

# Grim tale

I would like to present to you A *Grim Fairy Tale*.

In 2006, the movers and shakers of Whangarei decided to spend millions of dollars on a stadium that 93 per cent of ratepayers opposed [Official Information Act.]

It came to pass that all the forecasts from the spin-doctors were fairy stories, leaving the ratepayers to pick up the bill.

The same clan of crystal ball gazers then decided to spend thousands of ratepayer dollars in an attempt to amalgamate the three district councils. This, in the usual style of these Barons who failed to consult with the electorate first, came to nothing.

Then someone, again without consultation, without notifying anyone, decides to send, at the ratepayers expense, a councillor and the CEO to Austria to suss out a cranky building.

In order to justify this expenditure, they resort to spending even more money on consultants.

(Consultants: People who crunch numbers for a living, who are inclined to produce results that please the person who employed them.)

While all the grandiose, lavish money-wasting schemes are going on, our harbour is awash with poison. The sewerage system is about to blow up the CBD due to build-up of butane gas.

Footpaths are below standard.

Farmers in flood-prone areas are in revolt regarding the loss of a large amount of money, they claim should have been spent on their problems etc etc.

Meanwhile, our "Claytons" Mayor, after enjoying a holiday in Paris while on sick leave, is gallivanting about the country in a car, paid for by the ratepayers with the petrol thrown in for good measure.

Perhaps one day the Good Fairy will wave her magic wand. A commissioner will appear and all the Barons will be made to disappear.

Northern  
Advocate 4/1/12

Brian Craig  
Whangarei  
Abridged