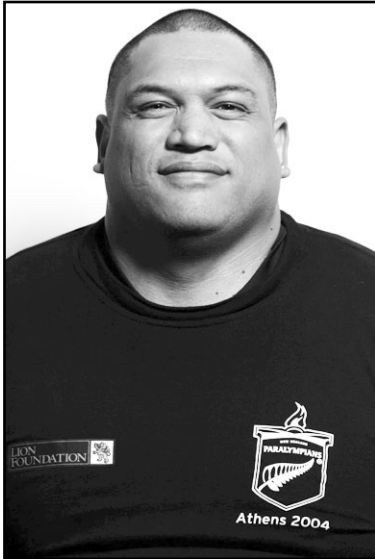


Paralympics kicks off

by Claire Ellery

The 2004 Paralympics opens today in Athens with a 36-strong New Zealand team led by flag



George Taamaru

bearer Peter Martin.

Chef de Mission Cathy Hemsworth says the team is ready and have had no trouble acclimatising and adjusting their routines.

"Everybody is very focused and you can see a different mood within the team now," she says.

The athletes say the Olympic village is the best they have seen to date.

Getting around the village is easy and the temperature has cooled in the last few weeks, making training much easier, she says.

Powerlifter George Taamaru, a business studies student at AUT, says he is really enjoying staying in the village and getting the opportunity to meet the other athletes.

The 30-year-old, who moved to New Zealand from the Cook Islands in 1997 to continue his education, is in serious training

mode now, with three-hour gym sessions four times a week.

Taamaru says he is not nervous about competing in the Paralympics. His philosophy is that to compete well you need to stay focused. He plans to relax and enjoy every moment.

Taamaru has a personal best bench press of 242.5kg. He says he is lifting around the 230-240kg mark but wants to go heavier in Athens. "I want to go

above my personal best."

Hemsworth is quietly confident about the team's medal chances but says personal goals are a really big focus for the team.

There are 4000 athletes from 143 nations at the Paralympics. The New Zealand team will compete in athletics, boccia, cycling, equestrian, powerlifting, shooting, swimming, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis.



THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER: The team lay wreaths at Syntagma square to commemorate those who fought at Crete.

Another hiko through Auckland

by Karl Puschmann

Organisers of next month's Auckland hiko are confident it will be larger than the May hiko that marched to Parliament.

Hiko representative Bernie Hornfeck is hesitant about estimating a figure for the October 16 hiko but says he hopes Auckland's larger population will contribute to the hiko's success.

"Auckland is the largest Pacific city and is four or five times larger than Wellington," he says. "There were 50,000 or 60,000 people marching in Wellington so you could crudely say the attendance in Auckland should be much greater."

Hornfeck, treasurer of the Nga Tai o te Reinga, says he hopes that Auckland's non-Maori will get involved.

"There is going to be a greater emphasis on being inclusive and inviting non-Maori, Pacific Islanders and the population as a whole."

As the foreshore and seabed issue has not yet been resolved the message at the heart of the Auckland hiko is "exactly the same" as at Wellington.

"The point of this hiko is to continue the pressure on the government to withdraw this legislation."

"It will all depend on the people's will to change this legislation."

The hiko will depart from Mayoral Drive at midday, proceed down Queen St, along Tamaki Drive and conclude at either Okahu Bay or the Orakei Marae.

These people want to rule Auckland

by Mike Barrett

The hoardings are up and the battle for local body supremacy has begun.

Twelve political groups are putting forward members for the upcoming mayoral, Auckland Regional Council, Auckland City Council and community board elections.

They cross the spectrum from Team Rooster - whose candidate Rocky Rhodes is standing for a seat in the Hauraki Gulf ward - to the Christians Against Abortion, whose sole candidate, Phil O'Connor, is again standing for mayor.

In between these groups are the two biggest players, Citizens and Ratepayers Now and City Vision - not to be confused with City Residents and Ratepayers Vision which is a different group

standing three candidates in the Eden/Albert ward.

Formed in the 1930s, Citizens and Ratepayers Now is the oldest local body political group in Auckland, says campaign manager Nicholas Albrecht.

"Citizens and Ratepayers Now has governed Auckland since then for all bar about six years."

The group, a recent fusion of two separate groups, Auckland Citizens and Ratepayers and Auckland Now, is also the largest. A total of 69 candidates are standing for positions this year - 17 are standing for the council, four for ARC, four for licensing trusts, and seven for health boards.

Citizens and Ratepayers currently hold a majority in council, with nine councillors. The mayor, John Banks, stands as

an independent and adds his single vote. Two other independents are also on the Citizens and Ratepayers ticket. This gives a total of 12 out of the 20 seats.

The most obvious difference between Citizens and Ratepayers Now and their main opposition, City Vision, is in attitudes towards the eastern corridor. The Citizens and Ratepayers' manifesto says that they will protect and develop the corridor while City Vision wants to halt all planning for it.

Citizens and Ratepayers has no formal political affiliation, but Albrecht says the party maintains a political position of centre-right.

Bruce Hucker, City Vision leader, councillor in the Western Bays ward and former mayoral hopeful says that although Citizens and Ratepayers have no

formal allegiance, they are National or Act supporters.

City Vision is the second biggest political organisation in Auckland. It is a moderate centre-left group with strong environmental concerns.

"When City Vision first contested an election in 1998, there was a growing awareness among centre-left groups that competing at local body level simply split the vote," says Hucker.

In 1998 City Vision, with the support of Labour, achieved a majority on the council when Hucker was deputy mayor.

This year City Vision has four candidates for the ARC, nine for the Auckland City Council, and 22 people standing for community boards.

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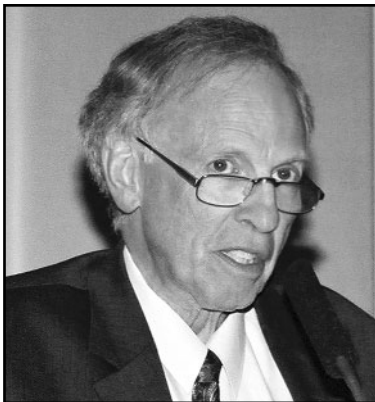
From the ivory tower to the Auckland town hall

by Patrick Crewdson

The former Vice-Chancellor of AUT wants to change Auckland city by predicting its future.

Dr John Hinchcliff is standing for election on the Labour Party ticket in the Tamaki-Maungakiekie ward at next month's city council elections.

As well as being a religious philosopher and a long-time peace campaigner, Hinchcliff is a scholar of future studies, a discipline that examines social, economic and technological trends to predict future developments.



JOHN HINCHCLIFF

Noted futurologists include Alvin Toffler, author of *Future Shock*, media theorist Marshall McLuhan, and sci-fi writer Arthur C. Clarke.

When he retired in March after 20 years as Vice-Chancellor of AUT, Hinchcliff established New Zealand's first future studies research centre.

He now hopes to use his interest in future studies to help Auckland strike a balance between economic growth and ecologically-friendly development.

"Auckland City is the engine of the country," he says. "It's the major centre of the Pacific and it's a great place to live."

"I'm very interested in the future of the city. What should it look like in 20 years time?"

Hinchcliff does not support the controversial eastern transport corridor, and says Auckland's transport woes are a good example of an issue where the environment and the economy need to be considered together.

He says an improved public transport system would be popu-



KATE SUTTON

lar with the public and would prove "liberating" for the city.

"The major cities of the world that are doing well in terms of beating the population, beating the gridlock, beating the frustration of losing time and energy sitting in traffic jams are those that have excellent, comfortable, regular bus or light rail links," he says.

Hinchcliff backed Dr Bruce Hucker before he withdrew from the mayoral race, but will not state a preference out of the remaining candidates.

He says he wants to get past "ad hominem politics" to focus on the bigger issues.

"As long as we can work together respecting each other no matter what our backgrounds are and work for the common cause of the future of our city, I think it will have been worthwhile."

During his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, the Auckland Technical Institute became the Auckland Institute of Technology and then the first university of the new millennium, AUT.

Hinchcliff says the job gave him an understanding of the political challenges of running a large institution.

"Sometimes you're forced to take unpopular stands for the greater good. It's never easy when you've got to allocate a scarce resource when just about everyone has a different view of how something should be done and you've got to steer through a minefield getting support. You back a few lost causes and you celebrate a few successes."

Hinchcliff is not the only ter-

ary education figure hoping to move into local government at this election.

Auckland University student body president Kate Sutton is standing for the Tamaki community board, also for Labour.

Sutton's term as president of the Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA) finishes in December.

The 23-year-old says she is "addicted" to representative politics and wants to move into local government rather than following the well-trodden path of the political science graduate to becoming a "policy hack" in Wellington.

"The more I've got into politics, local body has become more interesting for me because it's not cut-and-dried."

"It's a really confusing beast," she says.

After advice from several current councillors, Sutton decided to campaign for a community board seat in Tamaki, where she was brought up and lived for 18 years, rather than in the Eden/Albert ward, where she currently lives.