

Board Member Richard Northey's Report to March 21 Waitemata Local Board meeting

My apologies for today's Board Meeting as I will be leading the 5-year strategic planning workshop for the Problem Gambling Foundation as its chair throughout the 21st and 22nd of March.

On 13 February I attended the Local Board Chairs Forum and learnt about their developing relationship with Local Government New Zealand and a number of current strategic issues. I chaired a meeting of the Auckland Community Housing Trust about the progress of its application to become a registered community housing provider.

On 14 February we had our weekly local board workshop. On 15 February I participated on behalf of the Board in an informative Housing First Collective Impact Workshop led by Canadian expert Mark Cabaj. I participated in local board member training on Engaging with Maori led by Council's Te Waka Huia Group. I attended the impressive launch of Superdiverse Women.

On 16 February I took part with Albert-Eden, Puketapapa and Waitemata Board Members in a project design workshop about identifying the best site in Western Springs for a Community Recycling Centre. I found a saving in the cost estimate for one site but nevertheless another site was preferred on balance. I went to the funeral of my 99-year-old aunt Joan Suckling, a pioneering university lecturer and researcher in zoology, conservation and women's rights.

17 February saw the launch of an important publication about the history of clinker built boat design and announcements about the preservation of the Vos Shed where it was held. I then participated in the selection of the Labour candidate for Auckland Central, Helen White. That weekend saw my first Labour NZ Council meeting.

On 20 February Pippa and I joined pre-school children to open the Moa Periscope overlooking the Freyberg Square reconstruction. Later I took part in the Auckland District Council of Social Services Housing Committee meeting. On 21 February we had our Waitemata Local Board meeting which I had to leave early to participate at an Auckland University Society Function as its Deputy-Chair.

The 22nd February was busy. The Asian Network Meeting at Western Springs dealt with health and community service issues. The Auckland Living Wage Network sought to build on their initial success with Auckland Council's Annual Budget. Pippa and I were briefed on the impact on Albert and surrounding streets of the construction of the CRL. I took part in the Creative Access Network, which I had helped to initiate in 1997, Stakeholder Conversation about developing their structure, governance and role in arts development for disabled and other marginalized communities. I popped in to wish my grandson Charlie well on his 12th birthday. Then we had a meeting of the Committee of the Karangahape Road Business Association. Finally, I chaired a meeting of Labour's Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee.

On 23 February Heather Harris from the Auckland Museum presented to us on the Auckland Museum's Future Strategy. The Inner City Network had a meeting led by University Academics on the Vertical Neighbourhood developing in the inner city. We later heard from the Waitemata Youth Collective on their aspirations.

On 25 February a number of us joined the Auckland Council float for the Pride Parade.

The 26 February saw the impressive and busy Japan Day on Queens Wharf. Then I spoke to open the Myers Park Medley. This was a really enjoyable event for all ages and a number of children and our Board Members enjoyed the new splash pad.

On 27 February I took part in the Local Boards regional workshop, which was very informative. I took part in a meeting of the Ponsonby Community Centre Committee. The Auckland Central Labour Party had an emotional farewell to its Parliamentary representative Jacinda Ardern on her way to Mount Albert and higher roles. On 28 February we had another Waitemata Board workshop.

On 1 March we completed our Board workshop; I was farewelled by the Observatory and Planetarium Board as I am retiring from it; and I attended a weird dramatic performance “Castles” at the Basement Theatre.

On 2 March we held a productive meeting with Alessandra Zecchini clearing the way for this year’s Festival Italiano in Newmarket. I also took part in an informative meeting with Matt Srhoj, Auckland Central Police Commander.

On 4 March I joined other Board members and a rotating staff contingent in beating the Bounds of the Board area from the Weona- Westmere Walkway to Point Resolution. This was a training walk for my Round the Bays Run next morning where I led the 13 Member Problem Gambling Foundation Team around the Bays, with my personal time being 64 minutes (32nd overall out of 76 in my age group).



On 7 Tuesday we had another Local Board Workshop. I was particularly interested in progressing practical measures to move homeless people on into housing and jobs, such as accessing lockers, showers and public toilets. That evening I heard Westpac's Michael Gordon make his predictions for the New Zealand and Auckland economy.

On 8 March I went to the Hearing on Council's budget and our Local Board Plan and to the Auckland Conversation on Climate Change.

On 9 March I went to TAPAC to meet Sally-Anne Kerr and Tricia Reade about their need for operational funding; heard from Claire Davies and others on the Auckland Urban Design team on traffic planning for Shortland Street; and met with Heart of the City on their aspirations. I also enjoyed the challenge of the Fringe show "Lookout" where I engaged one on one with Evie from Newton Central School about our visions for the Auckland of the future.

On 10 March I went to a Workshop about Waterfront Development and the future of the Central Wards; a meeting of a Karangahape Road Business Association Committee and the Auckland University Alumni Awards Dinner, arriving through a deluge.