

Ōrākei Local Board Progress and Achievements Report

1 July 2016 – 31 December 2017

Local schools performance
at Carols on the Green



Ōrākei Local Board members

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1. Chairman's Message

This Achievements Report is an opportunity for the Ōrākei Local Board to inform our residents of the work we have continued and completed in the last 18 months.

The 18 months covered in the report, encompass the last three months of the previous political term of the Ōrākei Local Board, the election in October 2016, the consolidation of the current Ōrākei Local Board, and the 2017 Annual Budget and our Local Board Plan for 2017-2020.

Our achievements could not have occurred without the input of our residents, businesses and volunteers. They are a reflection of the community coming together and making a collective effort for all.



We were pleased to adopt our Local Board Plan following consultation with our communities. It is a Plan that reflects the many aspirations we all have for our area. How we make our aspirations come to life is within our work programme and many projects have already been commenced and some completed. Our achievements report allows us to update you on these successes.

The Ōrākei Local Board area has some of the best beaches and parks which are much loved, not just by local residents but visitors too. We will continue to monitor the new contract for maintenance of our open spaces and facilities to ensure that they are to the high standard that you should expect. We are also working towards a stronger emphasis on protecting the environment which is a benefit both to our residents and to the ecosystems we have in our area.

Preservation also applies to our built heritage. I have been working with community, staff and colleagues on an Ōrākei Local Board Heritage document. The document is an inventory of various sites, both environmental and built, and also provides an opportunity to identify areas for restoration such as improving signage to sites of heritage significance. A key example is the War Memorial trees at Glover Park in Glendowie, where a planting plan has been prepared to reinstate the commemorative planting that over time has been lost.

One of our highlights in the past 18 months has been the completion of the Stonefields Heritage Trail. It brings a new recreational asset to our youngest suburb and provides a walking experience unlike any other in Auckland. The three pou along the route provide an opportunity to learn of their cultural significance to Māori.

The Ōrākei Local Board still has much to achieve. We have commenced planning for the 10-year budget with consultation from the end of February 2018. Once again we are advocating for a walking and cycling linkage from Gowing Drive in Meadowbank, which will join to the Glen Innes to Tāmaki Drive shared path. The linkage would connect the communities of Meadowbank/St Johns and Kohimarama/Mission Bay to each other. It also provides students with a safe and direct alternative route to school, and in effect, decreases the number of vehicles on the St Johns and Kohimarama roading network.

A number of other key initiatives for our area will also be consulted on to ensure we have clear feedback from you to help us to prioritise projects for both the immediate and long-term futures. We have a busy 18 months ahead of us and will continue to work hard with the help of our residents and businesses for our communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Colin Davis
Chairman, Ōrākei Local Board (November 2016 - May 2018)

2. Ōrākei Local Board Plan

The Ōrākei Local Board consulted with its communities on its third Local Board Plan in 2017.

The Achievements Report reflects the outcomes of work undertaken by the Ōrākei Local Board from 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2017. The first chapter, Chapter 3, covers the first three months of the 18 months covered, which fall under the previous political term. The chapters following, Chapters 4 to 8, fall under our Local Board Plan objectives and cover the following 15 months from 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2017.

The Ōrākei Local Board Plan 2017-2020 can be viewed on the Auckland Council website, or at your local library or service centre.



3. The Ōrākei Local Board Achievements 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016

This report covers the last 18 months which includes three months of the previous political term.

The following list outlines the key achievements of the Ōrākei Local Board from 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016:

Sports and Recreation

- Completion of the planning work required for the Field 3 sand-carpet at Shore Road Reserve, Remuera.
- Installation of the Madills Farm Reserve playground and toilet block with unique griselinia hedge wrap.
- Establishment of the Michaels Ave Reserve Community Liaison Committee Group, required by the Environment Court, and planning begun for the installation of lighting and the sound wall.
- Initial expressions of interest sought for the investigation and design work for Ōrākei Domain.
- Completion of the geotech investigation into the subsoil of the courts at the Mission Bay Tennis Club.



Paths and tracks

- Adoption of the Ōrākei Local Paths Plan.
- Renewal of tracks, bridges, staircase and retaining walls in Kepa Bush Reserve, Ōrākei.
- Construction of shared paths in Liston Park, Ellerslie and Glover Park, Glendowie.

Artwork

- Re-installation of Genoa artwork to Te Puia o Maungerei Springs Reserve in Stonefields.

Community leases

- Lease renewals were approved for the Remuera Citizens' Advice Bureau, Glendowie Tennis Club and Ōrākei Tennis Club.

Environment

- During this quarter there was a large number of volunteer hours dedicated to enhancing the environment by way of clean-ups, weed and animal control and ecological restoration. Students from St Cuthbert's and Glendowie Colleges picked up litter in Tahuna Torea Nature Reserve, Ōkahu Bay and Mission Bay. Community planting days were held at Waiatarua Reserve, Churchill Park and Waiata Reserve. Kepa Bush, St Johns Bush and Selwyn Bush also benefitted from voluntary work which is supported and funded by the Board.



4. The Ōrākei Local Board Achievements 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2017

a) Our local parks and open spaces are valued and enjoyed

The Ōrākei Local Board area has some of the finest sports parks and recreational facilities in Auckland. It is home to beautiful beaches and unique native bush, including Tahuna Torea Nature Reserve.

In the past 18 months the Ōrākei Local Board has continued to maintain and upgrade facilities as well as develop new assets, such as the installation of a safety fence and new bollards at Selwyn Reserve.

Parks and Reserves

Ensuring our parks and reserves remain to the high standard our residents expect is a priority for the Board. We have sand-carpeted and installed lights at Ōrākei Domain, as well as lighting on Field One at Crossfield Reserve, Glendowie. The new lights are a benefit to a number of sports clubs, as well as making the area safer in the evening. We have also completed the entrance and car park at Crossfield Reserve, making it easier for visitors and residents to access the park.

We continue to support our local sports clubs to encourage active participation in exercise. We have completed the Tagalad North carpark and the court renewal at Mission Bay Tennis Club. We are also working with Oceania Football Club to continue the development of facilities at Ngahue Reserve.

Park maintenance

The Ōrākei Local Board is working with the Department of Corrections to utilise periodic detention personnel to work in our parks as part of their community hours. Not only does the initiative provide a positive social outcome, it also means that we are able to find cost-savings in the general maintenance of our parks and reserves.

Compacting rubbish bins

The Board has initiated the use of five compacting rubbish bins in a number of popular recreational areas. There are three in Mission Bay, one in Kohimarama and one in St Heliers. Our area is the first to use the bins which self-compact and send a notification to Ventia, our local contractors, to come and empty when almost full.

The bins, along with Ventia, have been instrumental in creating cost-savings on maintenance for our area, and making efficiencies through new technology.

Mission Bay toilets and changing rooms

The Board has funded the interior upgrade of the toilets and changing rooms at Selwyn Reserve in Mission Bay. The 1940 toilets are a heritage feature at one of our most popular beaches and must be maintained.

Madills Farm

We have commenced sand carpeting Field 5 at Madills Farm. Sand carpeting can increase the number of hours a field can tolerate, meaning we are able to support larger and additional sports teams enjoying our park.

Alongside improved field surfaces, we are also initiating the installation of flood lights at Madills Farm. This will assist teams to continue playing in dark winter evenings.

Gentleman's Bay

The Ōrākei Local Board has decided to remove the set of wooden stairs from Glover Park to the Gentleman's Bay beach. This is for public safety reasons as the surrounding slope is unstable due to coastal erosion. Where the steps will be removed, a vegetation buffer is being planted to discourage people from using the potentially dangerous pathway.

Rutherford Reserve Playground upgrade

Rutherford Reserve in Meadowbank received an upgrade including the installation of new play equipment.

The Board incorporated a range of creative play equipment to meet the needs of various age groups, such as the static train for younger children and flying fox for older children and adults.



Rutherford Reserve
Playground upgrade

Colin Maiden Park

We continue to progress the Colin Maiden Masterplan by allocating funding and engaging a consultant to develop a staged implementation plan for the park.

Fields One and Two within the park have already been sand-carpeted and new lighting installed.

Waiatarua Reserve walkways

The walking tracks at Waiatarua Reserve have been improved substantially. These paths are used by both recreational users and as access through the park. The upgraded gravel has made the paths wider, drier and safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

A new bridge at the Grand Drive entrance for pedestrians has also been constructed, providing an improved experience for people.



Stonefields Heritage Trail

Stonefields Heritage Trail

The Stonefields Heritage Trail was completed and is now open to the public from November 2017. The 1.2km route provides magnificent views over the suburb and wetlands.

The trail has three pou along it, with the installations created and donated by Ngāti Paoa, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki and Ngāti Te Ata, as well as bespoke fencing.

The heritage trail is part of a larger network of walkways running throughout the city, and provides an important pedestrian link to Lunn Avenue. The site is unique in its geographical, archaeological and cultural significance for Auckland.

Park encroachments

We have recently noticed the encroachment on a number of parks within the Ōrākei Local Board area from neighbouring properties. We are now in negotiations with groups and neighbours to rectify the issues and restore the reserves to full public use. This includes the removal of barrier arms, fencing and concrete driveways.

Waterfront recreation

The Landing

The Ōrākei Local Board supports the works at the Akarana Marine Sports Trust (AMST) building at The Landing, which started construction with a sod-turning. The Landing at Ōkahu Bay provides a public boat ramp and pontoon as well as a range of other marine-based facilities. Many local sailing and waka groups call The Landing home.

The new building will provide a multi-sport facility. The centre will actively promote marine-based sport, recreation and leisure opportunities with the intention of becoming a vibrant destination for the community.

Andersons Beach Reserve

Andersons Beach in Glendowie has received a new base to the steps leading down to the beach. This was due to the original being washed away in a storm. To further assist with erosion, the reserve is awaiting a renewal to sections of the retaining wall. A coastal processes study and options have been completed and officers are now working on a detailed design that can be implemented to the worst affected sections of the sea wall.

Wilson's Beach

Wilson's Beach in Remuera flanking Hobson's Bay was re-sanded to ensure local residents can once again enjoy a picnic and swim. The small beach received approximately seven truck loads of sand to replenish it.

Shore Road Reserve

We have built a kayak launching ramp at Shore Road Reserve. The new ramp is an initiative in the Board's Hobson Bay Action Plan and provides water access to Hobson Bay.

Stormwater Pipes

Sand at Kohimarama beach has been displaced, leading to stormwater pipes at the western end of the beach being exposed. The pipes made that part of the beach unusable and unsafe and an eyesore. The Ōrākei Local Board successfully advocated for the pipes to be removed so that residents and visitors can enjoy the full beach again.

Street and Reserves Naming

In the last 18 months we have approved the naming of a number of streets including Pūkio Lane, Remuera and Graceville Lane in St Heliers, in line with our local policies.

We are also in the process of naming two reserves. The first is currently unnamed and is at 3-5 Tāmaki Drive. The second is the newly acquired land at Whakatakataka Bay off Ngapi Road, which the Board intends to develop as a new local reserve.

b) Our residents are proud of their community facilities and public places

Local residents have told us how important their community facilities are to them. This includes our well-used libraries and community centres. They play an important role in the community by bringing people together and forming a sense of belonging. It is important that they are fit-for-purpose and meet the needs of all our residents.

Ōrākei Local Board office

The Ōrākei Local Board is moving to a new office. The lease for the office at Meadowbank Shopping Centre has ended and with this comes the opportunity for us to base ourselves at a more appropriate location that is fit-for-purpose in helping us to lead and represent our community. In the meantime we will have offices in the central city and space at the Ōrākei Community Centre. This ensures we have a place in our community to meet with local residents. Our intention is to be back within the community as soon as possible.

Residents' Associations

Our residents' associations are active groups that encourage participation within our communities. They are able to promote and advocate for the interests of their area and work closely with the Ōrākei Local Board and the wider Auckland Council family, as well as celebrate their respective suburbs through community events.

We have seven residents' and community groups and are proud to be able to assist them in their work through Board funding.

Our residents' groups have been vital in supporting many of our advocacy initiatives, such as improvements to Tāmaki Drive.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents' and community groups in our area: Ellerslie Residents Association, Meadowbank / St Johns Residents Association, Mission Bay - Kohimarama Residents Association, Ōrākei Community Association Inc., Remuera Residents Association, St Heliers / Glendowie Residents Association and Stonefields Residents Association.

Community Safety

The Ōrākei Local Board has initiated quarterly briefings from senior Police. This gives the Board an opportunity to understand some of the safety issues facing our community, so we can provide assistance where possible and appropriate.

Community Events

Carols on the Green

Every December the Ōrākei Local Board holds Carols on the Green at Vellenoweth Green in St Heliers. The event provides free, fun and family-friendly entertainment and is delivered as zero-waste and smoke-free. Children and adults were able to enjoy the local performances and carol singing, visit Santa's Grotto and make their own free Christmas cards.



Carols on the Green at Vellenoweth Green

Movies in Parks

Each summer the Ōrākei Local Board brings Movies in Parks to our community. It is an opportunity for families to come and enjoy activities in a local park and watch a film. Last year we screened the classic movie, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

ANZAC Day

The Ōrākei Local Board commemorates all New Zealanders who have been killed in war and honour our returned servicemen and women. The Board works closely with community members including young people, to deliver the St Heliers ANZAC Day service and to be involved in the ANZAC Day service.

Our Board area has three commemorative services with the Board represented at each one: College Rifles in Remuera, Ōrākei RSA and St Heliers War Memorial.



Anzac Day at St Heliers

Matariki - Manu Aute/Kite Day

Each June the Ōrākei Local Board funds a kite making workshop on Manu Aute/Kite Day as part of the Matariki celebrations in our area. Kite flying is a universal tradition and for Māori, it is particularly symbolic to Matariki. The kites are seen as connectors between heaven and earth.

IWRF Asia Oceania Wheelchair Rugby Championship

In August 2017 New Zealand Wheelchair Rugby hosted the Asia Oceania Wheelchair Rugby Championship at the ASB Stadium with funding from the Board. The sport allows an alternative contact sport for players with reduced arm and leg function. Teams from Australia, Japan, Korea and the New Zealand Wheel Blacks competed for a place in next year's World Wheelchair Rugby Championship during the international zoning championship.



'We Love Ōrākei' Photography competition

The Ōrākei Local Board supported the Ōrākei Community Association Inc. with funding for its 'We Love Ōrākei' photography competition in October 2017. The initiative was for all the family, with a kids and adults category, and encouraged locals to get out and about and take photographs of our beautiful area.

The winning photograph was sold with the money donated to field upgrades at Ōrākei School.

Libraries

Our two libraries, Remuera and St Heliers, are important to the residents of our area. Ensuring they are fit-for-purpose and meet the needs of our changing communities is a priority for the Board and staff alike. The Ōrākei Local Board funds our two libraries and the various events, programmes and services for our community.

St Heliers Library upgrade

The St Heliers Library will be receiving a comprehensive renewal to meet the needs of our community, in particular addressing accessibility issues. The building will be restored, including the paved area in front of the library.

The works will mean that the library will be closed for some time; however, the work is necessary to allow us to provide improvements to our service for residents. The Board is looking for ways to ensure a level of service is provided elsewhere, and the building works are completed as quickly as possible.

Library programmes and events

Our library events are designed to meet the needs of various ages and groups in our community.

Our pre-school programmes, such as Wriggle and Rhymetime, help to stimulate and increase development of babies. Pre-schoolers learn and practice a range of oral and social skills that will help develop their literacy, numeracy and learning. It also provides a safe and welcoming space for parents and caregivers to come and socialise. Our pre-school programmes are in high demand with nearly 7000 participants between our two libraries. In September 2017 Remuera Library started a weekly bilingual Chinese/English story time with ever increasing numbers.

Children and Youth activities, such as various book clubs and a Paper Craft Club, remain popular. Library staff have also engaged directly with local schools to assist in supporting literacy and to grow awareness of the resources our libraries provide.

Over the July 2017 school holidays, over 700 children enjoyed a range of events at Remuera and St Heliers such as a painting workshop with local artist Ian Hicks. In the summer holidays, children were able to join

the Kia Māia te Whai summer reading programme. The programme has been designed to help support language and literacy building.

For our adult residents, the libraries provide a range of clubs and activities such as the Weekend Writing and Chinese Friendship groups, talks from a wide-range of subjects and speakers such as Emma Jameson on the Corsini Collection at the Art Gallery, Dementia Auckland and De-Stress and Find Better Sleep. Both libraries also work alongside Selwyn Community Education to support our adult learners. Classes such as Conversational English and Digital Skills are not only popular but of genuine assistance to the participants.

Every year the Ōrākei Local Board sponsors the Win with Words competition at St Heliers and Remuera Libraries. The competition encourages creativity outside of the classroom for students in years seven and eight in our area. In 2017, 350 students entered the competition, writing a short story of no more than 500 words. The two prize-giving events are always a highlight of the programme and we were honoured to read excerpts from the winning stories at the ceremonies.



School children at St Heliers Library

Heritage

World War I

The Board has started working on updating its World War I Roll of Honour which the Board published at the beginning of the World War I centenary commemorations. You can view the Roll on the Board's webpage as part of Auckland Council website.

The Board has worked with Auckland Museum to have reference to the Board's Roll of Honour, for the personnel mentioned on the Museum's Cenotaph database. Honouring and remembering the men and women who sacrificed so much for their country is one of the ways in which the Board helps to commemorate our heritage.

Searchlight Emplacements

The Ōrākei Local Board is restoring three concrete searchlight emplacements on Tāmaki Drive, opposite the Tāmaki Yacht Club. The emplacements were built in 1942 and 1943 as part of the defence system protecting Auckland during the Second World War.

The Local Board is installing signage to explain the historical significance of the searchlights, and restoring them to provide another point of interest to locals and visitors to Tāmaki Drive. The project acknowledges Auckland's military history, which includes the Bastion Point defences.

Christ Church, Ellerslie

The Ōrākei Local Board has provided funding to Christ Church in Ellerslie towards the conservation of the unique heritage stained-glass windows. The windows are of importance to Auckland and to our wider national heritage and must be preserved for future generations.

c) People can move around our area easily and safely

Our area is becoming better interconnected with improved public transport networks, but more investment is needed. In the past 18 months we have seen the completion and development of many key strategic projects for our area, and continue to plan for more. This includes leveraging off planned projects and events that will improve Tāmaki Drive for all users, as well as a north-south connection from Stonefields to St Johns/Glen Innes as a shared space through Colin Maiden Park.

The Ōrākei Local Board continues to advocate strongly to central government and various transport agencies for better outcomes and funding of transport in our area. As part of the 10-year budget we are continuing to advocate for a walking and cycling linkage from Gowing Drive in Meadowbank, joining to the Glen Innes to Tāmaki Drive shared path. The linkage would connect the communities of Meadowbank/St Johns and Kohimarama/Mission Bay to each other, as well as decrease the number of vehicles on St Johns and Kohimarama Roads. It would also provide many students with a more direct and safe option to travel to school.

Tāmaki Drive Improvements

Tāmaki Drive/Ngapipi Road Intersection

The Ōrākei Local Board has been a strong and constant advocate for improvements to Tāmaki Drive.

Along with residents, our voices have been heard and resource consent was granted for works to begin to improve the safety and amenity of one of the most dangerous intersections in the country at the corner of Tāmaki Drive and Ngapipi Road.

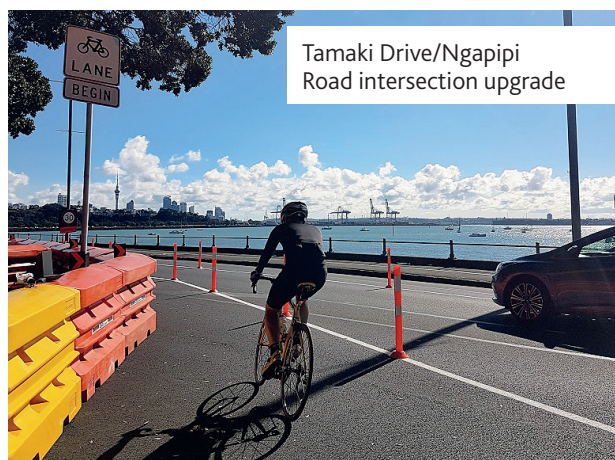
More than 30,000 people travel through the intersection each day, including commuters, students and recreational users. Improvements will not only make the intersection safer for motor-vehicles with improved traffic flow, but will also provide an upgraded shared path, creating separate cycle lanes, and safe crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. The improvements are in line with the vision set out in the Tāmaki Drive Masterplan.

Raising Tāmaki Drive

Tāmaki Drive has long been well known for the flooding issues and closures, especially during king tides and major weather events. The Board has worked with Auckland Transport, so that they can better understand the importance of this road and the problems our residents face. Additional pressure from local residents has led to the announcement of Auckland Transport's plan to address the flooding in the low sections between Ngapipi Road and Parnell.

The plans include raising the road by up to half a metre, adding a curve to the edge of the seawall to help deflect waves from breaking onto the footpath and installing stormwater valves that will reduce the in-flow of seawater.

The improvements will align with the Tāmaki Drive Cycle Route construction to reduce the amount of disruption to users.



Tamaki Drive/Ngapipi Road intersection upgrade

Cycleways

Glen Innes to Tāmaki Drive shared path

The first stage of the shared path was opened in December 2016. The Ōrākei Local Board has worked to ensure this project goes ahead and is in central government, NZ Transport Agency and Auckland Transport's work programmes.

The first stage of the Shared Path links Glen Innes to St Heliers. It is a 1.6km section that runs beside the Meadowbank Pony Club, through Apirana Reserve and connects to St Johns Road.



Ōrākei Local Board members enjoying the Glen Innes to Tamaki Drive shared path at St Johns Road

The entire project will cost \$46 million and will link the eastern suburbs to the city. It will help to increase Auckland's cycling network, ease congestion and provide additional transport options, both for commuting and recreationally.

The Board has also provided funding to the project, and continues to work closely with Auckland Transport to provide additional links so there is access from Meadowbank, St Johns and Kohimarama.

Throughout 2017, the Board fed into the design process for section 4 of the shared path. Section 4 is the last leg of the path and runs between Ōrākei Basin and Tāmaki Drive. The final plan is yet to be released at the time of writing, but we look forward to the link being completed.

Bus Stops and Network

New Bus Network

The new Bus Network roll out scheduled 8 July 2018 has necessitated the upgrade or relocation of a number of bus stops within the local board area. The Board has proactively engaged with Auckland Transport in this transition phase, representing residents' concerns and providing local advice on safety issues. The Board has advocated for, and been instrumental in a number of changes in placement of bus stops to better serve community needs, and keep users safe.

Meadowbank bus and train service

The Board has been pleased to advocate alongside our residents to examine the feasibility of extending its current bus services to connect with train services at Meadowbank Train Station. This work will include the installation of a new bus stop as the current one is over half a kilometre from the train station. How the bus could turn around will be key to the report, as will the current parking facilities at the train station and adjacent streets. We are hopeful that the report will confirm what we and the community already know is a missing part to the bus network in our area.

Pathways

We are working with Auckland Transport to ensure our local paths and walkways meet our communities' needs. Currently we are awaiting detailed designs and costs for extensions of the Elwood Place Footpath and Selwyn Reserve Walkway.

This funding comes from our Transport Capital Fund, which has also recently been used to fund the installation of two cycle racks at Selwyn Reserve in Mission Bay. The racks will provide cyclists with a safe place to park their bicycles and mean other users of the reserve are safe from tripping over bicycles.

d) The natural environment is valued, protected and enhanced by our communities

Our residents have told us that the natural environment is important to them. In the coming years we will place a stronger focus on the support we provide to improving and rehabilitating our treasured natural environment. The achievements made so far are promising and we look forward to progressing further.

In the coming financial year we will be progressing improved walking routes through Kapa Bush and Pourewa Valley, with a strong focus on pest management and native planting. We will also investigate the development of a Local Healthy Waterways Plan to improve the waterways in our area, taking into consideration the planned regional stormwater improvements being consulted on in the 10-year budget.

Water quality

Safeswim

The Ōrākei Local Board works with Watercare to ensure that our beaches and water are safe for recreational use. One initiative to assist in keeping our residents and beach users updated is the newly launched Safeswim forecasting programme. Safeswim is a joint initiative between Auckland Council, Auckland Regional Public Health Service and Surf Life Saving Northern Region.

The programme allows Aucklanders to plan ahead and can check online information on beach safety and water quality at 84 of Auckland's beaches. The website not only includes safety advice, but gives real-time warnings about unexpected beach safety risks as they occur, and provides information about wind direction and tides.

The prototype sign for Auckland was installed for the summer season of 2017/2018 provides Safeswim information, making it even easier for users to stay up-to-date at one of Auckland's busiest beaches.



L to R - Then Ōrākei Local Board deputy chair Kit Parkinson, Adam Wooler from Safeswim programme partner organisation, Surf Life Saving Northern Region, Watercare Chief Executive Raveen Jaduram, Mayor Phil Goff, Cr Desley Simpson, Ōrākei Local Board chair Colin Davis and Cr Penny Hulse at the launch of the Safeswim programme at Mission Bay

Newmarket Stream restoration

The Ōrākei Local Board granted 'From the Deck' community group funding to restore and improve the Remuera Stream in Newmarket Park. The funding supports a number of activities and allows the streamside assistance programme to continue in supporting residents adjoining Newmarket Stream to the upper reaches of the Remuera Stream. The budget allows residents to undertake weed control and restoration planting to enhance the biodiversity of the streams, and improve water quality.

This project was supported in conjunction with Waitemātā Local Board and the restoration has been in collaboration between local residents and the GeckoNZ Trust.

The Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum (TEEF)

The Ōrākei Local Board, along with the five other local boards whose areas cover the Tāmaki Estuary, has funded the Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum. The forum is made up of community members and local board members to progress issues and advocate for the health of the Tāmaki Estuary and its catchments.

TEEF has now approved its terms of reference for membership, and its vision and purpose plus reviewing the TEEF action plan.

Through the Tāmaki Estuary Action Plan, TEEF will improve both environmental and water quality outcomes with help from community expertise and mana whenua.

Ōrākei Basin

The Ōrākei Basin started life around 85,000 years ago and is a freshwater crater lake made by one of Auckland's many volcanoes. To help assist in the ecological outcomes of this superb location/volcanic feature, the Board funds on-going management and monitoring of the Basin with input from the Ōrākei Basin Advisory Group (OBAG).

The Ōrākei Basin Management Plan continues to be implemented with further funding from the Board. This includes many asset renewals such as new furniture, pathway and car park to help meet the needs of visitors to the Basin, as well as continued water monitoring. More recently we have upgraded the steps behind the Auckland Water-ski Club and completed the construction of a retaining wall and further planting.

To aid the improvement of water quality in the Ōrākei Basin, we have required the cleaning and on-going maintenance of two important silt traps in Waiatarua Reserve, and, established further reporting of water quality in the Basin and Ōrākei Creek to allow us to benchmark in the future. We recently approved the scope and have initiated the preparation of a State of the Basin report. Once the report is completed we will develop an action plan which will allow us to ensure the best possible ecological and recreational outcomes for the Ōrākei Basin and how we prioritise them.

OBAG assists the Board in providing community input and advocacy. The Ōrākei Basin Management Plan requires that the Term of Reference for OBAG and membership be revised at the start of each electoral term. The revised Terms of Reference were approved by Ōrākei Local Board in April 2017.

Revegetation

Planting Days

The Local Board has funded a number of planting days at various reserves including Kohimarama Valley Forest in the Pourewa Valley, Churchill Park (alongside Friends of Churchill Park), Tahuna Torea, Kepa Bush, Ōkahu Bay, Selwyn Bush, Waiatarua Reserve and Madills Farm. The days provide opportunities for neighbours to get to know one another whilst weeding and revegetating sections of parks and stream areas.

Our area has many volunteers, and this becomes clear on community planting days.

At Waiatarua Reserve there is an annual planting day held every July led by local volunteers and the Waiatarua Protection Society.

The Board helps support the inter-generational event through funding and assists in providing spades and gloves for the hard work. Over the past 18 months Waiatarua has benefitted from over 2000 new trees and shrubs planted by our local volunteers.



War on Weeds

The Ōrākei Local Board knows that revegetation is not enough to keep our reserves and open spaces healthy. Weeding is necessary to assist. The Board worked with the Kaipatiki Trust to host a Weed Management Initiative at Pamela Place Reserve. The open day helped local residents to identify problem weed species and to be proactive in tackling weeds in their own properties adjacent to reserve areas of bush.

The Board has also worked to remove all wattle plants in the suburbs of Stonefields and St Johns. This includes funding for eradication and removal of all wattle plants from the Auckland Netball Centre and along the new Stonefields Heritage Trail.

Pest management

Eastern Songbird Project

The Ōrākei Local Board has provided funding to the Eastern Songbird Project, an initiative that seeks to eliminate rats and stoats from a geographically specified area within the local board area, to create safe feeding corridors for our native birds. This project is aligned with the community group Men's Shed, who will be assisting with the Project in the construction of 600 rat traps. The Board has recently granted a lease to the Men's Shed for premises in Waiatarua Reserve. The Mission Bay - Kohimarama Residents' Association, another community organisation funded by the Board, is also involved – distributing rat traps to residents free of charge. This is an excellent example of the Board working together with a number of different community groups to utilise all available resources efficiently. In December 17 possums were caught in one street in Ōrākei. 154 rat traps, 21 possum traps and 18 resettable rat traps have been distributed to households to date, with data collated for hot spot identification.

Enviroschools

Enviroschools is a nation-wide, facilitated sustainability programme for students at participating schools. Students develop skills, understanding, knowledge and confidence through planning, designing and working towards creating a sustainable school.

The Ōrākei Local Board funds and supports this programme, with 10 participating schools in our area. Each year, we attend the annual celebrations and in 2017 presented a number of awards, including Green-Golds, the highest achievement, to two local schools.

e) A thriving economy which supports local businesses and town centres

The Ōrākei Local Board area needs vibrant town centres and businesses. It draws people to our area as a destination, and creates a bustling community as well as jobs for locals. The Board sees the importance of fostering strong local economic development to the benefit of all our residents. We are fortunate to have distinct town centres that create a sense of village so close to the central city with strong business associations working to enhance their local area.

In the coming 18 months, we will prioritise further improvements in our town centres by identifying opportunities that complement the commercial and residential development that is expected.

Business Associations

Our Business Associations and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) represent the interests of our local business owners and villages. They work alongside us to build economic development and investment for our area.

We maintain strong relationships with our four Business Associations, ensuring that interests, projects and plans are aligned, as well as assisting through Board funding. We have continued to work with business associations on town centre activities and events such as the Ellerslie Fairy Festival and Santa Parade, and the Remuera Bastille Day and Chinese New Year Celebration. We also continue to work with ATEED so our businesses can benefit from wider investment.



Town Centres

Mission Bay outdoor fitness park

New adult exercise equipment was installed at Selwyn Reserve in Mission Bay. The free-to-use fitness park was opened at the end of January 2017 with funding from Ōrākei Local Board. The initiative was jointly spearheaded by the Board and Mission Bay Business Association, and is already popular with locals.

Mission Bay widening paths

Mission Bay is one of Auckland's busiest al fresco dining areas. The pathway project at Mission Bay widened the pavement to about 6.5m, meaning more visitors can dine outside and enjoy the views over the Hauraki Gulf.

The Board worked closely with Auckland Transport and the local businesses to fund the first project of this kind in the city.



Utility Boxes

Public artwork brightens up town centres and helps to ensure our public places are attractive and distinctive.

The Board has funded and organised a number of artworks on utility boxes throughout our local area. These provide a vibrant and interesting focal point for locals and visitors.

You can find one of the utility boxes in Ellerslie at the exit of the Robert Street carpark.

The design is by Sparrow Phillips, an Auckland artist with a dedicated community focus. His artwork has been displayed throughout the country including at the Auckland Art Gallery.



ARTerslie

ARTerslie is an annual series of events held in and around the Ellerslie town centre.

The ARTerslie Schools Art Exhibition is an initiative organised by the Ellerslie Business Association and funded by Ōrākei Local Board. Students from five local schools, Michael Park School, Remuera Intermediate, St Mary's School, Stanhope Road School and Ellerslie School, enter artworks which are displayed at Christ Church on Ladies Mile.

Local Board members, Carmel Claridge and Rosalind Rundle, were invited to help judge the wonderful art and present to the winners in 2017.

In 2017, Ellerslie School celebrated its 140th anniversary, and took the opportunity to work with ARTerslie to commemorate this occasion. Students drew pictures depicting Ellerslie, which were made into a montage and wrapped around one of the poles to create a giant Pencil Pole outside of the 4-Square on Main Street.

f) Governance and Representation

Auckland Council has a unique shared governance model made up of local boards and the Governing Body. The Ōrākei Local Board provides local governance and enables democratic decision making by, and on behalf of our communities. The Ōrākei Local Board is not a committee of the Governing Body, nor is it a community board.

Co-Governance

Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority

The Ōrākei Local Board has once again been successful in nominating one of its members to the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority. Deputy Chairman Kit Parkinson has been appointed to the Authority together with other members of Auckland Council, Mana Whenua and a Crown representative.

The Authority was established to provide co-governance, as well as set the management direction over some of the region's Tūpuna Maunga.

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Reserves Board

The Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Reserves Board is comprised of equal representatives from Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Auckland Council. Deputy Chairman Kit Parkinson has been recommended for appointment to the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Reserves Board by Ōrākei Local Board on behalf of Council.

The Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Reserves Board is the statutory authority to co-govern the Whenua Rangitira and Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve.

Mayor's Advisory Group

The Chairman, Colin Davis, was appointed to the Mayor's Advisory Group in July 2017. The Group, comprised of representatives from Auckland Council, Fields of Remembrance Trust and Auckland War Memorial Museum, has been established to oversee fundraising initiatives, stakeholder management and communications associated with the proposed World War I Centenary Memorial in the Auckland Domain.

Consultation

To ensure the Ōrākei Local Board can best represent our communities we continuously engage with our residents and businesses, although a number of plans, strategies and bylaws require more formal consultation. The consultation we undertake provides us with opportunities to hear from you on how you would like our local board area to be.

Ōrākei Local Board Plan 2017-2020

The Ōrākei Local Board Plan is a three year strategic document that sets out the communities' vision and aspirations for our area. The new Plan was adopted by the Board in October 2017 and was influenced by submissions from a wide range of individuals, groups and businesses.

Annual Budget and Local Board Agreement

Each year Auckland Council consults on its annual budget. This also provides the Board with an opportunity to check back in with our communities to ensure we continue to focus on the right priorities. The Local Board Agreement sets out our priorities and funding for the financial year. Budgets are agreed between the Governing Body and Ōrākei Local Board. The Ōrākei Local Board approved the annual budget for the 2017/2018 financial year in June 2017.

We will again be consulting on our annual budget at the end of February to inform our work programme and priorities for the 2018/2019 financial year.

Long-term Plan

The Long-term Plan is Auckland's 10-year budget. It sets out how the Council allocates its budgets over the next decade and what our big key projects will be. As part of the process, the Ōrākei Local Board approved its consultation material in December 2017, confirming that our key advocacy project will be a linkage from Gowing Drive in Meadowbank to the Glen Innes to Tāmaki Drive Shared Path and linking to Kohimarama. Consultation will be from the end of February and we look forward to hearing what our community thinks about our priorities and key advocacy project.

Tahapa Reserve

The Ōrākei Local Board consulted with residents and users on renewing facilities at Tahapa and Tahapa East Reserves, and additional linkages from the reserves to the Glen Innes to Tāmaki Drive Shared Path. An open day at the reserves was aligned with Auckland Transport's consultation on linkages on the opposite side of the Shared Path. A concept plan for the links and facility upgrades is currently in development.

Kupe South Reserve

The Kupe South Reserve redevelopment was consulted on in July 2017. The reserve was due for an upgrade, in particular its playground and amenities. A draft development plan was consulted on with the public and the results presented to the Board. A final development plan is in progress and we plan to formally approve it in early 2018.

Ōrākei Domain

The Ōrākei Domain is a significant park and important sport and recreational area. The Ōrākei Local Board has been consulting with key stakeholders on its development. In November 2017 we asked the wider public for their initial feedback on how they would like the park developed in the future. We received over 200 submissions and our Parks, Sports and Recreation staff are working on a report so we can better understand the wants and needs of all residents, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and users.

Submissions

One of the many responsibilities that local boards are accountable for is identifying and communicating the interests and preferences of the people we represent. We regularly provide feedback to the Governing Body and staff on strategies, policies, plans and by-laws. We do this by advocating on your behalf or making formal submissions so that decision-makers are aware of your views and our support for them.

In the past 18 months we have prepared feedback on a wide-range of issues and policy documents including:

- Auckland Plan Refresh
- Glen Innes Cycleways
- Glen Innes to Tāmaki Drive Shared Path
- Ngapipi Bridge widening
- Low Emissions Economy – Productivity Commission
- Local Government Review – Remuneration Authority
- Governance Framework Review
- Easter Sunday Trading
- Inquiry into the 2016 local authority elections
- Draft Tūpuna Maunga Operational Plan
- Draft Air Quality Bylaw for Indoor Domestic Fires
- Auckland Transport New Bus Network
- Application for apartment blocks at 80 Korere Terrace, Stonefields
- Proposed Variation to the Development Contributions Policy 2015
- Review of Citizens Advice Bureaux services
- Various planning applications.

Communications

It is important that the people we represent know what we have done and continue to do on their behalf. To further assist with this, we have initiated a monthly e-newsletter and a decision digest to update our residents of the decisions we have made as part of our business meetings.

As the world becomes more digital, we will continue to take advantage of using every channel we can to update our residents. In the past 18 months, we have increased awareness of what we have been doing on Facebook and through stories for Our Auckland, online and in print.

Delegations and Legislation

Libraries

Libraries play an integral role to society. Local Boards fund and support libraries as well as being delegated responsibility to decide opening hours. The Ōrākei Local Board believes that using rate-payer money wisely is a necessity for Council. It is for this reason that we sought patronage figures for our two libraries to ensure that cost-savings from closing during the summer holidays was justified.

The statistics clearly showed the need for an urgent review on the closure of our libraries over Christmas and New Year period. In November 2016, at our inaugural meeting following the elections, the Board voted to retain library services during the holiday period.

Fencing of Swimming Pools

From 1 January 2017, the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 was no longer in effect. The legislation relating to pool barriers and pool fencing is now included in the Building Act 2004. The Act applies to all residential pools and spas with a maximum depth of 400mm or more.

Almost all drownings of young children in residential pools have been in non-compliant pools. With the new legislation, mandatory three-yearly inspections will ensure stronger compliance, as well as giving authorities more enforcement action. We hope that with the passing of the Amendment Bill there will be a decrease in the number of preventable drownings.

Grants

Ōrākei Local Board Tree Protection Grant

The Ōrākei Local Board area has a significant number of notable trees which add to the rich history of our area. As a Board we are committed to preserving and maintaining these trees, so have started the Trees Protection Grant for our residents.

The grant is open for applications of up to \$2,000, from property owners with notable trees on their land, to assist in supporting tree works and for the long-term health and retention of such trees in our communities. The Board sees a public benefit in retaining the trees both visually and environmentally.

In the past 18 months, we have provided grants to 10 applicants for a number of activities to support the health of our trees totalling \$7,037.

Local Community Grants

Local grant funding assists our communities by funding projects that fall into a number of wide-ranging categories, such as Arts, Community, Environment, Heritage and Sports and Recreation. In the past 18 months, we have supported a number of groups with grants funding that will benefit our communities, including –

Applicants	Allocated total fund
Auckland Highland Games Association Incorporated	\$1,000
Bach Musica New Zealand Incorporated	\$1,200
Victim Support (New Zealand Council of Victim Support Groups)	\$1,000
Dance Therapy New Zealand	\$1,500
Sir Peter Blake Trust	\$2,000
City Surf Series	\$3,500
Kohimarama Bowling Club	\$6,370
East City BMX Club	\$3,610
Glendowie Boating Club	\$10,000
Ōrākei School Board Trustees	\$6,916
Auckland Indian Sports Club Inc.	\$1,000
Auckland Netball Centre Incorporated	\$12,000
Communicare Civilian Maimed Association (Auckland) Inc.	\$1,500
Ensemble Polymnia Trust, Aorangi Symphony Orchestra	\$1,000
Eastern Athletic & Harrier Club	\$1,900
OUTLine New Zealand Inc. – for telephone and internet costs	\$1,000
The Condor Rugby Football Club Incorporated	\$10,000
Christian City Church Auckland trading as C3 – for costs for the stage, sound, lighting, generators and toilets for Christmas in the Park on 3 December 2017 on condition that the show is nondenominational and open for all public	\$10,630
Ellerslie Business Association Incorporated	\$20,000
The Remuera Business Association Incorporated	\$20,000
FutureDreams Limited - for two Inflatable paddle boards, a prop guard for a 40HP Engine on one of the boats and free ocean clinics at all of the high tide events	\$2,000
New Zealand Wheelchair Rugby	\$6,000
Alby Enterprises Ltd – for design and installation of the Bruce McLaren commemorative display	\$3,000
The Lonely Miaow Association Incorporated	\$750
Parish of Ellerslie – for a quantity survey and feasibility report into heritage window and church preservation	\$12,500
Eastern Songbird Project Incorporated	\$8,000
Aphasia New Zealand (AphasiaNZ) Charitable Trust	\$1,500
Ellerslie Theatrical Society Incorporated – for venue hire for Ellerslie Memorial Hall	\$10,000
Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind	\$4,000
Crow Marketing Communications Limited – for venue hire for Ōrākei Community Centre	\$1,000
Auckland Basketball Services Limited	\$5,000

Quick Response Grant

Our quick response grant has much the same criteria as our Local Grants, but is for a smaller amount - \$500 - \$3,000.

In the past 18 months, we have supported a number of groups with grants funding, including –

Applicants	Allocated total fund
St Heliers Church and Community Centre	\$800
St Chads Anglican Church and Community Centre	\$1,300
Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc. – for the purchase of an audio-visual system and printing costs of the annual programme and play flyers	\$4,500
Action Education – for delivery costs for spoken word poetry workshops in local secondary schools in Ōrākei Local Board area	\$2,000
Bach Musica NZ Inc.	\$1,000
Girl Guides Association of New Zealand Inc.	\$3,000
The Parenting Place – Attitude Youth Division	\$1,000
Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind	\$1,500
Citizens Advice Bureau Auckland City Inc. (CABAC) – for a re-useable banner for the CAB Remuera and Eastern Bays 40th Anniversary with the Ōrākei Local Board logo on banner	\$1,340
Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust	\$3,000
FutureDreams Swimming	\$1,300
St Heliers and Glendowie Scout Group	\$3,000
Playday (Ōrākei Presbyterian Church)	\$1,000
Parnell Cricket Club Inc.	\$1,250
Ōrākei School Board of Trustees	\$2,000
Eastern Bays Toy Library	\$2,750
Ngairie Brooks – Patchwork and Quilting Classes	\$350
St Heliers Scottish Country Dancing Club	\$1,320
Communicare	\$500
Ellerslie Combined Probus Club	\$350
Katherine Winstone – hire of Ōrākei Community Centre	\$2,000
Jewish Federation of New Zealand Incorporated	\$600
Mansukh Parsotam – Yoga Classes	\$1,000
Busi4u Limited	\$800
Helen Fergusson – MBODY movement – Free Community Workshop Series	\$110



L to R: Troy Churton, Carmel Claridge, Colin Davis, Toni Millar, Kit Parkinson, Rosalind Rundle and David Wong

5. The next 18 months

The Ōrākei Local Board has a large number of significant projects and programmes planned and due for completion in the next 18 months. As well as our business as usual, we will be planning for the long-term and talking to our communities about the draft 10-year budget, also known as the Long-term Plan. We look forward to continuing our work with you and all of our communities.

View over the Hauraki Gulf from Mission Bay





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