

## **Board Member Report: Anne-Marie Coury**

Report covering the period 6<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017

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### **Auckland Council workshops, meetings and briefings**

7 <sup>th</sup> March	Special Community Cluster meeting with Members Doig, Kaushal and Kumar
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Board Workshop
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended meeting with member Diver from Maungakiekie-Tamaki LB
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Board Business meeting led the “welcome” focusing on International Women’s Day, the Suffragette Movement and men’s contribution to women’s political aspirations being realized
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended JWAT meeting at the Pah Homestead
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Attended Local Boards’ Regional Workshop
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Attended Citizenship Ceremony involving learning new roles
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Attended ANZAC Day preparation meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Attended Board workshop
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Green Cluster meeting
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Special Community Cluster meeting re Nepalese Community
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended and participated at YMCA Family Day on Board stall
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Music at the Pah Homestead in Monte Cecilia Park
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Local Board Regional Workshop
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Inclusivity Training in CBD
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Business Voice Development meeting
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Board Workshop
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Attended International Cultural Festival – the Board stall and networked with other community agencies and their staff
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Chaired Community Cluster including discussion with staff on Freedom Camping
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Attended Community Forum at Lynfield YMCA
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Attended Board Workshop

### **Other Meetings**

8 <sup>th</sup> March	Visit to Niuean Arts and Crafts Group
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Discussion with Efeso Collins re Youth Citizens Jury
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Arts Festival event at Aotea Centre
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Roskill Community meeting
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Pacifica Parents and children’s learning strategies group
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Attended Somalian Adult Language class in Stoddard Rd to observe tutoring and class interactions followed up by discussion with tutors and community leaders about the needs of this community
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Celebrated International Women’s Day
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Wesley School visit and discussion with Principal Brenda Martin
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Further follow up with Somalian male and female Community Leaders

14<sup>th</sup> March Attended Refugees as Survivors Family Service Launch in Roskill  
 14<sup>th</sup> March Attended opening at the Pah Homestead  
 14<sup>th</sup> March Attended Epsom Rotary - Richard Reid on Three Kings Quarry  
 18<sup>th</sup> March Attended the Holi Celebration together with Members Holm, Kaushal and Kumar  
 18<sup>th</sup> March Attended Ghanian Independence Celebrations  
 20<sup>th</sup> March Attended court hearing - advocacy role re elder abuse  
 21<sup>st</sup> March Attended Seniors' Liston Village meeting  
 9<sup>th</sup> April Attended Neighbours' Day celebrations in Stranolar Reserve

### **Other issues/challenges**

Heavy schedule of events and steady stream of staff reporting or wanting decisions to be made around work programmes, has limited the time available for forward planning and community led development discussions, which I had expected to participate in.

However, I have really enjoyed being out in the community at events during the past month.

Thanks to the staff for their support and assistance during this intense learning period.

### **Disclosures**

Previously set out in February report. Nothing new to add.

### **Recommendation/s**

a) That the report be received.

### **Signatories**

Author	Anne-Marie Coury
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## **Board Member Report: Anne-Marie Coury**

**Report covering the period 10<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 including Easter break**

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### **Auckland Council workshops, meetings and briefings**

13 <sup>th</sup> April	Attended Board Workshop
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Attended Asset Register meeting with Board Members
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Attended Board Business Meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Attended Niuean RSNZ first anniversary of the commemoration War Memorial stone
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Participated in ANZAC DAY Mt Roskill Service laying a wreath
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Attended ANZAC service at Ranfurly Veteran's Home
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Attended Green Cluster meeting discussed Monte Cecilia Playground design
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Attended Local Board led "Save Wesley" meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Attended Citizenship Ceremony
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended and spoke at Mt Roskill "Save Wesley" meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended and presented at Empowered Events workshop

### **Other Meetings**

20 <sup>th</sup> April	Attended National Refugee Network Workshop
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Attended the Niue RSNZ's 1 year anniversary of their War Memorial Stone
24 <sup>th</sup> April	Auckland Grey Power Assoc Inc Committee Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Attended Pacific Parenting Group
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Made contact with local iwi and Maori King's representative at Wesley College over the misappropriation of the name "Wesley". Now have links for iwi in both Wesleys to communicate with

### **Other issues/challenges**

Contacts with residents and community leaders with specific concerns included the following matters:

- Illegal dumping on various sites
- Glycosate spraying in parks and adjacent to schools and shops
- Karaka berries prolifically abundant within Manukau Domain bush surrounds. A local woman has put up notices to warn dog owners of the high risk to their dog's life from eating, sucking or swallowing these berries
- Funding gatherings of ethnic communities seniors and youth
- Potholes and uneven sloping footpaths that make walking a challenge for some
- Seniors' housing issues – renters struggling to find affordable accommodation competing with students and MSD supplement won't cover shortfall in income
- "P" testing required by landlords once tenancy has ended. Now causing delays in the return of Bond money forcing tenants to pay the new Bond before they receive the Bond from the former tenancy. This was previously a simple transfer without creating undue hardship

- Businesses and property owners complaining about paying fees and receiving long waiting periods and poor outcomes
- Traffic congestion forcing drivers to slow down to speeds of 30km on Mt Albert Rd

### **Disclosures**

No conflicts of interest have arisen this month. Declared interests from the beginning of the year still apply.

### **Recommendation/s**

- a) That the report be received.

### **Signatories**

Author	Anne-Marie Coury
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## Board Member Report: Anne-Marie Coury

Report covering the period 4<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017

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### Auckland Council workshops, Meetings and briefings

4 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended Extraordinary Business Meeting of the Full Board
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended Local Board Workshop with all Board Members
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended Local Board Workshop
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended Local Board Regional Cluster Workshop in Town Hall
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Participated in the Mini Climathon Workshop where brain storming and creative exploration of strategies for change were facilitated
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended Board Business Meeting
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended Meeting of the whole Board to consider the Arts Culture and Events draft work programme
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Visited Housing NZ Village in Stoddard Rd for “Have Your Say” Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Cycleway Opening extending off road cycleways to 6km in Mt Roskill, with Mayor Phil Goff, Katherine King from AT and Members Doig, Holm and Kaushal. Photo of Board Members with cycles at the opening →



### Other Meetings

3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Technology Meeting to replace phone and up-grade knowledge of the system
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended the “Save Wesley” campaign planning Meeting at Mt Roskill Intermediate
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Auckland University School of Architecture, lecturing on the “age-friendly” communities and cities concept, growing inequalities and issues relating to a rapidly growing ageing population
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Participated in “Try a Craft” event with a take home piece to put on my fridge. Mixing and mingling with children and adults on the various craft stalls, I learnt a lot about local residents concerns and delights
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended a celebration of the successful pay claim for Aged Care workers seeking equal pay. This is breakthrough and will significantly improve the lives of many of our poorest workers who struggle to put food on their tables
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Dropped into Wesley Market and participated in discussions with stakeholders and agency workers involved in Puketāpapa, in work to strengthen families
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended a local Meeting on Traffic Congestion in Puketāpapa, hosted by Michael Wood MP for Mt Roskill

18 <sup>th</sup> May	Facilitated a Public Meeting hosted by Grey Power on “Issues in Aged Care” with Barry Coates MP
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Dropped in on the African Festival, observing and interacting with many different folk from different parts of the African continent
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Dropped in on Ki Te Marama community Day at Wesley
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended the opening and cut the ribbon for a talented young female Indian student’s art exhibition, at Mt Roskill War Memorial Hall
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Dropped into “Roskill Decides” event and spoke with successful and unsuccessful participants seeking funding
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Attended a Regional Grey Power Meeting with eight Grey Power Association Committee folk from across the Auckland Region, to discuss the Auckland Plan Refresh

## Other Issues and Challenges

Both one off and on-going discussions with individual residents and community leaders have continued over this month in the lead up to the “Have Your Say” feedback sessions.

Topics ranged across the following:

- Concerns about competing with other community groups for funding, and the lack of collaborative commonality in working in shared ways for improved outcomes
- Concerns about the need for drivers licensing for all ages to be continued to be supported and subsidised where necessary
- Changes to bus routes
- Domestic violence and women wanting to create a stronger community awareness of the issues and the potential for increased assistance to victims
- Double decker buses – why being used at off peak times with only 2 or 3 people in them
- Inorganic collections – less effective ways to recycle and reduce waste than before
- Interest in increasing public art in Wesley and Mt Roskill in parks, to enhance the sense of “place”
- Businesses and property owners waiting too long for service completion after paying fees
- Seniors’ housing issues – concerns about higher rents for one and two bedroomed houses as these are in greatest demand by all ages.

The heavy work load experienced in the past two months, has forced me to reflect on what can be achieved in a 25 hour week. When attendance at many events and community activities are factored in, it is clear I will be unable to attend all the functions and events I receive invitations to.

I wish to acknowledge the support of other Members and staff especially our Personal Assistant and Democracy Adviser, as well as Local Board Advisers.

## Disclosures

Declaration of interest and involvements made at the start of the term continue to be relevant.

I continue to advocate for seniors’ concerns at relevant Local Board Regional Cluster Workshops and in Community Forums. In particular, the need for Auckland Council’s Refresh of the Auckland Plan to incorporate the rapidly growing ageing population, as a major challenge to be faced over the next thirty years, has been strongly raised.

## **Recommendation/s**

- a) That the report be received.

## **Signatories**

Author	Anne-Marie Coury
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# Board Member Report: Anne-Marie Coury

## Report covering the period 5<sup>th</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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### Auckland Council Workshops, Meetings and briefings

- 4<sup>th</sup> June            Attended Mayor Phil Goff’s Million Trees Launch and the opening of Te Whangai Trust’s nursery at Mt Roskill Intermediate School  
Participated in a “Have Your Say” session at Ranfurly Village
- 7<sup>th</sup> June            Chaired Community Cluster with Members Kaushal and Kumar
- 8<sup>th</sup> June            Attended Board Workshop with all Members followed by a special briefing for the whole Board on the Three Kings Development
- 12<sup>th</sup> June          Attended “Have Your Say” Meeting with the full Board and staff at Mt Roskill War Memorial Hall
- 13<sup>th</sup> June          Attended urgent Meeting of the whole Board for discussion and approval of Arts, Culture and events programme  
Attended briefly the “Peace” event at Auckland Domain
- 14<sup>th</sup> June          Participated in two Local Citizenship Ceremonies playing with key speaking roles
- 15<sup>th</sup> June          Attended Local Board Business Meeting with all Members
- 16<sup>th</sup> June          Participated at the Wesley Market “Have Your Say” session \*
- 19<sup>th</sup> June          Attended Local Board Regional Workshop at the Town Hall
- 20<sup>th</sup> June          Visited Hillsborough Heights for “Have Your Say” later rescheduled to 27<sup>th</sup> June, but previously engaged with Manager
- 21<sup>st</sup> June          Attended Technology Training with Member Holm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June          Attended full Board Workshop  
Attended full Board Meeting on Three Kings Plaza with Asset Manager
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June          Attended briefing on Obligations and Opportunities, Maori and Treaty matters with Members Doig and Holm
- 26<sup>th</sup> June          Attended Eid – Muslim celebration for the end of Ramadan, as per photos↑↓  
below of Member Kaushal and myself at Eid event
- 28<sup>th</sup> June          Attended Green Cluster Meeting with Members Holm, Fairey and Kumar and specifically raised issues on implementation of the Disability Action Plan
- 29<sup>th</sup> June          HBDI Session – team development for the whole Board



3<sup>rd</sup> July Attended Dawn Ceremony for Maori blessing of Chris Bailey's stone sculptures, "Te Huinga" at the entrance to Fearon Park, as per photo➔. Chris who has been awarded the Toi Iho lifetime status award by Creative NZ, humbly articulated the stone heritage of the Tangata Whenua, which his latest work celebrates.



3<sup>rd</sup> July Attended full Board Meeting with AT and Planners regarding pedestrian safety, including discussion on laneway, car park and road crossings

5<sup>th</sup> July Chaired Community Cluster Meeting with briefing on seniors' issues and "age-friendly" strategic matters

5<sup>th</sup> July Attended Regional Facilities networking function for Local Board Members at Auckland Art Gallery. Presentation on the Gallery's development and viewing of "The Body Laid Bare," with Members Doig, Holm and Kaushal. Photo of Local Board Members and Members of the Seniors Panel ➔



6<sup>th</sup> July Attended Meeting at Pah Homestead on plans for their Community Day

6<sup>th</sup> July Attended Board Workshop with briefing on the Governance Review process

6<sup>th</sup> July Attended celebration of the completion of the Beagle Ave bridge with Members Doig, Fairey and Kaushal, Fulton Hogan crew and local residents \*

## Other Meetings

9<sup>th</sup> June Met with Somalian Community Leader for discussions on "Have Your Say" and their strategic plan

11<sup>th</sup> June Visited Mt Victoria, Wellington and the Matairangi Children's Forest Playground, where developmental discovery play is supported with various climbing and balancing activities. This is interspersed with clues to assist searching for insect homes and information about birds that nest in the area. This visit was at my own expense and facilitated by adults, who enjoy many of the playground's features along with their grandchildren. See photos ➔



15 <sup>th</sup> June	Presided over Auckland Grey Power's AGM and was re-elected as President for 2017 and 2018 year. I was endorsed to advocate for a seniors' community hub and the inclusion of "age-friendly" over-arching policy approach, to the significant challenge facing Auckland over the next thirty years, that of the rapidly growing ageing population	
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Attended The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day commemorations co-ordinated by Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust	
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Attended Petcha Kutcha evening on social issues and Auckland's urban environment at UNITEC marae, where Julie Fairey, Deputy Chair, presented slides on the Five Wellbeings	
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Attended Ride the Waterview Tunnel	
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Attended Matariki on the Move – performance by the modern Maori quartet at Te Oro	
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Met informally with Liston Village residents to listen to their concerns and assist them in form filling on "Have Your Say"	
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Attended Matariki celebrations at Sandringham Community Centre with Niuean community	

## Other issues/challenges

Contacts with residents and community leaders in the context of the Local Board Plan and other specific concerns included the following matters:

- Domestic violence incidents in Wesley area concerning many women
- Illegal dumping on various sites
- Information requests regarding the work in Walmsley Underwood and behind Carr Rd shops near the bridge
- Inorganic collection considered unsatisfactory to previous system
- Glycosate spraying in parks and adjacent to schools and shops
- Inappropriate and or delayed response for paid Council services for business owners and property owners
- Reducing barriers to co-operation amongst community groups for improved outcomes in Puketāpapa
- Light rail system and impacts on parking and other road users
- Seniors gutted over the loss of heritage protection with the final Unitary Plan outcome
- Seniors' concerns over lack of suitable and affordable rental housing with no emergency options and landlords giving 90 day eviction notices, some seniors have been extremely stressed
- Bus route changes, lengthier walks to bus stops and difficulties crossing wet grass to bus stops
- Traffic congestion, especially to and from the airport
- Value of tree planting and information on whether the Mayor's programme will include our parks etc.
- Value of cooperative and collaborative community action within our area, as too many events were planned for the same day recently, by groups not checking with each other prior to setting/choosing event dates

Following medical advice, I have cut back on evenings and weekend engagements, especially outdoor events in cold weather and continue to seek a more appropriate work life balance.

## **Disclosures**

No conflicts of interest have arisen this month. Declared interests from the beginning of the year still apply, for example as advocate for seniors' concerns being in the role of President of Auckland Grey Power.

I have decided to join the Auckland Art Gallery to ensure I attend more of their exhibitions and events. This supports my role within the Arts, Culture and Events space.

## **Recommendation/s**

- a) That the report be received.

## **Signatories**

Author	Anne-Marie Coury
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## **Board Member Report: Anne-Marie Coury**

**Report covering the period 10<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

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### **Auckland Council workshops, meetings and briefing - attended:**

12 <sup>th</sup> July	Extraordinary Meeting of the Board
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Green Cluster Meeting with Members Fairey and Holm
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Local Board Workshop
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Finance Monthly Meeting with Chair and other members
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Local Board July Cluster Workshop including Sea Change Te Tai Pari Tai Hauraki Gulf Plan evaluation
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Full Board meeting with Deputy Mayor, Bill Cashmore
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Local Board Business Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Local Board Workshop
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Community Cluster Working Group Meeting
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Community Forum at Lynfield Community Centre from 6pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Local Board Workshop

### **Other Meetings**

11 <sup>th</sup> July	Meeting with senior leaders to discuss the glaring omission in the Auckland Plan Refresh draft document of a rapidly growing ageing population. Further advocacy to Council attended Community Meeting planned with a follow-up in August
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Pt Chev Community Meal at the Community Centre as observer, to see how this initiative was set up and how it is working
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Women in Poverty panel discussion at Western Springs Garden Hall facilitated by the Women's Centre, with housing and income issues, especially equal pay canvassed fully
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Roskill Together lunch time session with presentation on Housing NZ developments in Roskill by Katja Lietz from HLC
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Grey Power Committee discussing advocacy issues and Communications within the senior community on air
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Business Voice Seminar (last in series) for Roskill Businesses
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Wesley Market usual drop in arrangement meeting with constituents and stakeholders informally
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Epsom Rotary meeting with Debbie Millar speaking on Judaism and opportunities for informal networking with residents from local area
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Funeral of a prominent senior leader, John Ballantyne, in Counties Manukau along with several Councillors, Local Board Chairs and members who spoke highly of John's long term committed service in the community, especially on behalf of seniors, in support of an "Age Friendly" city
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Blessing of RePurpose Community Recycling Centre in Onehunga, previously in Roskill
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Powhiri and Opening Ceremony of the Local Government Conference in Auckland
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Formal presentations and all day sessions at Local Government Conference, then Awards Dinner in the evening

25 <sup>th</sup> July	Morning session and closing of the Local Government Conference
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Participated in Local Board official duties speaking and handing out certificates at Citizenship Ceremony
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Met with Living Wage advocates re progress and future direction
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Prepared for Inter-faith Meeting of local Roskill women
5 <sup>th</sup> August	Attended Yoga Laughter session in Ponsonby, re practicing 5 ways to Wellbeing

## Other Issues and Challenges

- Both one off and on-going discussions with individual residents and community leaders have continued over this month following on from their efforts to give feedback on the Local Board Plan
- Concerns about planned housing developments in the May Rd, Richardson Rd area with regard to parking as locals tend to have 3 or 4 cars per dwelling now. They are wondering where these cars will be parked in future when section sizes decrease and roads are narrower
- Concerns about changes to bus routes especially by seniors - Outer Link bus in Albert Eden and Sandringham 233 re access to St Lukes and grass surrounding bus stop in Euston Rd. Seniors are also approaching Albert-Eden Local Board but the current route suits folks in both Puketāpapa and Albert-Eden Local Board areas
- Illegal dumping in Landscape Rd (Dominion Rd end)
- Businesses and property owners waiting too long for service completion after paying fees
- Seniors' housing issues continue to be the main calls – concerns about lack of options and higher rents for one and two bedrooms, as these are in greatest demand by all ages
- Major focus has been on assisting seniors to get their voices heard over the denial by Auckland Council to address the rapidly growing ageing population in policy documents and in strategic direction for the future. Opportunity at the Local Government Conference to raise the issue with the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Dr Robert Doyle, seeking his take on what is a global demographic shift which major cities are addressing, was another step in elevating the awareness of the issue locally
- Support for advocacy on this issue was provided at the Local Government Conference by the office of Seniors and the Active Ageing Research Centre. Continuing liaison with Diane Turner and Dr Stephen Neville is proving valuable. New tools from OoS are now at the Local Board office including:
  - Ministry of Health's Healthy Ageing document which will assist us in the development of the Healthy Action plan next year
  - My report on attending the Local Government Conference contains more information of interest for future planning and strategic direction

## **Disclosures**

Declaration of interest and involvements made at the start of the term continue to be relevant. I continue to advocate for seniors concerns at relevant Local Board Regional Cluster workshops. In particular, the need for Auckland Council's Refresh of the Auckland Plan to incorporate the rapidly growing ageing population, as a major challenge to be faced over the next thirty years, has been strongly raised.

## **Recommendation/s**

- a) That this Report be received
- b) That the Local Government Conference 2017 report be received

## **Signatories**

Author	Anne-Marie Coury
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# **Local Government NZ Conference 23-25 July 2017**

## **Compiled by Anne-Marie Coury**

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### **Executive Summary**

Auckland Council's hosting of the Local Government NZ Conference this year was the first since the formation of the Supercity. This milestone offered the Council the opportunity to illustrate its co-governance model by including Local Board members and chairs in key roles, like the Powhiri and Opening ceremony.

It was the big occasion to be showcasing Auckland's success stories, like the development of the Wynyard Quarter, and the planning utilising the new technologies of the future that will change the face of Public Transport so dramatically. The presentations involved state of the art graphics and were in one case accompanied by Maori musicians. Auckland presented itself as an International city with scenery to die for and a stimulating cultural diversity to match. It could have been a pitch for a World event of significance. Instead it was intended to wow the rest of NZ into seeing the advantages of being for Auckland rather than against us.

The themes of transformation, of moving to new ways of funding, of being resilient, and accepting closer working together are the touchstones of the new norms developing between Central and Local Government, between Pakeha and Maori, between community and Council. They were imaginatively presented by engaging speakers and backed up by new research and policy documents. The growing ageing population was also mentioned by at least six leading speakers from the Governor General, the Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, Sir Bob Harvey and even Ludo Campbell Reid. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne when asked about this trend said "We are not doing enough" and highlighted the shortage of beds for the chronically ill and those suffering alzheimers. The planning of cities needs to be linked to people's changing needs and the built environment needs to serve the people. This message came through loud and clear.

Perhaps the most impressive presentations of all came on day three when a futurist, Holly Ransom, graphically showed us how the speed of communications has been incrementally changing each time new technology has been introduced. The numbers reached in the shortest timeframes spoke volumes. We can reach billions in 3-4 days. Apps and mobile technology options are no longer optional, but essential tools. "Communicate in this environment or you are irrelevant" was the message. The team from the Southern Initiative were people centric, community focused and had passion to match their ingenuity. Recycling, upcycling and innovating to create community pop-up hubs were illustrated with panache by architect turned community connector, Waikare Komene. Notably a representative from the Iwi Chairs Forum, Rahui Papa, probably the first to be invited to be a key presenter to any LGNZ Conference, shared the Maori perspective on water quality with "Te Mana o Te Wai" presentation.

The conference attracted a record number of delegates, some 600 plus. All leaders of major political parties had a speaking slot and the President, Lawrence Yule was farewelled, as he leaves the leadership of Local Government NZ to head for Parliament. The Mayor the Hon Phil Goff and many members of the senior Executive Team were present for many of the sessions. Auckland Council staff and elected members can be proud of the quality of presentations and the management of the event.

Next year, the Conference will be in Christchurch in July and the Mayor, the Hon Lianne Dalziel, gave a spectacular presentation to illustrate the new technologies in the built environment being incorporated into developments within the central city precincts. It will be an exciting Conference with special insights and tours of these new developments.

The Local Government NZ website displays policy, research information and tools to assist Council staff and elected members with the challenges they face. Conference information and material can be found here: <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/about-lgnz/lgnz-conference-2/>

## **References**

### **Age Friendly in Your Community**

Office for Seniors Nove 2016

**Healthy Ageing Strategy**, planning for the growing ageing population by the Ministry of Health 2016

### **Local Govt NZ's Plan for a Prosperous and Vibrant NZ the 2017 LG Manifesto**

**Local Govt Position on Climate Change** – LGNZ 2017

**Our Population is Ageing – Are Your Ready? – assess your community checklist**  
MSD.Govt.NZ

**Taking the Pulse of Local Govt in NZ** – a research report surveying Mayors and Chairs Across NZ on key topics including freedom camping, housing affordability, and which social issues are the most pressing in the regions.  
Simpson Grierson for LGNZ

**We Need Stronger Local Democracy** – LGNZ's manifesto in brief