

Board Report
November 2017

Kia ora koutou,

If you do one thing before the end of the month, make it filling out the artworks survey about how you use the space and what aspirations you have for it <http://www.shapeartworks.org.nz/> It's really important that we have as much feedback as possible as we plan for the future of arts on the island. There will also be some public meetings and sector meetings.

Don't forget to book tickets for the walking festival – not sure how full it is but it would be a shame to miss out <https://www.waihekewalkingfestival.org/>. Another interesting event this weekend – the raranga workshop with Maikara Ropata <https://www.wal.org.nz/courses/raranga-wananga-3/> and the Reclaim to Fame Exhibition opens on Friday.

The Christmas Festival and parade look like heaps of fun and pencil in the 9th of December for a range of activities that go into the evening.
<https://www.facebook.com/WaihekeLB/>

On other fronts, there is discussion and advocacy on the Long Term Plan. I'm not keen on targeted rates as I think they lead to an erosion of the public good and also a way of bringing in top ups to the basic rates take. I would prefer it if we just knew that rates would go up by X amount and everything was included. In the absence of means testing for rates, the process by which people who cannot afford rates increases can request a rebate should be simplified.

Anecdotally tourism numbers are expected to be up 7% this year. Not sure if that is accurate or where it comes from but it's certainly a figure that is being bandied around. Here's last year's demographic report card if you're curious about Waiheke demographic information
<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/state-of-auckland-research-report-cards/Pages/demographics-report-card-waiheke-local-board-area-2016.aspx>

A highlight for me this month was attending the high school arts, Maori and sports awards and to see all the talent and dedication we're so lucky to have. Another was being able to go on the waka and experience all the activities of the Te Toki Voyaging Trust at Piritahi Marae. It was an amazing learning experience and it's difficult for our kids to access these opportunities sometimes.

Testament to Waiheke's ability to take responsibility for itself, WISCA was formed and assets transferred from the SPCA to our island based organisation.

Nga mihi nui
Shirin