

First Quarter 2019 Local Board Member Report

This report covers my Kaipatiki Local Board Activities January-April 2019. Due to a busy start to the year, instead of producing monthly reports I have instead written a member's report that covers the first part of 2019. This report covers just a few of the projects currently on the go in Kaipatiki.

Chelsea Estate Heritage Park

The Chelsea Regional Park Association (Inc.) delivered a presentation at our Community Forum in March to outline many ongoing concerns regarding maintenance and management of the park. I am working alongside Chair John Gillon on a letter to Stephen Town, Auckland Council CE, to call on the Council to address these issues and help ensure that this iconic asset is properly sustained and protected for generations to come. Concerns cover a range of areas including a need for improved overall council staff coordination of pest plant, tree and track maintenance, lake quality, heritage protection and security.

On a personal note, it is disappointing to see many aspects of park maintenance appear to slip through the cracks and community concern is great. Chelsea Estate Heritage Park has outstanding credentials - 38 ha of green space and historic buildings that serve as a reminder to Auckland's early history. The park holds both regional and national significance. It is home to New Zealand's only sugar refinery and is recognised by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust as a Category 1 Historic Place. The park's unique historic heritage is further recognised in its Historic Reserve classification under the Reserves Act 1977. Chelsea is Auckland's largest coastal reserve.

I have always believed that a significant reserve like Chelsea deserves its own standalone reserve management plan, but with the compromise position of omnibus plans, I believe the minimum we can do is fulfil the vision for the park that is outlined both in the draft 2010 reserve management plan, and the 2013 conservation plan.

Northcote Town Centre Update:

It's been a long time in the making. The Benchmark Masterplan for the Northcote Town Centre has been released and can be viewed online. The Kaipatiki Local Board has been working alongside Panuku Development on the plan, to help secure a new community building to accommodate community services (including the Northcote Library), an open town square, pedestrianised areas, and of course, the Greenway.

Construction is expected to start after September 2021 and the redevelopment will be phased over the next seven to 10 years, so it will continue to be a place for people to dine, shop and socialise. My hope is that the developments will still maintain many of Northcote's current distinctive character and cultural elements.

Benchmark Masterplan

1/250 @ A3



Northcote Town Centre Benchmark Masterplan

04/2019

Birkenhead War Memorial Park Update

Public consultation went out on a new draft masterplan for the Birkenhead War Memorial Park – a plan that aims to meet the changing needs of the surrounding community. The Park is home to numerous sport, leisure and recreational activities and facilities such as the Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre, BMX pump track, skate park and the Birkenhead Cricket Club. As soon as the masterplan is completed and adopted, we'll create a business case for a new multisport facility to replace the grandstand.

Improving North Shore's Waterways

It may come as no surprise that a January nationwide survey found that more than 80 percent of New Zealanders want tougher rules protecting rivers and lakes from pollution. The Kaipatiki Local Board has been taking action for urban streams. For the last two years we have funded the successful Business Pollution Prevention programme that supports local businesses to avoid or mitigate pollution. The programme has successfully worked with businesses on Enterprise St in Birkenhead, Bay Park Place/Kahika Rd industrial area in Beach Haven. The local board has supported moving this programme further to Wairau Valley businesses which will have a positive impact on the wider catchment.

At the end of last year, feedback was sought from local boards on proposed topics for inclusion in the Auckland Water Strategy. I moved feedback at our November 2018 business meeting, endorsing a focus on urban streams and covering impacts of pollution events, sedimentation, sewage and stormwater overflows and the frequent problems around mitigation, monitoring and enforcement.

In June 2019, a report on the feedback received on the 'Our Water Future' discussion document will go to the Environment and Community Committee. This committee will develop the water strategy over the 2019/2020 financial year. The strategy is expected to be complete by September 2020.

Improving North Shore's waterways

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Wairau Valley, the largest industrial area in the Kaipātiki Local Board area.

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"Local Board funds programme to tackle water pollution"

Safe School Streets

An Auckland Transport initiative, but worth a mention because this is something I really support – improving safety at the school gates. Willow Park is one of six participating schools in Auckland undergoing a three-month trial that involves changes to reduce the number of cars very close to the school (along with other speed and road design changes). I look forward to seeing the results of this trial.

The local board is supporting many other safety improvements across Kaipātiki, including a new project that was proposed by AT for a new footpath, kerb and channel, and drainage project connecting Glendhu Road east and west sections through an existing footbridge at the scenic reserve. The objective is to provide safe access to school children, but I believe there may be an additional advantage regarding stormwater management as improved drainage will address flooding and berm washout fronting the reserve. Having held a stream rally here at the beginning of the term, I can vouch for the importance of better stormwater management in this area!

Reserve Management Plans Continued

I am part of a working party where we are working through the Kaipatiki Local Parks Management Plans process at regular meetings. It has become more and more evident as different scenarios arise at the local board level, how problematic it is having outdated management plans for our reserves. We will have a further update in May.

Proposal to revoke delegations to local authorities - Reserves Act 1977

In March the Department of Conservation wrote all local authorities seeking feedback on a proposal to revoke some Ministerial powers currently delegated to councils under the Reserves Act. This proposal follows a review of the delegations, whereby it was found that some appear to be potentially unlawful and would put Councils in a position of conflict of interest.

I support the revocation of delegations based on information I received from DOC. I do not agree with Auckland Council's position to not support the proposed revocations.

Out and About Jan-Apr 2019: a few highlights

- Northcote Community Digger Day, Cadness Reserve, 19 Jan
- NorthArt exhibition openings for Chinese New Year, 3 Feb
- Birkenhead public meeting on freedom camping and Little Shoal Bay, 7 Feb
- Northcote Chinese & Korean New Year Festival, 9 Feb
- Annual Bayview Neighbourhood Picnic, 15 Feb
- Awataha Greenway blessing, 2 Mar
- Pest Free Halo Meeting, Kauri Park, 2 Mar
- Birkdale Beach Haven Community Project, Auckland North Newcomer's Network & WISE Catering community dinner, 8 Mar
- Birkenhead Primary School 100-year celebrations, 10 Mar
- FiaFia Fanau Northcote Town Centre, 7 Apr
- Anzac ceremonies, Birkenhead RSA and Northcote RSA, 25 April
- BikeStock Kaipatiki Bike Gala, 28 April
- Chelsea Estate Heritage Park weeding bee, 28 April



Bayview Neighbourhood Picnic



ANZAC Ceremony, Birkenhead RSA



Weeding Bee with volunteers at Chelsea Estate Heritage Park



With fellow Board Members at Awataha Greenway blessing



*Celebrating International Women's Day. Birkdale Beach Haven Community Project, Auckland North
Newcomer's Network & WISE Catering community dinner*