

News for Members: March 2009



2009 AND ITS CHALLENGES

In 2009 we have a by-election for a community board position in Eden-Albert. Julie Cooke is our candidate and we will be doing our best to ensure a C&R win.

The other major challenges facing C&R in 2009 are:

Elections for AECT Trustees:

Currently we hold 4 of the 5 positions and we will be seeking to win 5/5. Accordingly we will be trying to identify good potential candidates.

We plan to have our selection meeting to coincide with our AGM on Monday 25th May. Please put this date in your diaries now.

Release of the report by the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance:

Media speculation has suggested a single city from Warkworth to Pukekohe and this will provide us with the challenge of expanding our operations throughout the region - well beyond our traditional areas.

Currently we are in discussions with interested parties in North Shore, Rodney, West Auckland and South Auckland as we plan to establish branches and networks in the expanded area.

We value your support in the past. We seek your continued support for C&R as we rally to the challenges of 2009.

Please feel free to contact me, ph 522 9033, if you have any suggestions or input.

Kind regards
John Slater, President

EDEN-ALBERT BY-ELECTION: SUPPORT OUR CANDIDATE, JULIE COOKE

The resignation of a City Vision Community Board member has resulted in a by-election for the Eden-Albert ward of Auckland City. While C&R has traditionally struggled to gain representation in Eden-Albert, we have had some past success (Ryan Hicks elected in 2007). With campaigning already well underway, your active advocacy and support for our candidate, Julie Cooke, can help greatly. If you don't live in the area please encourage your family, friends and workmates that do, to vote C&R. If you are an Eden-Albert resident please do your utmost to encourage people to vote for our candidate. Voting papers will be posted from Wednesday 18 March and must be returned no later than noon on Thursday 9 April 2009.

Julie Cooke is an outstanding local candidate. She grew up in Auckland attending St Cuthbert's College and ATI and lives in Mt Eden. As an executive member of the Ranfurly Care Society, Julie contributes her time to this residential home which also provides day activity programmes for adults with an intellectual disability. She has a professional background as a legal secretary in the field of criminal law, and currently works as the PA to the CEO of the Auckland Chamber of Commerce. Julie is standing to help make a difference to our communities and meet the challenge of making Auckland a place where people have the opportunity to enjoy all it has to offer. She believes council's must be accountable and their actions transparent and fair.



Volunteer some walking time for Julie – campaign help required

Billboards promoting Julie will be going up shortly and at the time voting papers are delivered to households, from Wednesday 18 March, a mail-drop is planned. We are looking for as many people as possible to help deliver the mailer around this time. Thirty minutes or an hour or two of your time can ensure C&R reaches as many households as possible at least cost. If you can help, please contact Jami-Lee Ross, Campaign Manager by email: jross@jami-leeross.com phone 271 3255 or 0274 059 178.

Updates from C&R Elected Members

Auckland Energy Consumer Trust

All trustees are working well and making a good contribution. James Carmichael is to be congratulated on being appointed as one of Vectors two trustee directors joining Karen Sherry in that role.

Vector with the support of the AECT has sold its Wellington lines business at a good price and having used the proceeds of sale to reduce debt is in a strong position to withstand the current financial crisis. The value of our shares is holding up well and our first half year results have exceeded expectations. We hope to maintain our dividend to Auckland power consumers this year.

Trustees await the imminent decision of the Royal Commission on Auckland and hope the Trust will continue to own the trust assets for the benefit of the power consumers who are our income beneficiaries and the Auckland, Manukau and Papakura Councils in whom it is destined to ultimately vest.

The Commerce Act was amended late last year and the trust has been making submissions to ensure that it achieves its objectives. One of the important objectives is to encourage investment in lines.

Indications are that all four C&R trustees will be standing for re-selection (expected in May) and election to the trust which will be held in October.

Warren Kyd, Chairman AECT

Auckland Regional Council

Of all the political agencies that made submissions to the Royal Commissions on Governance for Auckland, the ARC was the only one to suggest that as an entity they should be replaced.

Irrespective of what the final structure is, if we can achieve having all those things that are regional, managed regionally, and all the regional assets managed regionally, this must surely deliver an increased level of efficiency and hopefully remove the cost burden of duplication the ratepayer presently pays.

From a Governance perspective the opportunity to elect an executive leader at large would be exciting but from a C&R perspective the most interesting issue must be whether party politics will come into play with National, Labour and others using the Auckland region as a testing ground for new blood, a resting place for old blood or just to flex some muscle in the country's most relevant economy. Also of interest will be how they intend managing the interim period between the announcements of what will be, and the 2010 elections. Will we see a Commissioner appointed to manage the transition? What happens with existing Councillors and C&R's executive will all be interesting issues to be dealt with.

History tells us that our expectations for cost savings should be low but that what we should expect is greater efficiency as a region which should make us an attractive place to do business, to attract investment and provide productive employment.

Michael Barnett, Deputy Chairman

REMEMBER THE 71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2009

ROYAL COMMISSION ON AUCKLAND GOVERNANCE

A summary of the 3500 public submissions received on Auckland governance is now located on the Commission's website (www.royalcommission.govt.nz). There are 29 Chapters (410 pages) focused on different topics, from peoples' vision for Auckland, to their suggestions on reorganising council boundaries, to ideas for improving infrastructure, and proposals for new governance structures.

PETER SALMON QC (Chairperson) Dame MARGARET BAZLEY, and DAVID SHAND were appointed by the Government as a Commission to receive representations on, inquire into, investigate, and report on the local government arrangements (including institutions, mechanisms, and processes) that are required in the Auckland region over the foreseeable future in order to maximise, in a cost effective manner,—(a) the current and future well-being of the region and its communities; and(b) the region's contribution to wider national objectives and outcomes. They will report to the Governor-General in writing, not later than 31 March 2009.