

Chair's report: Waiheke Local Board
20 June 2019 – 15 July 2019

Ngā mihi Waiheke

It has been a month of loss of several notable Waiheke identities. Among those was Lomond Brown, founding Manager of Waiheke's Citizens Advice Bureau. Lomond's decades of selfless service to the community were acknowledged in the Board's business meeting of 27 June, as was the passing of Di Stodart, long-term librarian and noted local identity. The board worked with community providers to co-host a memorial service for Lomond on July 12th as few locals were unable to attend her city-based funeral.

1. Local Government New Zealand Conference 2019.

The chair and member John Meeuwsen attended the LGNZ conference in Wellington 7-9 July. Climate change and localism (decentralising decision-making to community level) were the key themes. Changes to the LGNZ constitution led to a seat at national council for Te Maruata (Maori in local government) representation and a seat for an Auckland Local Board representative along with one for the Mayor and one for the Governing Body.

2. Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw

The chair spoke at the hearings panel to proposed changes to the bylaw on 21 June, representing the views of the large number of local consultation respondents. Overwhelmingly the local opinion is that the dog bylaws must remain a local board decision and not be governed centrally, and that the proposed move to restrict dog walkers' beach access to after 7.00 PM in the summer season is punitive and unacceptable.

3. Volunteers Lunch

The board was pleased to fund the annual Volunteers' lunch hosted by Community Networks Waiheke on 23 June. Our thanks to those who prepared and hosted this delightful event and to all those volunteers who give selflessly to support our many community, environment and event activities, which enable us to thrive as a resilient community.

4. Ferry services

- a. In past weeks the pressure to move our ferry services into the public transport operating model (PTOM) through the office of responsible Minister, Phil Twyford (Minister of Transport) has been on-going. The Minister has announced that achieving a review is not likely until mid-2020.

- b. The chair has met with the Mayor on July 5th to discuss his public statements that have been somewhat at odds with the local board's activities to deliver on its advocacy issues to achieve PTOM as well as integrated ticketing with the rest of the Auckland Transport (AT) network.
- c. The chair also met with the local MP Hon Nikki Kaye and AT on 3 July. AT is clear that full integrated ticketing could be achieved by Feb 2020. This is not the preferred course for the Mayor as removing the ferry exemption under PTOM would consequently lead to 50% of integrated fare costs being funded by NZTA. Without the PTOM exemption being lifted first, fare integration costs would have to be 100% funded by council.
- d. Both Fullers and AT are separately seeking costings from PWC and Deloitte respectively to assess the costs that would be involved.
- e. It is deeply concerning that Waiheke ferry services have suffered significant disruptions for the past two weekends because of insufficient capacity, stranding many people and causing major upheavals for families and events.

5. Aotea Great Barrier

More than 200 marched through the central city on 6 July in protest against dumping of sediment in the Aotea Great Barrier seabed. The Environmental Protection Authority has granted the consent for 250,000 cubic meters per annum for 35 years. The dredging sediment is a result of planned widening of shipping lanes in Auckland's Waitemata Harbour. The Waiheke local board passed a motion in support of the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board's submission against the dumping into the Hauraki Gulf several months ago.

6. Blessing of Te Werowero

Te Werowero is now permanently installed in a more prominent position at Matiatia. A blessing by Ngati Paoa kaumātua, Mōrehu Wilson on Saturday 13th July completed this installation of Chris Bailey's sculpture. A shared effort of Waiheke-based crowd-funding and co-funding by AT has enabled this permanent feature to remind us all of our obligations to this motu.

7. Submissions on legislation

Attached is feedback from the local board in response to Auckland Council's submission on :

- a. the Government's Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill
- b. the Government's Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Bill

nāku noa
Cath Handley
Chair