

# Dreaming of another life

As part of the *Whangarei Report's* election coverage this week, we asked each of the Whangarei District Council mayoral candidates three questions designed to give readers a lighthearted insight into the personalities behind the campaigns.

The questions are: Question 1: If you could be any superhero who would it be and why? Question 2: If you could have dinner with any person from throughout history who would you choose and why? Question 3: What is your favourite way to spend a Sunday?

■ **Vince Cocurullo**

Q1: Doctor Who. Here is a man who travels through time always turning up at the right moment to save the earth from eminent death or fix mankind's problems. He has no real superpowers just two tools, a Tardis, and his trusty sonic screwdriver. He always solves problems with logic, kindness and a sense of humour, then hops back into his Tardis without any praise and goes to another place or time to help mankind again.



Q2: Jesus Christ. Even if only half of his documented history was recorded correctly, and whether or not you believe in him, the fact remains Jesus Christ has had the greatest impact on humanity, affecting more people's lives today than any other person. I think of the conversations I could have with him, the stories he could tell, and his wisdom.

Q3: My favourite way of spending a Sunday, is to spend it with my wife. We could be doing anything, from golf, to walking along the beach or bush, going for a drive, ballroom dancing, or watching a movie on the couch.

■ **Stan Semenoff**

Q1: Superman. He's a very human superhero, not without his weaknesses and occasional need to be rescued when there's kryptonite about, but he has great powers and he always uses them for good.



Q2: Mother Teresa. An extraordinary person who gave her whole life to the poor and under-privileged. I'm sure dinner with her would be a hugely uplifting and inspirational experience.

Q3: Sundays are about family. After church we are together for the day. There is lots of food and music and fun. That's the best Sunday there could be.

■ **Morris Cutforth**

Q1: Luciano Pavarotti. His voice is the most amazing I have heard and to be able to sing like I am would be heavenly. Bringing pleasure to others in this way would be wonderful!



Q2: I would like to have dinner with Saint Francis of Assisi and ask him about his love of nature.

Q3: I would go to 8am mass as per usual. Then have an outing with the family at the beach, the pools or park. Finish with a Sunday roast, mint sauce and apple roly-poly pudding.

■ **Warren Slater**

Q1: Sir Edmund Hillary. As an ordinary good Kiwi bloke he took on a huge challenge and succeeded. Furthermore, he was humble about his success till he departed our present world. The only part of his



life I am not quite ready for, is the present. I am still very much alive and I have more challenges ahead to accomplish before I leave.

Q2: Billy T James. Another good Kiwi bloke. He was down to earth, had the important ability to make fun of and laugh at himself through some very tough times and I too don't mind a feed of KFC occasionally. Billy also had the ability to turn junk into good household appliances, so maybe there's also hope he would have some good ideas for some of our run-down infrastructure.

Q3: I attempt on Sundays to kick back, if possible, and spend some down-time with my 90-year-old mother, we care for, my wife, our dogs and our alpacas and if time permits, take in a bit of motorsport on television.

That of course is after I have done all the housework. Now you know I'm being silly, Pat (my wife) is the mainstay in keeping the house great and caring for my mum and I.

■ **Isopo Samu**

Q1: I would like to be Batman — Love the gadgets!

Q2: Any of my grandfathers, particularly from five generations ago. I am grateful and admire the fact they survived hardship in their lives to allow me to be here today.

Q3: Cup of tea in bed with my wife, reading the newspaper and just spending time at home with the family, or if it's a nice day, go fishing with my son.



■ **Terry Burkhardt**

Q1: I would be a Genie in the Lamp and grant three wishes for the Whangarei community.

1: A clean harbour for healthy people.

2: Better community engagement in decision making.

3: Mayor Semenoff and all of his generational debt would disappear in a puff of smoke.

Q2: I would have dinner with the mayors of the FNDC, KDC, and chairman of the NRC, where we would sit down and talk about improving outcomes for the whole of the Northland community.

Q3: A day on the water in our harbour enjoying all of our natural beauty on offer.



■ **Mita Kayal Ruri**

Q1: Superman. Because he was very helpful to humankind and worked hard to make sure good always triumphed over evil.

Q2: Alexander the Great. We have in our possession a ring from the time of Alexander the Great which I carry a part of and for this reason I would choose to have dinner with him.

Q3: Morning prayers followed by spending the day watching Northland rugby league and handing out publicity flyers for my campaign.



■ **Simon Vallings**

Q1: I would be the Incredible Hulk so I could go out to out of control parties and patrol the city streets at night in order to free up the police for more important crime solving.

Q2: I would like to have dinner with Mahatma Gandhi so I could learn about non-violent methods of making peace with those who worship violence, and so I could give a few tips to the Incredible Hulk to make sure he doesn't go out of control; and besides, I like Indian food.

Q3: My favourite thing to do is to relax with my family and spend time appreciating them and the garden of Eden that we live in.

