

Whau Local Board Plan 2017

Progress Highlights for year ended September 2019



Progressing toward a healthier Whau River water quality and environment

New Lynn Scouts helping to unload the Phil Warren 2 of rubbish picked up from the river. Photo: Andrew Stevens.

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Foreword

This report has been compiled by Local Board Services staff to present *highlights* of progress in delivering on the Whau Local Board Plan 2017 at the end of the electoral term concluding in September 2019.

A local board plan is an aspirational document required by legislation. It sets a framework that guides local board decision-making and actions for three years.

It informs the council's planning for local activities and enables the board to represent the community's interests and preferences on regional plans and strategies.

The Auckland Plan 2050 (a 30-year plan) outlines a future that all Aucklanders can aspire to: a prosperous future with many opportunities and a better standard of living for everyone. This can only happen if our smaller communities are themselves successful.

Whau Local Board Plan 2017 considers an improved future for the Whau, through seven outcome areas:

- Well-planned towns, facilities and housing
- Great neighbourhoods with strong community connections, capacity and voices
- It's 20 minutes to all we need by walking, cycling and public transport
- Enhanced natural environment
- Strong local businesses and more quality local jobs
- Celebrating our creative edge in our streets, neighbourhoods and communities
- Our Heritage is known, protected and our stories are told.

The intention of this document is to share highlights for each outcome, not outline the whole programme of delivery. The board regularly receives quarterly achievement and annual reports on these areas on its monthly business agenda that provide a more detailed and wider record of projects and programmes progress.

A new local board plan is developed every three years and is one of the first major projects of each newly elected local board. It informs the development of the council's ten-year plan and local board's annual agreements and budgets.

Development of the 2020 plan, including community engagement will be a focus for the incoming local board in the first half of 2020

Antonina Georgetti

Whau Local Board Advisor, Auckland Council

Outcome 1: Well planned towns, facilities and housing

He tāone i tika te whakatū, ōna tikanga whakahaere me ōna whare noho



The Whau is growing due to its location, access to public transport and housing development. Our towns will need to accommodate more people of greater diversity and require matching community facilities and sound infrastructure

What we want to achieve: Our towns and neighbourhood centres are busier, cleaner and safer

Initiative: Refresh Avondale Action Plan and support the delivery of more town safety and beautification initiatives

Progress Highlights:

- **Unlock Avondale** - green light given with the approval of the over-arching plan by Auckland Council's Planning Committee. Drawing on the board's leadership and important work undertaken with the community, the plan will be delivered by the city's urban regeneration agency, Panuku Development Auckland.
- **Avondale Town Centre footpath replacement** - the board has committed Auckland Transport Capex funds to replace all existing slippery clay pavers in the Avondale town centre with exposed aggregate concrete with any remaining funds to be used for street furniture replacements and additional streetscape improvements in the Avondale town centre.

What we want to achieve: Whau has a network of great community buildings, sports fields and parks.

Initiative: Build an expanded replacement community facility in Avondale as soon as possible; Advocate to the Governing Body to include funding for more park land in high needs areas in the council's 10-year budget process; Advocate to the Governing Body to include provision for a recreation and aquatic facility early in the 10-year budget; Seek opportunities to increase and improve the open space and sports fields network, particularly in our high-growth areas.

Progress Highlights:

- **Avondale integrated library and community centre** - \$21 million committed to design and develop. Community engagement findings informed the development of a design brief.
- **Swimming pool and recreation facility in the Whau** - the board successfully advocated for this. The Finance Performance Committee locked a "Whau based" swimming pool/rec project into the 10-year plan 2018 -28 budget. The board's current priority is to find land and has requested Governing Body support to expedite this project.
- **Optimisation of Council Owned Property** –first ever optimisation sale of council owned property at New Windsor. In recognition of the low provision of parks and open spaces in New Windsor, the Governing Body supported the Whau's case to subdivide council owned land in the area, sell off house and section site and retain the green space for public use. Most importantly, funds from the sale can only be used to optimise or improve parks and open spaces in the New Windsor area.

What we want to achieve: Whau is known for its high-quality developments, affordable and rental housing

Initiative: Champion development of multi-agency older adult housing planning; support housing design and construction efficiencies across multiple sites through promoting developer dialogue; promote opportunities for quality development in the whau to investors, community groups and not-for-profit agencies; support housing quality improvement projects.



Progress Highlights:

- **New Quality Mixed Housing:** The board has worked closely with Panuku Development, Housing New Zealand Corporation, Haumaru Housing (builders of communities for aged) as well as private developers to influence the quality of the homes and encourage or enhance connectivity to the respective communities.
- **Healthy Rental, Home Energy Advice and Low Carbon projects.** Board funded several initiatives in this space. In 2017/2018 the Healthy Rentals project shifted focus from landlords to tenants. Funding was diverted away from subsidies for landlords towards improvements that tenants could make themselves.

What we want to achieve: More people are more active more often

Initiative: Work with community groups to enable more recreation activities in our facilities and parks, noting our diverse and ageing populations; work with our regional sports trust to support our sport and recreation groups and their facilities.

Progress Highlights:

- **Whau Open Space Network Plan - Adopted 2017.** The Whau Local Board area has a network of 190 council-owned parks covering 350 hectares. The Plan sets out the actions needed to deliver a sustainable quality open space network for the Whau Local Board area that will respond to the anticipated growth and provide the community with access to a range of recreational, social, cultural and environmental experiences. The plan will assist Auckland Council to prioritise its spending for parks and open space development by identifying projects for prioritisation through the local board plan, long-term plan and annual plan processes.
- **Investment into improvement of existing parks and open spaces** to be able to accommodate more and varied activities, as well as creating a more enjoyable environment for passive exercise. In this term, there has been significant investment in many of our parks; some highlights were:
 - Skate Parks par excellence – Sister Rene Shadbolt and Valonia Park
 - Upgrade of the Craigavon Playground
 - Significant upgrade Olympic Park sports field
 - Upgrade Crum Park facilities
 - Upgrade Sister Rene Shadbolt Park facilities
 - Brains Park – Increased sports fields and recreation capacity with improved sand slits drainage and irrigation; install lighting; high level maintenance
 - Archibald Park – concept plan to developed new play and fitness area and improve the quality of the park overall
 - New Lynn Community Centre extra budget to increase capacity and quality of the facility
 - Ferry lights added to Barron Green, Blockhouse Bay.



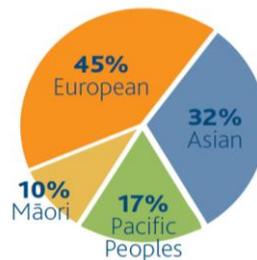
Clockwise from top left: Olympic Park young footballers; Brains Park open sightlines; basketball at Crum Park; popular Craigavon playground and shared paths along Archibald Park

Outcome 2: Great neighbourhoods with strong community connections, capacity and voices

He Kāinga kaha ngā taura here i te hāpori, te āhua mahi me ōna reo whakahi



A diverse population



Our vision is that no matter where you come from or how old you are there is a place for everyone in the Whau.

What we want to achieve: Our town and neighbourhood communities are stronger.

Initiative: Support placemaking projects that foster community identity and encourage shared action; build community capacity and leadership across the Whau; complete and progress delivery of an Ethnic People Plan and support a multi-agency Whau Pacific Peoples Plan.

Progress Highlights:

- **Ethnic People's Plan** - Whau Local Board first in Auckland to launch an Ethnic Plan.
- **Pacific People's Plan** – first for the Whau Board.

The recommendations in these two documents will inform the board's future work programme and the intention is to increase social inclusion, connection and participation in decision-making by our ethnically diverse communities

What we want to achieve: Our many voices contribute to making our future

Initiative: Identify and enable opportunities for neighbourhood building, particularly through local planning projects. Encourage and support our Māori leaders, Pasifika, Chinese, Indian and other ethnic and resettled communities to contribute to the Whau's future.

Progress Highlights:

- **Waitakere ki Tua** – is an action plan wherein local Māori have informed the three west local boards of their aspirations and how we might achieve better things together.
- **Kelston Community Hub** - leaders have not only made significant connections with the community but have also connected the community to each other by empowering them to deliver programmes for themselves. These include:
 - **Cosy Club** – 65+ come together and socialise at the hub
 - **Kelston Early Learning Programme**
 - **Cooking Classes /- Creative Cooks** – local teach/learn each other's ethnic cuisine
 - **Te Kerehana Playgroup**
 - **Te Taumata o Te Whau** - supporting cultural intelligence in the community
 - **Project Whenua**- gardening & environment workshops
- **The Ethnic People's Plan and the Pacific People's Plan** was highlight for developing strong neighbourhoods, it is also a key to empowering locals to shape the communities they live in.
- **Youth** Initiatives – the board is guided by a Youth Specialists. Some of the activities to date are listed below. The board seeks better outcomes for the youth living in the Whau:
 - **Whau youth providers network** and associated youth-led activities including Whau Youth Awards and Youth Week Activities
 - **Whau Youth Board** and Related Activities
 - **Tula'i leadership training programme** for Pacific young people
 - **Youth Connections**, helping youth to be work ready and helping to find employment.

What we want to achieve: Mana whenua and mataawaka are acknowledged and their needs and aspirations are widely known.

Initiative: Develop relationships and agree shared goals with, mana whenua, local Māori and key Māori organisations.

Progress Highlights:

- **E Tu:** forms part of the board's work programme - responding to aspirations and priorities for Maori. This activity involves working with mana whenua and local Maori to respond to:
 - key aspirations and priorities for Māori in the area
 - develop relationships and agreed shared goals with mana whenua, local Maori and key Maori organisations
 - develop a local response to the aspirations of Maori e.g. kaumatua, rangatahi, tamariki; strengthening local residents and local board relationships

- **The Waitakere ki Tua** - In March 2019 the local board adopted this action plan intended to influence and drive future business planning, engagement and relationships, decision-making, systems and processes design, capability and capacity building, and general provision of services.
- A key part of the plan is the establishment of a three-year local community-based Māori broker to take a lead role in strengthening connections and capacity across west Auckland Māori communities, as well as fostering the relationship between west Auckland Māori communities and individuals and Auckland Council.
- **Matariki Celebrations** -Whau supported numerous activations in the area to celebrate the occasion.

Matariki celebrations in the Whau

- **Matariki Light collaboration** - New Lynn, Blockhouse Bay Community Centres and Kelston Community Hub - June 24th until Friday July 19th
- **In house activities:** Green Bay Community Playgroup - Matariki stories, Cookie Making and Craft activities from June 26th to July 4th.
- **Green Bay School Holiday Programme** - Poi Making workshop Monday July 8th, Fried Bread Friday, Friday July 12th and other in-house Matariki inspired craft activities over the July holidays.
- **Pop Up Art workshop** - pop up art workshop for local teens exploring Maori Art forms with Puanga as the theme.
- Whale Rider, entertainment & hangi pork sliders - Friday 5 July - free! @ Blockhouse Bay Community Centre
- Glenavon Community Hub - 4 July Matariki celebrations at hub
- Tai Chi Under the Stars, New Lynn Community Centre, 5th July 6pm
- Kelston Movie Night, Kelston Community Centre, 5th July 7pm
- Zentangle a Matariki Star (kids h/p), New Lynn Community Centre, 8 & 18th July
- Sew your own Matariki Star (kids h/p), New Lynn Community Centre, 8 and 18th July
- Poi Making Workshop, New Lynn Community Centre, 10 July
- Build Your Own Planter Box (kids h/p), Avondale Community Centre, 12 July
- Community Pot Luck Dinner, New Lynn Community Centre, 12 July
- Matariki Tuhaha Market, New Lynn Community Centre, 13th July
- Korowai Photo Exhibition, New Lynn Community Centre, 12 & 13 July

Te Poari ā-Rohu
o Whau



What we want to achieve: Celebrate our diverse communities and their heritages.

Initiative: Support more community events to celebrate being together in the Whau, and to share our many cultures and their significant days; support more events and activities for our older community; support activities that develop our understanding and celebrate our history and our multi-cultural identities.

Progress Highlights:

- **Whau Seniors' High Tea** – in response to the senior residents' feedback to the board that they wanted an event focused on them. The board provided funding and contacted Age Concern, Grey Power and the New Lynn Memorial RSA who willingly and generously supported events in 2018 and 2019.
- **Partnership Events** – provision of non-contestable funds to local groups to deliver a well-rounded series of events that will attract members of the diverse communities in the area:
 - Whau Pacific Festival
 - Whau the Peoples Arts Festival
 - Whau Chinese Festival
 - Waitangi Day
 - New Lynn Christmas Event
 - Blockhouse Bay Christmas Parade
 - Indian Kite Festival
 - Sirens and Sounds
- **Whau Arts Broker** – is contracted by the board, and the role has successfully supported local people to deliver numerous local activations in the Whau.



What we want to achieve: our most in need have a place to go for help.

Initiative: Work with the community sector and government agencies to support their provision of adequate emergency shelter and support services.

Progress Highlights:

- The board continues to advocate to the correct organisations to address the growing number of displaced persons in our community. While the board recognises that it is not in the business of social care, it has supported the community hubs who have provided, and continue to provide food for the homeless.

Outcome 3: It's 20 minutes to all we need by walking, cycling and public transport

He 20 menti ki ngā mea katoa e hiahiatia ana inā haere mā raro, mā runga pahikara, kawenga tūmatanui rānei



We are serviced with rail and feeder bus routes linking our communities and the Whau to the rest of Auckland. Our bus series and cycle paths are starting to criss-cross the Whau, linking our towns and facilities. The City Rail Link is estimated to reduce travel time between New Lynn and Britomart to less than 30 minutes.

What we want to achieve: Build more paths to local facilities and public transport; Make our existing local paths and transport centres even better; Increase awareness of our local links

Initiative: Continue developing new significant links; Continue supporting the development of Te Whau Pathway and advocating for its funding in the 10-year budget; review the pedestrian and mobility friendliness of our town centres; plant more shelter trees on our key pedestrian routes; support improvements to transport centres and our towns making them safer, warmer and easier to store cycles; promote our local links through signs, activities and online applications; encourage people to work locally and promote the use of local links to get to work, recreation and education.

Progress Highlights:

- **Holly Street to Heron Park** - link opened 2018. Delivered in collaboration with Albert/Eden Local Board, this connection between suburbs provides a safe off-road path for many students moving to and from the local schools.
- **New Lynn to Avondale Shared Pathway** - significant funding has been provided to support Auckland Transport to deliver meaningful connector between the New Lynn Transit Centre and the Avondale Train Station. The path includes a bridge over the Whau River at Olympic Park. Work is due to commence on this project in 2019.
- **Seabrook Avenue shared path** - opened with board's successful advocacy for minimum loss of mature trees.
- **Crayford Street Project** – led by Panuku Development, this initiative will deliver reconfiguration and upgrade to Crayford Street, a key connection between Avondale Town Centre and the train station. The project will provide a full streetscape upgrade as well as addressing safety outcomes. Engagement has been undertaken. Construction is expected to commence late 2019.
- **Walks in the Whau Area** – leaflet produced identifies the many links in the area.

Outcome 4: Enhanced natural environment

Kia whakaapitia tonu tōna taiao



Issa, Mikay, Tasi, Anoki at Blockhouse Bay Beach

To create a healthy and liveable environment, our greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced. This can be achieved through changing our lifestyle choices, paying attention to how and where we redevelop, our infrastructure choices, and restoring and enhancing our natural ecosystems.

What we want to achieve: The water quality of our rivers and streams is improving.

Initiative: Fund more waterways education and awareness-raising activities; continue to support community education and the development of more rain garden and wastewater overflow holding/treatment installations, particularly at key sites.

Progress Highlights:

- **Environmental Programmes** - Support external groups like Friends of Oakley Creek, Whau River Catchment Trust and EcoMatters Trust to deliver workshops, events and education programmes toward restoration, clean up and enhancement of our natural environment, with focus on the Whau River and the Rosebank coastal margins.
- **Te Auaunga Awa (Oakley Creek) Middle Catchment Strategy** Adopted as result of collaboration with the neighbouring local boards and local iwi to put in place a plan to protect and manage the future of the awa – the longest stream in the Auckland region.

- **Environmental Pollution Education** – working with Glendene and Rosebank industrial districts to raise awareness of Whau waterway contamination, aiming to improve water quality in the Whau River.

What we want to achieve: More of our parks, coasts and waterways are being restored.

Initiative: Carry out community pest and weed programmes, particularly along the Whau River and the Rosebank Peninsula.

Progress Highlights:

- **Industrial Pollution Prevention Programme** - this programme is primarily educational and aims to inform urban industry about the impacts their activities may be having on local waterways.
- **Pest and weed management** - Continued to fund council's parks team as well as EcoMatters Trust led activities that address animal and weed pest management throughout the Whau.
- **Manukau Harbour Forum** – continued support for the forum, which advocates for adequate resources to lift the harbour's public profile.
- **Te Auaunga Awa or Oakley Creek** - is the longest stream in the Auckland region. The board has adopted a Strategy, which involves the continued funding support for volunteer work, planting plans, interpretation and wayfinding signage and pollution prevention programmes. It also involves advocacy for naturalisation, pipe upgrades, behaviour change programmes, celebratory events, and best practise management. Whau, Albert/Eden and Puketapapa local boards look to form partnerships with groups in the community, businesses and developers to encourage best practise along the awa.

What we want to achieve: Whau is living more sustainably.

Initiative: Carry out ecological quality assessments of our key parks; fund and promote environmental waste minimization and low-carbon activities and education programmes; our public places are managed in more environmentally sustainable ways.

Progress Highlights:

- **Rewarewa Stream** - worked with Auckland Council's Community Facilities, Parks, Auckland Transport and Healthy Waters teams, ensuring remediation of the collapsed culvert on Great North Road, New Lynn resulted in improved water quality and environmental surroundings.
- **Low Carbon Network** - created an opportunity for networking and collaboration for residents, businesses and practitioners undertaking low carbon activities in or connected to the local board area; amplifying local low carbon activities and encourage greater action.

What we want to achieve: Know, grow, protect and manage better our urban trees and green areas.

Initiative: Manage our current urban tree cover, plant more trees and shrubs and promote their benefits; pilot approaches that better protect our notable trees.

Progress Highlights:

- **Ngahere or Urban Trees Strategy.** The board funded the initial stages of this council-initiated strategy that looks to map and protect trees in the urban environment. The board viewed this as a regional responsibility and recommended that funding to further progress should come from regional funds.
- **Mayor's Million Trees strategy** - In 2019, over 20,000 trees were planted on the Rosebank Peninsula alone, as part of the strategy.
- **Gittos Domain pine trees** – while it was sad to lose this stand of trees that was a significant marker on the Blockhouse Bay skyline, the board has worked with the arborist, ensuring a planting plan that delivers new significant trees in the long term.



Kahikatea (*Dacrydium dacrydioides*), sometimes also known as White Pine, is New Zealand's tallest native and has been included in the planting mitigation plan for Gittos Domain.

Regional Environmental Funds: Highlights for Whau

The Whau Local Board supported the **Water Quality** and **Natural Environment** targeted rates for the Auckland region. This has resulted in Auckland Council's 10-year budget (2018-2028) ring-fencing \$311 million through a natural environment targeted rate for projects that tackle pests, weeds and diseases threatening our native species and ecosystems. Another \$452 million raised through a water quality targeted rate will ensure we have cleaner beaches, streams and harbours.

Blockhouse Bay Beach: Outlet and stream sampling will help to determine the source(s) of faecal contaminants that may be affecting beach water quality and to identify their sources through the detailed property inspections.

Whau Catchment: Initial scoping is underway to improve stormwater conveyance at inlets and outlets, to reduce flow velocity and reduce erosion

Rewarewa Stream: The water quality targeted rate is funding feasibility and mapping of existing vegetation and costings for daylighting work, including possible community planting days

Waitahurangi Stream: Initial scoping is underway for daylighting and stream clean-up projects, from the Clark Street end toward Sister Rene Shadbolt Park

New Lynn Commercial and Industrial Estate Water Quality Improvement: An initial study is underway to look into incorporating water quality treatment into the existing stormwater network at the commercial and industrial area in New Lynn, with a view to reducing contaminant loads entering the Waitematā Harbour.

Priority pest plant and animal controls at the following local parks:

- **Craigavon Park** – Pest plants
- **Gittos Domain** – Pest plants and animals
- **Taunton Terrace** – Pest plants and animals

Whau River Catchment Trust: Received \$18,000 from the new Community Coordination and Facilitation Grant (CCF) for coordination costs and operational planning of the expanded work programme, (fully funded by natural environment targeted rate)

EcoMatters Environment Trust: Received \$14,500 (CCF Grant) towards networking and facilitation support which enabled strategic planning, administrative costs, mana whenua engagement and health and safety

Pest Free Inner West: Received \$30,000 (CCF Grant) towards the employment costs of a project coordinator

Find out more:

For queries about the water quality targeted rate: HWcustomerandcommunity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

For queries about the natural environment targeted rate: Pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Outcome 5: Strong local businesses and more quality local jobs

Kia whakaapitia tonu tōna taiao



The local board's vision is for successful and resilient businesses in Rosebank, New Lynn, Kelston and Avondale, working together to attract new markets and innovate. We want to see more people with higher education achievements gaining well-paid employment and working locally.

What we want to achieve: Our local businesses are stronger and more successful; more new local business and quality jobs; local businesses have access to more skilled local workers now and in the future;

Initiative: Works with and support local business associations to enhance local businesses; work with other boards to support growth of new and more successful businesses by recent migrants; refresh the Whau local board area local economic development action plan; investigate opportunities to build on our arts and cultural heritage and capacity to grow our creative economy. Facilitate our youth employment initiatives to work well together; Research employment needs of our local businesses and not-for profit sector and promote opportunities to local educators and young people.

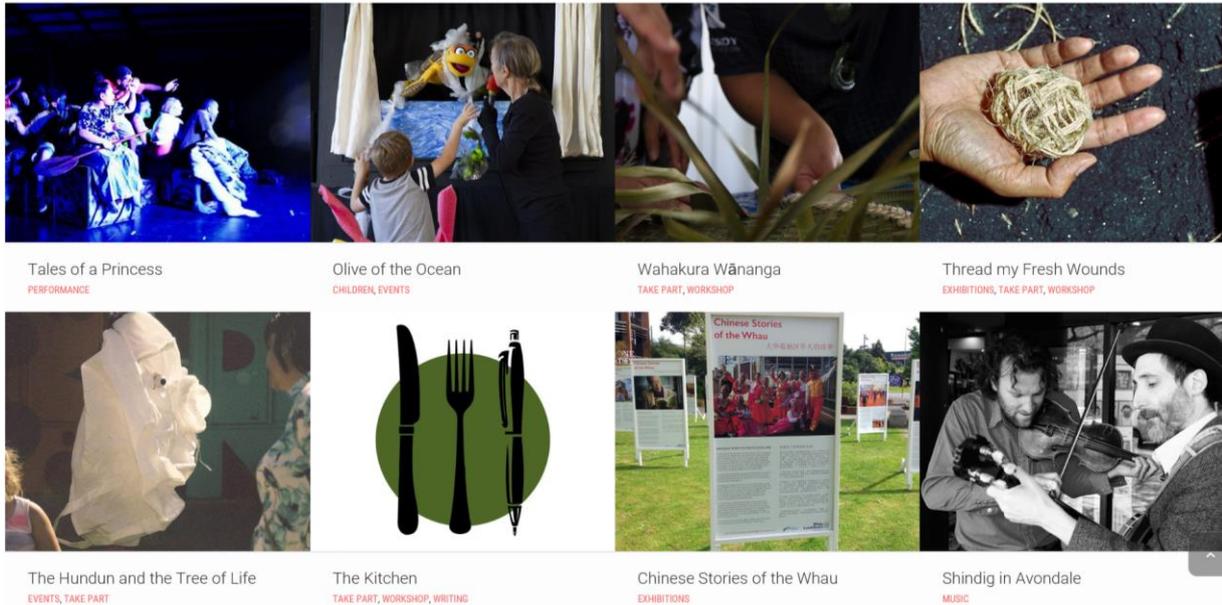
Progress Highlights:

- **Local Business Associations:** The board has continued to work with local business associations to support and encourage best practice to ensure successful business districts in the Whau. The board assists in limited ways:
 - Funding local Christmas events in the town centres
 - Engaging with banks to encourage support for immigrants to set up businesses locally
 - Activate open spaces in the town centres to draw in customers.

National & Regional Investment gains - The board continues to advocate to the Governing Body and council's Economic Development unit to spread returned investment from international events such as the yacht race back into the outer suburbs.

Outcome 6: Celebrating our creative edge in our streets, neighbourhoods and communities

Te whakanui i tō tatou wairua auaha i ngā tiriti, ngā kāinga me ngā hapori



Our vision is for our diversity and creativity to enrich our lives. We celebrate our arts and cultures across the Whau and are recognised as a creative community.

What we want to achieve: Whau's communities can access and participate in arts activity; Whau is known for its robust and flourishing creative economy; art and culture is celebrated in our place-making.

Initiative: continue to deliver and grow local community arts activities through our arts broker programme; facilitate the use of vacant and underused spaces for pop-up arts and culture activities; support network of artists and organisations to connect collaborate, share best practice and develop professionally; develop a creative economy action plan.

Progress Highlights:

The Whau Arts Broker is now in the fifth year of delivery and involves extensive collaborations with other artists, community facilities and organisations, schools, businesses and local residents. This term alone has delivered:

- 9 Theatre shows, workshops and festivals,
- 6 Pan artform events and projects,
- 3 Films and 1 VR documentary,
- 3 Writing initiatives,
- 4 Music programmes,
- 1 Dance series,

- 4 Craft and design projects,
- 5 workshops and meet-ups to build capacity and grow our creative networks
- 18 Visual Arts projects spanning photography, painting, performance and sculpture

What we want to achieve: Art and culture is celebrated in our place-making.

Initiative: Support/work with mana whenua on placemaking projects that honour their stories and significant sites; champion architecture and landscaping that reflects our unique Māori and pasifika influences; investigate public art and design opportunities in the early stages of place-making.

Progress Highlights:

- **Tohu** - adoption of a tohu design which was generated in collaboration with the Albert/Eden and Puketapapa Local Boards and mana whenua. The tohu was designed by local manawhenua and will give symbolism to the environment around te Auaunga Awa or Oakley Creek.
- **Māori architectural designers** - have been in conversations with council with a view to informing the design in the new Avondale Integrated community centre and open space.
- **Te Kete Rukuruku** - Māori naming (and associated story telling) of parks and places in partnership with mana whenua to value and promote Auckland's Māori identity and use of te reo Māori will manifest itself in new dual language signage in future.



Te Kawerau a Maki pou whenua – Olympic Park, New Lynn

Outcome 7: Our heritage is known, protected and our stories are shared

Kia mōhiotia ā tatou taonga tuku iho, kia tiakina, kia takina tonu ngā korero e pā ana ki a tatou



Our vision is for diversity and creativity to enrich our lives. We celebrate our arts and cultures across the whau and are recognised as a creative community.

What we want to achieve: We celebrate and support protection from a strong research foundation; gather and share historical knowledge; preserve our places and stories.

Initiative: Refresh Māori heritage sites list; deliver heritage activities that acknowledges our Māori, colonial and recent heritage; record and share our heritage through film, literature, urban art, sculptures and festivals; expand our oral history programme; seek innovative ways to work with groups, owners and developers to support heritage preservation and promote the protection of Māori heritage sites.

Progress Highlights:

The board has, set aside a small budget to support minor heritage activations in the area – enlisting the help of locals and Auckland Council's Library research staff:

- **West Heritage Conference** –based in Titirangi, this conference tells the stories of all the west, including in its past programme, the significant Māori sites.
- **Heritage plaques** - mark sites of heritage significance in the Whau
- **Blockhouse Bay Historical Society's information booklet** - commissioned reprint.
- **Heritage Buildings Maintenance** - Funding support the Tongan Methodist Church in New Lynn and Armanasco House in Blockhouse Bay.

