

Sep and Oct 2017 Local Board Member Report – Anne-Elise Smithson

It's been one year since I was elected as a representative for Kaipātiki. From the beginning I set out my priority to contribute a voice for nature in local government. It's been an interesting learning curve to find out what can be achieved as a local board member and, one year on, I can say that there's plenty of opportunities to make progress in the environmental space.

Highlights

Pest Free Kaipātiki (PFK)

The importance of grassroots movements for pest eradication is well known, and I'm proud to see Kaipātiki leading the way through the PFK initiative.

The predator blitz was launched in October, the first year of a ten-year pest control strategy aiming to make Kaipātiki Pest Free by 2026. I went to some successful and well-attended community workshops held to encourage more volunteers. Well done to all the hard-working volunteers and organisers!

More info here: www.pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz



Conservation Week

It was fitting that the theme for Conservation Week (14-22 October) was "love my backyard" given Kaipātiki's focus on rat trapping and making our neighbourhoods, reserves, schools and workplaces pest free.

We are learning more about the wider, flow-on effects of restoration initiatives. For example, the return of endangered bats to West Auckland after a 15-year absence can be attributed to predator control and stream care. Let's hope that with more restoration work, we will see more species like this returning to our urban centres.

I also attended an excellent Seabird Conservation talk at the Auckland Museum with a focus on National Geographic digital storytelling and New Zealanders' extraordinary grassroots efforts to save these birds in the "seabird capital of the world".

Birkenhead Heritage Festival

The heritage festival offered some celebration at a difficult time following the Rawene Road carpark slip. It was wonderful to see local businesses participate in dress-up day and local board members attended the awards ceremony for the best dressed at Birkenhead Brewing Company.

Northcote Greenway

Plans for the new urban park forming a link between Lake Road and the town centre are well underway, in consultation with the community and the local board. The initial designs are completed and can be found at: www.panuku.co.nz/northcote

The Greenway will follow the path of the Awataha Stream to the sea, and will help with water flow during heavy rainfall, reducing flooding in the area.

I can see an opportunity to meld social, cultural and environmental outcomes and I believe this is an exciting project for the community.



Other Events:

- Highbury House AGM – 14 Sep
- Opening of bowling season at Northcote Bowling Club and Beach Haven Bowling Club – 16 Sep
- Beach Haven Tennis Club opening of the new courts – 17 Sep
- BID workshop for elected members – 22 Sep
- Pest Free Kaipātiki Meeting – 25 Sep
- Bayview Community Centre AGM – 26 Sep
- Netball North Harbour Prizegiving – 28 Sep
- Birkenhead United Junior Football Prizegiving – 30 Sep
- Opening of 136 Birkdale Rd plaza, carpark and playground – 30 Sep
- Predator Blitz info day – 7 Oct
- Public briefing on Rawene carpark slip – 11 Oct
- Pest Free Kaipatiki community workshop – 16 Oct
- Bayview Community Centre governance board meeting – 17 Oct
- Briefing on Birkenhead Neighbourhood Plan – 18 Oct
- Site Visit on the Te Onewa Pa Upgrade – 20 Oct
- Northcote Town Centre committee meeting – 24 Oct
- Kaipatiki Project AGM – 25 Oct
- Oct and Sep local board business meetings, workshops and community forums

Anne-Elise Smithson, Kaipātiki Local Board Member