

## **Board Member Report January-February 2017**

Kia Ora koutou,

It's been a steady but productive January with board members meeting regularly to discuss issues and get to know each other better.

The double decker buses have been a bone of contention. While they are compliant with road specifications, the need to cut trees to allow their passage, the size (39% bigger than the duck egg blue urban buses), and the branding make them quite intrusive. While we do need buses to process the volumes of people, it's unclear that they need to be so big, especially given that at many times of day they appear to only have a few people on them. While buses may be suitable for the main roads, it would be nice to feel they wouldn't go on narrower secondary roads, and that they weren't leaving the ferry at half hour intervals all day every day. The other issue is that while they benefit the businesses on the route, we're not sure how they function in terms of visitor to Oneroa, where a number of businesses are located. The board are currently trying to find a way through – whether through work on the bylaws, negotiation with the tour operator and discussions with AT. It is unclear where the responsibility lies and what practical solutions can be brought to bear. I suggest that all concerns are logged with Auckland Transport in the first instance and copied to the Local Board [waihekelocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:waihekelocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).

The ferries have also been an issue with people queuing for 45 minutes for a ferry as some leave full and they need to wait for the next one. AT and Fullers seem to be wanting to move to a half hour timetable, and the smaller capacity of the boats certainly lend themselves to this. A half hour timetable with half hourly buses has a number of pros and cons. While they will leave at more frequent intervals, I'm hearing a lot of stories of people catching buses, missing ferries and then waiting for the next one – the journey into town taking an hour and half to Central Auckland. This affects commuters in both directions where a two hour round trip journey is turning into a three hour trip. Priority boarding has alleviated some of the issues but it seems that tours and regular users are all priority boarding. Just because you live on the island and only travel once in a blue moon, doesn't mean the service shouldn't work for you. At the same time best not to leave it until the last minute in the busy periods, as that's when people can get left behind.

The tender process for vacant spaces in the terminal is underway, and as we are expecting the public consultation on changes to parking at Matiatia to be starting so look out for that and have your say.

In terms of the Summer, the beach ambassador programme is working really well with people taking rubbish with them and leaving the barbecues clean, tourism information is being provided down at the wharf and, in general, if you stay off the main roads things are still quite peaceful. The backpackers has also opened and is a popular accommodation venue. Sculpture on the Gulf seemed very successful, and well-organised, with the Pavillion a pleasant evening destination. It's lovely to see people out and about enjoying the Summer. I had a great time at Waitangi Day at the Marae, and Hunt of the Wilderpeople, the final outdoor cinema event. I missed out on a Bike Day Muffin and coffee but it was lovely to see Tanya Batt supporting the event for morning bikers at Matiatia. Keep a look out for Jazz by the Sea, the Seaweek events – Ponyo, godwit farewell and Snorkel Day, as well as the Beach Races.

The Little Oneroa bridge was closed due to corrosion in the steel, and work is being done on a new concept plan for the replacement of the bridge. Additional bins have also been put in the car park.

The board resolved at the last board meeting to support some community engagement on the Kennedy Point Marina. While we provided feedback to the initial submission process and tried to be representative, we are offering further opportunities to comment on the feedback provided. While some think that Essentially Waiheke makes a clear statement as to the appropriateness of a marina, others feel there should be more engagement. A marina at Kennedy Point would represent a change to Waiheke and it's important for people to consider and understand whether and how this will affect them and to share their views. We are currently working out how that engagement will take place.

The board has now resolved a mechanism to put board reports on the agenda, so I'm attaching my November-December report which I published online but not in the agenda.

Nga mihi nui  
Shirin

### **Board Member Report November-December 2016**

Kia Ora koutou,

Well, it was an interesting experience standing for election again and I'm looking forward to working with the new Board and to us all finding our feet and working together as a new entity.

There have been some changes to the system which I'm still in the process of getting my head around – the portfolio roles appear to be scrapped and we are now working by delegation. In theory this means that all board members try and discuss issues in workshops and then some projects might be delegated to particular individuals to lead. In practice, it can mean there are several fingers in the pie but as long as we share information and don't duplicate effort it should all work. I am still following tourism and economic development, transport, the arts, and community development and parks more closely. In terms of the public, I suggest you approach members that you feel most comfortable with, on the issues of concern. Also, remember that the first port of call for general enquiries such as rubbish, noise, safety issues, transport issues is the Council line on 09 3010101.

We're starting work on the local board plan so there'll be some consultation on that in the New Year.

We are still expecting the backpackers to open before Christmas. We were taken on a tour there last week, and there have been major renovations done on the property. It was finally resolved to hire a manager to work out what the operating model could be over a six month before potentially looking at another model subsequent to that. I have asked for a booking system to be opened as soon as possible and hopefully prior to the opening.

There are a number of issues with passenger ferries arriving late, overcrowded, not connecting with buses, queueing, people being left behind, etc. I have notified AT of the issues and we are looking forward to a discussion or indication of how these issues will be resolved.

There will also be some consultation on proposed parking changes at Matiatia. This involves both the key hole – with primary impact on tour operators, buses, shuttles and taxis, but also other changes and restrictions in the car park. I've been told that consultation will open in the next week or so with the suggestion that changes might come into effect before Christmas. I have asked for press information to be provided to the local papers but people should keep a look out for that and check into the Local Board Facebook page for when it's up.

I understand from ATEED that "Greeters" are being interviewed and employed to work out of Matiatia to help guide visitors to where they are going. ATEED and the tourism forum are, I believe, looking at how to transition the iSite information giving function to the Tourism Forum. I have also asked if we could have visitor support in Oneroa as the businesses there are also overwhelmed by having to provide visitor support.

It's been a pleasure to attend the Westpack Business awards and to see Wild on Waiheke be recognised for Excellence in Service Delivery. It was also exciting to see that Cable Bay were awarded runner up in the NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards. Waiheke will be using a different approach to delivering Council maintenance contracts in parks and facilities. This is an exciting opportunity for tradespeople to be able to contract directly to Council and we understand that the new process will make this easier. Council have also promised to help the community upskill around such things as OSH and paperwork requirements to make this process easier.

I attended some very interesting events this month, including the P forum which explored what kinds of things we feel we need as a community to address this scourge. The pool committee also had a interesting meeting on next stages towards getting a community pool.

It was lovely to see people from Waiheke standing up for peace last month and questioning the presence of warships in the Gulf and a weapons trade fair in Auckland.

The Walking Festival was a huge success again this year with lots of interest in feature walks and lots of people taking up the opportunity to visit private land and tracks.

In bird news I understand the godwits have flown off, and the grey petrel that was found by the bird survey team, is growing chubby in its burrow. Sadly, the dotterels don't get any smarter and are trying to make scrapes in the middle of busy human beaches.

Adult Learning has now been refurbished and is looking quite transformed from the shell that was left when the library moved to its new premises.

Addressing housing issues is something the board continues to work on. While much is outside of local board control, the report that was commissioned was really helpful in identifying the different housing needs. As a result of that, a housing retrofit pilot programme is underway under the umbrella of the Waiheke Health Trust to identify improvements that could be made for their clients. We are also at the very early stages of investigating what affordable housing models could look like.

The marina proposal for Kennedy Point has now been publicly notified and the deadline for submissions is the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. The application can be found under publicly notified consents on the Auckland Council website.

It's a bit entertainment weekend for Waiheke – Carols from 5 to 7 this Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> at Little Oneroa, and the Santa Parade followed by a range of entertainment on Sunday starting at 3.00. Good idea to bring a picnic for the Artworks Courtyard as there's a range of entertainment planned for that area after the Parade. Both events are encouraging people to take public transport or use active transport to access the venues.

Don't forget to buy local this holiday with lots of unique gifts possible from craft shops, gift shops, op shops and galleries.

Have a peaceful and happy holiday and all the very best for the New Year.

Meri Kirihimete me ngā mihi o te tau hou ki a koutou katoa

Shirin