

Anne-Marie Coury's monthly report

1st November– 30th November 2018

Auckland Council workshops, meetings and briefings

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| 7 th November | Dropped into the Community Forum for most of the session |
| 8 th November | Board Workshop |
| 15 th November | Board Business Meeting |
| 22 nd November | Board Workshop |
| 23 rd November | Waititoki, Waiateao, (Meola and Motions Creeks) and Te Auaunga Three Local Boards meeting to discuss the Three Kings aquifer |
| 28 th November | Green Cluster |
| 29 th November | Board Workshop |
| 29 th November | Puketapapa Community Volunteer Awards |

Other meetings

Nil

Other issues/challenges

4th November, visited the Auckland Art Gallery to reflect on Gordon Walters lifelong exploration of the koru design, in a prolific range of work. His wife, Dr Margaret Orbell as an anthropologist and Maori scholar was influential in his development and appreciation of Maori artistic expression from rock drawings to kowhaiwhai.

12th November, I met with a representative from the Ministry of Health, as part of discussions within the senior community concerning how best to support seniors wanting assistance with creating their own Advanced Care Planning document to enable them to have a greater sense of control over what happens to them when they are unable to make decisions for themselves, either temporarily or otherwise. The Ministry will be leading a campaign in February and I will be assisting with getting the messages out to seniors via various channels wearing my Greypower hat. In speaking with Clinicians in Retirement Villages, I have heard that they see the watershed time of entering the facility as the time when issues around Advance Care Planning are easier to raise.

16th November, held a meeting with Peter Jeffries, from CORT, a Community Housing Provider, providing long term rentals for social housing tenants, while managing their own and other private rental properties, and working with developers to build more units, Peter expressed concern at the extreme rise in the number of ordinary working folk seeking affordable rentals but not finding success. The Housing Crisis is steadily worsening, and Kiwi Build isn't meeting the sharp end of this growth in homelessness, so where are the investments in the community housing sector? There are hundreds of people housed in

humane and sensible ways through this sector, but without providing some stable state funding, it is doubtful their wise and caring staff can continue to fill gaps.

20th November, I participated in the final gathering of the Bay Connections, (covering Lynfield and New Windsor, as well as Blockhouse Bay and beyond), where a number of community organisations and individuals working in the communities locally reflected on their learnings over 2018, and what they would be focusing on as they were in wind down mode during this December.

20th November, I attended the rebranding launch of ARMS, now Belong Aotearoa, and Networked with Cheryl Martin the General Manager of Volunteering Auckland, as well as many refugee women from Amartze who have become successful in their catering businesses. Great opportunity to consider the strategy behind the rebranding and the boldness behind the action. The focus is going on changing the systems, removing barriers and consolidating their successes.

25th November, I visited the Hub, in Gribblehurst Park, to gain more insight into what groups are doing to reduce social isolation and build stronger community connectivity, and to observe the women's sewing circle, making Boomerang Bags. This served as a follow-up to my visit to the Shed downstairs in the same building (not just a men's shed) in October.

Seniors struggling to find affordable rental accommodation are probably some of the most stressed individuals in our communities. Being invited as a senior, to attend the session organised on 27th November, by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Enterprise, to trial a renters' kit for seniors, I was keen to participate. The kit is aimed at supporting seniors through the stress of managing applying and handling the relationships with landlords especially negotiating improvements around the changes to the Residential Tenancies Act.

27th November participating in a network event Navigating Across the Pacific, to assist with growing the people resources and business skills in our communities.

28th November participating in the open Mic night at Crave celebrating the neighbourhood connectivity.

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.

Recommendation/s

a) That the report be received.

Signatories

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