

Board Member Report March 2017

Kia Ora koutou,

The last week has been busy with the weather bomb. Very sad to see properties flooding and I hope everyone is able to get back to normal as quickly as possible. AT and Downers are working through the backlog of issues. Now that it's drying out, be sure to check and clear gutters or advise Council of blocked stormwater drains by calling 09 301 0101.

The double decker buses continue to be an issue. People still don't like the look of them, and they continue to make cyclists and walkers uncomfortable. However, they are a commercial product that is popular with the provider so it's still unclear how this particular story will end.

The parking consultation for Matiatia is almost over (closes on the 22nd of March). Best to look at it before it closes as there are changes to pricing and usage that will affect both commuters and irregular users. <https://at.govt.nz/about-us/have-your-say/central-auckland-consultations/matiatia-and-owhanake-car-park-improvements-waiheke-island/>

Reminder that the funding round closes on the 22nd of March and to get funding applications into Smarty Grants as soon as possible. <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/newsevents/culture/communityfundingsupport/grantsfunding/Pages/findagrants.aspx#customSearchContent>

The annual Budget consultation is still open. This refers to the budget spend over the coming year. At the same time it offers the opportunity to capture ideas for our three year plan so that we can put these out in the formal consultation. Moreover, Aucklanders are being asked about how much the rates rise should be and whether or not we'd support a bed tax (tax on accommodation providers) to fund ATEED and visitor promotion. Given the fact the vast majority of our visitors are day trippers, and we need resource spent on the island for visitor infrastructure such as toilets, and accommodation providers on Waiheke also work seasonally; it's not clear how appropriately this idea meets our needs. Then there's the issue of rates rises and the consequences of a 2% versus a 3.5% rates rise. Good to hear from others on these issues. Feedback closes on the 27th of March. There is also a copy of the basic consultation info in Our Auckland – the Council magazine delivered to your door this week. <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/planspolicies/projects/plansstrategies/annualplan/Pages/home.aspx>

The board have finished their consultation on the KP Marina proposal. The hearings have been set for April. To my mind there are a lot of very important issues that remain unanswered in this space and that need to be addressed.

The Great Barrier and Waitakere Local Boards are coming on a visit this week. It will be lovely to show off Waiheke but also to get their thoughts and to strategise with them on issues and challenges we share.

Summer is always a great time for our events. Sculpture on the Gulf and the Beach Races were a huge success and lovely to see the Pacific Show at the Community Art Gallery this week. The *Playwright's Festival* was also on with some interesting local work. Must get over to the Red Shed art show *Protest!* which I've heard lovely things about.

It's the new term for adult learning who have got a range of lovely courses for people wanting to upskill or try something new. I'm particularly excited to be starting a Te Reo class and am really enjoying spending time at Piritahi Marae and with the carvings in the wharenui. The Waidrive initiative also features as the Waiheke story in Our Auckland.

Now we're looking forward to the Dark Sky Event at the library on Saturday night, the Jazz Festival coming up at Easter, and the snorkelling event at Enclosure Bay, (postponed to the 2nd of April). There's also Polyfest this weekend (15 to 18th of March) and 25 years of Pacifika on the 25th and 26th of March as well as the Auckland Arts Festival (8th to the 26th of March)- but you'll need to get to town for them.

Nga mihi nui
Shirin