

## Board member Richard Northey's report - May 2017

During April I represented the Waitemata Local Board at a number of workshop meetings of the Council's Planning Committee and Local Board Chairs to refresh Council's Auckland Plan. Having participated in compiling the original 2011 version it was an interesting exercise to identify what major issues had changed and which were no longer appropriate for inclusion. On 3 April we discussed a Development Strategy, Access and Connectivity including transport- where I raised the priority for walking and cycling-, disability issues and IT; on 5 April a Protect and Enhance Section relating the natural environment and climate change; on 6 April Belonging, Housing and Places themes and issues; and on 10 April Skills and Jobs including education and economic development.

On 3 April I participated in my final meeting on the Stardome Board and was given a star to adopt in the constellation of Vela.

4 April Board saw our major Board Workshop and an ATEED briefing.

On 5 April I and other Board members took part in Meola Reef Reserve development planning. That evening I took part in a University of Auckland Society Executive meeting and a Labour Policy Council teleconference.

6 April included the Board Members meeting with the Newmarket Business Association and a briefing re a proposed major new event in Victoria Park. That night Robyn and I enjoyed a David Bowie Tribute Concert by the APO.

On 10 April I chaired meetings of the International Affairs and Disarmament Committee of the Peace Foundation and of the Auckland Community Housing Trust.

On 11 April Adriana and I were hosted on a guided tour of Waterfront developments by Panuku staff and we had our Waitemata Local Board Meeting

12 April I got advice on dealing with my somewhat frequent iPad and phone issues; Board Members had a briefing on Waterfront Development; and I attended a University Arts Faculty Function and Briefing on their activities.

From 13- 19 April Robyn and I flew to Melbourne and met up with daughter Miranda, her partner Adam and our 15-month old granddaughter Ingrid (see photo). We visited the National Gallery of Victoria (see photo) where we all took part in Fiona Hall's interactive tree houses environmental consciousness raising exhibitions for kids and teens. We also viewed the Lawrence Weiner- Out of Sight; Don Moffatt-creating the Contemporary Chair; and William Eggleston Exhibitions. We visited the Prahran Market in southern Melbourne and shopped at David Jones and Melbourne Central, where I got Robyn a nice cardigan for her birthday. Then to Sydney and we visited the Art Gallery of New South Wales, including a copy of Michael Parekowhai's stainless steel Captain Cook and some stunning art by local Aboriginal, European and Asian schoolchildren. For Robyn's birthday I hosted her and brother and sister-in-law at the flash Fish on the Rocks restaurant.

On 20 April I participated in the Board Workshop and the meeting to adopt the Board Plan. The efficient volunteers in the Cloud quickly provided me my Masters Games Accreditation. That evening I enjoyed an Auckland University Political Studies Department Reunion, including my fellow lecturer Phil Goff.

On 21 April I really enjoyed the Masters Games Opening Ceremony, sitting with my fellow athletics competitors, with an 80 year old Colombian next to me. It included a great light show, memorable Kiwiana Music and a good speech from the Mayor.

On 22-23 April I took part in Labour NZ Council and Policy Council meetings in Wellington. At the Policy Council I presented the proposed policies I had drafted on Local Government; Housing; Urban Development; Civil Defence; Internal Affairs; Racing; State Services; Statistics; Auckland Issues and Open and Democratic Government.

On 24-26 April Robyn and I had an ANZAC Holiday at our Bach in Coromandel with 2 of our other young granddaughters. They canoed across the Coromandel Harbour to buy our supplies and helped me take the snapper and sharks out of my fishing net. I enjoyed swims as well as rowing and walks for exercise.

The 27 April Board included a board workshop dealing with a range of transport and parking issues and reports on community empowerment, parks activities and our quarterly projects report. Then I took part in an, Inner City Network Steering Group planning meeting; an Asian Family Services Board Meeting; and the opening Comedy Gala of the International Comedy Festival- I understood the cleaner half of their jokes.

On 28 April I chaired an all-day Problem Gambling Foundation Board meeting, got a cake for my birthday from the PGF staff and had a birthday dinner out with Robyn.

On 29-30 April I spent in Wellington to select the Labour's Party List for the Election. It was pleasing to see people who have played a positive and effective role in Local Government be placed high on the List including Lydia Sosene, Willow-Jean Prime and Paul Eagle.

On 1 May I participated in a Housing Policy meeting for the Labour Party and then the farewell to Carlos from here.

On 2 May we had another Board workshop followed by a formal Board Meeting to adopt our draft Budget and our submission on Council's Budget, emphasising the proposed Ponsonby Park Development, urgently addressing wastewater overflow from our area, affordable housing, homelessness and redeveloping point Erin Pool.. I then attended an art exhibition opening at the Trish Clark Gallery by artist Heather Straka.

On 3 May we discussed the Project 17 Asset list for our board area to ensure we had an accurately described list. That night Robyn and I went to the APO Concert of Russian Music.

On 4 May Board Members met Gary Holmes, Manager of the Uptown Business Association, to hear about the expansion of their area and their plans for innovation. That evening Robyn and I attended the University of Auckland Graduation Gala Concert.

On 6 May I traveled to observe the Pump Poi perform on the Lumsden Green but for some reason there was no sign of them.

