

Board Report
May 2018

Kia ora koutou,

I'm realising that this is quite an interesting time in the local board cycle. Just when you start to despair that there's any point at all in being elected, aside from creating endless documents and providing endless feedback, the projects start to come through.

The arts assessment has now been released to the public. The board will be discussing how to take this forward at a workshop in June. It is my hope that fairly quickly after that we will be engaging with the wider arts community and the artworks tenants on how to bite off some of the easier things (like how to activate and access the courtyard better), as well as longer term actions to address aspirations.

It was lovely to go to the Artworks Theatre AGM. Like for most arts organisations, funding and paying for the arts is a challenge. The committee seem very committed and have got some interesting new ideas and approaches and it was lovely to see options for the new logo unveiled.

Our walkways and the ramps at Onetangi have been severely affected in the storms and there has been discussion around how to renew these. The pressures seem to come from coastal erosion and storms, but the track network is also affected by water which is poorly redirected off people's properties and ends up affecting the tracks.

There is growing interest in the animal pest initiatives taking place on the island. The Waiheke Collective have been working hard to crystallise a vision and shared their findings at a very successful public meeting on the 6th of May. Anyone wanting to get involved in the work or find out more should contact waihekecollective@gmail.com

There have been substantial rounds of consultation on the Annual Plan, the Regional Land Transport Plan, the Waste Minimisation Plan. I was there to support Cath Handley's oral submissions to the Waste Minimisation Plan and the RLTP. For the Waste Minimisation Plan, key advocacy issues were for a Community Resource Recovery Centre and community control of waste management. For the RLTP key advocacy items were Matiatia, connectivity to the airport and hospitals, more support of public transport,

better cycling and walking infrastructure, better stormwater infrastructure and making sure chip is cleared quickly off the roads.

We were also very lucky to have John Barentine, the Director of Conservation at the International Dark Sky Association visit us in New Zealand. Organised by Nalayini Davies, he really appreciated coming onto Piritahi Marae and spent quite a bit of time walking around and asking questions about the wharenui and Te Ao Māori. It was lovely to see the Waiheke Dark Sky supporters there to welcome him. His visit here follows a very successful visit to Great Barrier Island and Tekapo.

Following the success of the the Waiheke High School Piringakau Kapa Haka group at Polyfest, Waiheke adults (those over 15) are invited to join Jan Sunday afternoons at the Marae for intensive preparation for the Kapahaka regional event on the 16th of June and to sing for the Matariki festivities in July. If you'd like to practice waiata or join, please come to the marae from 3-5 on a Sunday, or Waiheke adult Learning from 7 to 9 on a Tuesday.

This Sunday is the Forest and Bird AGM. Everyone is welcome at 5.00 to hear Karen Saunders of Native Bird Rescue, talking about her pioneering soft release project for the LB Penguins that she has in care. This will be followed by the AGM business meeting (only open to current members) with a BYO plate event to end. Saturday there is also a planting on Pohutakawa Ridge, go in through La Franchie Gate.

Friends of MacKenzie Reserve invite everyone to a working bee on the 27th from 9.00 am.

The weed amnesty goes until the 25th so make sure you take advantage of that great opportunity to clear your property of weeds.

After four and a half years as Chair, I'd like to extend a warm thank you to Paul Walden for all the work and advocacy that he has done on behalf of this community and wish Cath Handley all the best in the role. I'm also sorry to see Raewyn leave local board services, a role she has filled with a great sense of humour and panache.

Nga mihi nui,

Shirin