

Speech on behalf of the Waitemata Local Board at the opening of Festival Italiano – 1 October, 2017

E nga mana, e nga reo,
rau rangatira ma. Tena
koutou hui hui mai nei

Buon giorno a tutti!

Greetings to everyone and acknowledgements to the dignitaries, Ambassador Marcelli, Dante Alighieri president Sir John, Newmarket Business Association CE Mark Knoff-Thomas and Alessandra and her organising team



I'm delighted to be attending this fantastic festival together with my board colleagues Richard Northey, Rob Thomas, and Adriana Avendano Christie. We are proud supporters of Festival Italiano that adds so much colour, joy and identity to Newmarket! *Grazie* Societa Dante Alighieri for running this successful and popular community event for the last 12 years.

In 7 years I haven't missed Festival Italiano: the food, the music, the people and entertainment - it's *meraviglioso*! I'm pleased that the Waitematā Local Board has been able to support the festival under our Event Partnership Fund, which was renewed this year for another three years.

I'd like to congratulate Alessandra and everyone who's behind the organisation for such a professionally run festival – what ever the weather challenges thrown at you.

As a local board we fully support events like this which are free, fun, family oriented and celebratory of our diverse communities. And this year the Festival is zero waste for the first time which is a great achievement supported by the Board.

We are also very pleased that this area is being revitalised with the upgrade of Teed Street which is going to be completed soon. We are committed to working with our business associations and the community to create great streets a spaces to spend time, walk, shop... We want streets to be people places, this is why I especially love to see the streets taken over by hundreds of people celebrating the best of Italia in NZ.

I hope everyone makes the best of this day, I sure will!

Grazie mille.