

# Anne-Marie Coury's July monthly report

Report covering the period 1 - 31 July 2018

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## Auckland Council workshops, meetings and briefings

4 July	Community Cluster
4 July	Community Forum
5 July	Local Board workshop
12 July	Local Board workshop
12 July	attended iwi briefing with Local Boards involved in the Southern Initiative in the south
18 July	attended a special meeting of the whole Board
19 July	attended workshop on the dog by-laws
19 July	attended briefing on mihimihi in te Reo to be used when the Board signs the agreement with Ngati Tamaoho.
19 July	attended Local Board business meeting
23 July	observed the park audit at Turner reserve
25 July	attended Green Cluster Workshop
26 July	participated in the ceremony for the historic signing of the agreement between Ngati Tamaoho and Puketāpapa Local Board speaking in Te Reo illustrating my commitment to Maori development.

## Other meetings

8 July	attended the "Matariki" kite day –te Manu Aute, with other Local Board members: Fairey, Holm. Kumar, and Kaushal. I spoke to the kaiwhakahaere of the Maunga Authority, who offered his support in arranging a meeting with Grey Power Associations across the regions.
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## Other issues/challenges

Planning for hosting sessions on the Positive Ageing Strategy to ensure a wide range of seniors within our communities have input and a chance to participating in giving feedback direct to Govt from across the central Auckland isthmus, has been rewarding and stimulating.

This revamp of the Positive Ageing Strategy is timely as it comes immediately after the Auckland Councillors have voted unanimously to adapt the UN Age-Friendly Cities model and join the UN network of over 600 cities around the world.

It has emphasized to me the enormous unmet needs of so many of the senior community. When just over half (51%) of the seniors are receiving only National Super, it becomes necessary to work to survive. Now that Senior Net has reduced down to only one organization across the isthmus, and Senior Citizen groups are rapidly dwindling, there is a need to publicize where and when senior groups meet, alongside what resources are available. More community centres and Local Boards are showing a more determined interest to provide a stimulating programme; I am delighted with the improved attitudes towards older people's capacities and diversity.

## Disclosures

My on-going focus when I am advocating on behalf of seniors in community forums representing Auckland Grey Power members, is reflecting the evidence that has been used to develop current Grey Power policies. I make sure to clarify I am not representing the Board.

The opportunities to join in as a participant–observer at the WISE women’s (Auckland Refugee and Migrant) sessions on Fridays at Wesley have been greatly valued during this winter.

I am a member of the Auckland Art Gallery and enjoying paying for a second ticket to enable some seniors on low incomes to be permitted to attend with me.

In attending the 125<sup>th</sup> celebration of Women’s Suffrage at Waiau Pa on 29<sup>th</sup> July, I reflected on the strong family values towards education (especially in Otago and Canterbury), that encouraged women to rise up and work tirelessly from 1880 onwards till on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1893 until they finally delivered over 31,000 signatures for their petition to Parliament. This petition secured women the right to vote, making us the first country in the world to permit women to have the right to vote.

In becoming a volunteer at the Puketāpapa Community Driving School, I have volunteered to mentor refugee and migrant women, accompanying them on their driver license practical test. Recognising how debilitated people become through being flooded with anxiety, I encourage them to develop a resilient attitude and teach them breathing techniques. So far the success rates of those who I have been involved with is 100%. I look forward to this “volunteering.”

Attendance at educative sessions led by AUT’s Active Ageing Research Centre, the Gerontology Society, and the University of Otago’s CARE strategic programme, are self funded or funded by the Auckland Grey Power Association Inc.

## Recommendation/s

- a) That the report be received.

## Signatories

Author	Anne-Marie Coury
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