

**Report Name: Anne-Marie Coury report**Report covering the period 11<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October

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**Auckland Council workshops, meetings and briefings**

14 September	Attended Local Board Workshop
27 September	Attended Green Cluster meeting
28 September	Attended Local Board Workshop
2 October	Local Board Briefing on Infrastructure
4 October	Discussion with Roskill Together Community Development Manager regarding seniors needs in the community.
4 October	Attended the Community Cluster meeting
4 October	Attended the Board's Community Forum at Lynfield YMCA on "footpaths" and transport issues.
5 October	Attended Local Board Workshop, especially session on Local Board Plan and Work Programmes, where the direction setting for the Local Board Plan was considered in a structured dialogue with representatives from Auckland Council departments.
6 October	Attended the dawn blessing of the Waterview Shared Path, the unveiling of the sculpture, and listened to Mana Whenua, the designers of the art, discussing the concepts and heritage stories behind the art.
6 October	Attended the official opening of the Waterview Shared Path with Deputy Mayor, Bill Cashmore, Councillors Clow and Darby, Local Board Chairs and members, Auckland Transport Managers, NZ Transport Authority representatives, Bike Auckland cycling advocates and members of the community, who have fought a long hard campaign to gain this beneficial project through court action.

	
6 October	<p>Keen cycling advocates enjoying socialising at the opening of Waterview Shared Path, from left John Cavanagh, Anne-Marie Coury, Vivian Naylor and Margie Watson. Photo courtesy of Dianne Smith</p> 
6 October	<p>Attended the unveiling of the “carved” metal sculpture, which stands at the New North Road end of the Waterview Shared Path. It will have lights installed for night time illumination.</p>
6 October	<p>Attended a Confidential meeting of the Board led by the Chair</p>

### Other meetings

11 September	Prepared handout for seniors’ presentation at Community and Environment Committee
13 September	Attended the Cloud Cycling event
15 September	Attended opening of Ellen Melville Hall in High Street
29 September	Attended International Day of the Older Person Event at AUT Active Ageing Research Centre

1 October	Participated in planting and discussion with Friends of Te Tatua a Riukiuta (Big King) at Balmoral Heights Reserve, to support the flourishing of butterflies in our area.
1 October	Volunteers gathered together after completing the planting at Balmoral Heights Reserve. 
1 October	Participated in the celebration of the International Day of the Older Person held by Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, led by Jeet Suchdev, where we enjoyed dancing with the seniors celebrating healthy ageing.
2 October	Local Board Briefing on Infrastructure
2 October	Participated in discussion on UN Sustainable Development Goals at Auckland University
3 October	Participated in discussion on reducing inequalities and catering for seniors needs within urban design and planning at Auckland University
7 October	Attended the Arthur Faulkner Reserve Concept Plan Discussion with locals, who live adjacent to the reserve.
7 October	Dropped in on the Cameron Pools Family Fun Day, learning that the YMCA's "Never to Old" Programme is operating in this facility twice a week.
7 October	Participated in the Puketapapa Heritage Festival off road ride listening to the stories of the area's development, especially the transport policies of earlier times.
7 October	Cyclists of all ages who completed the Heritage Ride led by Richard Barter, a former Chair of the Puketapapa Local Board.

	
8 October	Dropped in on Friends of Oakley Creek and Te Whaangai Trust directors, Gary and Adrienne to check out the tree planting in Underwood Reserve off Richardson Road.

### Other issues/challenges

Continuing advocacy on seniors' issues during this month, has involved the preparation of resources to use as handouts, highlighting the key facts concerning Auckland's rapidly growing ageing population, its diversity, and unique challenges it presents to planners, and strategic policy analysts.

Discussion with seniors advocating for high level policy recognition of the rapidly growing ageing population has stepped up several notches in the past month. With one in four NZers being over the age of 65 by 2036, it is becoming imperative that planners and policy analysts focused on the future of the city, begin to grapple with this situation. We will have 2 million Aucklanders by 2026, that means we are heading towards half a million being over the age of 65 well, before we reach 2036.

While there is a new direction coming from within Auckland Council that recognises diversity as a key issues to be grappled with across all future planning, it is currently seen in the context of gender and ethnicity, while seeming to ignore the fact that all of our peoples are rapidly ageing.

Recently I have received a number of requests to speak on this topic, from diverse entities, from Rotary to U3A and even the Committee for Auckland. Many of these requests come from my hosting a radio show "Seniorfocus" on Planet FM broadcasting on Sundays at 5.25 pm.

Supporting our community groups in their aspirations to improve wellbeing of those they serve, requires our Board members to strive hard to be fair and consistent and clear in the decision making around grants, ensuring the money is targeted to achieve the best outcomes possible. Having participated in training on Results Based Accountability, I am delighted to learn that the Community Empowering Unit of Auckland Council is

recommending this approach for improving evaluation processes and outcomes for community grants.

Transport challenges for seniors are on the increase as more routes are concentrated on arterial roads with improved frequency. Often this means that seniors are facing longer and longer walks to reach these routes. The Outer link bus route seems to be causing concern as some seniors are worried it is being altered or will disappear altogether. It is worrying that after consultation has ended, and the proposed changes put forward, further changes are mooted it seems without any further dialogue with seniors' organisations.

With the increased options for off road cycling in the Board area, it will be important to encourage people to become aware of just how extensive these paths are, and how suitable for youngsters on scooters, skateboards, roller skates and for grandparents to cycle with grandchildren. Biktober \* brings a spring festive occasion into the local community, with so many tempting situations to give it a go, mini challenges, and organized rides. The Bike Kitchen operating behind the Wesley Centre is open Saturdays, for repairing bikes, and provides free bikes for the refugee and migrant community folk in need of a healthy low cost transport/recreation solution.

In attending a direction setting meeting on our Local Board Plan, with representatives from various Council departments, it was delightful to hear the praise given to Board members for their knowledge and understanding of the issues facing their communities. Clearly, the plan captures at a local level, the strategic direction many departments are wanting to see developed at the Local Board level.

## **Disclosures**

In previous reports, I have discussed the role I play as President of Auckland Grey Power, and this role gives me opportunities to participate in community activities wearing my senior advocacy hat. I am however, always relating my comments to the wider community perspective, especially the need to foster intergenerational dialogue.

Youth have identified the importance of having access to conversation with older adults in research studies that focus on attempted suicidal behavior. Seniors play a vital and protective role in the lives of youth, forming the council of "wise beings", in a way parents with their financial and or career struggles are not often able to play. Youth are able to share their skills and teach seniors about new technologies. These mutually shared benefits are to be encouraged by collaborative activities between community groups.

Usually this requires planned and carefully organised events, not simply invited mixed ages to come together in an unstructured way.

I do not receive any remuneration from Grey Power, as my role is entirely a voluntary one, and Auckland Grey Power is not receiving any grants from Auckland Council or the Local Board. Likewise, in my role as programme director and presenter of “Seniorfocus” on Planet FM 104.6, I am an unpaid volunteer.

### **Recommendation/s**

- a) that the report be received.

### **Signatories**

Author	Anne-Marie Coury
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