

Board Member Richard Northey's report to April 11, 2017 Waitemata Local Board meeting

During this period in March I went to as many Auckland Arts Festival events as I could. This included, on 11 March, the performance of ID by Cirque Eloise and the opening of the massive steel installation, in Transit (Arrival), at Te Tuhi Gallery; on the 12th The Biggest; Peer Gynt on the 15th; David Jarais Carne's exhibition at the Railway Studios and the performance, the Encounter, on the 16th; the opening of The Body Laid Bare at the Auckland Art Gallery and also Power Plant in the Domain on the 17th; and the 50th Anniversary of the Artists in Eden Event on the 18th. On the 19th March we experienced La Soiree; on the 22nd Every Brilliant Thing; on the 23rd How to Keep an Alien; on the 24th the brilliant dancer Natalia Osipova and Friends; on the 25th Antarctica While You Were Sleeping, projected on the Museum Wall, and on the 26th the brilliantly creative new local opera, The Bone Feeder. Altogether, another Great Auckland Festival!

White Night on the 18th was the important visual arts component of the Festival. This was absolutely stunning on Parnell Road where I took part in the Last Supper (photo attached) and visited the Kelliher Collection, John Miller's photos of Vietnam War protests, and great works in a range of dealer galleries, and even furniture shops. This was all a great credit to the Parnell Business Association in Parnell Road.



I then visited impressive activities at Studio One where I had a useful chat with Erin, an artist in residence at 3 Ponsonby Road, dealing with loss of biological and cultural diversity; and less so in K Road where all I could find was a rave dance.

On 13 March I enjoyed being there at the ceremony for the partial opening of the Parnell Railway Station. Big Ups for achieving this to Mike Lee and to Pippa!

On 14 March we had our weekly local board workshop. On 15 March I participated on behalf of the Board in a Council Planning Committee Workshop to progress the refresh of the 2011 Auckland Plan. I also took part in Karangahape Road Business Association Meeting to deal with some HR and planning issues.

On 17 March Pippa and I took part in a discussion with some Mana Whenua iwi about the draft Council Budget and other relationship issues. On 19 March I took part in the Family Circus Sunday in Victoria Park, amazed at what some local residents could do, and had some interesting discussions about the Budget with some Council staff.

On 20 March I took part in the Local Boards' subregional workshop dealing with presentations from Auckland Transport, a sporting infrastructure review and the review of the Public Nuisance Bylaw that covers intimidating begging and other behaviour. Auckland Central Labour's AGM was that night; to which I was elected a delegate.

On 21 and 22 March I helped lead as chair the Problem Gambling Foundation's Four-Yearly strategic retreat, which came up with its Vision of "Healthy and resilient families and communities in a just society."

On 23 March Pam Glaser of Crackerjack Promotions came to speak to Pippa and me about resourcing of the Buskers festival and of the Santa Parade. We then met with the Parnell Business Association about ideas for opening up the southern edge of Heard Park. The 9 groups from members of the Inner City Network made illuminating presentations to us of what should be included in the Waitemata Local Board Budget and Plan. That evening I attended an important Auckland Conversation about the newly officially adopted Housing First approach to homelessness in Auckland. The next day I took part in a Working Group of the Board further developing our draft Local Board Plan in the light of the submissions and comments made. On the 24th a number of us went to the opening of the new premises of the major international student education provider NCBT at 25 Union Street.

On 25 March I went to the Neighbours Day Event at the Parnell Market and then took a good walk around Pasifika. The Drag Queen on the AIDS Foundation Stall gave me 2 packets of condoms "for my friends". Unfortunately, Spice's Neighbours Day in Myers Park next day was cancelled by the weather, but I had a good walk around and a barbecue of goat meat at the Kelmarna Gardens Festival where Robyn bought a boxed herb garden for our apartment.

On 27 and 30 March I worked on a Board submission on local body election regulations and gave advice to ADCOSS and to ANCAD on the Council Budget. Pippa and I were there in support as a very large number of submissions in favour of a Living Wage for Council Staff were presented us and to Councilors Collins, Darby and Hills (photo attached).



On the night of the 27th I took part in a meeting of the Ponsonby Community Centre, where they are in the process of carefully selecting a new Manager. On 28 March we had another Waitemata Board workshop dealing with the Accessibility Plan and Community Empowerment Updates, Community Facilities, including the Fukuoka Garden and Hobson Bay walkway, updates, and Local Grants.

On 29 March we had a meeting with the administration of the University of Auckland dealing with international students and also their major building programme. That afternoon I met with Phil Twyford to discuss a range of policy issues in his spokesperson areas of Housing, Building and Construction, and Auckland Issues.

On 30th March we had briefings on Conflict of Interest, and Civil Defence and Emergency Management and had a debrief meeting on the Pride Parade. That night Robyn and I went to the APO's performance of the Sorcerer's Apprentice. On 31 March we had a site visit at Countdown Grey Lynn to deal with residents' concerns and then I raced off to have my haircut.