

# FROM THE MAYOR



*Kerry Prendergast*

## Setting the foundation for more great years to follow

The 2005/06 year has been one of strong progress as we build towards our goal of positioning Wellington as an internationally-competitive city.

For me, there have been many highlights. To name just a few:

- We became the first capital city in the world to achieve World Health Organisation 'Safe Community' status.
- The redeveloped Glover Park and the new Waitangi Park highlighted our commitment to provide well-designed, safe, enjoyable venues where people can relax in the inner city.
- The award-winning, highly-popular Karori Library was one of many examples of our commitment to providing high-quality community facilities and public areas throughout the suburbs.
- We signed a Sister City partnership with Beijing, one of the world's most important cities.
- The New Zealand International Arts Festival was among the most successful ever, with record ticket sales.
- Throughout the year, Wellingtonians showed huge enthusiasm for getting involved in the full range of events on offer – from the sinking of the F69 to the King Kong Australasian premiere and the exhilarating Vodafone X-Air games.
- Len Lye's Water Whirler kinetic sculpture became the latest addition to the city's fabulous waterfront, while Bill Culbert's piece SkyBlues illuminates Post Office Square.

There are so many more examples I could give. All of them highlight how much can be achieved when we work with others for the good of the city.

### Building on Wellington's strengths

The year was also one of transition. In mid-2006, we committed to a long-term plan that builds on the city's existing strengths and provides a blueprint for future growth and development.

A key aspect of our approach is striking the right balance. We want to allow growth while also preserving the city's heritage and natural environment.

We want to encourage economic development by making the city even more attractive as a place to work, visit, and invest in. And we want to capture the benefits of this development to enhance residents' overall quality of life.

The evidence shows that we're doing well so far. In our regular surveys, almost all Wellington residents rate their quality of life as good or very good, and almost all say the city is a great place to live.

I don't pretend the Council can claim all of the credit for this success. But we can claim to have contributed our share. From infrastructure, such as roads, stormwater, sports fields, swimming pools, libraries and other community assets right through to economic development and tourism initiatives – our work adds to this wonderful city.

My thanks go to the councillors, managers and staff, and to the many other people throughout the city whose efforts make Wellington such a fantastic place to live. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

KERRY PRENDERGAST MAYOR