm; closed 25-28 Dec; 29-31 Dec 10-4pm; closed 1-4 Jan; 5-9 Jan 10-4pm; closed 10 Jan; normal hours resume 11 Jan

Upper Hutt i-SITE Visitor Centre | closed 25 Dec otherwise open Mondays to Fridays 8am-5pm and Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays 9.30am-2.30pm

Refuse and recycling collections | normal rubbish collections will take place over the holiday period

Silverstream Landfill | closed 25 Dec and 1 Jan

