

Auckland Super City

By Ganges Singh Q.S.M. J.P

It would seem that the greater Auckland City is a beast that cannot be stopped.

Franklin is about to be swallowed up, and we stand to lose a particular identity as well as our special place in the wider aspects of the region's control. This has come to be despite the best efforts of our Franklin Mayor Mark Ball and others who painstakingly pointed out the pitfalls for our community of a merger.

Can I suggest that the name of Franklin be retained? At least in any boards that arise from the ashes of our area, something that is ours can be retained intact. Also, any local assets should be held in trust, so that local residents can decide in future if these are to be disposed.

It is surprising that our area is to be divided into three separate pieces – what is the sense in that for a community that has

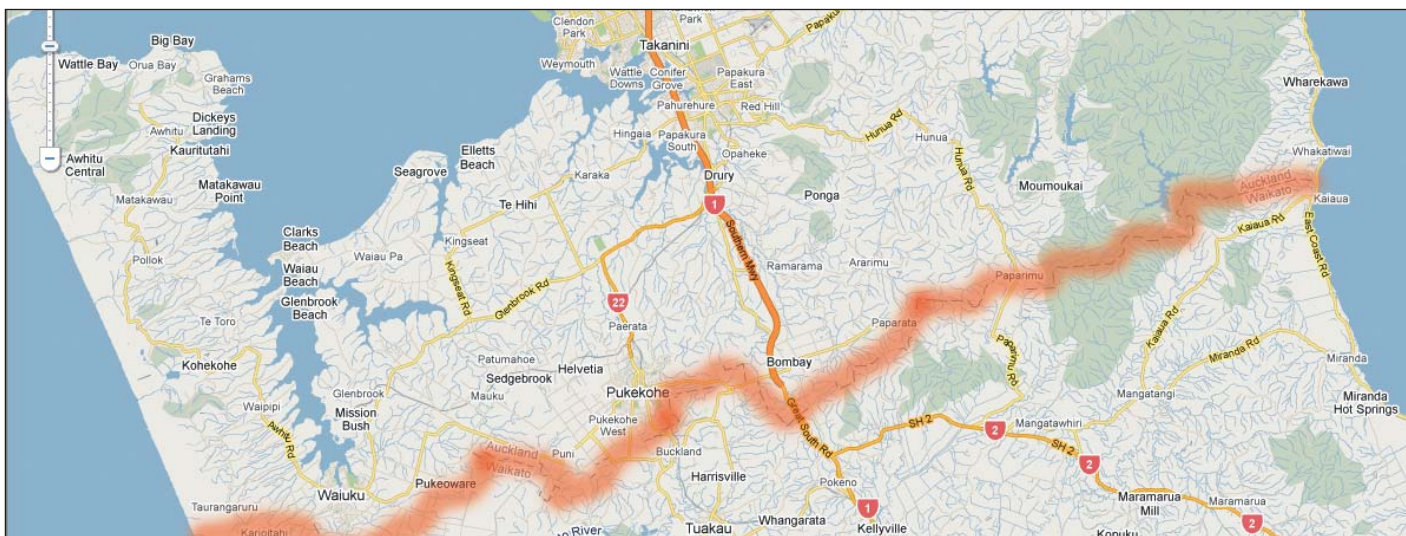
a proven record as an innovative and strong area?

Ministerial decree or not, we need to preserve some aspects of Franklin's past, and at least salvage something in this new arrangement. It is important that the people of Franklin remember that there will be only one member from our area in the super city council. How to select this member is therefore, of immense significance, as well as the local board members.

I have watched this community grow, develop into various significant ways, always supported by a proud, active region. Any new board that develops should strive to maintain Franklin's uniqueness. We stand to lose everything otherwise. ■



Ganges Singh



Auckland's new Southern Boundary.

eLocal Joke of the month winners from February

Congratulations to Stan who sent in the winning joke for eLocal's Joke of the Month and receives a \$20 café voucher!

A married couple in their early 60s was celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in a quiet romantic little restaurant. Suddenly a tiny, yet beautiful little fairy appeared on their table. She said "For being such an exemplary married couple and for being loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish."

The wife answered, "Oh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband."

The fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! – two tickets for the Queen Mary II appeared in her hands.

The husband thought for a moment: "Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me."

The wife, and the fairy, were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish.

So the fairy waved her magic wand and poof!.. the husband became 92 years old.

The moral of this story? Men who are ungrateful should remember that fairies are female!

We received this joke from nine year old Mali-Marie Newman which she made up herself. We liked your creativity Mali, so are publishing your joke as well, as runner-up.

Q "What did one cow say to the other when he saw his mate picking up boxes?"

A "Are you mooooving mate?"

.....now that's funny!

Have a good day! ■