

Board Report  
November 2017

Kia ora koutou,

Had a lovely time at the Walking Festival this year. The Festival goes from strength to strength and I love to see the level of community support and range of walks. This year I was on the Rangihoua walk where we learnt about Maori history of Waiheke Island and stories of the creation of the islands in Tikapa Moana.

The astronomy event at Onetangi was also lots of fun and I finally understood why Summer days are longer and warmer than Winter days. Apparently in 80% of Europe and 95% of the USA the Milky Way is no longer visible which makes our night sky particularly precious.

Don't forget this weekend is the Santa Parade and Waiheke Christmas Party. The main programme is as follows:

3.30pm – Santa Parade at Oneroa shops, Ocean View Road

4.30pm – Night markets, local bands from Waiheke Youth Music

Trust, kids' activities and more at Artworks courtyard.

9.30pm – Carols by candlelight

I see the format has changed with Carols and the Parade on the same day and Carols as an evening event. Lots of kids activities in the courtyard area and plenty to do for adults too. Keep the day free for Waiheke! More info at <https://www.facebook.com/WaihekeLB/>

Just finished doing my lay witness statement against the Kennedy Point Marina. I think after four years in the local board role I can be objective enough to distinguish between my own feelings and something that is appropriate or not for the community. Whether it's in consideration of KP as a gateway to the island, transport issues, or cultural and environmental issues I remain unconvinced that a marina at that location will be a community asset. If you benefit from any freight brought onto the island, take a vehicle over to town, you might want to think about how any increase in traffic – particularly over busy holiday periods might affect your ability to book a car ferry slot. Another consideration is how having a marina on Waiheke might impact on your enjoyment of the island – more boats with easy access to a marina will mean even more boats in our bays over Summer. For more information, or to donate to the legal challenge, contact <http://skp.org.nz/>

Aside from the marina I'm also interested in the increased number of boats spending their holidays on Waiheke and what can be done to regulate the disposal of waste or to remind people about responsible pet management while on board. The marine environment is enjoyed by both locals and off-islanders but the quality of the water needs to remain clean for those accessing the beach from the shore.

Have your say on our arts needs – two community hui are planned or there is feedback that can be provided online.

Wednesday 6th December / 7pm - 9pm / Waiheke Library

Saturday 9th December / 1 - 4pm / Piritahi Marae (Gather for Powhiri from 12:50pm)

It has been a bit of a journey to get us to this point so great to get some community involvement in the outcomes. Drop into the Saturday one before heading up to the Santa Parade!

The Local Government Commission has now made their decision. For a summary see the local government website: <http://www.lgc.govt.nz/commission-news-and-contact-information/media-statements-and-speeches/no-change-for-north-rodney-waiheke/>

I know some people will be disappointed but the process has been valuable. It has added weight to the fact that Waiheke (and Great Barrier) are islands and therefore need to be dealt with slightly differently because they have a geographic independence and isolation. It has also highlighted the fact the rural boards also have specific needs. A byproduct of the whole process has been that Waiheke is now running a pilot project to address the operational and strategic issues that can and should be addressed at a local level.

Remember the island needs you so shop locally and support local businesses around the Christmas period. Whether it's in buying lovely homemade sausages for the barbecue, or that special hat, soap or jewelry, bike or surfboard - think about getting it from Waiheke! There's also the trolley at Countdown for those wishing to donate some food for others in the festive season.

Sculpt Oneroa is also opening on the 16th Dec and is on through summer. It's the 7<sup>th</sup> show with 16 artists. I love the way it brightens up our main street and always look forward to the new creations.

Have a lovely peaceful and enjoyable time over the December and January. All the very best for the New Year.

Nga mihi nui,

Shirin