

Richard Northey's Report to Waitemata Local Board Meeting 21 February 2017

On 1 December I took the opportunity to learn about the benefits and challenges of Facilities Partnerships at Council's Albert Street Headquarters; met with Jen Deben of MBIE about Community Housing; took part in Nanette Cameron's retirement celebration from Te Tuhi Art Gallery and enjoyed the official turning on activities of the Franklin Road Christmas lights.

On 3 December I took part in the Peace Foundation Annual Meeting with Former Board Member Trish Reade elected President there.

On 5 December I spoke at the Powhiri for Paula Snowden, the new Chief Executive of the Problem Gambling Foundation, and later was taken on an introductory tour of Karangahape Road by the Karangahape Road Business Association.

The 6th December saw a Waitemata Board workshop and the AGM of the University of Auckland Society where I was re-elected Deputy Chair.

7th December was a West Auckland Day with a meeting of Housing Call to Action and the Annual Meeting of Community Waitakere with an address by Councillor Penny Hulse and an annual report full of impressive community and environmental accomplishments.

On the 8th December I took part in a familiarisation of the proposed Western Springs Community Recycling Centre; the Annual meeting of Asian Family Services that re-elected me to their board; Elected Members training in Resilience and Wellbeing and the Opening Night of the Opening Night before Christmas at the Basement Theatre –impressive and loads of fun.

Friday 9th December saw an all-day meeting at the Problem Gambling Foundation Board and my re-election as PGF Chair-challenges remain with increased losses on the Pokie Machines. On the Saturday I took part in Maungakiekie and Glen Innes Christmas celebrations and on the Sunday of the Auckland Central Labour Party.

Monday 12th included meetings of the Auckland District Council of Social Services Housing Committee and of the Auckland Community Housing Trust and that evening an impressive farewell to Roy Clare, the retiring CEO of the Auckland Museum. The following day was our last Board meeting of the year, including an important decision to oppose public facilities being used to promote weapons of war.

On the 14th Council provided me with Time Management Training, which provided a few extra useful tips. On the 15th, I was late for the ribbon cutting at the new Victoria Park basketball court because I had been at the Governing Body meeting to support the Living Wage Movement's request for the Council's budget but I was on time for lunch and a good familiarisation at the Kelmarna Gardens – a project started when I was an Advisor at Internal Affairs in the early 1980s.

On the 17th the opening of the Weona Walkway revealed for me a delightful and very impressive Waitemata Board project.

On the 21st I met with staff and proponents of the development of the Maori Hall in Newton as the base for Youth education and recreation.

After Christmas Day lunch and dinner with the Family, Robyn and I left for our Wyuna Bay, Coromandel, back on Boxing Day. We took extra clothes, furniture, utensils and paintings because we would not be returning to live in our former Onehunga home except to pack up and clean up.

On New Year's Eve our daughter Miranda, her partner Adam and our granddaughter Ingrid, on her first birthday that day, came to stay with us in Coromandel for a few days from their home in Melbourne. Later our other daughter Fiona and our youngest grandson Charlie also joined us for a few days.

On the 18th to the 20th January we returned to Auckland to put our remaining belongings into storage or give them away and left 184 Arthur Street an empty shell. The house will be moved to be a family home in Devonport and the land will be developed as a home for six families in town houses.

During the 19th I was interviewed and filmed by the Principal Advisor for the Advisory Panels for an Auckland Council video on the work of the Seniors Advisory Panel and the other demographic panels.

We returned to Auckland for a day for the funeral of our friend Don MacRae, former long-term Mt Eden Borough Councillor and one of the persistent and effective leaders of the campaign for good urban design in Auckland.

On the 23rd I returned again for a meeting of the Stardome Board. After a major review, they intend to negotiate with their new landlord, the Tamaki Collective, to pursue developing a complementary bicultural facility there explaining Maori history with the Maunga, rather than vacating the site after their current lease concludes. Later I went to the meeting of the Auckland Central Labour Party where they are faced with the challenge of selecting a successor to Jacinda Ardern as their Parliamentary candidate within the next two weeks.

The meeting expressed a strong desire for the Inter-City Bus Terminal to remain in the CBD and to advocate for a public school in the CBD and affordable housing provision in the Board area.

I drove back on the 27th to attend the powerful Holocaust memorial event at the Auckland Museum. The speakers reminded us of the evils not only of anti-Semitism but of all derogatory attitudes to, and discrimination against, others by race, religion or gender identity. I went to an Adventure Camp in the wilds of Taranaki on the 28th to 29th January for the Labour Summer School to discuss interesting political philosophy and policy, particularly regarding health and housing, with people of a wide age and roles in the Labour Party. I was told I had been elected to Labour's Governing Council to represent Labour's Policy Council. So I will have some interesting policy development challenges leading up to the General election.



Then back to Coromandel for Anniversary Day for a week of wonderful weather and long swims and rows every day as summer finally arrived. Back to Auckland on Waitangi Day to our temporary lodgings in a studio apartment at 8 Haast Street where we will live until our new apartment is ready at The Hereford, 8 Hereford Street, Freemans Bay hopefully in 3 months or so. Now that I am back living in Auckland. I am right back into it.

7th February, the first Board workshop of the year. On 8th February, I heard the Salvation Army's enlightening State of the Nation analysis with some major social, imprisonment and housing problems. Alan Johnson the Salvation Army's spokesperson strongly recommended the Council should undertake a direct role in housing provision if it is to persuade the government and other providers to build adequate affordable housing in Auckland. This was followed by the first meeting of the year of the University of Auckland Society Executive and a meeting of Labours Policy Council. The 9th February saw a meeting about archives then a busy evening with a business function for charities at St Matthews in the City, the ribbon cutting for the Light house sculpture on Queens Wharf and the opening of the Lantern Festival.

On the 10th, I participated in a briefing about and by Council's CCOs for Board Members – better co-ordination and alignment remains a challenge.