

Chair's report: Waiheke Local Board

22 Feb 2019 – 20 March 2019

Ngā mihi Waiheke

I acknowledge the people of Christchurch and our Muslim community nationally and here on the island for your tragic losses.

Taku ngākau kākahu kahu taua, mō tō tangata. Tēnei te Aroha me te awahi nā ngā tangata o Waiheke motu - katoa. Ō Arohanui, ō whakaute mō tēnei wā o ngākau mamae, me āke, ake, ake.

Events Congratulations to Sculpture on the Gulf for rising to the occasion to present a seamless and inspiring event despite your many challenges in re-engineering the event at short notice. It was pleasing to have Alison Park, Artworks precinct, the gallery and Oneroa all linked into the exhibition.

Congratulations also to the Wharf-2-Wharf, for rising to the event despite heavy rain on the day. This event is supported by the local board and is an important fixture on our calendar, bringing many people to the island to experience our landscape in an intimate if gruelling way, along with the many locals who enjoy this challenge.

The Waiheke Sustainability Centre had a very successful official opening on 4 March, launched by the Minister of Conservation, Hon Eugenie Sage. The centre has indeed become an active collaborative space for the Waiheke community, particularly for those fostering best practice and innovation in pursuit of improving and sustaining the natural environment.

NZTA visit On 22 February the board was very pleased to host Steve Mutton, New Zealand Transport Authority's (NZTA) Director Regional Relationships, who is the NZTA Chief Executive's representative in the region. NZTA is responsible for national transport policy and for co-funding most of the major transport network developments in New Zealand. Whilst the business case from Auckland Transport to NZTA for co-funding Matiatia's redevelopment has been successful (AT are seeking a 50/50 split of the budgeted \$15m with NZTA) there is still uncertainty as the Matiatia business case must now be prioritised at national level with other business cases. Mr Mutton took an interest in Waiheke's roading infrastructure which is not fit for its current purpose, as well as Waiheke's lack of cycleway and walking infrastructure and the associated critical safety issues.

Transport

1. The board bid farewell to Melanie Dale, Waiheke's AT Relationship Manager who has served the board and Waiheke's interests for the current political term. Mel has been a reliable advocate for the board and has persevered to ensure that Waiheke's relationship with Auckland Transport has been able to develop positively.
2. The Transport Forum met for a workshop to discuss and give feedback on the prioritised 10-year plan of works for AT that the board has worked on through several iterations, prior to AT finalising for public consultation subject to the board's

endorsement. The forum also previewed the final draft of the Pathways Plan which the board has also previewed with council staff, prior to it being presented for formal acceptance by the board.

3. Man of War Bay Road and Cowes Bay Road are the source of continual complaints by landowners who have borne the brunt of the many unreported accidents experienced on the loop road by both visiting drivers and locals. Some taxi companies are anecdotally refusing fares to the far end because of the risks to their drivers, passengers and vehicles because of the number of near miss accidents. The chair has been working with AT to start a review of the maintenance schedule and safety of that road with a view to AT then consulting with the board and the Transport Forum on proposals to deal more consistently with the issues. There are other busy unsealed roads that are also featuring in repeated advocacy to the board chair and other members.

By-laws Two by-laws are currently under review and are in various stages of consultation/sign-off by the governing body of council.

1. Dog by-laws Council's regulatory committee has been considering a one-size fits all approach to time and season rules for dogs on public reserves/beaches. The Waiheke Local Board has submitted against any changes affecting the current Waiheke situation which was community-consulted and ultimately determined by the local board. A council-led 'Have Your Say' public meeting is planned for Waiheke on Sunday 14 April 2.00-4.00pm at the Ostend Memorial Hall to hear residents' feedback on the council's proposals.
2. Freedom Camping After extensive consultation with the local board council staff recommended no freedom camping sites be designated for Waiheke Island. This is consistent with the board's view that our infrastructure is not suitable for camper vans and they would not add value to our local economy because they are largely self-contained. Once councils have designated freedom camping areas they can also designate all other areas as prohibited for freedom camping which is the boards' preference for Waiheke. To date it is not clear if the governing body will take that step. Cr Lee has been briefed on the boards' preference.

AT Ferry Terminal consent The chair, supported by local board managers, will represent our Local Board's feedback on the proposed reconfiguration of the downtown ferry terminal at the hearings 26-28th March. In the interim the board was pleased to host Stacey Vander-Putin, AT's General Manager Metro, to hear the board's case first-hand for much improved bus access services to the hospital, hospital outpatients and the airport from the ferry terminal.

Programme Operations Manager The board met with some of council's leadership team members to discuss their proposal to include some aspects of council operations oversight and authority to the current role of the Programme Manager of the governance pilot with the aim of achieving better outcomes for Waiheke. Council has subsequently made its decision, extending the role held by John Nash. The overall aim remains to create a formal

position for Waiheke/wider Hauraki Gulf Islands if this change demonstrates the value of that in the term of the governance pilot.

LGNZ The board met productively with Malcom Alexander, Chief Executive of LGNZ (the association of all local government bodies) on 14 March. Using overseas models as examples LGNZ's major current advocacy initiative with government is to advance 'Localism', with the aim to devolve funding/decision-making from central government as far out to communities as feasible to deliver best outcomes, which aligns with the board's aspirations and the intent of the governance pilot.

KDD The chair on behalf of the board has repeatedly advocated direct to council to move the new KDD (Kauri Dieback Disease) station on Pier Two of the Downtown wharf to a site where people will see it and be more likely to use it. The delays in doing so are unacceptable. Our Kauri have shown no signs of KDD to date, but the risk is that the disease will be transmitted.

APTR Council finance and legal staff presented to the Select Committee in Wellington to speak to the issues raised by the Waiheke online providers who presented a petition against its introduction to Waiheke. The online providers' association (WAP) also presented to council itself at the Have Your Say consultation last week, attended by eight councillors, seeking for Waiheke to be exempted from the APTR, as is the case for several other boards. The Chair will further present the issue at a Finance and Performance workshop of the governing body in early May.

nāku noa

Cath Handley

Chair