

## Comments on the Auckland Plan *Auckland Unleashed* Discussion Document.

Roger Bryant, 31 Hamilton Road, Surfdale, Waiheke Island 1081.

judyrog@gmail.com

Looking at the plan from a region-wide point of view it is disturbing to find little reference to Auckland's greatest natural asset. Much is made of man made structure and infrastructure but little of the Hauraki Gulf. This plan is built on the dollar value rather than that which is already an area of outstanding natural beauty, the priceless asset of the Islands and Waters of the Gulf.

All through the governance changes over the past five years and the review of the Hauraki Gulf Islands section of the Auckland (City) Council District Plan there has been one constant and that is the governance of the Hauraki Gulf through the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act and the Hauraki Gulf Forum. In this Forum we have a prime example of a representative group of interested parties. It is hard to find this Forum on the Council's web site and the agenda for the April 11 meeting is 87 pages long, but the Forum carries on unscathed by the on-shore changes. Of particular interest is the agenda item 15: Spatial Planning for the Gulf. [1a]

Here I wish to table some documents from the Environmental Defence Society that are relevant to this plan and bring a studied reasoning; "Auckland's natural environment is highly valued and a key part of Auckland's identity. Unfortunately the high level goals of the discussion document fail to recognise this". [1b]

In looking at the position of the Waiheke community in relation to the region as a whole, I have found the work of the Auckland Community Development Alliance to be most helpful and to quote from the introduction to the ACDA submission to the plan; "ACDA strongly supports the vision for Auckland and agrees with Mayor Brown in that the potential of Auckland lies 'in its communities and people'. For Auckland to become the best place in the world to live, ACDA believes that communities must come first, and must be enabled to contribute to their own development, wellbeing and quality of life. This means actively including and resourcing the celebrated diversity of Auckland in decision making and recognising that this requires the recognition that this diversity has real life daily implications." [2]

How we achieve this will depend on building on the identifiable strengths of the community and this is where the Waiheke Island Council of Social Services has a major role to play. Having been incorporated in 1997, WICOSS has well established objectives [3] concerned with the social well-being and the welfare of the community. Although the *Essentially Waiheke* document is in need of a review, it gives a background and insight that provides "guidance for investment decisions that must be made and will guide our actions to ensure that things which people value most about the Island are protected."

As a direction setter for the future, the application for funding for a Community Development Scheme for a Flaxroots Waiheke Project gives a good insight in to the future development of the island. The primary reasons for the need of the project can be seen as [4] and includes the statement: "The Island Community is hopeful and eager to enter a new era and foster a positive relationship with the Auckland Council around trust and genuine partnership to improve effectiveness and allow for unconstrained innovation."

Another possibility is based on "The case for Waiheke Island to become a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve".

The advantages are stated on page 3 of the *Waiheke Forever* document. [5]

The prime advantage of such a scheme is that "It would develop and promote a single vision for Waiheke's future. This would encourage a more positive sense of community, and make decision making and relationships with other bodies more effective."

In a small community, such as Waiheke's and the inner islands of the Hauraki Gulf, there are similar needs to those of larger communities but not the size of population to make such services viable, it is essential for the common aims of all such groups that they work together in order that community development is sustainable and affordable. In particular the recommendations of the Waiheke Youth Needs Assessment [6] should be a priority project. The development of Health and Education Services should be prime local projects. We need the 'space' to develop Potential Leaders in a collaborative effort.

To assist in community development it would make communication easier, for all parties, if the Surfdale Community Hall is developed and strengthened as a community hub. WICOSS should be considered as the community agency responsible for managing this Community Centre.

We would hope that the new Council would give consideration to long-term funding and leasing arrangements to relevant community organisations for council administered properties. We would like to see the Council review the Community Leasing Policy giving more regard for the social value of the

organisation to the community and the input of volunteers than the operating expenses of council and its officials.

The Guiding Principles behind these comments have been adapted from those of the North Shore Community and Social Services Inc. [7]

Following on from the table on page 56 [8] of the Discussion Document; I note that "Commitment and delivery by all partners" should lead to a 'Vision' of "A city where a quality of life means every citizen has the opportunity to reach their potential". The proposed targets, page 74, are concerned with the ways in which the council is operating but does not mention what the community is doing, or can do, for itself. We need to create opportunities to discuss this as a unified approach towards "shaping a new direction for Auckland's quality of life".

To consider matters collaboratively rather than on an individual basis would require a change to the current consultation and engagement processes which rely on individual submissions to the local board where only one side of the point under discussion can be put. More could be solved quicker, and at less cost, if all parties met to work out a solution before a formal process was entered in to, if at all necessary. The process has become more important than the result. The 'legacy' that the new council and the local board have inherited includes a number of matters which should have been resolved years ago. Our rates money would be better spent if the payers were listened to, consultants avoided and field workers were employed rather than office workers.

This discussion document shows a good start by seeking 'comments', but doubts remain that there will be a collaborative process between the politicians, planners and community advisers and the members of the community in the draft of the Auckland Plan. It is to be hoped that the 'formal consultation' later in the year will be in the form of a 'Hui' or a round-the-table discussion. This is our Auckland, let's make it work.

Roger Bryant. 31 May 2011.

Background:

Waiheke Island Ratepayer for 38 years and full-time resident since 1974.

Became a member of the Waiheke Island Community Planning Group Inc. (WICPG) in 2006 when the Hauraki Gulf Islands section of the Auckland District Plan (HGIDP) was being reviewed. Currently Community Development Spokesperson for WICPG and representative on Waiheke Island Council of Social Services (WICOSS) and Auckland Community Development Alliance (ACDA).

Previously made submissions/presentations/feedback to Auckland City Council Annual Plans, HGIDP (still appeals before the Environment Court), the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Auckland Governance (twice) as well as a number of Waiheke Community Board and Waiheke Local Board (WLB) meetings. (see details in attached References)

Member of the Waiheke Community (Board) Forum including Open Space Plan, the Community Input Group on the proposed new Library and the reference group for the Waiheke Youth Needs Assessment. Life Member of the Waiheke Sports Club Inc.

References Auckland Council Plan May 2011.

[1a] HAURAKI GULF FORUM Agendas and Minutes:

[http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/meetings\\_agendas/committees/Pages/haurakigulfforum.aspx](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/meetings_agendas/committees/Pages/haurakigulfforum.aspx)

Also see item 15 from 11 April 2011 agenda *Spatial planning for the Gulf*.

[1b] Environmental Defence Society. [www.eds.org.nz](http://www.eds.org.nz) see article dated 04 May 2011: Media Release on Auckland Plan Discussion Document which also gives a lead to the EDS submission to the Auckland Plan. Also see opinion piece in the NZ Herald 31 May 2011 *Stakeholders want a future for their shared waterway* by Gary Taylor.

[2] Auckland Community Development Alliance. [www.acda.org.nz](http://www.acda.org.nz) click on Community submissions to the Auckland Plan for ACDA or other group submissions.

[3] The Waiheke Island Council of Social Services is a group of people representing a variety of community groups in the Waiheke Local Board Area. We are represented regionally on the Auckland COSS. Coordinator contact:

[mwikaira@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mwikaira@xtra.co.nz)

WICOSS has a membership base of community organisations covering health, education, cultural, social, environmental and recreational needs. We help members with networking and activities and assist individuals and groups to access funding.

In summary the main aims are:

- to act as an umbrella organisation for small groups to receive funds.
- to identify community needs by liaising with the wider community.
- to initiate and/or support tasks as required by the community.
- to collect information nationally and locally for the use of individuals and groups.
- to run Community Information Days to encourage community networking.
- to regularly produce a Community Services Directory (? data base)

[4] Community Development Scheme application. For link to full document please email: [judyngrog@gmail.com](mailto:judyngrog@gmail.com) For details of Flax Roots projects email: [joel@nscss.org.nz](mailto:joel@nscss.org.nz)

There are a number of reasons why there is a need for this project on Waiheke Island at this time:

1. The Waiheke Island community has articulated its “needs” for effective local democracy and community led development in a number of forums including submissions to the Royal Commission and Auckland Governance Bill, Review of the Hauraki Gulf Island’s District Plan, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Forum and Resource Management Act Reforms - see copies of submissions in Appendix A. This strong and consistent articulation of Waiheke’s needs has resulted in Waiheke and Great Barrier having their own Local Boards in the new Auckland Council structure.

2. The Waiheke community has continually exercised solidarity on a number of issues when engaging in local decision making, including the tendering of waste management services, proposed development at Matiatia and campaigning for fairer ferry fares. Communities on Waiheke have willingly and energetically engaged in Council led forums and focus groups, Essentially Waiheke (adopted in 2000 and revisited by the Waiheke Community Board in 2005) is a good example of this - see Appendix B). The Royal Commission on Auckland Governance noted the Waiheke Island community's desire for an improved Governance model. The Island Community is hopeful and eager to enter a new era and foster a positive relationship with the Auckland Council around trust and genuine partnership to improve effectiveness and allow for unconstrained innovation.

[5] Waiheke Forever. [www.waihekeBR.info](http://www.waihekeBR.info)

Page 3. What are the advantages?

- ° It would develop and promote a single vision for Waiheke’s future. This would encourage a more positive sense of community, and make decision making and relationships with other bodies more effective.
- ° It could help attract more funding for projects, help coordinate new, very large projects, and try to ensure that good work in one area is not cancelled out by something done elsewhere.
- ° It would assist the many local volunteers and community groups on the Island to work more effectively.
- ° It could support local businesses by creating and promoting a sustainability ‘brand’ for Waiheke that extends across tourism, local produce and local retailing.
- ° It could bring improvements through monitoring and researching major issues of concern, and in documenting and making available the results.
- ° It would improve our access to knowledge of similar projects overseas, and their knowledge of us.

[6] Waiheke Youth Needs Assessment. YOUNG PEOPLE ON WAIHEKE ISLAND by Nicki Jackson/Stacey Willcox of the Department of Community Health Development, AUT University.

Please note that hard copies are hard to come by but I can supply a link to the full document,

please email: [judynrog@gmail.com](mailto:judynrog@gmail.com)

[7] Guiding Principles. North Shore Community and Social Services Inc. [www.nscss.org.nz](http://www.nscss.org.nz)

[] Inclusion of the Inner Hauraki Gulf's diverse voices and views in the structures and decision making processes of the Auckland Council.

- Resilient communities have the capability, knowledge and expertise to participate in and lead their own development.
- An active partner of the Auckland Council committed to working with the local community, strongly reflecting and advocating the voice of the Inner Gulf regionally and nationally.
- Communities benefiting from the sharing of best practice across the region.
- Recognition that a cross-sectorial approach is key to developing innovation and longer term solutions in communities.
- Valuing and honouring the partnership with Maori as the foundation for realising the aspirations of New Zealand's multicultural communities.

[8] The Auckland Plan – Discussion Document. [www.theaucklandplan.govt.nz](http://www.theaucklandplan.govt.nz)

Further references and reading:

TIES BOOK from TIES BOOK, PO BOX 18293, Glen Innes, AUCKLAND 1743

Cost is \$45.95 (postage included) from above address. [www.tiesbook.org.nz](http://www.tiesbook.org.nz)

(Original story from The Aucklander 23 Nov 2010 – Together we can help –

[www.theaucklander.co.nz/local/news/together-we-can-help/3930382](http://www.theaucklander.co.nz/local/news/together-we-can-help/3930382) )

THE SPIRIT LEVEL by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. Check out on [www.penguin.com](http://www.penguin.com)

HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND INFURIATE PEOPLE by Jonar Nader. [www.logictivity.com](http://www.logictivity.com)

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING about community led development in Aotearoa New Zealand from:

[www.inspiringcommunities.org.nz](http://www.inspiringcommunities.org.nz)

LEITH DUNCAN'S PhD THESIS "The Social implications of Rights-Based Fisheries Management in New Zealand for some Hauraki Gulf Fishermen and their Communities" go to <http://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/handle/10289/538> for an abstract and link.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON AUCKLAND GOVERNANCE (RCAG). The commissioned reports are worth reading as well as the many submissions. [www.auckland.royalcommission.govt.nz](http://www.auckland.royalcommission.govt.nz)

WAIHEKE ISLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP (WICPG). Currently involved with the HGIPDP Appeals.

[www.waihekecommunityplanning.org.nz](http://www.waihekecommunityplanning.org.nz)

ESSENTIALLY WAIHEKE is still available on the old Auckland City Council website:

<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/council/documents/waiheke/default.asp>

Details of recent presentations/submissions to the Auckland Council/Waiheke Local Board can be found at:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/search/pages/search.aspx?k=Roger%20Bryant>

Waiheke Local Board Agenda 7 December 2010

... development Roger Bryant will address the Board on Social policy and community development.

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/SiteCollectionDocuments/waiheke-local-board-agenda-7122010-pages1-55.pdf> - 4MB - 13/12/2010

Waiheke local board meeting minutes 7 Dec 2010

CARRIED 8.2 Social policy and community development Roger Bryant spoke to his tabled presentation. ... a) That Roger Bryant be thanked for his presentation.

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/SiteCollectionDocuments/waiheke-lb-minutes-07122010.pdf> - 152KB - 11/02/2011

Waiheke Local Board minutes - 10 March 2011

... to Surfdale Hall -Roger Bryant Roger Bryant addressed the Board regarding a request to allow the Su ... a) That Roger Bryant be thanked for his presentation. ... work with Roger Bryant to look at hireage rates and community uses for Surfdale Hall.

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/SiteCollectionDocuments/waihekelbmin20110310.pdf> - 98KB - 16/03/2011

Waiheke Local Board Annual Plan Hearing minutes - 27 April 2011

3.6 Roger Bryant -Submission no. 1472\_00 Roger Bryant spoke to the submission.

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/SiteCollectionDocuments/aboutcouncil/hearings/annualplan/waihekelbmin20110427.pdf> - 128KB - 4/05/2011

Region wide Annual Plan Hearing minutes - 29 April 2011

Minutes Page 1 Annual Plan Hearings -Region wide OPEN MINUTES Minutes of a meeting of the Annual Plan Hearings -Region wide held in the Level 2 Reception Lounge, Auckland Town Hall, 301 -305 Queen Street, ...

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/SiteCollectionDocuments/aboutcouncil/hearings/annualplan/regionwidemin20110429.pdf> - 57KB - 6/05/2011

Roger Bryant, 31 Hamilton Road, Surfdale, Waiheke Island 1081.

[judynrog@gmail.com](mailto:judynrog@gmail.com)