

Board Report
Jan-April 2018

Kia ora koutou,

Not sure how we're already in April, I feel I've been in a time warp.

Summer has seemed very busy, I notice Onetangi has been a very popular destination for locals and visitors and Palm Beach and Oneroa have also been exceedingly popular. This has also brought with it what seems like a higher volume of boat traffic in the bays. While we have identified this as an issue for water contamination and rubbish disposal, it is hard to know how to get traction on issues which require national and Auckland Council policies on visitor management. Sadly with the king tides and wind, the dunes and banks have been washed away, and some of the ramps removed so we need to think about how to access the beach safely and without creating further damage.

The Matiatia trial is now over and there has also been an increase in the parking available at Matiatia. While it might seem straightforward, there are transport and stormwater issues that both require attention and a larger infrastructure spend for which money has to be found. There are also cultural values that need to be worked through.

Meanwhile Ngati Paoa is currently going through the final stages of their treaty settlement and as mana whenua it will be interesting to see how this affects their presence on the island.

Auckland Transport will be renewing the wharf at KP so the buildings and waiting areas will be reconfigured during the works.

I feel we're moving from strength to strength in the community space. The RSA have now taken over the bookings for the Ostend Hall, the Sustainability Centre is being used for all kinds of community events. These are usually open to the public and include the Kai Conscious lunch on a Friday, and a very cool open mike night that was held a few weeks ago. Affordable venues create the opportunity to bring people together. The Inglorious Vegetable Soup Disco also provided a fun and nutritious gathering this week.

There are a host of community events in the environmental space – and remember that May there is a weed free amnesty. To find out what's happening in community check out the Waiheke Local Board, Waiheke Resource Trust and the Waiheke Library facebook pages.

All the consultations have closed on the various plans. Personally I feel it's a shame that we no longer have hearings as there needs to be some mechanism to actually talk to submissions, especially if they come from organisations that work in a relevant space.

In the waste space, discussions continue on approaches to manage waste into the future and what needs to happen to develop a resource recovery park on Waiheke.

The arts assessment for Artworks has now been completed and will soon be published. There were some interesting findings on both short and long term opportunities. Predictably, the desire for a café and greater use of the courtyard emerged as well as longer term suggestions.

The artworks theatre will finally be getting a fire exit which will allow people upstairs to exit into the car park. The upstairs floor needs to be built up, and the scaffolding has to go, creating issues for changes in lighting. The toilets at the cinema are also due for a renewal – they are not able to add more toilets but the area will be freshened up and the corridor will be painted.

Nga mihi nui,

Shirin