

Waitematā Local Board Achievements report

1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017



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Grey Lynn Park playground.

Contents

Message from the chair	4
Waitematā Local Board members	5
Major projects and initiatives	6
• Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway	6
• Ellen Melville Centre redevelopment	6
• Freyberg Place upgrade	7
• Te Hā o Hine Place	
• Streetscape improvement projects	9
• Fukuoka Garden	10
• Grey Lynn Greenways	10
• Grey Lynn Pump Track	11
• Symonds Street Cemetery restoration	11
• Playgrounds	12
• Improvements to Fanshawe Street entrance in Victoria Park	12
• The Boroughs	13
• Low carbon initiatives	13
• Central Community Recycling Centre	14
• Ponsonby Park	15
• Point Resolution stairs	15
• Parnell Station	16
• Waipapa Stream restoration	16
• Volunteers in local parks	16
• Local restoration programme	17
• POP Programme	17
• Local events	18
• Accessibility focus	20
• Youth and child-friendly focus	20
• Community gardens	21
• Inner City Network	21
• Support to business associations	21
• City Fringe Economic Development	
• World Masters Games and Lions	22
• Newton and Eden Terrace Plan	23
• Heritage Foreshore Trail signage	24
• Bonus floor provisions	24
• Map of heritage sites	25
• Notable trees in Waitematā	25
• Pollinator Park	25
• Other parks improvements	26
Community grants and funding	28
Local engagement	31
Transport advocacy	32
Other advocacy	32
Waitematā Local Board governance	34
Looking ahead	35

Message from the chair



On behalf of the Waitematā Local Board, I am pleased to present our key achievements for the past year.

Following local elections, a new local board was sworn in on 27 October 2016. New members Richard Northey, Adriana Avendaño Christie and

Mark Davey joined members Shale Chambers, Rob Thomas, Vernon Tava and I for the 2016-2019 electoral term. After successfully leading the board for two terms, Shale is now deputy chair.

The past financial year was marked by the delivery of major projects, such as the Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway and the Greenways route from Great North Road to West End Road via Grey Lynn Park, focused at improving walking and cycling opportunities. We also saw the commencement of the Teed Street upgrade in Newmarket.

The development of our new Local Board Plan kept us very busy and excited. After months of engagement with mana whenua, key stakeholders and local communities we are getting closer to the final stages of the process. Once adopted, the plan will reflect our vision for the next three years and as such will guide all our current and future projects and initiatives.

During the past few months we witnessed the culmination of another significant project - the restoration of Ellen Melville Centre and the upgrade of Freyberg Place. After public consultation, in September we resolved to change the name of Lower Khartoum Place to Te Hā o Hine Place, a name gifted by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, paying tribute to the Women's Suffrage Memorial located there.

With the upgrade of Old Mill Road, Tirota Reserve, Western Park and Grey Lynn Park playgrounds and the new splash pad in Myers Park, we improved the provision of high quality and accessible play spaces. We contributed funds for the community-led Grey Lynn Pump Track and continued supporting the community group behind Ponsonby Park at 254 Ponsonby Road in their aspiration to develop a new civic space.

Once again we funded our signature events Parnell Festival of Roses and Myers Park Medley and supported Festival Italiano, Grey Lynn Park Festival and a range of other events through our grants programme. We delivered a new season of POP, a series of temporary public art activations, and continued allocating funds to community groups through our grants programme.

The restoration of Symonds Street Cemetery continued with new paths, signage and restoration of the Parker Grave. We installed 25 interpretation panels from Point Erin to Parnell Baths to mark the walk along the historic foreshore of the Waitematā. We supported the Low Carbon Community Network and installed solar charging tables in Aotea Square and Victoria Park, an idea that came from our Low Carbon Community Action Plan.

In March we were happy to participate in the opening of Parnell Station and as part of this project we committed funds from our Transport Capital Fund to create a footpath connection to Nicholls Lane.

We are very grateful to have engaged and vibrant communities that provide support and feedback into our plans and projects. In the year ahead we look forward to continuing working together to achieve better outcomes for Waitematā.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pippa Coom".

Pippa Coom
Chair, Waitematā Local Board

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A view of the boardwalk section of the newly opened Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway.

Major projects and initiatives

Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway

The Waitemātā Local Board officially opened the Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway on Saturday 17 December, completing one of the board's most significant projects. The walkway, located on public reserve land and dating back to the 1920s, provides an attractive walking amenity for the local community and visitors, improving links between reserve land and offering additional walkways for pedestrians.

At 1.4km long, it runs between Westmere Park, at the end of Westmere Park Avenue, and Lemington Reserve. It is accessible from both Meola and Lemington Roads. The walkway section features extensive native shrub and tree planting and travels through a mix of semi-mature and mature native and exotic vegetation. The boardwalk section leads through stands of mature mangroves with the low-tide sections passing through mangroves

and native regenerating forest of pohutukawa, nikau, kowhai and cabbage trees.

The project has been supported by volunteers who have planted a lot of the regenerating bush. Looking forward, the area will be enhanced over the next five years thanks to a weed management programme.

Ellen Melville Centre redevelopment

The upgrade of Ellen Melville Centre has been a priority for the local board since term one. The redevelopment of this facility saw the realisation of our vision: a thriving community hub that serves the city centre residents and the wider community by providing a place for gathering and building connections, information exchange and community participation in a wide range of activities.



The redeveloped Ellen Melville Centre will become a community hub in the heart of the city.

This year, we got to make decisions about some very exciting aspects of running this facility. In June we resolved to approve the names provided by the National Council of Women (NCW) to name the rooms within the new centre after women who have done a remarkable job for the city of Auckland: Helen Clark, Elizabeth Yates, Betty Wark, Marilyn Waring and Eleitino (Paddy) Walker.

Also in June we resolved to allocate money to the development of branding and marketing to create a unique Ellen Melville Centre brand and website in response to stakeholder feedback for the facility to have an iconic, distinctive identity. These funds will be used to produce collateral such as posters, flyers, newsletters, as well as signage, video content for the website and social media and a digital design template for activity promotion. The website will be able to be transferred to the community group that takes over the management of the facility in the future, reducing their setup costs.

Once the Ellen Melville Centre starts operating, council will commence the development of a transition plan

to community-led management and operation by 2020.

Freyberg Place upgrade

In conjunction with the redevelopment of the centre, the adjacent Freyberg Place was fully upgraded to a high quality, attractive and durable public open space, creating a vibrant community hub which will become a cultural heart of the city centre. Consulting with children and incorporating a child friendly design was a major driver of this project, funded by the city centre targeted rate. As part of the works, a special moa-shaped periscope, named Blaze by students at the nearby Lollipops Educare centre, was installed above the construction zone so children of all ages could keep an eye on the area's development.



A group of children by the moa-shaped periscope installed next to the construction site.

Te Hā o Hine Place

Last September, the Waitemātā Local Board resolved to change the name of the lower section of Khartoum Place to acknowledge the location of the Women's Suffrage Centenary Memorial 1893-1993. On Suffrage Day, the board and iwi partners celebrated this milestone in a well-attended ceremony where they unveiled the new name for the lower section of Khartoum Place - Te Hā o Hine Place.

After a consultation period in April and May with iwi, the National Council of Women, local businesses, residents and the wider public, the majority were in support of a name change to be associated with women's suffrage. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei gifted the name 'Te Hā o Hine' which is derived from the whakatauki (proverb) 'Me aro koe ki te Hā o Hine-ahu-one' and translates to 'pay heed to the dignity of women'.



Kaumatua Taiaha Hawke, former member Christopher Dempsey, chair Pippa Coom, Carol Beaumont (National Council of Women – Auckland branch), former member Deborah Yates and deputy chair Shale Chambers at the renaming ceremony of Te Hā o Hine Place.

Streetscape improvement projects

1. Teed Street Upgrade

The board has funded the Teed Street upgrade, a streetscape improvement project that falls out of the Newmarket Laneways Plan, adopted in September 2015. The initiative is driven by the aspiration to enhance the pedestrian environment and contribute to creating a quality public realm with streets that are locally

distinctive, safe, healthy, accessible and social. The works include wider footpaths and new paving, street furniture, lighting and native trees planted in bio-retention pits that filter stormwater runoff. The works commenced in June 2017 and are expected to be completed around October 2017.

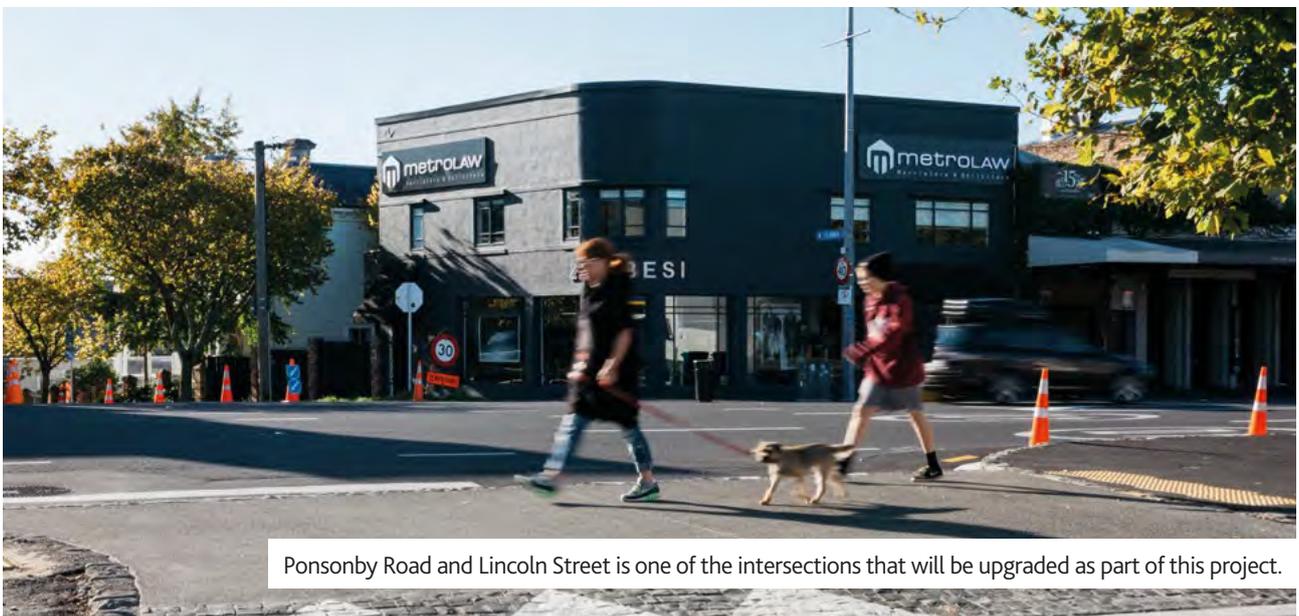


An artist's impression of the upgraded Teed Street area.

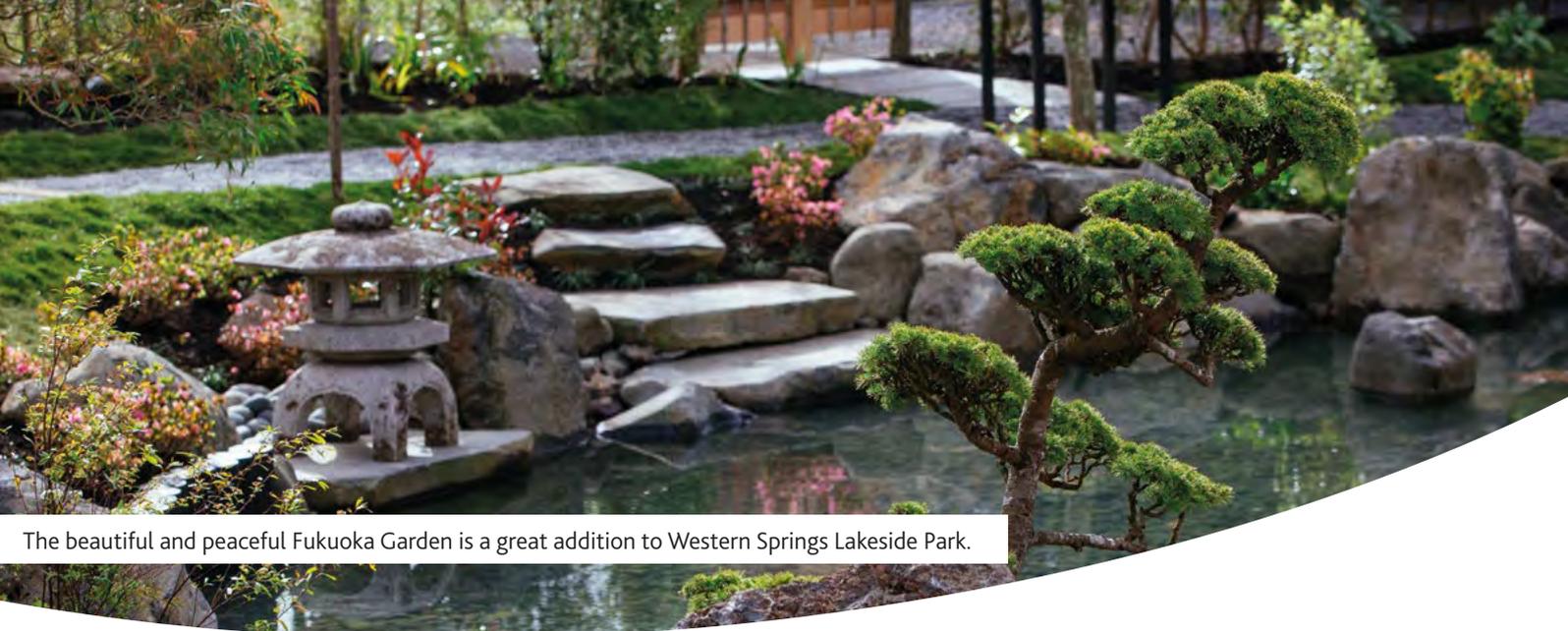
2. Ponsonby Rd Pedestrian Improvements

Waitematā Local Board and Auckland Transport are currently making improvements for pedestrians along Ponsonby Road (and eight side streets) between Lincoln Street and Pollen Street to create a more attractive and pedestrian-friendly environment. Pedestrian safety is an outcome sought by the board's Ponsonby Road Plan and has been identified as a key issue for the community.

The works include new raised tables of concrete and basalt, footpath build-outs, relocated pedestrian refuge crossings (near Norfolk and Mackelvie Streets), a new pedestrian refuge crossing on Ponsonby Road (at the intersection of Pollen Streets) and planting. The works commenced in February 2017 and are expected to be completed in stages by the end of 2017.



Ponsonby Road and Lincoln Street is one of the intersections that will be upgraded as part of this project.



The beautiful and peaceful Fukuoka Garden is a great addition to Western Springs Lakeside Park.

Fukuoka Garden

After years in the making, the restored Fukuoka Garden was completed, giving the public the opportunity to visit a truly authentic Japanese garden in Western Springs Lakeside Park.

The garden replaces the original Fukuoka Friendship Garden built in Auckland Zoo, which was gifted to Auckland in 1989 from Japan's Fukuoka City in recognition of the sister-city relationship. The new garden, which is 2.6 times larger than the original and free for people to enjoy, has a tea pavilion,

waterfall and pond. It features over 1800 native Japanese and New Zealand species and incorporates items preserved from the original garden including four bonsai trees, paving stones, lanterns, a water basin and the entrance.

Board member Vernon Tava and former member Deborah Yates were involved in the Fukuoka Garden Advisory Group together with councillors, members of the Independent Māori Statutory Board and members of the Friends of Fukuoka Gardens.

Grey Lynn Greenways

On 2 June we opened the Grey Lynn Greenway route with the Mayor Phil Goff and Auckland Transport. The path runs through Cox's Bay Reserve, Hakanoa Reserve and Grey Lynn Park and opens up connections to sports facilities, schools and local shops. The route will link into the network of safe routes about to get underway on Great North Road, Richmond Road and Surrey Crescent.

The on-road sections of the route include traffic-calming measures, better crossing opportunities and a roundabout.

The Grey Lynn Greenway project cost around \$1.5 million, which came from local board funding, Auckland Transport and the New Zealand Transport Agency.



Member Rob Thomas, chair Pippa Coom, Mayor Phil Goff, deputy chair Shale Chambers and member Adriana Avendaño Christie officially open the Grey Lynn Greenway Route with local children.

Grey Lynn Pump Track

The completion of the Grey Lynn Park Pump Track in May marked the realisation of the first project in the council's Community Led Small Build Programme, aimed at empowering communities to deliver valuable assets to the wider community. Back in October 2015, the board unanimously supported the project and allocated funds to contribute to the development of the track, an all-weather, tar seal circuit for kids and adults to cycle on.

Following the board's approval, the Grey Lynn Pump Track group launched a fundraising campaign and with the donations of local residents, schools and businesses successfully covered the costs of the design, resource consent and build throughout the 2016-2017 period.

The 200 metres pump track provides a well-planned, safe and attractive facility for people of all ages. Since its opening, it has become an increasingly popular attraction in Grey Lynn Park, encouraging children and their families to be active and socialise.



Young Louie enjoying the new Grey Lynn Pump Track.

Symonds Street Cemetery restoration

As the first public cemetery in the early days of Auckland City, Symonds Street Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Auckland. Dating back to 1842, it provides a place of commemoration for an estimated 10,000 people, including prominent individuals such as Captain William Hobson.

In recognition of its significant and unique built and natural heritage, the local board has been allocating funds for its restoration since 2011. Deputy chair Shale Chambers sits on the Friends of Symonds Street Cemetery, an advisory group focused on the protection and preservation of this historic cemetery.

Last year, efforts focused on the conservation of documentary information, the maintenance and enhancement of the landscape character, the implementation of new pathways and wayfinding and supporting volunteering activities including planting days and rubbish removal.

The local board also runs a response fund to repair damage and graffiti vandalism to monuments and increase levels of service. In June 2017, the restoration of the Parker Grave - a plot with several monuments identified as a health and safety risk - was completed.

This was the first major archaeological conservation project in the cemetery.



Right: Deputy chair and member of the Friends of Symonds Street Cemetery Shale Chambers, Chris Mallows (council Heritage), Martin Horwood (Artemis Conservation), Chris Allen (ABC Ltd), Bev Parslow (Heritage New Zealand), Lynda Lucas (council Parks) next to the restored Parker Grave.

Playgrounds

We are committed to providing children and their families with great places to play and have fun. As a board we always look for opportunities to contribute additional funds to scheduled renewals in order to achieve enhanced play facilities in our parks and reserves. We also think it's important that children have a say in what they want to see for their playgrounds, that is why we include them in every consultation prior to developing a design.



Upgraded Western Park playground.



Last year we opened upgraded playgrounds in Western Park and Grey Lynn Park with great features like natural play, some shade via vegetation and, in the case of Western Park, one of the highest and longest tube slides in Auckland at 25 metres. Accessibility is also at the core of these upgrades, for example through the use of equipment for all ages and abilities and the provision of easy access for prams and wheelchairs. Other playgrounds that were renewed last year include Old Mill Road and Tirotai Reserve.

From left to right: chair Pippa Coom, member Rob Thomas, deputy chair Shale Chambers and member Vernon Tava at the upgraded Grey Lynn Park playground.

Improvements to Fanshawe Street entrance in Victoria Park

A new park entranceway which showcases iwi artwork was created in parallel with the Fanshawe Street bus stop improvement. The Waitematā Local Board worked with Auckland Transport to create a design which protected the root systems of the large trees that shade

the area whilst enlarging the bus stop to enhance safety for pedestrians and bus users alike.

The artwork was created by artist Puhi Thompson, from Ngati Paoa, and draws on the mahinga kai (food gathering) theme and oral traditions relating to this area.



New seat in Victoria Park.

The Boroughs

In December last year, the Waitemātā Local Board, together with Spark, marked the opening of a new basketball court in Victoria Park, called “The Overpass” due to its location below the motorway. This joint initiative between Spark and Auckland Council has delivered five courts across Auckland including the provision of WIFI to connect players across the city.

In our commitment to provide high quality, safe and accessible facilities that offer informal recreation opportunities, the board fully supported this project and allocated local funds to move the car park in order to facilitate the construction of the court. This new play space complements the popular skate park right next to The Overpass, which features two Māori artworks and spectator seating funded by the board in the first term.



Girls in action playing at the new basketball court in Victoria Park.

Low carbon initiatives

Since the publication of the Low Carbon Action Plan in November 2015, the local board has funded a suite of initiatives focused on adopting low carbon practices such as reducing energy use, encouraging sustainable transport options, reducing waste and supporting the establishment of the Waitemātā Low Carbon Network.

1. Low Carbon Lifestyle Project

This trial focused on providing targeted information and support for residents to adopt low carbon lifestyles. The driver of the project was primarily empowering householders (in particular apartment dwellers) to reduce home energy use, initially in the areas of hot water and lighting. The pilot conducted an investigation to help residents reduce their use of hot water through the fitting of shower flow restrictors. In total, nine site visits were undertaken to establish apartment suitability and develop customised information.

The second phase of this pilot focused on standalone houses, with 155 households (540 residents) visited in the Surrey Crescent area and given personalised advice on how they can reduce their home energy use. A total of 426 energy efficiency recommendations were made and residents committed to 339 actions.

2. Low Carbon Network

This network of individuals, organisations and businesses was established to help communicate, celebrate and promote the low carbon initiatives currently underway in the local board area. The group meets every six weeks in Studio One Toi Tū

and other locations. Last year the Network held eight meetings with a total of 200 attendees. Café owners, academics, council staff, environmental advocates and local people with an interest in low carbon have given presentations on a range of topics, from urban forests and zero waste to king tides, community energy networks, electric vehicles and art and climate change. Interest in the network continues to grow, with 170 people now registered in the database and emailing list, and a Facebook group has also been created.



One of the Low Carbon Network meetings in Studio One Toi Tū.

3. Solar tables

As part of our Low Carbon Action Plan, Waitematā Local Board has placed two solar-powered device charging tables in Aotea Square and Victoria Park, high-pedestrian areas of the inner city. The solar panels are on tables, decorated with a chess board design, and have four rapid-charge portals so people

can charge their phones or other devices for free.

With this sustainable project, the board integrated smart city technology and sustainable energy sources into our urban spaces.



Member Rob Thomas and chair Pippa Coom testing the solar tables in Aotea Square.

Central Community Recycling Centre

The board has worked closely with the Albert-Eden and Puketāpapa local boards to progress the proposed Western Springs Central Community Recycling Centre (CRCC). This will be a facility where residents can drop-off unwanted items and materials for reuse and recycling.

Extensive community engagement has occurred with key stakeholders and partners. In March 2017 the Albert-Eden Local Board formally approved the high level design for the facility as it is located within that local board area. The Waitematā Board had

significant input into this design.

Recycling Centres like the CRCC are part of a broader Auckland-wide resource recovery Network. This approach aligns with the regional zero waste by 2040 waste minimisation strategy and efforts to standardise legacy council approaches to waste. Co-benefits will include job creation, skills development, and greater community empowerment and engagement with sustainability and waste minimisation initiatives.



Chair Pippa Coom with members of the community at an engagement event for the Community Recycling Centre.

Ponsonby Park

Last year we resolved to adopt Ponsonby Park project as our priority unfunded capital project – this means we are advocating to the Governing Body to prioritise the allocation of funds and resources to deliver the community's vision for 254 Ponsonby Road.

The former Auckland City Council purchased the site in 2006 to create an open space in the Ponsonby town centre for future communities. In line with the Ponsonby Road Plan, in 2014 the board consulted the community on three design options for the site. After receiving strong support for the idea of utilising the full site as an open space, the board endorsed a community-led design process which was launched two years ago.

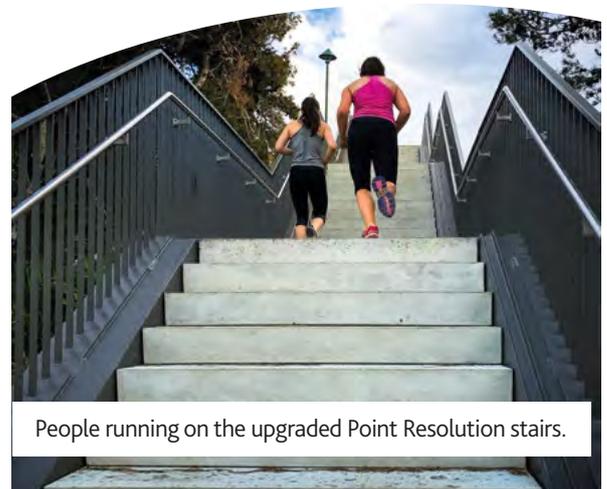
Since then, the initiative has been guided by a facilitation group that has actively engaged with the board and the local community to develop a design. Fourteen proposals from 11 submitters were produced pro bono and went through a selection process that ended up with a chosen design. The design - strongly endorsed by the public - includes the development of a park, pavilion, plaza, lanes and street upgrades.



The chosen design for Ponsonby Park at 254 Ponsonby Road.

Point Resolution stairs

One of the actions proposed in the Point Resolution Taurarua Development Plan, adopted in April 2015, was the renewal of the staircase and balustrade that offer a connection to the new bridge and provide access to Parnell Baths. Last year we resolved to top up the renewal and allocate additional local funds to achieve a higher quality upgrade. In June, the physical works for the improvement of the upper stairs and the concrete path from the top of the stairs to the park entrance at the end of St Stephens Avenue were completed, as well as the section of path between the stairs. The next stage will be the renewal/upgrade of the fencing around the top of the park.



People running on the upgraded Point Resolution stairs.

Parnell Station

In March 2017, the local board was proud to participate in the opening of Parnell station, a significant milestone in the ongoing revitalisation of Auckland's rapid transit network. The new station, located in the historic Waipapa Valley at the end of Cheshire Street, connects to Parnell and will later link to the Auckland Domain, the University of Auckland and AUT, making it a vital link for students, local residents and visitors.

We look forward to the delivery later this year of a board funded path connection from the platform through the Domain to Carlaw Park. We are currently advocating to Auckland Transport to ensure Parnell Train Station is operational to full services and accessible to all users at the earliest opportunity.

Waipapa Stream restoration

The 2012 Waipapa Stream ten-year restoration plan focuses on improving the overall health of the stream and the surrounding area through pest control, rubbish and debris removal and replanting. Led by staff and contractors, this local board funded initiative has been supported by community volunteers who have undertaken pest plant control, clean ups, attended community days and planted a total of 350 native plants.

In September, a Waicare community event was held as part of the Auckland Heritage Festival 2016 to encourage interest and provide an opportunity for regular volunteers and neighbours to network and get involved in the ongoing care of the stream. The community group are currently investigating interpretive signage, have met with community facilitators and are engaging more actively with direct neighbours.

Volunteers in local parks

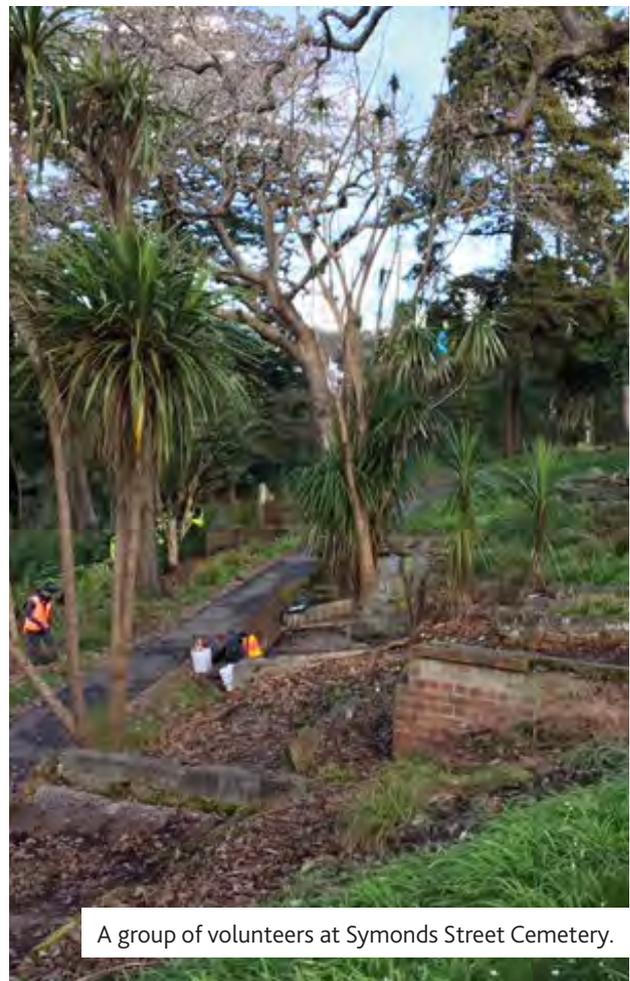
The local board funded a \$10,000 Volunteer Programme which delivered animal pest control, litter clean-ups, planting and weeding in parks and reserves across Waitematā. In the 2016/2017 financial year, more than 700 volunteer hours were undertaken including:

- tree planting at Meola Reef
- litter clean-up, volunteer winter rose pruning and working bee at Symonds Street Cemetery
- weekend community planting at Lemington Reserve, Weona Reserve
- St Peters College tree mulching at Auckland Domain



Waitematā and Gulf Councillor Mike Lee, chair Pippa Coom, Mayor Phil Goff and AT chair Lester Levy at the opening of Parnell Station.

- animal pest control (trapping rodents and possums) at Alberon Reserve, Auckland Domain, Lemington Reserve, Tirotai Reserve and Newmarket Park
- litter clean-up at Myers Park
- Weed control at Point Resolution.



A group of volunteers at Symonds Street Cemetery.

Local restoration programme

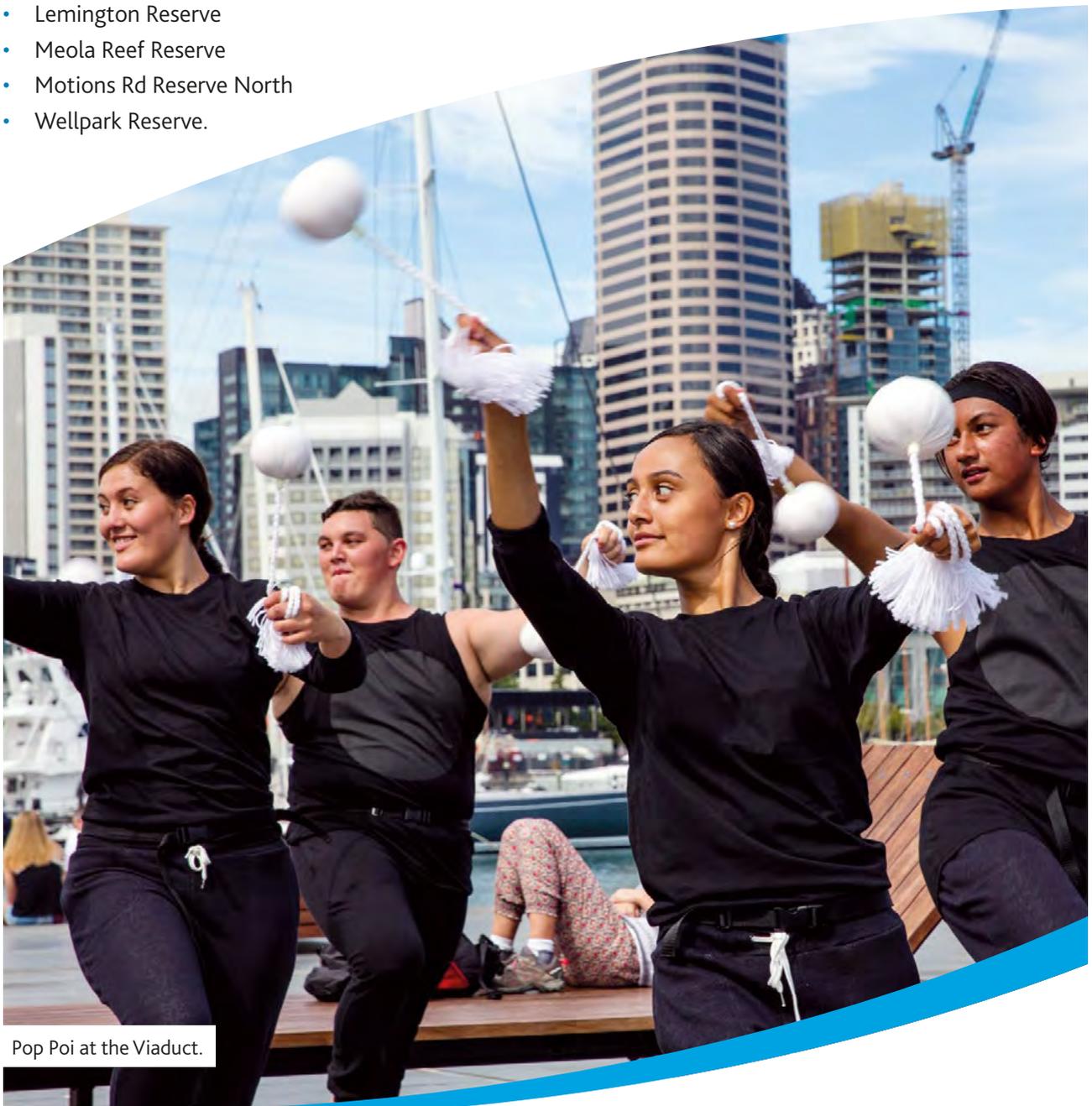
The local board allocated \$70,000 to top up the council's ecological restoration contract in order to achieve enhanced environmental outcomes across the urban forest. The funds were used to control selected pest plants and to improve the reserves through planting where possible. This restoration work, completed over the last three years, enabled the transfer of the following reserves to the ecological restoration contract:

- Alberon Reserve
- Arch Hill Scenic reserve
- Coxs Bay (Hukanui Reserve, Cox's Reserve and Bayfield Park)
- Jagers Bush
- Lemington Reserve
- Meola Reef Reserve
- Motions Rd Reserve North
- Wellpark Reserve.

POP Programme

The board funded for the fourth year in a row the delivery of POP, a family friendly and free arts programme that brings arts and culture into everyday life within public spaces. Last year, POP held a successful series of playful, interactive and memorable experiences in April and May including new activations like Pop Fiesta, POP Poi and Pop Waiata.

In total, POP consisted of eight activations in nine different locations: Aotea Square, Albert Park, St Patrick's Square, Lower Queen Street, Takutai Square, Karanga Plaza, Lumsden Green (Newmarket), Downtown Pier 4 and La Cigale (Parnell).



Pop Poi at the Viaduct.

Local events

The board is committed to funding new and established events that are accessible, free, diverse, safe, smoke-free and zero waste. Last year, we delivered our two signature events, Parnell Festival of Roses and Myers Park Medley, and supported Festival Italiano in Newmarket, Grey Lynn Park Festival, Art Week, Buskers Festival and a range of other events through our grants programme.

1. Board delivered events:

Parnell Festival of Roses

The Parnell Festival of Roses is an annual local board event that has been running for 23 years in the Parnell Rose Gardens (Dove-Myer Robinson Park). The 2016 event took place on Sunday 13 November and was very well attended with more than 7,000 people.

While the roses, which looked impeccable in full bloom, were certainly the main attraction of the event, there were plenty of other highlights. A variety of entertainment such as performances, face painting, self-guided tours through the gardens and hula hoop workshops ensured the success of this established event.

In terms of our zero waste goal, diversion from landfill was 93.3%. This excellent result was largely due to all stallholders complying with the zero waste initiative by using 100% compostable packaging.



People enjoying the entertainment at Parnell Festival of Roses.

Myers Park Medley

Myers Park Medley is a family-friendly day of art, fun, music and entertainment. In collaboration with Music in Parks, the 2017 event took place on Sunday 26 February and included a variety of attractions ranging from live jazz and blues to puppetry, a range of delicious food stalls and entertainment for children. Myers Park Medley is smoke and alcohol-free, zero waste and accessible to all.

The event also provided an opportunity to celebrate the opening of the new splash pad, a complement to the award winning playground that was delivered as part of the board's redevelopment of Myers Park. The splash pad has been constructed on the site of the original paddling pool and its design and construction were approached with great care and consideration to preserve the heritage features and original concrete. The pool features an inscribed poem by Hone Tuwhare about Horotiu, the taniwha that lived in the old Waihorotiu Stream, which had its source in the Myers Park gully.



New splash pad in Myers Park.

2. Board supported events:

The board also allocated funds to contribute to the delivery of the following events:

- Festival Italiano – 25 September 2016
- Art Week Auckland – 8 to 16 October 2016
- Grey Lynn Park Festival – 26 November 2016
- Franklin Road Christmas Lights Opening Night – 1 December 2016
- West End Cup – 1 to 4 December 2016
- Buskers Festival – 28 to 30 January 2017
- Art in a Day – 11 February 2017
- Anzac Services in Grey Lynn – 25 April 2017.

The financial support provided to Festival Italiano, Art Week and Grey Lynn Festival was part of a three year partnership agreement which was created to provide funding stability to the organisers so they can plan their events well in advance. Last year we allocated \$63,000 to this fund. Since the partnership reached its final year in 2017/2018, we have renewed our agreement with a total allocation of \$83,000.



Traditional Italian dance at the Festival Italiano in Newmarket.



Chair Pippa Coom speaking at the Grey Lynn RSC Anzac Service.

Accessibility focus

The board continues to be a leader around accessibility in the belief that everyone has the right to participate in community life. The past year the board has worked on a refresh of its Accessibility Plan, engaging with community stakeholders and council staff, to align with the Auckland Council Disability Operational Plan and the new Local Board Plan 2017.

Some accessibility focused activities from the past year include:

- Western Park playground upgrade, the new Grey Lynn Pump Track and Myers Park splash pad included accessibility audits and design improvements to ensure that people with limited mobility can enjoy the new facilities, for example level entrances and barrier free paths, accessible bucket swings and tracks for prams, scooters and bikes.
- Parnell Festival of Roses included features like more accessible parking, two audio described tours, NZSL Interpreters based at the information tent all day and a dedicated NZSL historic tour of the gardens.
- Myers Park Medley offered parking for those with limited mobility, NZSL storytelling and interpreters, audio described activities and tour, large font signage on site, an accessible event map, more seating options and bike parking.

Youth and child-friendly focus

The board continues to recognise the importance of children and young people having a voice and actively participating in civic, cultural and recreational life. There is a range of different ways the board has done this, from community grants focused on child-friendly activities to funding some of the activities of the Waitematā Youth Collective:

- Last year we provided grants to Auckland Youth Orchestra, Circability Trust, Rainbow Youth, YMCA, among other youth focused organisations.
- We supported and contributed board funds for the construction of the Grey Lynn Pump Track.
- We undertook children consultation for playground upgrades.
- We funded a Youth Hub Feasibility Study to identify opportunities for youth engagement and collect information about youth friendly places within the Waitematā Local Board area.
- The board have continued to actively support the Waitematā Youth Collective (WYC), chaired by Naushyn Janah and Carmen Szeto. The local board and the WYC collaborated in a number of events, activities, steering groups and projects including a central city youth map app, engagement for our local plans and representation on the Low Carbon Network, Inner City Network, 254 Ponsonby Road, Ellen Melville Centre operational planning and the Youth Hub Feasibility Study.



Chair Pippa Coom, Waitematā Youth Collective co-chair Carmen Szeto, member Richard Northey, Waitematā Youth Collective co-chair Naushyn Janah, member Adriana Avendaño Christie and Waitematā Youth Collective member Shelley Addison-Bell at Myers Park Medley.

Community gardens

Community Gardens provide a great way for neighbours to get together and create connections. They also provide an opportunity for people to grow and eat fresh fruit and vegetables, especially for people living in high density areas within the Waitemata area.

The board has continued to support the increasing number of community gardens through workshops, events, community grants and land owner approvals. There are now 16 gardens in the Waitemata community garden network, excluding the local schools network.



Gardening duties at Kelmarna Gardens.

Inner City Network

The board has contributed funds to Auckland District of Social Services (ADCSS) to facilitate the Inner City Network, a partnership with Department of Internal Affairs and the community. The Network aims to become a central hub for information on what's happening in the city, a place where people can connect, network, collaborate and initiate community projects. This year's topics have included community connectedness in vertical living, enhancing neighbourhoods, youth services forum and international students.

The Network has also been involved in pre-engagement on the new Local Board Plan 2017, engagement on the Ellen Melville Centre operational plan, the Accessibility Plan refresh and the Youth Hub feasibility study.

Support to business associations

Seven business associations operate within the Waitemata Local Board area, of which six are established as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). The local board continues to be represented on business associations, providing advice, advocacy support and allocating funds to help deliver local initiatives.

Below is the list of the business associations with their respective board members representative:



Parnell Business Association (BID) –
Vernon Tava



Ponsonby Business Association (BID) –
Pippa Coom



Grey Lynn Business Association (BID) –
Mark Davey



Newmarket Business Association (BID) –
Rob Thomas



Uptown Business Association (BID) –
Adriana Avendaño Christie



Heart of the City (BID) –
Shale Chambers



K Road Business Association (BID) –
Richard Northey

City Fringe Economic Development Plan refresh

Board funding enabled Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) to engage consultants BusinessLab to refresh the existing Waitemata City Fringe Local Economic Development Action (2014). This refresh was undertaken to ensure that the action plan remained up-to-date and relevant. It sets out a number of actions aimed at supporting local economic development in the city fringe business area which covers Parnell, Newmarket, Uptown, Karangahape Road, Ponsonby and Grey Lynn. Businesslab has undertaken extensive engagement with our key stakeholders, including a workshop in June where business association representatives had an opportunity to provide feedback on the plan.

World Masters Games and Lions

As part of our support for local economic development, the board allocated contestable funds to a number of business associations to enable them to leverage off the World Masters Games and the 2017 British and Irish Lions rugby tour to New Zealand. In total \$17,500 was made available to business associations, with \$10,000 for the World Masters Games and \$7,500 for the 2017 British and Irish Lions rugby tour.

The World Masters Games funding was provided to the Karangahape Rd Business Association (KRBA), Ponsonby Business Association (PBA) and the Grey Lynn Business Association (GLBA). The funds were used to support a promotional campaign by PRBA, marketing of an urban orienteering event by KRBA and a street event by GLBA.

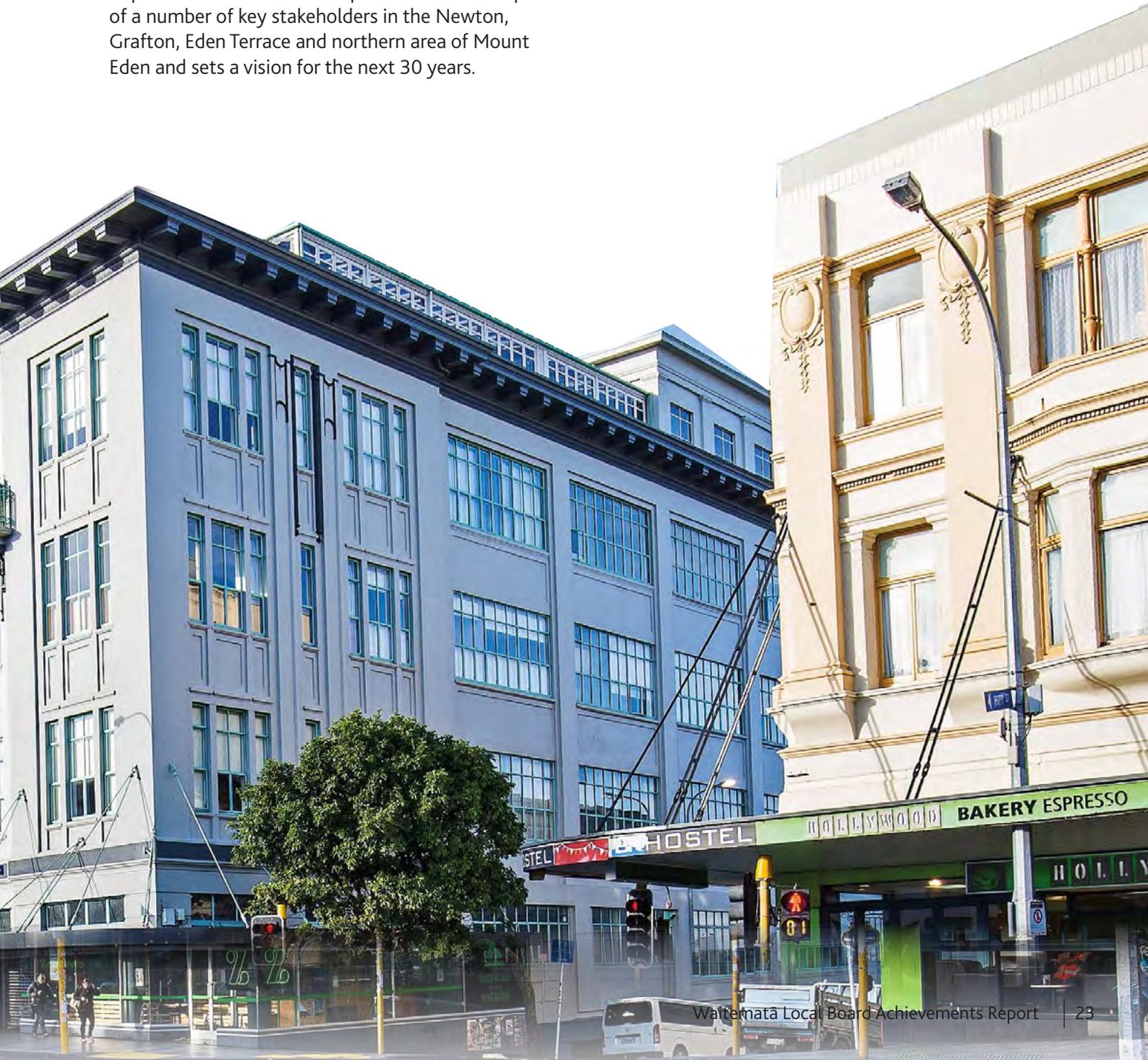
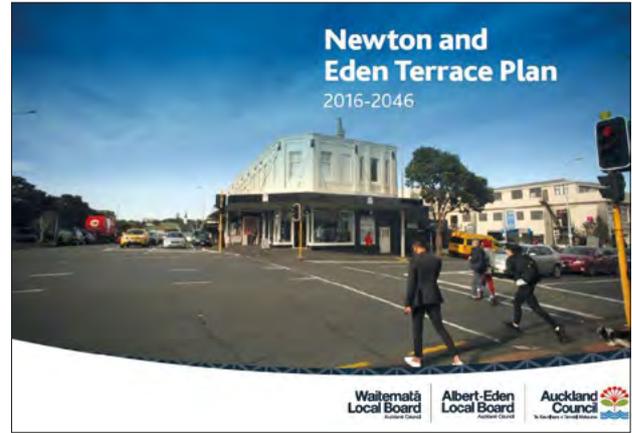
Funding for the 2017 British and Irish Lions rugby tour was granted to PBA, KRBA and the Parnell Business Associations. All three associations used the funds to help promote and market the areas to visitors during the period of the tour.



Newton and Eden Terrace Plan

In a great example of collaboration between local boards, the Waitematā and Albert-Eden local boards adopted a joint plan for the Newton and Eden Terrace area in September last year. The plan supports the aspiration for the area to become one of the most sophisticated and stimulating areas in Auckland. This is to be achieved through capitalising on the opportunities created by the City Rail Link construction.

The Newton and Eden Terrace Plan is focused on economic development, great public spaces and community facilities, pedestrian and cycling amenities, new developments, protection of historical and cultural character and public transport improvements. It was developed based on the input of a number of key stakeholders in the Newton, Grafton, Eden Terrace and northern area of Mount Eden and sets a vision for the next 30 years.



Heritage Foreshore Trail signage

The board has funded the installation of 25 interpretation panels along a route tracing the 1840 Mean High Water Mark of the Waitematā foreshore between Point Erin Park and Parnell Baths. The premise of this initiative was to promote and celebrate the historic foreshore of the Waitematā, telling the stories of mana whenua associations to localities along the route and highlighting the late 19th century/early 20th century modification of the Waitematā historic foreshore.

The panels, which include photos and little known facts, form an attractive route that can be completed in around two hours.

As a new stage of this initiative, we will work with mana whenua to make all the historic content developed for this project available on digital platforms.



One of the signs in Victoria Park.

Bonus floor provisions

There are over 60 public access routes via private buildings in central Auckland - they are a means for developers to increase floor space in return for providing public access or benefit. Also described as 'through links', these can include public viewing decks, plazas, walkthroughs and access to privately owned artworks. Since term one, the board has been committed to making this information available to the public, who may not be aware of these amenities in the middle of the city. Work was first focused on collating this information and recently an online interactive map was uploaded to the internet, which makes finding these locations very easy for the public. Find the online map here: bit.ly/2rNRTZs



Deputy chair Shale Chambers and member Vernon Tava using the new interactive maps.

Map of heritage sites

Last year the board developed an interactive map of heritage sites in the Waitematā area as a way to share valuable information about historic and cultural heritage in a form that is readily accessible. Using Google Maps, member Vernon Tava created a map that anyone can load onto their phone or tablet and use to take their own walking tour, just using their device as a guide.

There are four different hierarchies of historic heritage listed in two different places: the Auckland Unitary Plan (Historic Heritage A & B-listings) and two created by Heritage New Zealand (formerly the Historic Places Trust, categories 1 & 2). The map puts them all in one place and allows people to compare the lists by toggling the different layers in the legend. More detailed information for each site appears when the marker is tapped. Find the online map here: <https://vernontava.com/2017/07/18/waitemata-local-board-area-heritage-sites-areas/>

Notable trees in Waitematā

Notable - or scheduled - trees provide a high degree of protection from felling and are listed as part of the Auckland Unitary Plan. Trees can be individually recognised for protection and are also protected within reserves, parks and any area subject to conservation management. An online map created

by member Vernon Tava helps you find all notable trees within the Waitematā area and provides both common and botanical name, locations and ID number. This interactive map can be found here: vernontava.com/2017/07/21/scheduled-trees-in-the-waitemata-local-board-area/

Pollinator Park

Funded by a local board grant, the Hakanoa Reserve Pollinator Park was constructed in October 2016. It creates a halfway point for pollinators travelling between Grey Lynn Park and Cox's Bay Reserve and is located parallel to the new Greenway funded by the board, specifically at 36 Sackville Street, Grey Lynn. The community group behind the project worked closely with local groups and neighbours to create the pollinator park, which brings benefits to the environment by improving habitat connections and restoring the natural balance of the ecosystem.

Pollinator Parks transform public spaces into flourishing habitats for all species to enjoy (even humans). The "Pollinator Paths" movement has a vision to connect Auckland's parks and reserves together to make pollination pathways and is looking to install further pollinator parks in the near future.



Volunteers building the new pollinator path in Hakanoa Reserve.

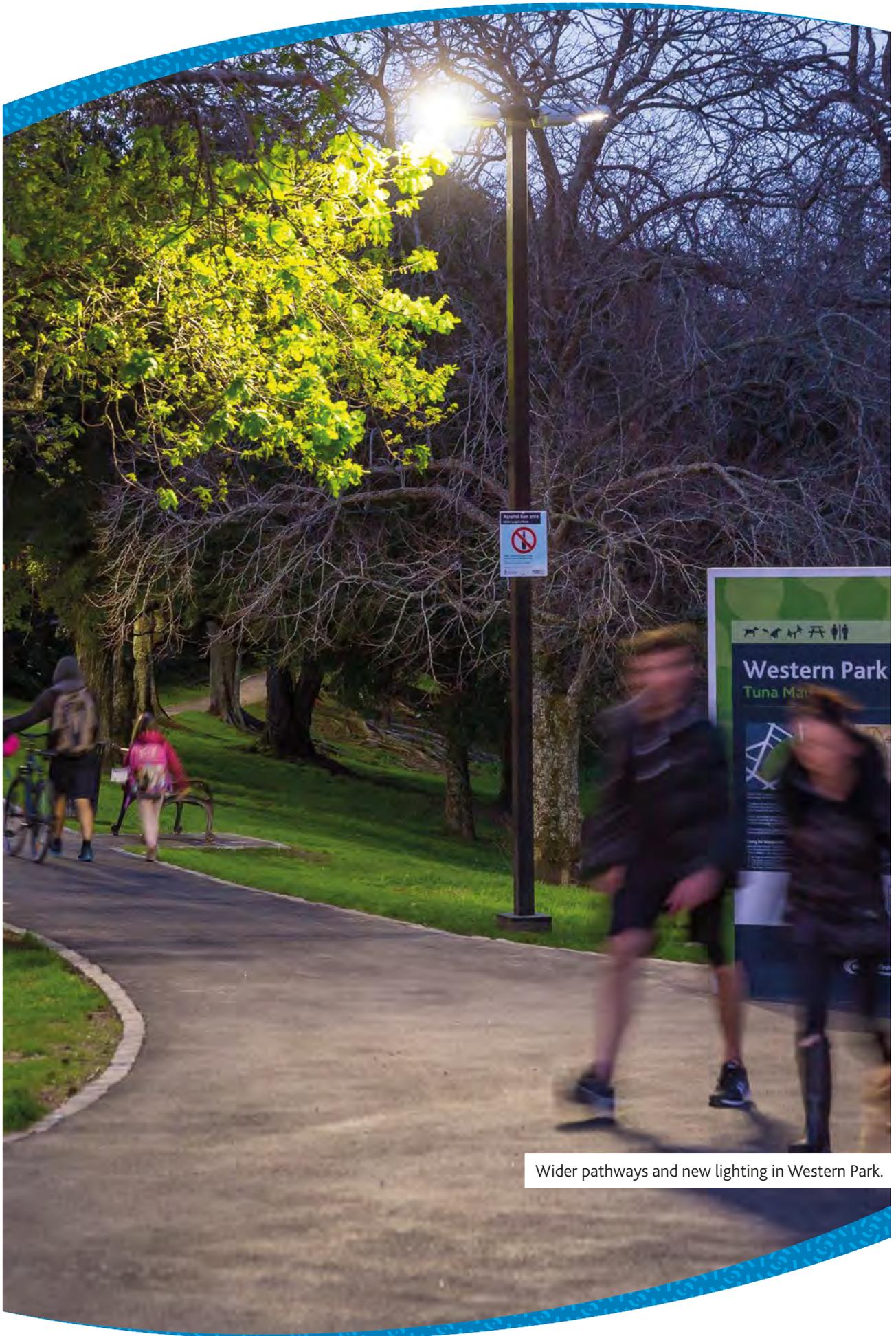
Other parks improvements

Waitematā Local Board is committed to provide high quality parks that are accessible, safe and can be enjoyed by a wide range of people. Other improvements to local parks included:

- Based on our Western Park Tuna Mau Development Plan, last year we completed a series of works aimed at creating smoother and wider pathways throughout the park and new lighting along the full length of the route along the western ridge.
- Over the summer, the council installed in-ground irrigation onto all four sports fields in Victoria Park. The purpose of the project is to increase the standard of the playing surface during the summer and the beginning of winter and to assist with the recovery of the fields following events. It also provides better grass coverage which is a plus for all users.
- A series of artwork storm water covers were installed in Albert Park.
- Additional clearance work was scheduled and delivered in the Rose Road Gully at Grey Lynn Park to remove invasive weeds such as blue morning glory, moth plant and ginger. As a follow up to this project, a planting plan will be developed in close consultation with the local community to identify problem species and weed control methods and maintain and enhance the area.
- In early 2017 the board commissioned Meola Reef Reserve Te Tokaroa Development Plan, which will set out a vision for the park, enable informed decision-making on future improvements and direct asset renewals. A draft plan was signed off for consultation in August. After public consultation in September, the draft will be finalised and adopted by late 2017.



Walkover of Meola Reef Tokaroa with elected members, iwi and council staff to provide input for the development plan.



Wider pathways and new lighting in Western Park.

Community grants and funding

The local board runs a popular Community Grants Programme aimed at assisting community groups, clubs and organisations to carry out projects that serve the Waitematā area. Last year, we allocated \$128,000 in community grants to over 40 groups and \$136,000 in accommodation grant support. The accommodation grants were created to allow community organisations to cover rental and/or lease payments, council rates and regular ongoing venue hire costs.

The Community Grants programme gives priority to applications for services, projects and events that align with some of our priorities such as waste minimisation, protection and enhancement of our natural heritage, promotion of physical and recreational activities and work towards Waitematā becoming a low-carbon community.

Some examples of projects we supported last year through grants include The Tara Project, Le French Festival in Queen's Wharf, a weed control and natives planting programme in Western Springs College and a contribution to exhibitions by Rainbow Youth. The following is the full list of community groups and organisations that received grants during the financial year 2016/2017.

Local community grants:

- Auckland Badminton Association Incorporated
- St. Patrick's Cathedral Heritage Foundation

- Matua Atina'e Incorporated
- The People of Auckland Community Trust
- Sustainable Coastlines Charitable Trust
- The New Zealand Dance Advancement Trust
- Black Doris Project
- Body Positive
- Same Same But Different
- Wet Hot Beauties
- Ensemble Polymnia Trust, trading as Aorangi Symphony Orchestra
- Rainbow YOUTH
- Grey Lynn Business Association
- Parnell Community Trust
- Auckland Women's Centre
- Dance Therapy NZ
- St Columba Anglican Church and Community Centre
- Grafton Residents Association
- Auckland Old Folks Association Incorporated



NZ Dance Advancement received a grant to perform a ceremonial dance at the Auckland War Memorial Museum on Remembrance Sunday.



A board grant helped Auckland Women's Centre run diversity forums in the local board area.

- Asian Family Services
- Japanese Society
- Splice
- Auckland & District Pipe Band Inc.
- Catalogue and photographic reproductions for Real Pictures: Imaging XX
- The Peace Foundation
- Newmarket Arts Trust
- Show Me Shorts Film Festival Trust
- 'Stuck in the maze/from housed to homeless' Exhibition
- Dress for Success Incorporated YMCA of Auckland
- New Zealand Fashion Museum Charitable Trust
- Friends of Symonds Street Cemetery Incorporated (FSSC)
- Point Chevalier Social Enterprise Trust
- The Documentary New Zealand Trust
- The Actors' Program
- Auckland Youth Orchestra Inc.
- Fun and Games Toy Library Inc.
- Social Innovation New Zealand: University of Auckland
- Western Springs College
- Urban Tree Alliance New Zealand
- Hamilton Embassy Enterprises Limited



Hamilton Embassy Enterprises received funds towards event costs for Le French Festival.

- Westhaven Radio Sailing
- StarJam Charitable Trust
- Sir Peter Blake Trust
- Accommodation grants
- The Basement Theatre Trust
- New Zealand Dance Advancement Trust
- Spirit of Adventure Trust
- Massive Company Trust
- Tenants' Protection Association (Auckland)
- Raukatauri Music Therapy Trust
- Chinese New Settlers Services Trust
- OUTLine New Zealand Incorporated
- Opera Factory Trust
- Rape Crisis Auckland Incorporated
- Fun and Games Toy Library Incorporated
- Script to Screen
- Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
- Stuttering Treatment And Research Trust
- Te Karanga Charitable Trust
- Indian Ink Trust
- New Zealand Society of Authors
- The Auckland Film Society Incorporated
- Auckland Youth Orchestra Incorporated
- AKSamba Incorporated
- Ngā Rangatahi Toa Creative Arts Initiative Trust
- The Lifewise Trust
- The Auckland YMCA Marathon Club Incorporated
- New Zealand Dance Festival Trust
- Foundation for Peace Studies Aotearoa New Zealand
- Audio Foundation
- Objectspace

Local engagement

A key responsibility of the board is to engage with the community, including businesses and residents' organisations, special interest groups and the general public, to identify common interests, preferences and priorities. The Waitematā Local Board encourages and values input from its local communities so their views and needs are reflected in the decisions the board makes.

The past year we consulted the public on a number of projects, with the Local Board Plan 2017 being the main focus of engagement for the board:

- Teed Street Upgrade in Newmarket – August 2016
- Meola Reef Reserve Te Tokaroa Development Plan - Targeted pre-consultation in April 2017. Full public consultation occurred in September 2017
- Annual Budget 2017/2018 – public consultation from 27 February to 27 March 2017. As part of this consultation, we held a Have your Say hearing style event on 8 March attended by Mayor Goff and Councillors Mike Lee, Daniel Newman and Desley Simpson. We also partnered with Waitematā Youth

Collective at the Myers Park Medley Festival on 26 February

- Local Board Plan 2017 – In early 2017, before going out for public consultation, we undertook a pre-engagement approach that included meetings with mana whenua and key stakeholders such as the Inner City Network and the Youth Collective. The draft plan went out for consultation between 22 May and 30 June. During that time, the local board members attended numerous events to raise awareness of the plan and listen to local residents' views. As part of this engagement, we held three local Have Your Say events and drop-in sessions in local libraries and markets.



A Plan 4 Youth consultation event for the Local Board Plan at the Town Hall.



Have Your Say event with Mayor Phil Goff.

Transport advocacy

The Waitemata Local Board is committed to connected, accessible and safe transport choices. Over the years we have collaborated with Auckland Transport to progress well-connected and reliable public transport and that people have plenty of options for walking and cycling. The following is a summary of our transport related advocacy positions for 2016/2017:

- Ensure Parnell Train Station is providing full services and is accessible to all users at the earliest opportunity.
- Provide accessible pedestrian and cycling connections to Parnell Station. Open the Greenways route from the Strand through the old Parnell tunnel and create an accessible pedestrian connection from Parnell Station to the Domain, the Strand and Parnell Town Centre.
- Complete the Auckland Cycle Network.
- Develop light rail within the isthmus.
- Secure a regional budget to enable the implementation of Greenways across Auckland.
- Auckland Transport to adopt a target of zero serious injuries or deaths on our roads as part of a comprehensive safe systems approach to road safety including safe road design, enforcement, safer speeds and driver education.
- Auckland Transport to undertake a trial of a slow speed zone in a residential area and/or a town centre.
- Auckland Transport to implement the city centre 30km per hour speed zone (as described in the City Centre Masterplan) and the Wynyard Quarter slower speed zone.
- Auckland Transport to consider how every renewal and maintenance project can be leveraged to improve the road design for all users including layouts that include bus lanes, greenways, and cycle lanes, remove cycle pinch points and add better pedestrian crossings.
- Auckland Transport to improve intersections with substantial foot traffic for pedestrians and developing solutions to improve safety and amenity for pedestrians.
- Auckland Transport to implement residential parking schemes to manage commuter parking in central Auckland suburbs following consultation with residents.

Other advocacy

The Waitemata Local Board advocated on a number of issues to the Governing Body. Apart from resolving Ponsonby Park at 254 Ponsonby Road as their priority unfunded capital project, the board prioritised the following advocacy areas:

- **Affordable housing:**
Ensure Auckland Council actively builds or enables others to provide affordable housing through appropriate mechanisms and tools.
- **Housing solution for homeless people:**
Deliver short term housing solutions for homeless people.
- **Minimise Agrichemical Use Initiative:**
Secure a budget to provide as a base level service the costs of minimising or eliminating when possible the use of agrichemicals in accordance with the Council's Weed Management Policy.
- **Reduction of wastewater flows into waterways and the Waitemata Harbour:**
Advocate for projects which deliver localised solutions for all four catchments (Meola Reef, Grey Lynn, City Centre and Parnell/ Newmarket) to provide a major and early reduction in the volume and frequency of wastewater entering waterways and the Harbour and take steps to improve water quality.
- **Pt Erin Pool Redevelopment Initiative:**
Prioritise Pt Erin Pool for redevelopment according to the recommendations endorsed by the Waitemata Local Board in 2013 in relation to two potential development concepts.



Quay Street cycleway.

Waitematā Local Board governance

Auckland Council's shared governance model means local boards make decisions on local issues, activities and the use of local facilities within their decision-making allocation responsibilities. Local boards also advocate and provide local views to the Governing Body on larger scale investments, regional programmes and policy issues such as rates proposals, which are outside local board decision-making responsibilities.



Waitematā Local Board 2013-2016: Deborah Yates, Greg Moyle, Pippa Coom (deputy chair), Christopher Dempsey, Shale Chambers (chair), member Rob Thomas and Vernon Tava.

To effectively represent our local communities, the local board works collaboratively with departments within council, the Mayor and Governing Body and the seven council controlled organisations. Examples of this cooperation include:

Auckland Domain Committee

The committee has decision-making responsibility over parks, sports, recreation and community services and activities within the Auckland Domain, the city's oldest park. It is comprised of three Governing Body members, three local board members and two members of the Māori Statutory Board. Waitematā Local Board chair Pippa Coom, deputy chair Shale Chambers and member Vernon Tava sit on this committee.

Governance Framework Review Political Working Party

The governance framework review (GFR) was initiated to assess how well the Auckland shared governance model (governing body/local boards) is meeting the aims of the 2010 reforms. A political working party (PWP) made up of local board and governing body members was established to consider the review's findings and recommendations. The group is comprised of seven members from the Governing Body and seven members from local boards. Waitematā Local Board deputy chair Shale Chambers is the deputy chair of the PWP.



Waitematā Local Board 2016-2019: Vernon Tava, Rob Thomas, Pippa Coom (chair), Mark Davey, Shale Chambers (deputy chair), Richard Northey and Adriana Avendaño Christie.

Since its creation, the working party has been working on three broad workstreams: policy and decision-making roles, local boards funding and finance and governance and representation. Once its recommendations are formalised, the Governing Body will make final decisions on the proposed changes in late 2017. An implementation plan will follow.

AKL Paths Leadership Group

AKL Paths is a joint initiative between council and Auckland Transport created to better activate Auckland's shared paths and cycle ways. The initiative builds on the implementation of local boards' greenway plans and the development of the cycle network over the past few years. One of the main achievements of the group so far has been the publication of "Local Path Design Guide". Chair Pippa Coom is the local board representative of the group.

LGNZ

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) represents the national interests of councils in New Zealand and leads best practice in the local government sector. Chair Pippa Coom is the board's representative to LGNZ attending zone meetings and the annual conference. Vernon Tava is the Zone 1 representative on the Young Elected Members Committee.

Pippa is also a member of LGNZ's Governance and Strategy Advisory Group set up to define strategy to guide LGNZ's advocacy approach.

Looking ahead

We are very close to adopting our Local Board Plan 2017. Our outcomes are very much aligned with the ones in the 2014 plan, meaning we will continue to focus on connected and empowered communities, high quality facilities and parks, an enhanced natural environment, a protected heritage, safe and accessible transport options and a resilient local economy.

This year we will continue funding our Grants Programme, local events and POP arts activation. We will also progress the partnership with Richmond Rovers Club to develop a multi-purpose sports facility in Grey Lynn Park and deliver parks improvements such as playground upgrades and paving renewals.

With the Western Springs Park Waiorea Development Plan, currently in progress, we will have a complete suite of plans for all our major parks. As part of the restoration programme of Symonds Street Cemetery, further signage will be installed and the board will continue to fund a maintenance budget to repair damage and vandalism.

In the year ahead the board will continue to support environmental restoration projects, including increased funds for the restoration of

Waipapa Stream and an initiative to enhance Newmarket Stream. Our volunteers programme leading on weeding and planting activities across parks and reserves will continue, as well as the top up of ecological maintenance contracts to deliver better environmental outcomes to natural areas in need.

In late 2017 we will be re-opening the upgraded Teed Street and we will see the completion of Ponsonby Road Pedestrian Improvements. We plan to install a new interpretative sign in Te Hā o Hine and fund the digitisation of the Heritage Foreshore Trail signs to make the information more accessible to the wider public.

We trust that this will be another year of great outcomes for the diverse communities that make up Waitemātā.





Find out more: visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
or phone 09 301 0101