



Albert-Eden Local Board
Progress and Achievements Report
18 Month Report: December 2014 – June
2016





Left to right: Albert-Eden Local Board members Tim Woolfield, Margi Watson, Glenda Fryer (Deputy Chair), Helga Arlington, Peter Haynes (Chair), Lee Corrck, Graeme Easte and Rachel Langton.

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1 Message from the chair

With the second term drawing to a close, it is appropriate to reflect and celebrate the significant achievements we've made together over the last 18 months. This report outlines how we've taken your ideas during the development of our Local Board Plan in 2014, and delivered them for the benefit of all our communities.



Striving to deliver your preferred projects, while at the same time keeping pace with a rapidly diversifying and growing area is an on-going challenge. Some of our key achievements include:

- Completed the upgrade of the Pt. Chevalier plaza.
- Ensured all aspects [e.g. budget, design and public endorsement] of the Mt. Albert town centre upgrade are ready for construction in late-September 2016.
- Completed a master plan for Chamberlain Park, which will provide both passive and active recreation choices in the area, and alternative public transport options such as cycling and walking. The Board held a two-day open day event on Chamberlain Park over Easter weekend 2016 which was an overwhelming success – 4000 people came throughout the course of the weekend.
- Approved a site for a new resource recovery centre in Western Springs, which will provide the public with a centralised point where they can drop off reuseable and recyclable items.
- Inaugurated the Albert-Eden Business Awards to celebrate the contributions our businesses make to the local economy.
- Supported ANZAC services throughout the Local Board area to commemorate those who fought in World War One.

While we celebrate all that's good, we recognise the challenges ahead of us to address, such as the impact of the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan to our area. However, the response to the Long-term Plan and the Annual Plan have shown that we have highly engaged communities, and we are confident that we can address these challenges together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Haynes'.

Peter Haynes

Chair, Albert-Eden Local Board

2 Albert-Eden Local Board members



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3 Achievements

The Albert-Eden Local Board continues to work hard to deliver the projects and initiatives you identified during the development of our Local Board Plan. The Board's six priorities are all designed to contribute towards the betterment of our community and to making Albert-Eden a great place to live, work, visit and play.

The six identified priorities outlined in the Albert-Eden Local Board Plan 2014 are as follows:

- Proud, connected and secure communities.
- A better and bigger range of recreational experiences.
- Thriving town centres and a growing local economy.
- A community that values its environment.
- Our heritage is cherished and protected.
- People can move safely and easily around Albert-Eden.



You can read more about our vision and priorities for the Albert-Eden area in our Local Board Plan at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/AlbertEden.

This report summarises the Board's key achievements for the period December 2014 to June 2016.

4 Proud, connected and secure communities

Our people are connected to their communities, have a sense of pride and belonging and are involved in the future of our area.

The Albert-Eden Local Board supports the transformational shift endorsed by Council over the last year, in the way that we undertake community development. We are adopting a 'community empowerment approach' which relies less on Council and seeks to partner and leverage the great work undertaken in our communities.

As we transition into this new approach, we have continued to support volunteer organisations, enable our youth to have a voice, promote public arts across the area and run community-focused events. In helping build great communities, the Board actively works closely with residents and supports community groups in a variety of ways.

Community Empowerment

During the last 18 months we have funded a number of projects which are led and managed by community groups.

- The Board has an ongoing commitment to supporting our two urban streams groups, Friends of Oakley Creek and St Lukes Environmental Protection Society (STEPS). Over the last six years these groups have cared for the Meola and Oakley creeks through weeding and planting programmes, and ensuring the involvement of the local community.
- In Sandringham, interested locals have formed a group called SPiCE (Sandringham Project in Community Empowerment) to engage with the community in a number of innovative ways on the development of a Sandringham Community Plan. Community priorities will help the Board plan future improvements for the Sandringham village and its environs.
- SPiCE also worked closely with the parks and public art teams of Council on the upgrade of the Sandringham Reserve.
- Currently there are seven eco-neighbourhood groups supported by the Board in the Albert-Eden area. Their focus is on promoting sustainable living and each group plans the projects they want to undertake in their neighbourhood.

Supporting volunteer organisations

The Board is committed to supporting volunteer organisations and in the last year has:

- Funded local activities and services through our contestable community grants programme, and provided accommodation funding support for venue hire.
- Provided grants to Albert-Eden community groups for accommodation, facility development and feasibility studies through membership on the Central Joint Funding and Central Facility Partnerships committees between January and June 2015.
- Partnered with the Auckland District Council of Social Services to undertake four network forums to connect community organisations and share information.
- Supported the volunteers that undertake regular clean-ups around our streams and on our maunga, coastline, parks and reserves.
- Supported the following community-led events through our events support fund:
 - Brazilian Day Festival, held in March 2015 and January 2016.
 - Sandringham Street Festival, held in October 2015.
 - Big Gay Out, held in February 2015 and 2016.
 - Neighbours Day Aotearoa with over 50 street events, held in March 2015 and 2016.
 - Partnered with Tupuna Maunga Authority for Love your Maunga Day, held in April 2016.



Youth initiatives

During this period, the Board has supported youth initiatives and programmes by:

- Supporting the Albert-Eden Youth Board to undertake projects, events and initiatives based on their identified priorities.
- Delivering the Youth with Disabilities Disco, held in 2015 and 2016.
- Supporting Sport Auckland through their i-Play programme, which encourages young people (in particular females) to continue participating in sport.
- Supporting COMET Auckland's Youth Employability programme by undertaking a pilot at Epsom Girls Grammar School.



Youth with Disabilities Disco 2016



Arts and culture

In 2015 we undertook a review of how we deliver arts and culture, and decided to take a community-led approach by having two community arts brokers work in our area. The brokers are a mechanism for empowering communities, to bridge the gap between community-led and organisational-led outcomes within a sustainable and accountable framework.

The brokers work with creative individuals and organisations in the area and ensure our communities have access to, and can participate in the arts. Some of the initiatives the brokers have undertaken in 2015 and 2016 include:

- Delivering a White Night event, as part of the Auckland Arts Festival at Greenwoods Corner.
- Collaborating with local arts groups and practitioners (e.g. Make Like A Tree and Prayas Theatre Company) to activate public spaces.
- Funding the Creative Souls Project which encouraged young people to create works inspired by their daily commute to school.
- Supporting Interactive Theatre's film project at the Mt. Albert Community and Leisure Centre. Their interactive sessions help develop the potential and capabilities of disabled people through participation in all aspects of theatre.
- Funding the Black Grace Dance Company in 2015 and 2016 to provide open rehearsals, school workshops and senior movement classes in Board venues and local schools.



Black Grace holding a senior movement class

Events

We continue to deliver a comprehensive events programme for people of all backgrounds and ages¹. Over the period we have supported and/or delivered the following events:

- ANZAC Day events in Mt. Albert, Mt Eden, Pt. Chevalier and Epsom on 25 April 2015 and 2016.
- Albert-Eden Schools Cultural Festival with 1200 participants and over 10,000 attendees annually in November 2014 and 2015.
- Carols by Candlelight at Potters Park on December 2015.
- Inaugural Easter at Chamberlain event in March 2016.
- Local Heroes Awards in June 2016.
- Contracted the YMCA to provide our Kids in Parks event series, which included skate and kite days, in 2015 and 2016.



Easter at Chamberlain 2016

¹ As well as other events listed in the 'Community, Grants, Arts and Culture' heading.

A better and bigger range of recreational experiences

Creating great opportunities for all to enjoy our parks and community facilities.

Our area boasts some fantastic parks and open spaces and it is a Board priority to ensure they are well-maintained and provide safe and fun experiences for everyone. During this period, the Board has upgraded a number of our parks and their amenities.

The Board continues to implement a number of exciting projects in Waterview, using funding allocated by the New Zealand Transport Agency to alleviate the effects of the Waterview Connection Project on the community. These include developing new parks, upgrading existing parks, walkways, playgrounds and landscaping.

The Board also recognise the value of encouraging active and healthy lifestyles through sport and recreation. We continue to upgrade our sports fields by installing the latest turf technology, and provide quality light and changing facilities.



The upgraded playground at Waterview Reserve

Parks and open spaces

The Board's open space development programme has delivered a number of improvement projects during this period, as outlined below:

- In 2015, we adopted the Chamberlain Park Master Plan. This document is our strategic framework to guide the future provision of Chamberlain Park. The master plan proposes to create active and passive recreational opportunities for people by retaining a golf course, while providing a reserve in the western part of the park and creating new sports fields, an aquatic centre and ecological restoration of the Meola Creek.
- The Potters Park Development Plan was approved following public engagement in 2015. Implementation of stage one is scheduled for July-September 2016 and will see the construction of an integrated pathway network, formalised main entranceway with improved signage and safer access into the park, new basketball courts offering an increased number of games at one time, and a new play space with increased play opportunity across a range of ages and abilities.



Work continues at Potters Park for its development plan

- Upgrading of Nicholson Park, including the installation of mural with plans to improve the entranceway, signage, maintenance of the heritage walls and installation of a public toilet.
- We have transformed Sainsbury Reserve by building a playground, seating, paths and landscaping.

- The Board approved the Sandringham Reserve upgrade concept plan, following a community process led by local group SPiCE. The work, which is expected to be completed by the end of July, is informed by an 'urban picnic' theme designed by artist Katy Wallace and selected by the Sandringham community. The Reserve will be better lit in the evening, and will include picnic tables and rugs on the lawn, and a playground designed to respond to community wishes.
- We have upgraded a number of parks with new playgrounds, paths, seats, signage, planting and landscaping. These include Nicholson Park, Gribblehirst Park, Edenvale Reserve and Essex Reserve. A number of other parks and reserves have improvements planned including School Reserve, Fowlds Park and Delphine Reserve.

SH 16/20 Waterview Connection projects

- In 2015 we reopened Waterview Reserve, complete with a new water play space, toilets and a volleyball court. The consultation process for the playground won NZ Planning Institute's best practice award in April 2016.
- The Waterview heritage trail is due for completion in August 2016.
- The Howlett-Waterview Esplanade Walkway was revamped to provide an all-weather path, along with ecological planting in the reserve.
- We are implementing stages one and two of the Heron Park Development Plan, consisting of installation of new stairs and tracks and a planting programme.
- A boardwalk and path is being built to connect Eric Armishaw Park, Pt. Chevalier to Great North Road and into the side streets along the route, and is expected to be completed in July 2016.
- The Board has contributed funding for the Waterview Shared Path which will be 2.5km long, from Alan Wood Reserve to connect with Northwestern cycle route along SH16. Three new bridges will be built along the route.
- A number of other projects have been planned for Anderson Park, Alan Wood Reserve and Oakley Creek walkway.

Sports fields

We have also undertaken the following projects to upgrade sports fields in our area:

- New lights have been installed at Walker Park.
- A sandcarpet field renewal has been completed at Murray Halberg Park, with planning underway for upgrades at Nixon, Walker and Phyllis Reserves.

Community and recreational facilities

We consider that providing high-quality and fit-for-purpose community and recreation facilities is a key component in building strong communities. We recognise that a growing population puts increasing pressure on existing facilities. To meet this challenge, during the reporting period we have provided:

- A capital grant to upgrade two of the tennis courts at Nicholson Park.
- Funding to identify where upgrades of community facilities are required, or ensure they are fit-for-purpose.
- Funding for the Mt. Albert Aquatic Centre and Mt. Albert Recreation Centres so they can deliver programmes that meet and align to local needs.
- Oversight and monitoring of community facility renewals to ensure they are high-quality, well-maintained spaces.
- Refurbishment of the Mt. Albert Aquatic Centre.
- An upgrade of the Mt. Eden War Memorial Hall's roof.
- Funding for the Sandringham, Pt. Chevalier, Mt. Albert and Epsom community centres to deliver programmes that meet and align to local needs.



5 Thriving town centres and a growing local economy

Our centres are well supported by local people and are attractive destinations for visitors. Our business areas play a key role in growing the local economy.

The Board recognises that strong and vibrant villages and town centres contribute towards Albert-Eden being an area where both locals and visitors want to shop, enjoy dinner or relax with coffee.

We understand that each village has its own unique character and identity, and we welcome opportunities to collaborate with businesses, business associations, business improvement districts and the public to provide economic development opportunities.

In meeting our priority of promoting and assisting economic growth in our area, we have:

- Ensured all aspects (e.g. budget, design and public endorsement) of the of Mt. Albert town centre upgrade are ready for construction in late-September 2016. This project will revitalise the town centre, bring a refreshed sense of vibrancy to Mt. Albert, and also provide economic development opportunities and improved transportation linkages.



Lanterns in Mt Albert for Matariki 2016

- Completed the Pt. Chevalier plaza upgrade, which included new paving, new and renovated street furniture, a larger grassed area, landscaping, as well as relocating the toilet. The project addressed safety issues and improved the amenity of the area. A formal opening will be held in July 2016.
- Held the inaugural Albert-Eden Business Awards in May 2016, which showcased the best of business in our area.
- Provided grants to business associations and business improvement districts towards projects or events that enhance their business area by building identity and capacity.



Albert-Eden Business Awards 2016



6 A community that values its environment

Our community leads Auckland with innovative approaches to sustainable living and takes an active role in caring for our natural resources.

The Board recognises the great work done by volunteer groups and others to protect our unique natural environment. To support this, we prioritise initiatives that promote and protect healthy and sustainable natural environments.

During this period, the Board has delivered a number projects to enhance and protect the local environment, as outlined below.

Sustainability initiatives

- Approval of the Western Springs Garden at 956 Great North Road as the site for the new Resource Recovery Centre, in December 2015. The centre is a collaborative project with the Waitemata and Puketapapa Local Boards, and will provide the public with a centralised point where they can drop off reusable and recyclable items.
- Funding an eco-neighbourhoods programme to promote more sustainable living in the Albert-Eden area in 2015 and 2016.
- Funded Litefoot Projects to deliver sustainability projects through sports clubs.

Ecological Restoration

- Design and delivery of the stream management programme in 2015, which has enabled a community-led approach to stream restoration work in the Board area.
- Continuation of the annual pest management programme in Almorah Rock Forest in 2015 and 2016 to protect this unique ecosystem.
- Restoration work at the Mahoe Rock Forest (which is located by Harbutt Reserve) in 2014 and 2015.
- Provision of a grant to Friends of Mangawhau towards an ongoing project aimed at restoring a significant ecological area at Auckland Grammar School.
- Provision of grants to stream groups for weed control, planting and naturalisation in Oakley and Lower Meola Creeks.

7 Our heritage is cherished and protected

We understand, appreciate and record our natural history and heritage buildings.

Albert-Eden has a rich built and natural heritage that contributes to our distinctive identity and promotes community pride. The Board is committed to protecting both built and natural heritage in the area and encouraging public involvement in celebrating the rich history of the area.

Heritage

The Board continues to work towards greater protection of the built and natural heritage as well as its promotion and appreciation. During this period, we have delivered the following projects:

- Albert-Eden Bungalow Festival in September 2015 to promote and celebrate our vivid and unique built heritage.
- An oral history of the Albert-Eden Local Board area in 2015, which reflects and details the colourful history associated with central Auckland.
- Roll of Honour, located at Mt. Albert War Memorial Hall, to commemorate Mt. Albert residents who fought in World War One.
- Oversight and monitoring to ensure our iconic rock walls are well-maintained and structurally sound throughout 2015 and 2016.
- Board member representation on the Central Joint Funding Committee between January and June 2015, which allocated built heritage grants to a number of landowners and community groups located in Albert-Eden.



8 People can move safely and easily around Albert-Eden

We have access to well-connected and safe transport choices

The Board continues to actively represent the interests of local residents and businesses and is proactive in working with Auckland Transport to deliver positive transport outcomes for the area. The Board collaborates closely with Auckland Transport, the Council-Controlled Organisation responsible for Auckland's transport services.

The Board generally has delivered projects, and supported regional initiatives via:

- Advocacy as a key stakeholder on projects, and
- Direct-funding of projects it considers to be priorities for the community through a dedicated Transport Capital Fund.

During the reporting period, the Board delivered through its Transport Capital Fund:

- Several traffic calming projects, with a focus on slowing traffic through residential areas in Balmoral North and South, Mont le Grand, Columbia and Sainsbury Roads and Huntingtree, Vancouver Avenues.
- Installation of new pedestrian countdown timers at:
 - Mt. Eden village (the intersection where Mt. Eden, Essex and Stokes Roads connect).
 - the intersection at Gillies and Owens Roads.
 - the intersection at Ranfurly and Manukau Roads.
 - the intersection at Kingsland and Dominion Roads.
 - pedestrian crossing upgrades to flashing LEDs in Valley Road.
- New pedestrian refuges in Morningside Drive, Manukau Road and St. Andrews Road.
- New footpaths in Carrington Road and Cadman Avenue.
- Installation of cycle racks in Kingsland Train Station.
- New light poles and LEDs in New North Road – Mt. Albert Village, Sandringham Road Village and Mt Eden Road Village.
- Pedestrian bridge connecting Mt. Albert Train Station to New North Road.

The Board has advised Auckland Transport as a key stakeholder by providing feedback on:

- Well-designed, safe streets – the Regional Land Transport Plan, Auckland Transport’s Code of Practice, Corridor Management Plans in the Board area, Auckland Transport Parking Strategy, Berm Planting Guidelines, and Mt. Eden Residential Parking Zone.
- Cycling and walking options that make it easy to get around and through our area – Dominion Road Alternative Cycling Route.
- More people in Albert-Eden choose to use public transport – upgrades at Mt. Albert Train Station, Light Rail, support for introduction of double decker buses, proposed New Network Public Transport Network for Central Auckland.

In response to local community feedback, the Board continues to also work with Auckland Transport on public transport and parking-related matters as well as addressing general maintenance issues relating to roads, footpaths, lighting and storm-water.

Finally, we continue to advocate to the governing body and Auckland Transport to ensure roading and public transport keep pace with the growth our area is experiencing.

As part of the Annual Plan process, we have advocated the following initiatives to both the Governing Body and Auckland Transport:

- Return of light rail on Dominion, Sandringham and Manukau Roads.
- Ensure the full delivery of the SH20 Waterview shared path between Alan Wood Reserve, Mt. Albert and Great North Roads, Waterview, a condition of the decision of the Waterview motorway connection, which was not fully funded by New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).
- Improve and make safe cycling and walking networks, through the Dominion Road upgrade and the SH16/20 Waterview Connection Project.
- Ensure the programme of grade-separation of dangerous rail crossings is progressed.
- Undertake the widening of the Carrington Road overbridge on the north side for a bus interchange adjacent to the rail station and to improve pedestrian and cycle safety and movement.
- Address light pollution and sky glow, and waste of energy resources resulting from inefficient lighting.

9 Consultation, engagement and representation

The role of the Board is to represent its communities and advocate on behalf of the community on issues of interest. This has included providing feedback on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan and different tranches of the special housing areas.

The Board has also been involved in the planning and consultation of projects that are happening in the Albert-Eden Local Board area such as the draft Newton and Eden Terrace Plan and the Dominion Road upgrade project.



Dominion Road

The Board undertook a comprehensive programme of consultation and engagement on the draft Long-term Plan 2015-2025. This included a Have Your Say session, public meetings, stakeholder meetings and localised engagement events.

The Board values its communities' thoughts and opinions and is committed to staying connected to local residents, businesses and groups. Consultation enables us to better understand your views, and get closer to you and listen. In the past year, the Board ran engagement activities for the following projects:

- Mt. Albert and Pt. Chevalier town centre upgrades.
- Chamberlain Park Master Plan.
- 2015-2025 Long-term Plan and the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 Annual Plans.

- The Board’s Art Brokers held a series of community meetings to develop a work programme of art and performance activities and initiatives for Albert-Eden.
- Consultations on park development and upgrades (Potter’s Park, Sainsbury Reserve, Nicholson Park, Edenvale Reserve, Essex Reserve, Delphine Reserve, Windmill Reserve and Walmer Reserve).
- Establishment of a Community Liaison Group for Fowlds Park.

Dog Access and Alcohol Bans review

The Board reviewed dog access rules and alcohol bans in its area during October and November 2015.

In response to a legislative requirement, all alcohol bans were consulted on and reviewed following the gathering of evidence for alcohol-related crime or disorder in town centres, parks and on beaches. Forty-five alcohol bans met the requirements and were retained, while 63 bans were lapsed.

Dog access rules were consulted on and reviewed for Eric Armishaw Park, Pt. Chevalier Beach, Coyle Park, Gribblehirst Park and Heron Park. The Board received and considered 336 submissions as a part of the review process, in order to ensure that the right balance of needs for dogs, their owners, non-dog owners and wildlife.



Coyle Park, Pt. Chevalier



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