

WAITEMATĀ LOCAL BOARD



Parnell is set to change in the coming months; the long-awaited train station will soon bring more visitors to the area, while potentially also attracting an increase in the number of commuters parking their cars in the streets. Parking is a growing problem for the inner suburbs as those who live outside the city centre park close to train or bus stops, or within walking distance. While driving and parking closer to work or public transport is a solution to traffic issues for some, it can create havoc for inner city residents, who rely on on-street parking – a necessity in Parnell, where many homes don't have space for off-street parking.

I live in Freemans Bay and the street parking all but disappears before 8am. After extensive local consultation and support Freemans Bay is next month about to have introduced a residential parking zone, prioritising parking for residents in their suburban streets and joining St Mary's Bay with its scheme.

We are now working with Auckland Transport as they begin a public consultation and research on parking issues in Parnell, with a view to finding the best parking solutions. They will be talking with local businesses and residents as well as those who visit the area. Resident parking allowances will be discussed, as well as paid parking options and historical parking behaviours reviewed. I hope that the community gets behind this consultation and provides the information that Auckland Transport needs to find a solution that works for the community, while still encouraging visitors to the area, which local businesses rely on.

Within town centres, Auckland Transport is increasingly shifting to a flexible, demand-based approach to on-street parking. By removing time limits and introducing paid parking, demand can be managed through price. Customers should always be able to find available parking and will have flexibility on how long they can stay. Such a scheme is currently proposed for Ponsonby town centre.

The residential parking zone in Freemans Bay has a two-hour parking time-

restriction (P120) that applies Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm. Residents and businesses within the zone can apply for permits and coupons that give exemption from the time-restriction. 78 per cent of respondents living within the proposed zone area supported or strongly supported the proposal, and only 16 per cent opposed or strongly opposed. Respondents felt that the scheme would free up parking for themselves, visitors and tradespeople. They also felt that the proposal recognised the needs of the local community. Now it's Parnell's turn to have their say.

Now for something a little more fun, I am very pleased to share information about POP, the Waitematā Local Board's art project which brings art to the community. With the help of Auckland Council, this year POP will expand beyond Waitematā's boundaries, for the first time bringing this special brand of creativity as far as New Lynn and the North Shore.

Parnell, Newmarket and inner city residents will have already been treated to an array of POP installations, including the well-received POP-Up Stories – where Auckland Central Library librarians read short stories by celebrated New Zealand authors, while travelling on the Inner Link bus (see photo). With only a month of the programme still to run (it began in April) THE HOBSON's readers can look forward to POP Gardens – movable tea gardens – along Parnell Rise/Parnell Rd early this month, which will bring a bit of colour and fun to the neighbourhood for our early winter days.

– Shale Chambers, chair, Waitemata Local Board

Thinking about advertising?

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Beth Redmond Smith, Marketing Manager, Artisan Flooring

“ I'm very happy with the level and calibre of enquiry that our advertising in The Hobson has generated. I track our ROI carefully and will continue to support this publication in 2016. That says it all. ”

Kerry Dunphy, Head of Marketing, Lumino The Dentists