

Book launch speech notes 21 July 2016

A Centennial History of Myers Park 1915 – 2015 by Edward Bennett.

Event programme:

11.00am Arrive

11.10am Michael Richardson. MC (approx. 1 minute)

11.11am Ross Liew- KBA Committee Chair (approx. 3/4 minutes)

11.15am Shale Chambers Local Board Chair (approx. 10ish minutes)

11.25am Edward Bennett Overview and Questions (approx. 10 minutes)

11.35am Morning tea continues and networking

12pm event finishes.

- Thank you Michael and Ross. It is a great pleasure to be here today for this very special occasion
- Thank you to the Karangahape Business Association, you have played an important role in recent upgrades of the park and continue to be a valued partner in its development, along with our local businesses and community. The Waitematā Local Board value your support and our longstanding relationship.
- Today is about celebrating. We recognise the importance of Myers Park as a 'green lung', as a valuable pedestrian connection between the Karangahape Road area and the central city and as a treasured open space for local residents and children in the heart of Auckland. The Waitematā Local Board is proud to have invested in the development of the park for the whole community to enjoy.
- I would like to acknowledge Edward Bennett for his sterling work as the author of this book. Your knowledge and appreciation for our local history is a great asset, and without your efforts the important story of the Park would not have been told in this book.
- The Waitematā Local Board supported the Karangahape Road Business Association with funding to produce this, the first ever book about the rich history of Myers Park and I am sure it will be a valuable reference for generations to come.
- The book is beautifully presented with an array of fascinating photos and images, and is full of all sorts of interesting facts and information.
- At the Centenary event in February 2015 I had the pleasure of acknowledging Sir Douglas Myers and representatives of the Myers family who joined us for that special occasion celebrating the

vision of Arthur Myers. The book gives us insights into his plans for the park and tells the fascinating story of the park portraying its evolution to meet the changing needs of our growing and culturally diverse city. It takes us on a wonderful journey that anyone with a passion for the history of our city will appreciate.

- While it is rewarding to reflect on the past, this book is also an opportunity to look forward to an exciting future for the park. The upgrade of the park will continue with a focus on improved entrances and a better connection under Mayoral Drive through to Aotea Square. We are pleased that the developments will reintroduce water play for children back into the park after many years. We are passionate about ensuring these enhancements stay true to the vision of Arthur Myers and create an inner city park that is a liveable space for our communities.
- This book provides us with an opportunity to celebrate, once again, the history of Myers Park and its special place in our city.
- Thank you and congratulations again to the KBA, to Edward and all the team who have made this possible.