

May/June 2018 Local Board Member Report – Anne-Elise Smithson

This report covers my Kaipātiki Local Board activities for May and June 2018. We have approved some excellent environmental initiatives. Meanwhile kauri dieback remains at top of mind for the community and for the local board.

Environmental Funding Boost

I'm pleased that the environment will benefit from \$400,000 of funding from the Kaipātiki Local Board's locally driven initiatives budget for the 2018/19 financial year. This is a 38% increase towards environmental initiatives compared to the previous financial year.

Consultation on our local board plan certainly showed that residents overwhelmingly support environmental initiatives as a key priority for our area.

Approved projects include:

Industry Pollution Prevention: \$30,000 to deliver site inspections, spill training and education for industry and business owners about the impacts their activities may be having on local waterways.

Small Building Sites Ambassador: \$20,000 for a new project to reduce the environmental impact of small building sites. An ambassador will work alongside council's compliance team to reduce the amount of sedimentation and litter entering our waterways.

Pest Free Kaipātiki Strategy Implementation: \$100,000 for continued pest animal and plant removal together with habitat and species restoration.

Kaipātiki Project Environmental Centre Operational Funding: \$45,000 provided for the continued support of the operations of the Kaipātiki Project Environmental Centre.

Stream Quality Monitoring: \$20,000 for a new community-based stream monitoring and restoration project.

Kauri Dieback Strategy for Kaipātiki: \$10,000 towards a strategy for reducing the risk of kauri dieback disease in the Kaipātiki Local Board area.

Open Space Management Plan: \$80,000 towards the creation of a single management plan that sets out actions needed to protect and enhance all of our local parks and reserves.

The budget boost also includes support for park volunteers, a new project to increase the ecological value of parks (such as food forests, pollinator pathways, natural meadows) and a contribution to Auckland's Ngahere Strategy to increase urban canopy cover.

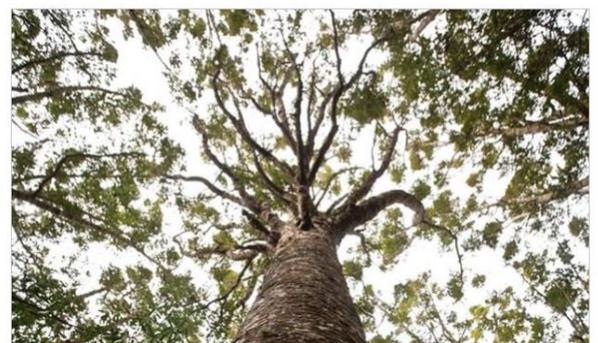
Kauri Dieback

Thankfully the kauri tree at Chelsea Estate Heritage Park has been cleared of kauri dieback disease. It was found to be infected with *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Of course, we can't count on Kaipātiki being dieback free and the potential for the spread of KDD remains. We are working through options with parks and biosecurity staff for preventative measures we can take. We understand the need for urgency, and sometimes the cogs turn slower than we would like, but there is an overall commitment from all parties to get on top of this problem.

Like kauri dieback, *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is also spread via soil movement. Further testing will continue in Chelsea Heritage Park and other kauri in the area.

Auckland tree cleared of kauri dieback, but community remains vigilant

FELICITY REID
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Caution remains around kauri, despite kauri dieback being ruled out at an Auckland park.

In other news and events, Chair John Gillon and Deputy Chair Danielle Grant represented the Kaipatiki Local Board at the Finance and Performance Committee in May regarding two big issues: prevention of kauri dieback in Kaipatiki and replacement of the grandstand at Birkenhead War Memorial Park.

Both issues were well received. Councillors voted to approve funding for the Kaipātiki Local Board to demolish the grandstand and replace it with a new sports facility.

I'm pleased to see the Birkenhead main street upgrade going ahead, and the Frank Larking's Boat community steering group has been set up including representatives from interest groups and Members John Gillon and Adrian Tyler. They are assessing community offers, as well as council quotes, to help reduce the costs for the project to conserve the boat.

Out and About

Events listed below are additional to our regular (weekly) local board workshops, business meetings and community forum.

- 15 May – Bayview Community Centre Governance meeting
- 15 May – Northcote Town Centre Association meeting
- 16 May - Coastal walkway visit at Hobsonville Point
- 17 May - Northcote Unlock Awataha Greenway session with Panuku
- 25 May – Anzac ceremony at Northcote War Memorial Hall
- 28 May – Pest Free Kaipatiki office warming at Fernglen
- 6 June – Tour of Glenfield Leisure Centre and Activzone
- 17 June – Consultation on the draft Sunnynook Plan, Rewi Alley Reserve
- 19 June – Northcote Town Centre Association meeting
- 20 June – Meeting with the political working group for the open space network plan
- 23 June – Forest and Bird Conference, Wellington



A photo of the Anzac ceremony at Northcote War Memorial Hall where Member Paula Gillon officiated and where I laid a wreath on behalf of the Kaipatiki Local Board.