



## **SUPER CITY... SLIM PICKINGS** I was a big fan of the new Auckland Super City. Rationalisation of Engineering Standards: Rationalisation of Services: Reduction in Costs etc etc & Lower RATES.

However after nearly two years my mind has changed & I am not alone. Common feedback we get from both Consulting Engineers & fellow Contractors is "Where is the work?" A Consultant we work with attached the following statement to the end of a recent email to Auckland Transport:

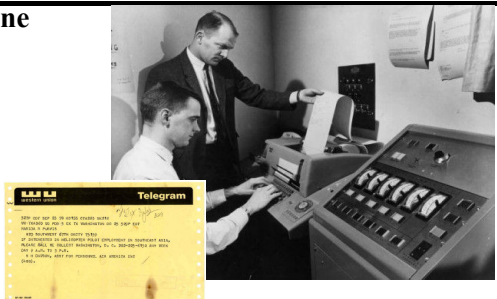
*"We have 18 years of competent professional services design and contract observation on road pavement and slip remediation and designs for NSCC, Rodney and AT organisations. We hope the current procurement policy doesn't continue to exclude us for roading and transportation briefs going forward, the last 18 months, even after serious lobbying has not created a single chance!. We have terrific skills in these areas and hope you can see an opportunity for us. Any pointers in the right direction would be appreciated."*

We used to have at least one Council project "on the go" at any one time and up to 5 or 6 sometimes. We are lucky to even see this number of tenders coming up for Public Tender in one year. We know there is work being done. It would seem that the new Council has set up a number of large "maintenance Contracts" and these contracts are then simply extended to take on new work. Small to Medium Sized Consultants & Civil Construction Companies have been ignored by the new Council. These are the very companies that can provide the most cost effective solutions to Council works. It is no wonder the RATES continue to rise. David Hick, Giles Civil Ltd

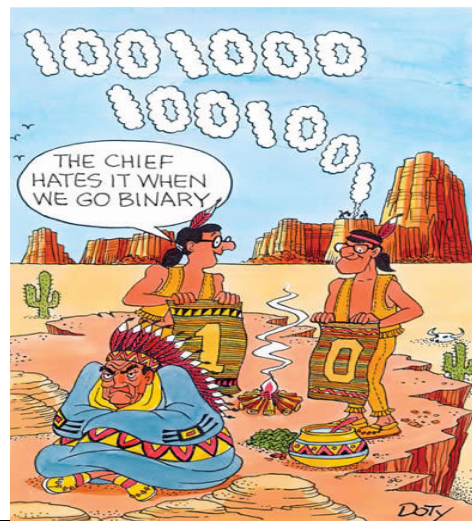


It is a year since we hosted the 2011 Rugby World Cup. The whole nation went vexatious (flag mad). We at Giles Civil have proudly flown our (\$5 Warehouse) Flag for the last year. It is a bit battered & bruised- but it is still here.!

## **Bye Bye Fax Machine**



Another communication tool bites the dust. For the real experienced old timers who started work just after smoke signals became old hat we have had The Telegram, Telex machine (look it up) & the Fax machine. All have had their day. One of the best "pranks" I was aware of with a fax machine was message a Contractor sent to a Engineer (whom the Contractor had a disagreement with). He inserted a blank bit of paper in the fax. He then managed to cello tape the two ends of the paper as it went through the machine forming a loop. The next morning he rang the Engineer..asking whether he had received a request to meet on site. The Engineer then explained that he had arrived at work & there was something wrong with his fax.. there was a pile of blank paper on the floor of his office-It wasn't me.. & we have officially retired our fax.



"Yesterday is but today's memory and tomorrow is today's dream."



**Hyundai 145CR-9 all decked out**



You talk when you cease to be at peace with your thoughts."

Khalil Gibran

**Staff News**

We wish James Peck well on his big OE.. A good old fashioned Tiki Tour through Europe; 37 countries in 28 days or something like that! Have fun James.

We welcome a new machine to our arsenal: our brand new 15T Hyundai excavator. Latest Euro Compliant emission engine. Tilting bucket, Zero swing, Blade, GPS tracking including Engine, fuel & other data information to our desktops. ROPs, Tree guard, all set up from drilling. For the operator: Heated seats, AC, Blue tooth ipod, cappuccino maker (we just threw that in to see if you are reading all this.)

**Have you looked at our revitalised & modernised new website yet?**



### Who says there are no bargains in the Auckland Housing market?

We recently completed a small subdivision in Onehunga.. There was a house requiring demolition/removal. We popped it on Trademe with a \$1.00 reserve. ... & that is what it went for. The buyer managed to scrape together one dollar in loose change to legalise the transaction. The demolition threw up a few surprises. firstly a pile of NZ Herald's dated 1964 and then on the walls some newspapers from 1890 & 1891 : The Manukau Gazette.

### Character Cottage for relocation \$1.00 Reserve

Winning bid: \$1.00

Reserve met

Closed: Mon 2 Jul 2012, 3:48 pm

Listing #: 488444310

#### Seller's options - only you can see this section

hide

This item successfully sold for **\$1.00**

1. Email the buyer to arrange payment and delivery

2. Place feedback once the sale is completed

#### Post auction activities:

✓ Payment instructions sent

If the sale falls through ...

1. Make a fixed price offer to the other bidders or relist this item.
2. Place feedback about the buyer.
3. To request a refund of your success fee [click here](#).

One dollar (\$1.00 reserve) may buy you a house in Auckland. Old cottage available for removal. Situated in Onehunga .

House has survived one move from the front of this section.. this was a while ago.

This is the last chance of life for this old house. If it doesn't sell, it gets demolished.

Buyer will need to factor in the removal costs. Must be off the site by mid July.

I will respond to questions & set a time for anyone who is



### Email Etiquette: Courtesy #6 ~ Always Respond Promptly (and Down-edit)

When replying to emails always respond promptly and edit out unnecessary information from the post you are responding to.

*Responding promptly is the courteous thing to do. Don't let folks wonder if you received the email or are ever going to respond to their communications. Think about how quickly you would return a phone call or voice mail. Email is no different especially considering most online have expectations of a faster response since email is received so quickly. Outside of any emergencies such as surgery or lack of connectivity, always respond as soon as you can. If you need more time, longer than 48 hours, to gather your thoughts, simply pop off an email stating you are planning on responding in more detail and when.*

Reference: <http://www.netmanners.com/category/email-etiquette-101/>

### Did I read that sign right?

#### In an office:

**TOILET OUT OF ORDER..... PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW**

#### In a Laundromat:

**AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT**

#### In a London department store:

**BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS**

#### In an office:

**AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD**

#### Outside a second-hand shop:

**WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?**

#### Notice in health food shop window:

**CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS**

#### Outside an office

**WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN**