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The Hobson, Auckland

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Page 1 of 1

 back

PIPPA COOM

More than ever Aucklanders are enjoying “stay-cations” over the summer season to make the most of the city at a slower pace. Waitemata Local Board is responsible for community and recreational facilities, libraries, parks, reserves and playgrounds that visitors and locals enjoy all year round, but especially at this time of year. In recognition of the high demand faced by libraries, we made the decision to keep our local libraries open between Christmas and New Year.

Parnell is an exciting area to enjoy during summer. The historic Parnell Baths are a great place to spend the warm days to come. In early 2017, the second stage of the Pt Resolution stairs will be upgraded to better connect the Baths to St Stephens Ave. This project is part of a long-term goal to complete a coastal walkway from Meola Reef to Hobson Bay, with connections to Orakei.

The board has a role in supporting local economic development. Board member Vernon Tava has been appointed representative to the Parnell Business Association (Parnell Inc). We'll be working closely with the association and with the Parnell Community Committee to progress local priorities, including the opening of the Parnell Train Station, the on-going restoration of Waipapa stream, and developing a local plan with the community.

The New Year will bring a fresh opportunity to re-look at the vision and priorities for Waitemata, with the development of the Board's annual budget 2017/18 (going

out for consultation in February) and the Local Board Plan (consultation in April).

Looking back, I am proud of what the board has achieved so far. One of the people who played a significant role achieving results for Waitemata over the last six years has been inaugural chair, Shale Chambers. Shale has done an outstanding job setting a strong foundation of leadership for the board.

In October I had the privilege of being elected chair by my fellow local board members. As chair I wish to serve by providing leadership that achieves the aspirations of the community. I am committed to celebrating and embracing diversity and providing space for creative innovation and design thinking. This also requires building trust and confidence in Council so all the people of Waitemata feel that local government matters, and that they wish to participate. I look forward to putting this into action with my impressive team of board members as we start on the term ahead. Season's Greetings and best wishes to THE HOBSON readers for 2017.

– Pippa Coom, chair, Waitemata Local Board

- Public board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month, 2pm at the board office, 52 Swanson St
- Contact Pippa directly: pippa.coom@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- Follow the Waitemata Local Board on Facebook www.facebook.com/waitemata

