

### **Ko te Amorangi ki mua**

Leaders don't advance forward without the support of those behind them

### **Ko te Haipai o ki muri**

To lead from the front strong leaders require continuous support from the rear

Tihe Mauri Ora	I sneeze the breathe of life
Ko te wehi ki a Ihowa	The first acknowledgment is to God
Naana nga mea katoa	the creator or all things

Ko au Manurewa Papakura	I am Manurewa Papakura
Ko Manurewa Papakura ko au	Manurewa Papakura is me
Ki te mana whenua o Manurewa Papakura	To all the tribes of Manurewa Papakura
Kia koutou katoa o Manurewa Papakura	To all people of Manurewa Papakura
Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa	

My opening whakatauki was given to me to use today by my friend Rangi McLean – translated into English it says...Leaders don't advance forward without the support of those behind them, To lead from the front strong leaders require continuous support from the rear.

It is a reminder we didn't get here alone, we carry the trust and confidence of residents, friends and family from our respective rohe to represent them and their unique place as part of Auckland. To be successful we must remember those who lifted us up along the way so they remain with us on our journey. I would like to briefly acknowledge some of those people.

My family first and foremost, always, Mum, Grant and my 4 children who have endured 6 election campaigns traversing their teenage to adult years. Colleagues you will be well aware of the toll this job takes on families, election campaigns in particular, all I can say to them is thank you...again.

Just as our campaign was to kick into second gear, of 5 gears, my Gran passed away in June, in her 98<sup>th</sup> year. I mention this as she was one of my strongest supporters, and the day she left, the campaign changed for me. It never ceased to amaze me that caring about what people thought about her outlook on life mattered less and less to her with each passing year which made time spent with her very empowering and gave me perspective.

I would like to thank both the Manurewa and Papakura Action Teams who worked diligently, followed advice, kept their eye on the ball and on the end game.

And to my running mate Daniel Newman who found a whole new sphere of tolerance during this year's election campaign, our 6<sup>th</sup> campaign together, our toughest, but it resulted in the election of 20 of our 22 candidates, thank you Daniel for your unconditional loyalty and friendship, I am pleased to be able to work alongside you now at the Governing Body.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Sir John Walker who held the Manurewa-Papakura council seat before his retirement from local government. Sir John gave many years of service to the Manurewa-Papakura ward and many more years on top of that to the Manurewa Ward as a Councillor for Manukau City Council. Sir John is one of the most resilient and determined people I have met, his passion for ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed underpins everything he does. I thank him for his years of service.

#### **PAUSE**

Congratulations to my colleagues who have joined me from Local Board land in the move across to regional governance. Pippa, Shane and Tracy, we have worked together well on Chairs Forum and with you Shane on the Governance Framework political working party. Holding a mutual respect for each other's values and views despite coming from diverse political backgrounds ensured a safe place for debate and discussion without divisiveness. Being open minded to alternative views didn't change our personal positions but it did enable rich discussion. The leadership from the Chairs is outstanding in achieving consensus for the greater good. I really look forward to continuing that ethic with you.

I appreciate what a privilege it is to be elected to serve as a Councillor for Auckland. I have been forewarned by a number of my colleagues of the workload, the debates, the challenges, the politics, I will only appreciate the intensity of that through experiencing it, I'm up for it having served this Council on the Local Board since the inception of the Super City, seven as a Local Board Chair and two as Deputy. While the challenges might be different my experience gives me a tremendous insight into the Council and CCO machinery.

#### **PAUSE**

I support the review of the CCO's. I have experienced through my previous governance role the unintended consequences of policy settings by the Governing Body and the interpretation of it as it is operationalized by the CCO's. I don't see an obvious governance relationship between the Governing Body and the full Boards of the CCO's therefore I and there simply is not one with the Local Boards therefore I support a Councillor sitting on the CCO Boards. I look forward to all Councillors working together to develop the terms of reference for this review.

A priority for me is to remember the role of the Local Boards, our partners in shared governance. It is very clear to me the efficiencies to be gained, the opportunities for communities enabled when Local Boards are given equal access to quality of advice, input into policy development at its inception and are geared up by the organisation to fulfil their legislative role as governors of their local areas and shared governors in the Super City. I know the Chairs are happy to see more previous Chairs now sitting at the Governing Body, the four of us elected this time bring a combined understanding of working with policy implementation, it is my view, one of our value adds will be through asking the right questions to challenge policy that could marginalize communities through unintended consequences, as happened with some aspects of the waste minimization policy.

My ward has the highest population of Maori in Auckland. Outcomes for Maori is another priority of mine. I have received hundreds of reports to my Board meetings over the years with substandard commentary under the Maori Impact Statement. I will continue to reach out to mana whenua and maatawaka as I have done in the past for their advice. The Mayor has encouraged me to work with Te Waka Angamua and form a relationship with the IMSB to support my kaupapa to improve Maori input into decision making, a project currently being led by the Southern Local Boards. One of the key strategic issues for this Council is Maori Identity and Well-being, I hope to add value and influence to how Council responds to the issues identified in the strategic briefing.

## **PAUSE**

There is unfinished business from last term that I am looking forward to being a part of completing such as the Stadium Strategy. Another of the strategic issues in the strategic briefing is how are we going to pay our way to achieve the outcomes in the Auckland Plan and to that end I am pleased to be on the Value for Money committee chaired by Councillor Desley Simpson, process improvement

based on lean principles holds a strong interest for me. I bring that to the table as one of my values to this committee.

## **PAUSE**

In my election campaign I promoted the fact there has never been a woman from the South of Auckland elected to the Governing Body since the Super City came into being in 2010, by the South I mean the areas represented by Cr's Collins, Filipaina, Newman, and Cashmore. The election of a woman to join these 4 fine men was achieved in this election, and not only that, this Governing Body now has 9 women elected to it, a new record. Fun times ahead, perhaps not as fun as Wellington City Council who now consists of 8 women and 3 men which skews the balance somewhat. Women's participation in politics is evidenced to be a critical factor for the development of inclusive, responsive and transparent democracies, we need policies that are designed by women, focused on women and executed by women not at the expense of men, or instead of men but alongside and with men. I am really looking forward to working with all of you as we strive to achieve balance for Auckland.

## **PAUSE**

I am pragmatic in my approach to governance, I am also forensic when required, which may get more than a little frustrating for some of my colleagues. I see a place for disruption but not for division although I accept it is unavoidable in a political environment such as this one. I take advice from the officers of Council and I also seek independent advice when I need it. I will aim for unity and consensus but not at the cost of the people who elected me or the values I hold fast to.

In closing, I would like to thank the voters of Manurewa and Papakura, I come to this role with an indisputable mandate from you. I am here to serve you and bring your priorities to the Governing Body through your respective Local Board's. I will be available directly to you alongside Councillor Newman, constituent work is a fundamental shared value of ours as politicians.

My final comment is this, if we are to have an Auckland that is inclusive, that starts right here, with leadership that is inclusive. We are #stronger together.

Nga mihi nui ma te wa