

Candidates agree: Future of City is about the people

ELECTIONS 2010

Whangarei residents will be able to watch a repair screening tonight of Elections 10 on Channel North television. Elections 10 is a six-episode series, which screens Thursday nights at 7pm, and again on Fridays at the same time. Elections 10 is a joint venture with the Northern Advocate and will cover key local issues in the Whangarei district, ask people on the street what they think, and tell people about their voting wards. Whangarei's mayoral candidates have also been invited to sit in the Elections 10 hot seat, and answer six questions. Tonight the mayoral candidates are asked: 1. "How will Whangarei look different in three year's time, after you are elected?" and 2. "What can the council do to help the local economy?"



Terry Burkhardt

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1. "In three years' time Whangarei would have been out and engaged constructively with the community. And through leadership and community input would be putting together a plan. Personally at the moment I see that plan around a sustainable central business district which the current council has totally overlooked. Maori input, Maori positive settlement, is an economic force that must be harnessed and we must work in partnership. Tourism, we must look at ourselves as not a gateway to the north but as a destination in our own right. We must add value on to these tourist dollars that are coming into our area. And lastly we have the ability to play a major part in New Zealand's biggest supply chain with the right economic development out at Marsden Pt."

2. "Council is a

driver in the local economy with its spending power. It has a leadership role. We also have the ability to work with non-governmental organisations, business, Maori, communities, trusts. Economic development also has to be seen in the broader context as well so we have to have affordable housing, we have to have good education, we have got to have good health because all these things interact in the economic activity in our area. This district has a population of 25 per cent Maori, and we need to invest in this section of the population because they are going to be a very important part to our future."



Vince Cochrane

Vince Cochrane

1. "In three years' time I promise to have every single contract and supplier to the district council be a local supplier. So every contract, every tender that

goes out will only be going out to local suppliers. Local suppliers are the key to keep our economy going. If we don't look after our local people we will not have returns business coming in. This will also encourage outside businesses to come to want to work in Whangarei and be part of the community as well. Remember if you're not part of community you're not part of the area so the single biggest thing is to get our economy working perfectly."

2. "Within my last answer, you're keeping the local community working together. Having every contractor and every supplier employed by the Whangarei District Council going to local people will actually help the economy build itself back up. I've got plans to get the city working back together so instead of having bar owners trying to fight against other bar owners they will actually be working in a homogeneous style to get business back into the CBD. When you talk about haukaka or Waipa or even up to Kamo the same sort of philosophy will be held where you will get local contractors in doing local work. The council has a big responsibility back to our people and that is to make sure all money stays in our

community."

Morris Curfith

1. "I think people will have a clear vision of where they want to go. Part of my role as mayor will be to ask lots and lots of questions to hear what people are saying about their district. You see I don't think our assets are really the Town Basin or Parihaka or the Quarry Gardens or the beaches. That's not our assets are the people. So I want to listen to what the people have to say



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and where they want to go. And I want to join them in making Whangarei a better place, and making it a place that is friendly and that is just really, really enjoyable to live in because they are happy and because they have the facilities that they really want."

2. "Well I think council are currently into building walls and not bridges. I think that when people go for

consents and things like that the council should find a way to make it a problem. You ask our developers to go. Part of my role as mayor will be to ask lots and lots of questions to hear what people are saying about their district. You see I don't think our assets are really the Town Basin or Parihaka or the Quarry Gardens or the beaches. That's not our assets are the people. So I want to listen to what the people have to say

Don Bridges

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1. "Well I'd like to see a lot more people in, especially young ones, in employment and get mentoring from people that have got skills and add it on so they can build up their knowledge and experiences that perhaps they are not getting at the moment and because they've knocked the employment here. And I think council should be proactive and join with local business and organisations to set how they can lift the whole community and make them much more feeling better about themselves and responsible. And everybody's got to help each other, in their skills and abilities to lift the hole mantra of employment and activity."

people can't afford to live here and they are going to see the Australian economy which is booming as we pour in the money today. In future really we've got to bring tourism here as a big leap frog ahead. At the moment we've got to see the town and make it look presentable."

2. "What I believe the council, rather than being isolated in its own aid just making decisions of policy and



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previous planning that's probably well out of date now, and not appropriate in today's recession circumstances. I think the council should be proactive and join with local business and organisations to set how they can lift the whole community and make them much more feeling better about themselves and responsible. And everybody's got to help each other, in their skills and abilities to lift the hole mantra of employment and activity."

Paul Jeeves

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1. "In three years' time if I'm elected I'd like to see current infrastructure we're going to complete A-1 when I see infrastructure I mean things to attract people to the town both tourists and long-term residents. And that goes in to cultural centres, Maori cultural centres, Maori enhance our things to look after the Town Basin I think it's a huge natural asset which is very important. So I think we need to put in place measures to create the attractiveness around that area and also things like a hotel and that to give people a place to stay. But around that we need to create attractions to give them a reason for wanting to stay



Paul Jeeves

Whangarei has huge potential and it being underutilised at this point and my aim is to utilise that potential."

2. "The council can help improve the economy in Whangarei I think by looking at community-based initiatives, helping small businesses and whether that be through loans or through expertise to think that is creating challenges for people to stay in business certainly in our CBD area. And we need to get the community involved. The community have a lot of great ideas both

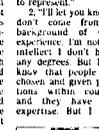
on a commercial level and economy level, but also in the tourism market. And by bringing all those people in sharing ideas, I think we will be able to get ourselves on the right path to creating a prosperous future."

Mita Kayal Hart

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1. "I elected there I came with a vision. Not only my own vision because I believe that with growth we need to approach all the age factors. They all need to come and contribute how they see the vision growth in Whangarei. I am but the empty vessel they can put all their concerns and all their ideas into this vessel and from this vessel there I will go to the appropriate management in the council region and I would like to catch more finances there to make sure that we procure all these initiatives and incentives for the people that aren't here to represent."

2. "I'll let you know I don't come from a background of vast experience. I'm not an intellect. I don't have any degrees. But I do know that people are chosen and given positions within council and they have the expertise. But I see



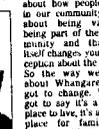
Mita Kayal Hart

Mita Kayal Hart

lately will be getting an input from whanau/papa and I would like the input of that sector there and the pertaining to the whereas the land there. So I believe that I will be consulted and directed on both boards there by those in council and we'll do it all of us, because we're one and we need that consultation from tangata whenua."

Iwajo Samu

1. "I like to see, we have a different perception about the place. So the way we talk about Whangarei has got to change. We've got to say it's a great place to live, it's a great place to work and play. And once you start doing that there's a



Iwajo Samu

vibe in the city where you actually walk in and in some places you think 'wow this is a cool place'. Not the buildings, it's just the

vibe. And to do that we have to take a look at

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how we view ourselves and how we view our city and the people around us. That will be different, the way that we look at ourselves."

2; "We have to talk to our local people. It's not the big businesses that are going to drive the economy, it's the smaller businesses that have been around for quite a long time, the mums and dads that are doing little businesses from home from around the district. There are good ideas out there. I don't think it's our role to actually create employment. I believe though it's actually our role to get these people together like a brains trust. It's the people on the ground that actually see initial need in the markets so they need to be encouraged. But at the moment I think people need to be encouraged to speak up about their ideas. It's sort of like getting ideas from communities as such. We're talking about getting ideas from a very small group of people in our community when our community is much larger than that, you know if you talk to a small business group that's it. That's all you're going to get."

Stan Semenov

1; "Well I was the author of the Town Basin, the envy of most of the district, all of the district for that matter, all the country. It's a place proud for us to take people. It was the first stage. The second stage



Stan Semenov

was to link it with the CBD and upgrade the rest of the harbour with a new bridge in place and walk ways right round the harbour from the bridge down at united carriers to the Town Basin. We've got a hotel just about signed up, the new art centre to go down there. Hundertwasser the

2; "Council should be a council that tries to help accommodate developers in making a cost effective way of reaching the goals so that developments happen at a level where people can buy them at a reasonable price. And providing council keep showing the way of making things foolproof quality, but get a cost effective way of handling resource consents, will overcome that problem to a large degree."

Warren Slater

1; "Whangarei will look different in three years if you people elect me. The reason I say that is because I want to have a council build a council around me that is going to generally listen to the community. I do not believe for one moment that this has happened in the past. I know personally I've had no contact from my local councillor. There needs to be open forums before council meetings, there needs to be newsletters come out not just from the PR people in council. It's the people that we all



Warren Slater

elect you should be representing us, and that's what you'll see if you elect me.

And there'll be more input from our community, our community is diverse and has many needs. Let's not just satisfy the wants of a few people in powerful positions we need to all work together and the vote that you people make counts."

2; "I believe we can put some processes in place. Putting rate increases up on commercial properties by 23 per cent is not helping the economy. I walk around the city and look at the empty buildings. Okay they might have ulterior motives for some of these

Make sure you know the election deadline

Northlanders wanting to post in their vote for the local body elections should send in their voting forms no later than October 6 to be sure they are counted.

The official election day is October 9, with provisional winners expected to be known that night. But as the election is done by postal ballot all completed voting documents must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer or an Electoral Official by noon on October 6.

Progress results will be known about 1pm that day, and preliminary results will

be known about 7pm, with the final result declared by October 20. The Election Office is urging people to post their voting papers by the end of October 6, to ensure they are received by noon on October 9.

Electors may post their completed voting documents back to the Electoral Officer using a pre-paid envelope sent with the voting document.

Polling places for the issuing of special voting documents and to receive completed voting documents will be available until noon October 9 at council offices.

consulted with. If we do this how's it going to change, how will it affect you what can we do to help? We must get back. It's consultation with our community about what's important. In three years' time I think our recession is not through yet. We've all got to work together and the community need to work as a team with council and council must make progress more affordable."

Simon Vallings

1; "Whangarei will become a city that everyone here can be proud of. I'd look to being one of the best growing climates of any city in New Zealand. And its certainly got huge potential for landscape gardening that hasn't even been touched on in the past

especially young people, can be proud of our city as we move into the future and that would result in less graffiti, less damage in terms of vandalism and people walking around with smiles on their faces."



Simon Vallings

2; "The best thing the council can do to improve the local economy is to stop trying to sub divide and allow more untrammelled development to go ahead without the necessary infrastructure. Otherwise we get a situation where the infrastructure becomes a bottle neck for future development and it ends up costing a lot more to fix then it did to build the correct infrastructure in the first place.

So I think we need to look at the whole process of development