

# Waitematā Local Board Achievements Report

1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016





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## Message from the Chair

Over the past year, the Waitemātā Local Board worked hard, in consultation with the community, iwi and key stakeholders, to deliver the vision and outcomes of our Local Board Plan 2014 and fifth Local Board Agreement.



January 2016 marked the completion of the first phase of the Weona-Westmere Walkway, a project that will open up some of Auckland's finest waterfront, which until now has been largely inaccessible to the public. The re-development of the Ellen Melville Centre into a vibrant community facility in the heart of the city took a step forward this year after the public consultation for the concept design, which will include a permanent public artwork on the O'Connell Street façade.

In November 2015, we proudly became the first local board to launch a localised low carbon plan with the publication of 'Becoming a Low Carbon Community', which contains a series of actions towards transforming Auckland into an energy-resilient low carbon city.

In line with our commitment to put children and young people first, we continued working towards the 'Child Friendly Cities' UNICEF accreditation, including children in the consultation process for the Western Park playground renewal and local area-based plan for Newton and Eden Terrace.

Utilising our major park development plans as guidance for prioritisation, we oversaw significant enhancements to pathways in Grey Lynn Park and Western Park, plus an important path renewal in Cox's Bay Reserve, in order to improve the experience for people walking and cycling.

Embracing the community empowerment approach, where individuals, families and communities have the power and ability to influence decisions and take action, we continued supporting a number of initiatives aimed at building capacity, leadership and skills. We also funded and supported events that represent the area's diversity and local identities, like Parnell Festival of Roses and Myers Park Medley.

All these great things were achieved thanks to the support and passion of our local communities, who bring new ideas and lead the way when it comes to shaping the initiatives that will continue to transform Waitemātā into a better place to live, work, study, play and visit.

**Shale Chambers**  
**Waitemātā Local Board, Chair**

# Your Waitematā Local Board members



## Shale Chambers, Chair

m. 021 286 7111  
shale.chambers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

**Portfolios:** Arts, Culture and Events (lead), Parks and Open Spaces

**Positions:** Heart of the City, Auckland City Centre Advisory Board

**Committees:** Finance, Grants, Auckland Domain Committee (Deputy Chair)



## Pippa Coom, Deputy Chair

m. 021 926 618  
pippa.coom@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

**Portfolios:** Community (lead); Transport (lead)

**Positions:** Ponsonby Business Association, Ponsonby Community Centre

**Committees:** Grants (Chair)



## Christopher Dempsey

m. 021 284 3377  
christopher.dempsey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

**Portfolios:** Heritage, Urban Design and Planning (lead), Transport

**Positions:** Parnell Inc.

**Committees:** Hearings (Chair), Finance



## Greg Moyle

m. 021 444 339  
greg.moyle@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

**Portfolios:** Sport and Recreation (lead); Arts, Culture and Events

**Positions:** Newmarket Business Association

**Committees:** Finance (Chair), Hearings



## Vernon Tava

m. 021 242 4608  
vernon.tava@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

**Portfolios:** Parks and Open Spaces (lead), Heritage, Urban Design and Planning

**Positions:** Karangahape Road Business Association

**Committees:** Finance (Deputy Chair), Hearings (Deputy Chair), Auckland Domain Committee



## Rob Thomas

m. 021 704 423  
rob.thomas@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

**Portfolios:** Natural Environment; Sport and Recreation

**Positions:** Uptown Business Association

**Committees:** Grants, Auckland Domain Committee



## Deborah Yates

m. 021 242 6472  
deborah.yates@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

**Portfolios:** Natural Environment (lead); Community (Children and Young People)

**Positions:** Grey Lynn Business Association, Grey Lynn Community Centre

**Committees:** Grants (Deputy Chair), Hearings

**Address:** Waitematā Local Board office, 52 Swanson Street, Auckland Central

**Postal address:** Auckland Council, Private Bag 92300, Auckland 1142

**Email:** [Waitematālocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Waitematālocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) **Phone:** 09 353 9654

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/Waitematā](http://www.facebook.com/Waitematā)

## Waitematā Local Board Governance

Local boards are a unique and vital element of Auckland Council's governance. Driven by a great understanding of their communities, the Waitematā Local Board members have worked together to achieve progress in areas of priority determined by the community through the Local Board Plan 2014.

An important factor in the many things that have been achieved over the 2015-2016 period is the close working relationship with the various arms of council, including the governing body, council departments, council controlled organisations and other local boards.



Members Deborah Yates, Greg Moyle, Deputy Chair Pippa Coom, Christopher Dempsey, Chair Shale Chambers, Rob Thomas, Vernon Tava

### Working with the Mayor and Governing Body

To effectively represent and advocate for their communities, local boards need to work collaboratively with the governing body and other council control organisations.

Examples of this cooperation for Waitematā Local Board include:

## Auckland Domain Committee

The Auckland Domain Committee is a joint governance committee comprised of three governing body members, three local board members and two members of the Independent Maori Statutory Board. This committee has the decision-making responsibility for parks, recreation and community services and activities for the Auckland Domain.

Since its formation in 2015, the committee has been working on the development of the Auckland Domain Masterplan, which will incorporate the various projects impacting on the park, including plans to improve its connectivity, facilities and amenities. Waitemata Local Board Chair, Shale Chambers, is the deputy chair and members Vernon Tava and Rob Thomas also sit on this committee.



Councillor Mike Lee, Waitemata Local Board chair Shale Chambers, Councillor Christine Fletcher, Karen Wilson, Independent Statutory Maori Board member and member Rob Thomas at the Domain's garden nursery.

## Urban Cycling Investment Panel

Deputy Chair Pippa Coom was appointed to the Urban Cycling Investment Panel by the Transport Minister, on the recommendation of Local Government New Zealand. The panel was tasked with assessing cycleway projects that councils from across the country put forward for funding from the Government's \$100m Urban Cycleways Fund. The panel provided recommendations to the Minister of Transport on the final Urban Cycleway Programme.

The funds that Auckland received from the Urban Cycleways Fund together with Auckland Council and NZTA funding have accelerated the delivery of safe cycling facilities in the city centre, including the Nelson Street cycleway, Quay Street cycleway and connections to Point Chevalier and Parnell.

## World War I Political Steering Group

The World War I Political Steering Group (WWIPSG) is made up of governing body, the Independent Maori Statutory Board and local board members. It aims to foster and support the activities related to the centenary of the First World War, which are being marked through commemorative events, projects and activities over the 2014-2019 period.

Over the past year, this group has worked on the development of a World War I Memorial in the Auckland Domain. In February, a design team was selected to undertake the construction of a commemorative and contemplative monument to mark the centenary of the Great War. Member Greg Moyle is deputy chair of this steering group.



Submission made by the winning designer. Work continues to develop a final design that takes into account public feedback, that of veterans and the steering group

## Fukuoka Friendship Garden Advisory Group

The Fukuoka Friendship Garden Advisory Group was established in April 2014 to restore the traditional Japanese garden that used to sit in the grounds of Auckland Zoo. After Western Springs Lakeside Park was identified as an alternative site for the garden, the Fukuoka Friendship Garden Advisory Group recommended a concept design that was endorsed by the Waitemātā Local Board in May 2015 and taken to detailed design phase.

The advisory group is made up of councillors, Waitemātā local board members, members from the Independent Maori Statutory Board and members of the Friends of Fukuoka Gardens. It is supported by council staff, including representatives from Parks, Sports and Recreation department, Auckland Zoo and external horticultural specialists. Board members Vernon Tava and Deborah Yates sit on this group. It is expected that the garden will reopen in late 2016.



## **Working with Council Controlled Organisations**

Waitematā Local Board has continued to nurture meaningful relationships with the seven Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) to ensure better delivery of outcomes for the area. The CCOs provide specific services and activities for council, including all of the region's transport services (Auckland Transport) and the provision of water and stormwater services (Watercare). Other CCO's play key roles in the facilitation of tourism, major events and business development and among other projects are responsible for leading the revitalisation of the inner city waterfront.

## **Working With Other Local Boards**

Waitematā Local Board works collaboratively with other local boards on projects of mutual interest to their communities. Some of these shared initiatives are:

### **Community Recycling Centre**

Work continues with Albert-Eden and Puketapāpa Local Boards to establish a community recycling centre that services the needs of the three local boards. With the support of Albert-Eden Local Board, a site has been secured on Great North Road, which will be used not only as a drop-off facility, but as a hub for environmental education led by a network of community groups focused on recycling, gardening, composting and sustainability.

The establishment of a resource recycling facility, tagged for completion in July 2017, will help achieve council's waste minimisation targets while empowering community organisations to continue and grow their activities and create employment opportunities. A regional network will be completed with a main processing site in Onehunga and a second drop-off facility.

### **Central Facilities Partnership Committee**

The seven central local boards (Waitematā, Albert-Eden, Great Barrier, Maungakiekie-Tamaki, Orakei, Puketapāpa and Waiheke) are working together to provide governance and oversight of the delivery of 19 approved partnership projects across the Auckland isthmus and Gulf Islands.

The advocacy efforts led by this committee proved successful in May 2016, when the governing body agreed to look into the difficulties faced by local boards to access the funds needed to enable the continuity of important local initiatives after the disestablishment of the dedicated fund last year. Shale Chambers is the chair of this committee.

Over the past year, the following projects were completed with funds allocated by the Central Facilities Partnership Committee:

- **TriStar Gymnasium, Mount Roskill:** In April 2016, the second stage of the development and fit out of the building was finalised. Chair Shale Chambers spoke at the opening event on 5 April, 2016.
- **Joyce Fisher, Epsom:** A multi-purpose indoor sports centre with large amounts of community use was finalised in April 2016. In his capacity as chair of the committee, Shale Chambers spoke for council at the opening April 2016
- **Mount Wellington Tennis Club:** The project to upgrade and re-surface the existing outdoor court surfaces was completed in May 2016.
- **Auckland Rowing Association:** The first stage of the development of a regional Water sports Centre in Highbrook was finished in June 2016.
- **Mount Roskill Hockey Turf:** The replacement of the existing turf with a water turf was completed in June 2016.
- **Auckland Grammar School:** June 2016 saw the completion of a project to develop an artificial turf with lighting.
- **West End Tennis Club:** The renovation, expansion and improvement of the clubhouse were completed April 2016. The official opening was marked with an event on 31 July, where chair Shale Chambers cut the ribbon.

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*“The Waitemātā Local Board shared our vision of renovating this heritage building to create a centrally located facility for all the community to enjoy. Their confidence in West End Lawn Tennis Club to complete this project and provision of early stage funding gave the club the ability to progress the project, seeking support from the wider community and other funders”* **Miranda Burton,**  
**West End Lawn Tennis Club Project Leader**

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The newly renovated West End Club facilities in Westmere

## Official Duties

### Civic Ceremonies

The board attends key civic ceremonies within the region, such as:

#### Central Area Citizenship Ceremonies:

Jointly hosted by Chair, Shale Chambers, and other central local board chairs at the Auckland Town Hall. Local board members are actively involved in these ceremonies.



A full house at the February 2016, Citizenship Ceremony at the Town Hall.

### Anzac Day Ceremonies

**Grey Lynn Returned Services Club:** Shale Chambers addressed the ceremony. Together with deputy chair Pippa Coom they laid a wreath.

**Auckland Domain Civic Ceremony:** The Board continued to support the Auckland Domain Cenotaph civic session, where member Vernon Tava laid a wreath.

**Newmarket:** The service organised by the Newmarket Business Association was well attended and member Rob Thomas laid a wreath at this event.

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*"We wish to sincerely thank you for your generous funding for our annual Anzac Day Service. Your contribution allows us to engage the community, in particular the children, to participate in this most important annual event. This year was actually bigger than last year and we hope that this increasing community spirit continues each successive year"*

**Graham McGlynn, President of Grey Lynn RSC**

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Chair Shale Chambers speaking at Grey Lynn Returned Services Club Anzac Ceremony, Anzac Day 2016.

## Waitematā - The Economic Hub

Waitematā is a significant centre of employment and commerce and is the financial and retail powerhouse for the region.

The city centre and city fringe currently provides employment to just over 188,000 people and is expected to have 30,000 more employees, or 10 per cent of Auckland's employment growth, by 2041. Investment in the City Rail Link could make these figures even higher.

The board recognises the importance of a strong local economic development plan which supports local businesses and champion's innovation. An essential part of this is the maintenance of strong collaborative relationships with the business community. Examples of these relationships include:

### Business Associations

There are seven business associations within Waitematā, of which six operate as Business Improvement Districts (BID). Business association leaders and the elected members work collaboratively to address a wide range of matters such as parking, safety, street amenities and community development.

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



Heart of the City – Shale Chambers (BID)



Newmarket Business Association – Greg Moyle (BID)



K Road Business Association – Vernon Tava (BID)



Parnell Inc. – Christopher Dempsey (BID)



Ponsonby Business Association – Pippa Coom (BID)



Uptown Business Association – Rob Thomas (BID)



Grey Lynn Business Association – Deborah Yates

## **Auckland City Centre Advisory Board**

The Auckland City Centre Advisory Board advises Council on matters affecting the city centre, primarily the expenditure of the city centre targeted rate collected from local businesses and residents. This targeted rate funds localised improvements and has been fundamental in the revival of the city centre as a more pedestrian friendly, international quality space, with improved public spaces and facilities. Waitemātā Local Board Chair Shale Chambers sits on the advisory board, along with representatives from businesses, residents, universities and the private sector.

## **City Fringe Economic Development**

The city fringe is experiencing a significant expansion. During the past year, Waitemātā Local Board and city fringe business associations have worked collaboratively to develop a programme of activities to help increase the economic performance of the area. As a result of this engagement, the board agreed to fund research to investigate options to attract retail and entertainment customers, operators and investors, as well as to understand the impacts of streetscapes improvements on retail spend.

Results of this study will contribute to the identification of new opportunities for engagement by business associations and will help direct strategic planning.

## **Uptown Innovation Project**

The Uptown Innovation project is an economic development initiative led by the Uptown Business Association in partnership with the Waitemātā Local Board and Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED). The initiative aims to cultivate an innovative community in Eden Terrace, utilising buildings as they become vacant in advance of demolition for the City Rail Link station proposed for the area.

The board supported the development of a scoping study and implementation plan as part of this project, which has the potential to develop a unique and vibrant micro-economy, laying the foundation for a longer-term economic rejuvenation of the area.

## Local Engagement

Waitematā Local Board is committed to making democratic, well-informed and sustainable decisions to promote the general well-being of its residents and environment. Therefore true community input and participation are integral to their quality decision-making.

The board values input from Waitematā communities and actively encourages opportunities to hear views and needs so that they are reflected in the strategic and tactical decisions that the board makes.

Residents and ratepayers are invited to attend Public Forum at the board's regular monthly business meetings.

Over the past year the community was consulted on a number of issues and projects

- Freyberg Place and Ellen Melville Centre Upgrade – September, 2015.
- Western Park Playground Upgrade – February, 2016.
- Local Board Agreement 2016-17 – February and March, 2016.
- Draft Auckland Domain Master Plan – March, 2016.
- Cox's Bay Reserve Playground Upgrade – April, 2016.
- Tirotai Reserve Playground Upgrade – April, 2016.
- Grey Lynn Park Playground Upgrade – April, 2016.
- Proposed Renaming of Lower Khartoum Place – April, 2016.



In April 2016, the board asked residents, business owners, stakeholders, iwi, visitors and the general public what they thought of the idea to change the name of Lower Khartoum Place to something associated with women's suffrage in keeping with the artwork and events held there.

The Annual Budget involved a detailed consultation process. The board led a number of engagement events between February and March 2016 and participated in events across Waitematā talking to residents who in turn shared their views and provided feedback on the draft budget. In addition, board members made themselves available to answer questions on the Annual Budget at both the City Centre Neighbours Day and Myers Park Medley, two outdoor events which had a combined total of more than 500+ participants.



Pippa Coom helping a young member of the inner city community during Neighbours Day at Freyberg Place, March 19 2016

The board believes it is vital to keep stakeholders informed of board activities. A regular email news bulletin is sent to an ever growing stakeholder list and Facebook and Neighbourly pages are used to provide daily news updates, opportunities, events and topical information.





## Move to 52 Swanson Street

In March 2016, the Waitematā Local Board offices relocated from the top floor of the Graham Street Service Centre building, where it had been located since 2010, to the renovated front shop premises at 52 Swanson Street, in the City Centre. Being based in the heart of the city (off St Patrick's Square) means the office is more accessible for members of the public to visit the office, attend meetings, have a chat with their elected representatives or just consult the wide array of information available.



The new Waitematā Local Board premises are an easily accessed ground floor space in the city centre.

## Planning for Waitematā

### Local Board Agreement

Each financial year, local boards prepare an agreement document which gets presented to the governing body. In June 2015, Waitematā Local Board adopted its sixth agreement, which is included in the Auckland Council Long-Term Plan 2015-2025. As part of this agreement, the board decides the distribution of funding to projects and services for the 2015-2016 financial year.

The Local Board Agreement also includes a section on advocacy initiatives related to issues that the board may not have decision-making responsibilities or funding for in the long term plan, but that will add value to the local community. Based on this principle, the board advocates to the Governing Body, Auckland Transport and other CCOs for the delivery of a series of projects such as the adoption of a regional budget for the implementation of Greenways across Auckland, the completion of the Auckland Cycle Network and the opening of a fully operational Parnell Station at the earliest opportunity.

### Seismic Exemplar Guidebook

Waitematā is home to a considerable number of heritage buildings that fall short of seismic performance standards and are deemed as earthquake prone. While Auckland has a low likelihood of a damaging earthquake, it is still relevant to improve seismic standards for at-risk buildings. The local board identified this gap and decided to develop the Seismic Exemplar Guidebook, an accessible and practical document that provides a high level overview of the earthquake assessment process, including an understanding of vulnerabilities, the retrofit process and an outline of the potential costs.



The document, launched at the end of 2015, is particularly useful for building owners, tenants and building managers, but could also be appealing to anyone with an interest in the earthquake assessment process.

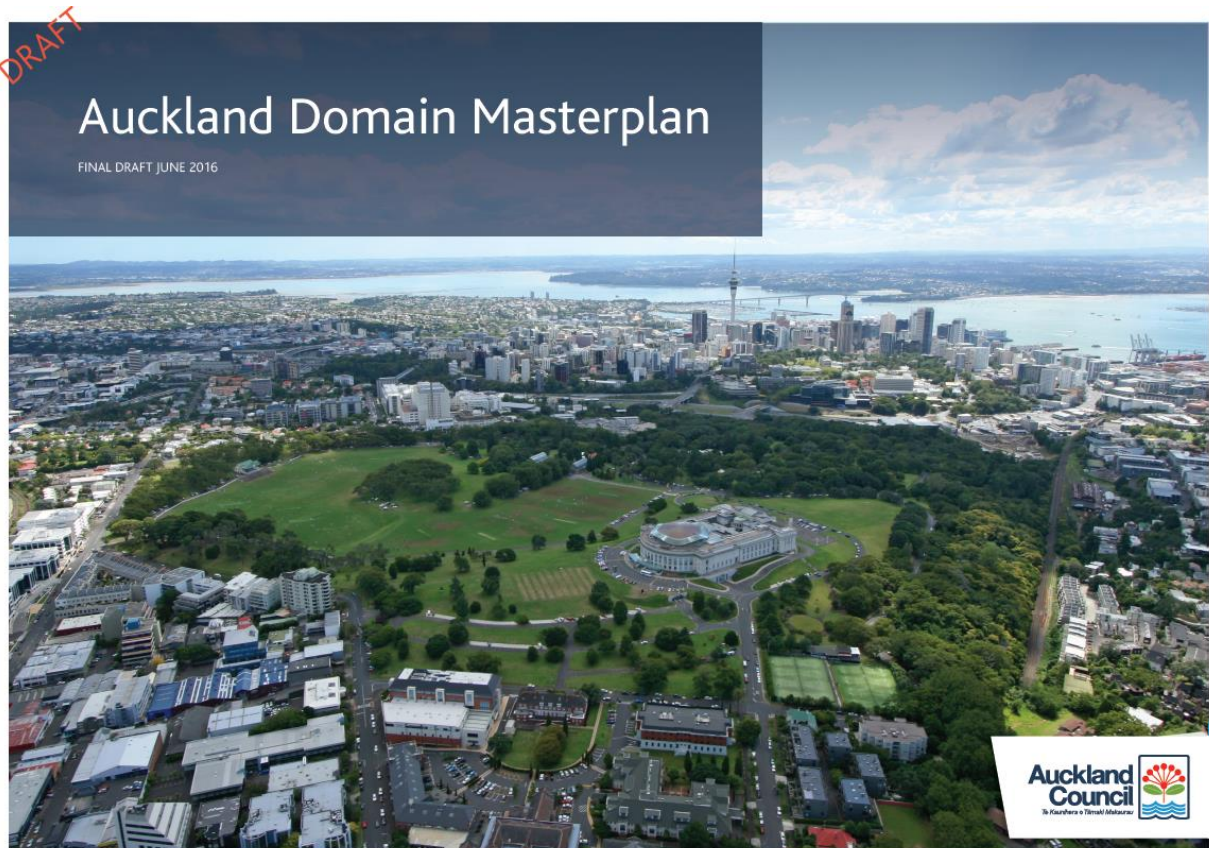
This guidebook highlights the board's ongoing commitment to the survival of the region's rich built heritage and the preservation of its distinctive historic character.

## Auckland Domain Masterplan

The Auckland Domain Committee has been working on a 20-year master plan for the development of this premier park, which includes cycleways, walkways, play spaces and new plantings. The principles guiding the draft include enhancing the Domain's status as a vital cultural and heritage site, emphasizing its privileged position as a recreation and event destination and ultimately creating an environmentally sustainable park that is an example on the world stage.

During February and March, the public was invited to have their say on the draft master plan. As part of a social media campaign to raise awareness of the consultation, Shale Chambers, chair of the Waitemātā Local Board and deputy chair of the Auckland Domain Committee, featured in one of a set of online videos that showcased the beauty of the domain and explained plans to improve the parks amenities.

The consultation results confirmed public support for consolidating car parking, redeveloping the Kari Street nursery located off Grafton Road, closing some roads and creating a play space. Responses also showed that improving cycling and pedestrian access, as well as the quality of the sports fields, was a priority for park users.



## Becoming a Low Carbon Community

Waitematā Local Board is proud to be the first board to have developed a Low Carbon Action Plan. *Becoming a Low Carbon Community – An Action Plan* is a document which brings together a range of suggested actions to adopt low carbon practices and reduce carbon emissions within the community, businesses, schools, infrastructure, transport and housing at a local level.

Early in 2011, Waitematā Local Board signalled the aspiration to prepare a localised plan that would focus on reducing energy use, encouraging sustainable transport options, reducing waste, enabling local food production and having more effective and cooperative use of resources and land. *Becoming a Low Carbon Community 2015* is the realisation of that goal.

The plan provides a basis for developing actions towards transforming Auckland into an energy-resilient low carbon city, such as supporting community centres and facilities to adopt low carbon practices, working towards zero waste for all local board funded events, encouraging businesses to implement product stewardship schemes and inspiring interested parties to become involved in local ecological restoration initiatives.

The final plan was launched at the War Memorial Museum in November 2015, attended by more than 40 stakeholders with an interest in low carbon initiatives.



At the official launch of the Low Carbon Action Plan, from left: member Vernon Tava, John Glen (Auckland War Memorial), Shale Chambers (Chair), member Deborah Yates, Les Fleming (Auckland War Memorial) member Rob Thomas, deputy chair Pippa Coom and member Christopher Dempsey.

## Newton and Eden Terrace Plan

The planning process for the development of a local area-based plan for Newton and Eden Terrace was reactivated in May 2016 after a hiatus following Auckland Transport's announcement in August 2014 that it would redevelop the existing Mt Eden station instead of constructing a new station in Newton as part of the City Rail Link project.

The planning team has undertaken the task of re-scoping and revising the original draft plan. Apart from re-engaging business groups, the local community and iwi, the new round of consultation included a school engagement project which utilise play and creative facilitation to capture and represent the voices of children, in line with the board's commitment to children and young people.

The Newton and Eden Terrace Plan is a comprehensive blueprint that outlines how the Newton-Eden Terrace area will develop over the next 30 years. This vision is based on establishing Newton as a prominent centre with its own identity, creating a great place with good quality interconnected public spaces and facilities and enhancing pedestrian and cyclist experiences. Waitemata and Albert Eden Local Boards are working collaborative to finalise the document



Members of the public reviewing the Newton and Eden Terrace Plan, at the Minnie Street community event.

## Major Projects and Initiatives

The 2015-2016 period was productive in terms of progress for major projects and initiatives in Waitematā, such as the Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway, the Myers Park Underpass and the Ellen Melville Centre Upgrade. In consultation with the community, iwi and other key stakeholders, the local board delivered upgraded playgrounds, enhanced parks facilities and advocated for better and safer transport options.

### Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway

The Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway is part of the wider Waitematā Coastal Walkway project, which stretches from Meola Reef in Westmere to Point Resolution Taurarua in Parnell, connecting up with the Hobson Bay Walkway. The Weona – Westmere Coastal Walkway will create a pedestrian coastal route from Lemington Reserve to Westmere Park Reserve.

The walkway first stage of this project was completed in January 2016 and the boardwalk second phase started in February. Once completed, the walkway will provide an attractive walking amenity for the local community as well as visitors, increasing connectivity to the coast.

The pathway navigates conditions including steep terrain, tidal erosion and rocky shoreline. The Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway is due for completion in September 2016.



Chair Shale Chambers standing next to one of the new way-finding signs on the Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway.

## Ellen Melville Centre Upgrade

The redevelopment of the Ellen Melville Centre (formerly the Pioneer Women's and Ellen Melville Hall) into a vibrant community facility will take a major step forward with the finalisation of the design and commencement of works on site. The Waitematā Local Board is re-developing the Centre into an inner-city community hub for locals and visitors to enjoy.

The decision to update this facility was prompted by research that the board commissioned in 2013, which concluded that due to a growing number of residents in the city centre, many of whom are younger and ethnically diverse; there was an increased need for an attractive community hub to bring the community together. The much needed upgrade of this heritage building will be complemented with the upgrade of the adjacent Freyberg Place, which is being funded by city centre targeted rate. The new name 'Ellen Melville Centre' was supported by the Waitematā Local Board in collaboration with the National Council of Women of New Zealand and the Melville family.

Artist Lisa Reihana has completed a detailed design for a permanent public artwork as part of the revitalisation of the Ellen Melville Centre. The artwork entitled 'Justice' is a bronze sculpture that references the life of Ellen Melville and includes the scales of justice positioned above a decorative wall drawing. This new artwork will be installed on the Centre's O'Connell St façade.

Consultation was completed this year on the concept designs for the redeveloped Ellen Melville Centre and Freyberg Place, with construction due to commence in August 2016 for a nine to twelve month period.



The final design proposal for the Ellen Melville Centre approved by the board in March 2016.

## Myers Park Development

The upgrade of Myers Park is a significant three year project that aims to unlock the park's great potential as a vibrant and well-used inner city park. This 'green lung' is a valuable pedestrian connection between Karangahape Road and the central city and a treasured open space for local residents and children in the heart of Auckland.

The second phase of the upgrade begins in August 2016 with the construction of an improved connection to the park via the Mayoral Drive underpass and enhancements to the Mayoral Drive entrance, as well as the introduction of a splash pad in the former paddling pool area, north of the playground. All of these upgrades are expected to be completed during the summer season 2016/2017.

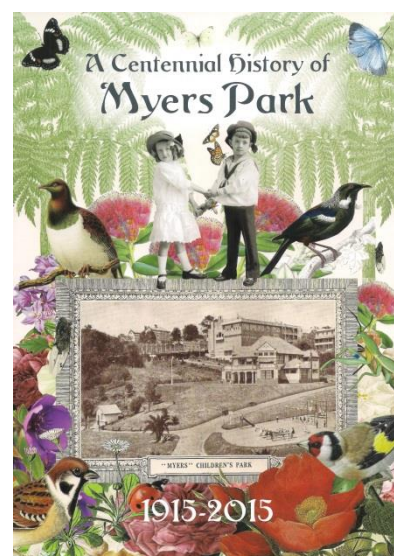


Design for the upgraded Mayoral Drive entrance.

## Myers Park Book

The Board supported the Karangahape Business Association with a Local Board Community Grant to produce the first ever book about the history of Myers Park. A Centennial history of Myers Park 1915-2015 tells the story of Myers Park over the past 100 years, of its evolution to meet the changing needs of a growing and culturally diverse city. The book honours former Mayor Arthur Myers' vision for the park and reflects on the special place that it has been, and will continue to be for this city.

The Board is proud to have invested in the development of Myers Park for the whole community to enjoy and recognise the important role that the Karangahape Business Association has played in its development, along with local businesses and communities.





## Newmarket Laneways

Following up on the endorsement of the Newmarket Laneways Plan in September 2015, high level concept designs were developed for Teed Street, Kent Street and York Street. The first upgrade to be delivered in the Newmarket Laneways Streetscape Improvement project is Teed Street, with construction beginning February 2017. This will include widening of footpaths, tree planting, street furniture and better lighting.

This initiative will deliver on the aspirations of the Waitemata Local Board and the Newmarket community to improve the quality of streets and public places, making them safer, more inviting, interesting and walkable.



Proposed design of improvements to Teed Street, Newmarket.

## Symonds Street Cemetery

The Symonds Street Cemetery is one of Auckland's most historic public reserves. It provides a place of commemoration for an estimated 10,000 Auckland citizens and others buried there since 1841, including many prominent individuals, including Captain William Hobson. In recognition of its significant and unique heritage, the local board has been working towards its restoration since 2011.

To ensure better knowledge of and understanding of the cemetery, three signs have been replaced with new directional, interpretation and bollard signs. Other improvements included upgraded pathways and new walking trails.

Along with the signage, trail maps have been completed and can be accessed online. A new digital tool is available through the STQRY app, which includes over 100 stories. The trail maps and the STQRY app were launched on 10 May, 2016.

Work has also begun to conserve gravesite memorials in the cemetery. While the local board will be funding some restoration, there have also been external applications to fund the restoration of ancestral graves. Increasing volunteer involvement and encouraging families to participate in the conservation of their family plots has been a major goal for 2016, and many of the improvements to the cemetery would not have been possible without the hard work of volunteers.



New signage installed at Symonds Street Cemetery, clearly indicate walking tracks and provide history on the area.

## Low Carbon Initiatives

### Low Carbon Lifestyles

Derived from the Low Carbon Action Plan is the low carbon lifestyle project, which focuses on the offering of energy saving advice and the installation of a device to reduce the energy required to heat shower water in inner city apartment buildings. The scoping and funding phases of this project are progressing, with seven apartment blocks recently confirming that they would like to take part in the project.

This energy efficiency offer will be combined with other actions aimed at water conservation, zero waste goals and advice to residents on food composting and home grown food through household visits and potentially the establishment of neighbourhood groups focused on low carbon living.

### Low Carbon Community Network

The Low Carbon Community Network is a collective of individuals and groups who get together to share knowledge, skills and ideas in order to find practical ways to reduce the carbon footprint in our area through education and environmental care.

The group held its inaugural meeting at Studio One Toi Tū at the end of May and continues to meet on a monthly basis to discuss topics relating to transport, energy, consumption and waste, carbon sequestration and resource optimisation. The network is currently in the process of developing a vision, objectives and set of achievable actions. Based on the principle of community empowerment, members of the group

will decide through dialogue and consultation how they will work going forward. As champion of this project, the local board would like to see this network becoming an advocate and springboard for major regional and national changes.



First meeting of the Low Carbon Network, Studio One, 19 May, 2016.

## Ecological Restoration

Waitematā Local Board continued to fund ecological restoration work across bush and natural areas within the region. The proactive management of high value sites such as Auckland Domain, Judges Bay, Meola Reef Reserve, Arch Hill Scenic and Lemington Reserve had a positive impact on bird life, the biodiversity of the urban ecosystem and the health of the urban environment as a whole.

The board also supports a Volunteer Programme which undertakes valuable tasks in local parks and reserves, including Newmarket Park, Alberon Reserve and Tirota Reserve. Every month, different groups of dedicated volunteers engage in animal pest control activities, litter clean-ups, weeding and planting. On a bi-annual basis, groups attend pest control training sessions with a view to improving their skills and recruiting new volunteers. The board is extremely grateful for these noble efforts.



A team of volunteers from Conservation Volunteers New Zealand undertaking mulching of trees and rose bushes at the Symonds Street Cemetery, 22 March 2016

## Waipapa Stream Restoration

The board provided funds to undertake the fourth year of the 10-year Waipapa Stream Restoration Plan, which focuses on improving the ecological health of natural areas through the removal of pest plants, stream cleaning, planting and community environmental action.

Last year, in line with the ecological efforts funded by the board and as part of the Auckland Heritage Festival, the annual Waipapa Stream clean-up day was attended by a group of 25 people, an excellent turnout and a huge amount of work was accomplished. The 2016 Annual Planting Day was held on June 11, with the attendance of a group of representatives from the Waitemata Local Board, Parnell Heritage, Parnell Community Committee and local neighbours. By the end of June 2016, an additional 850 plants were planted along the stream.



Members Christopher Dempsey and Deborah Yates do their bit along with a group of hardworking volunteers at the Waipapa Stream Planting Day, September 26, 2015

## Greenways

The development of greenways to connect parks and open spaces is a priority project identified in the Waitematā Local Board Plan. In October 2014 the board approved a budget of \$350,000 from the Local Board Transport Capital Fund for the Waitematā Greenways Plan route through Grey Lynn Park. This project provides a wider shared path that aligns with the Grey Lynn Park Development Plan and the future Waitematā Greenways Route G1 cycle route.

This path will connect with a separate Auckland Transport project to link to Cox's Bay Reserve. Further progress on the Grey Lynn greenways route has been made with the widening of the Hakanoa Reserve pathway which was completed in May. The Auckland Transport design of the on-road sections of the route will be available for public input in August.



Members Rob Thomas, Deputy Chair Pippa Coom, Deborah Yates, Greg Moyle, Vernon Tava, Chair Shale Chambers, Christopher Dempsey.

## Cox's Bay Reserve

The Cox's Bay Reserve path renewal and widening was completed in February 2016. The board decided to complement the upgrade with the widening of the paths to allow for shared use for walkers, runners and cyclists as part of the Waitemātā Greenways Plan. The small bridge connecting Parawai Crescent into the park was also replaced along with the small set of concrete steps linking to the new shared path just along from the bridge. New barbeques installed in time for summer were well used by locals and visitors to the area. Public feedback was sought on a new playground design and a concept plan is underway. New training lights are also proposed which will provide improved lighting on the training fields whilst reducing light spill to adjacent private properties. Additional minor works, such as improved drainage in some areas of the sports fields, and changes to the bin emptying scheduling has seen improvements to the overall park.



Before and after photos show the upgrade improves safety and usability of the pathways in Cox's Bay Reserve

## Western Park Upgrade

Following public consultation and adoption of the Western Park Development Plan in August 2015, a number of exciting projects are planned for the city's oldest metropolitan park. Footpath renewals, tree roots protection, and bluestone edging.

Later this year, new lighting will be installed on the western path that connects Ponsonby Road to Beresford Street West. Energy efficient LED lighting will be timed to come on at 5am and go off at midnight, providing a well-lit commuter route through the park. As part of the lighting renewal, three-phase power outlets will be provided to cater for events at either end of the park.



Lighting along Ponsonby Road will be retained and old lighting elsewhere removed. Western Park upgrade will be completed by the end of September 2016.

The proposed design of the Western Park playground upgrade includes what is understood will be the longest tube slide in New Zealand.

## POP Programme

Waitematā Local Board is proud to continue its support and funding of the POP project, a free, annual temporary public art series that brings art to the community through creativity, participation and fun. POP has grown considerably since its launch in 2014. The 2016 series of POP is the busiest yet and involved more than 15 projects led by diverse individuals and organisations from Auckland's creative communities. This year POP extended beyond Waitematā and for the first time some projects appeared in other Auckland suburbs.

The new activations spread throughout the central city suburbs included:

- POP Dog: Victoria Park was home to a celebratory day out for dogs and their owners including professional photo opportunities and entertainment.
- POP Hula: A series of hula hoop making workshops for passers-by.
- POP Skip Jump: Auckland Skipping Club made Aucklanders jump with their 9 metre long and 6 metre double Dutch ropes in various spots around the city.
- POP Puppetry: On flexible four metre poles, POP performers manipulated impressive 2D Birds through the skies.

- POP-up Stories: Each activation involved two librarians and an actor stepping on and off the Inner Link Bus and sharing stories with commuters. Disguised as normal passengers, they spontaneously revealed their POP costumes and started reading from celebrated authors
- POP Riders: The White Face Crew promoted cycling in the city, inviting the local community to join them on daily rides.
- POP Jazz: Three trios of Jazz musicians playing at the same time, each in a different location, with a repertoire ranging from popular jazz standards to pop songs.
- POP Gardens: Mobile gardens travelled the streets with specially grown tea herbs. People were invited to stop and choose their herbs, which were packed into a tea bag to takeaway.



## Ponsonby Road Pedestrian Improvements

The Ponsonby Road Plan 2014-2044 identifies actions inspired by local aspirations for developing one of Auckland’s most celebrated destination roads. One of the key outcomes on the Ponsonby Road Plan is “to develop Ponsonby Road with various transport options that prioritise the safety of pedestrians and cyclists”. The board is working with Auckland Transport on improvements for pedestrians along Ponsonby Road between Franklin Road and Williamson Ave. The scope of the project is to provide a continuous pedestrian experience by improving crossing facilities at 8 intersections on Ponsonby Road. The Board has approved \$703,000 towards the project, funded from the Waitematā Local Board transport capital fund.



Chair Shale Chambers, members Deborah Yates, Vernon Tava, deputy chair Pippa Coom and members Christopher Dempsey and Rob Thomas crossing Anglesea Street intersection, scheduled to be upgraded as part of the project.

## Drinking Fountains

The Waitemātā Local Board supports education and community programmes aimed at minimising waste and advocates for zero-waste practices at all council-run events and community centres including the reduction of plastic bottle waste. In line with this, across the Waitemātā area the board has been installing drinking stations in convenient locations to provide access to fresh filtered tap water for residents and visitors when out and about.

This year three more fountains were funded, located on Carlton Gore Road, Nelson Street (before the start of Te Ara i Whiti - the Light Path at the corner of Nelson Street and Union St) and Upper Queen Street/Ian McKinnon Drive. A total of 17 drinking fountains have now been installed by the board in our parks and streets.

## Playground Renewals

Driven by a commitment to add value to scheduled renewals, the board once again made the decision of providing additional funds to significantly enhance playgrounds. By consulting with the community, the board heard residents' priorities and expectations for the open spaces where their children play and recreate. As a result, high quality designs that improve urban parks as a destination for the whole family were created. During the past year, new playgrounds were completed in Tole and Salisbury Reserves and in the coming month's upgrades to Western Park and Grey Lynn Park playgrounds will be something to look forward to.

## Bonus Floor Provisions

For some years in the city centre it has been possible for property developers to provide public amenities in return for more floor space in their buildings than they would otherwise have been permitted to build. This permission for additional floor space is known as "bonus floor provisions" and is seen as a good way of providing public amenity for those who live and work in the city centre. These public amenities have generally been pedestrian access ways through buildings along with widened footpaths, public viewing decks, plazas, or art works accessible to the general public.

Many of the conditions of these bonus floor provisions have been lost due to inconsistent tracking and up until recently many of the sites were not compliant. The Waitemātā Local Board has long advocated for the council to monitor the consent conditions to ensure they are being provided and that the public know about these hidden secrets.

As a result of the board's advocacy, a list was compiled of all bonus floor provisions and a register was made available online for the public to discover. Moreover, since the beginning of this project, the level of compliance has increased significantly, to close to 95 per cent of the sites audited.



## Community Development

### Empowered Communities

An empowered community is one where individuals, whanau and communities have the power and ability to influence decisions, take action and make change happen in their lives and communities. In line with the Community Empowerment strategy implemented by council, the Waitemātā Local Board embraced this concept in the belief that communities thrive when they are actively involved in shaping their neighbourhoods and contributing to local decision-making.

To achieve more empowered communities, during the past year the board supported a number of initiatives aimed at building community capacity, leadership and skills.

The following are some examples of this support:

### Inner City Network

The Inner City Network, comprised of just over 200 members, provides an opportunity to share community updates and to engage in discussions on topics relevant to the city centre. The board provides funding to this group to support the organisation of their monthly meetings, which are attended by approximately 40 people.

This year, the topics that have been discussed in this forum include Children in the Inner City, Accessing Information, Chinese Community Living in the City, Enhancing Neighbourhoods and Accessibility.

The Inner City Network has also helped facilitate consultation and engagement and supported community groups and individuals to have a say on the Ellen Melville Centre redevelopment. Moreover, it has provided support to the Plunket research on the experiences of parents living in the Inner City.

### Inner City Neighbours Day

The Board funded the Inner City Network's Neighbours Day Event on 19 March 2016. On this day, organizations like Splice, Lifewise, Citizens Advice Bureau, the central library, plus local artists and businesses came together to enhance neighbourliness in the inner city. The Waitemātā Local Board was present with a stall and entertainment was provided by two city buskers groups.

## Community Gardens

Community gardens are a great way for neighbours to get to know each other and work together. They provide space to grow and eat fresh fruits and vegetables particularly for people living in high-density urban areas like the Waitematā Local Board area.

Over the past year, the Board has supported development, capacity building and skills workshops for all community gardens in the local board area, including the Housing New Zealand Greys Avenue Group, Freemans Bay Community Garden, Daldy Street Community Garden, Grafton Community Garden, Kelmarna Garden, Francis Reserve SKIP Community Garden, The Junction, Wilton Picnic Garden, Hauora Garden and Te Maara (St Columba) Community Gardens and local schools.



Members Deborah Yates, Vernon Tava, deputy chair Pippa Coom, chair Shale Chambers and Leonie Morris, Auckland Women's Centre Manager, at the opening of Francis Reserve Community Garden

## 254 Ponsonby Road Project

A key role of the local board is to advocate for initiatives that it may not have decision-making responsibilities or funding for but wants to champion due to the value they will add to the local community. An example of this is their advocacy to the governing body to fund the redevelopment of the site located on 254 Ponsonby Road.

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 the concept of a Community -Led Design process. This is when the

community gets to shape and influence all key decisions, from creating a collective vision, developing a design brief to signing off key stages of the project.

This initiative is now being led by a facilitation group of eight members who during the past year established meeting protocols, developed a website and Facebook profile and hosted community engagement events to gather community interest in being part of the formal group and wider communication network. Once the group finalise a proposed design for the site and identify the financial implications linked to it, they will present their work to the local board to help the board inform their funding advocacy position.

## Grey Lynn Pump Track

A good example of a community led project, the Grey Lynn Pump Track will see the construction of an innovative bicycle track with bumps and turns in Grey Lynn Park. In October 2015, the board voted unanimously to support the project and decided to provide \$30,000 as contribution to the group.

The board also recommended that council, under the Community Led Small Build Programme, provide advice on how to progress this initiative. Since then, the group has been gathering more and more backing from the local community and has organised a successful fundraising campaign that is still ongoing.

The Pump Track will be an exciting addition to the park and will include a path that can be ridden without using pedals, making it ideal for a wide age group. This is in line with the board's contribution to achieve a child friendly city.

## Accessibility

The board continues to provide leadership around accessibility in their belief that everyone has the right to participate in community life. This year the Waitemata Accessibility Plan 2013 – 15 was reviewed and a new 2016-19 plan was developed. The review and new plan development included local board members, Council staff from a wide range of departments and community stakeholders including business and resident associations, local networks and community groups.

Some events, activities and projects from the past year where efforts have been made to promote accessibility include:

- Playground and parks renewals projects at Salisbury Reserve, Myers Park and Western Park included accessibility audits and improvements, such as a painted basketball half court with line markings for inclusion of scooters, bikes, prams and wheelchairs. The upgrades also included a step into the playground so that it is easier for people with limited mobility, accessible basket swings,

new barrier free paths and artificial grass for easier traverse in prams and wheelchairs.

- Parnell Festival of Roses continues to include accessible activities such as an audio described walk and a rose-potting workshop for blind and vision impaired visitors as well as large print information on transport options

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*“Without audio description blind people could not access the event. It's really important for everyone to be able to participate in events in our community, especially those that are funded by our rates. I'd like to see initiatives like the work done in Waitematā to be developed across Auckland in consultation with disabled people's organisations”*

***Nicola Owen, Audio Described Aotearoa***

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- Myers Park Medley included guided walks for blind and vision impaired visitors



## Child-friendly Local Board

In January 2015, Waitemātā Local Board officially registered with UNICEF as the first local board to be working toward ‘child friendly’ accreditation. Since then, in partnership with the community, local board members and staff have worked on a number of child-friendly projects and initiatives:

- The Waitemātā child friendly steering group was formed and held its first meeting in February 2016. The group, comprised of council staff, community groups, organisations and universities is working to achieve, monitor and sustain the UNICEF accreditation process. Another focus for the group is to share ideas for the delivery of child friendly events, identify consultation and engagement opportunities and create a stocktake of current child friendly activities.
- Underpinning the Child Friendly Cities initiatives is the notion of getting children involved in consultation processes. For this reason, child friendly surveys continue to be advocated across Waitemātā Local Board planning projects, such as the redevelopment of Ellen Melville Centre and Freyberg Place, the Newton and Eden Terrace Plan and the playground renewal at Western Park. Of particular significance was the child friendly consultation that was conducted for the development of Freyberg Place and the Ellen Melville Centre in mid-2015. This example was presented at the 2nd Aotearoa New Zealand Childhood Studies Colloquium at the University of Otago, Dunedin, on 20 and 21 October 2015. The project was very well received by attendees, which included international and New Zealand based academics as well as leaders in the work of Child Rights, and was considered a strong example of upholding the rights of children as defined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The ‘Think Big’ project saw the launch of a website created by children for children. With support from the Board through a grant, a group of Freemans Bay School primary students decided that a website that feeds into public consultations would be the most effective way to provide a voice for youth in the region. Over 170 children provided feedback on the draft Auckland Transport network plan via the site.

## Waitematā Youth Development

The board recognises the importance and value of youth actively participating in Waitematā's civic, cultural and recreational life, especially when young people under the age of 24 constitute one third of Waitematā's population.

The Waitematā Youth Collective (WYC) provides a representative voice on issues that matter to young people and facilitate discussion-making with the broader youth population in the local board area. Naushyn Janah and Carmen Szeto were voted as co-chairs of the group in June 2016, taking over from previous co-chairs Nurain Janah and Imogen Watt.

This year, Alex Johnston continued as the Local representative on the council's Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) and at the YAP meeting on the 14 September 2015, Alex was also elected as the Deputy Chair. The local board supported WYC's involvement in a number of events, activities, steering groups and projects including:

- Annual Plan submissions and presence at the Myers Park Medley and Neighbours Day events during February and March 2016.
- Pop up activations to encourage youth engagement with council and awareness of local board projects and advocacy.
- WYC members have represented young people's voice on the Child Friendly Accreditation Steering group, 254 Ponsonby Road project group, Waitematā Local Carbon Action Plan steering group, Newmarket Laneways Project and Ellen Melville Centre redevelopment, to name just a few.
- Last spring, WYC published a youth-friendly map including a range of useful information such as where to top up an AT Hop card, cheap places to eat, good coffee spots and places to hang out



Deborah Yates and Youth Collective representatives at Myers Park Medley. From left to right: Hannah Shingler, Carmen Szeto, Nurain Janah, Alex Johnston, Naushyn Janah, Shreya Rao and Shelley Addison-Bell.

## Community Grants and Funding

Over the past year, the board made the decision to increase the funding for its local community grants programme, from \$100,000 during the financial year 2014/15 to \$125,000 for 2015/2016, and also introduced a new accommodation grant round with a budget of \$125,000. These successful schemes provide assistance and accommodation grants to community groups, clubs and organisations whose work or programmes and initiatives serve the Waitemātā community.

The board welcomes and gives priority to grant applications for services, projects and events that align with some of its priorities such as waste minimisation, the protection and enhancement of our natural heritage, the promotion of physical and recreational activities in parks and open spaces and the inclusion of more people into community life.

For the first time, community organisations had the opportunity of applying to the local board for accommodation grants to cover rental and/or lease payments, council rates and regular ongoing venue hire costs. This assistance helps many groups pay for rental expenses that they would otherwise be in a difficult position to afford.

During the last year, grants were provided to the following community groups and organisations:

### Local Community Grants

- A Slightly Isolated Dog LTD
- Alternative Bindings
- Aotea Youth Symphony Inc.
- Auckland District Council of Social Services
- Auckland Women's Centre Incorporated
- Auckland Youth Orchestra Inc.
- Betsy and Mana Productions Ltd.
- Bike Rave Auckland
- Burrows Court Community
- Children's Autism Foundation
- Chinese New Settlers Services Trust
- Circability Trust
- Circle Creative Collective
- Connected Media Charitable Trust
- Emote Trust
- Gecko New Zealand Trust (Andrea Reid)
- Grey Lynn 2030 Waste Away
- Grey Lynn Business Association Incorporated
- Grey Lynn Community Centre
- New Zealand Nutrition Foundation
- Nga Rangatahi Toa Creative Arts Initiative
- Parnell Community Trust
- Parnell Heritage Inc.
- Parnell Trust
- 'Peace Poppy Project' Exhibition (Cristina Beth)
- Pipikids
- Project Litefoot Trust
- Show Me Shorts Film Festival Trust
- Tamaki Drive Protection Society Inc.
- Tenants' Protection Association
- The Auckland Performing Arts Centre (TAPAC)
- The Basement Theatre
- The Foundation for Peace Studies Aotearoa-NZInc. (White Ribbon March)
- The People of Auckland Community Trust
- The Street Loves Nana Project (Margaret Lewis)
- Tom Greer
- United Nations Youth New Zealand
- Viva Voce Incorporated

- Grey Lynn Farmers' Market
- Heritage Roses Auckland
- Herne Bay Ponsonby Rackets Club
- Kelmarna Community Garden Trust
- New Zealand Fashion Museum
- Waiata Artists Trust
- Western Bays Community Group Inc
- Wet Hot Beauties
- YMCA Auckland Inc
- Zeal Education Trust

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*“Our grant from Waitematā Local Board helped provide us with an experienced mentor, basic music equipment and the necessary technical support.”* **Cameron Webster, Chair of People of Community Trust**

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## Accommodation Grants

- Artspace (Aotearoa) Trust t/a ARTSPACE NZ
- Audio Foundation
- Body Positive Incorporated
- DANZ-Dance Aotearoa New Zealand
- Objectspace
- Fun and Games Toy Library Inc.
- Indian Ink Trust
- Lifewise
- Massive Company Trust
- New Zealand Dance Festival Trust – Tempo Dance Festival
- Theatre Stampede Charitable Trust
- The NZ Dance Advancement Trust (on behalf of The NZ Dance Company)
- Rape Crisis Inc. (Rape Prevention education)
- OUTLine New Zealand Incorporated
- Rainbow Youth Inc.
- Raukatauri Music Therapy Trust
- Script to Screen
- Show Me Shorts Film Festival Trust
- Stuttering Treatment and Research Trust (START)
- Te Karanga Charitable Trust
- The Auckland Film Society Inc.
- The Basement Theatre Trust
- New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc.)
- End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) Child Alert Trust

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*“Without this grant we would really struggle to pay our rent for these offices. There are very few community grants that fund accommodation. We do not receive any central Government funding at all. Our call volumes have increased a further 90% on 2015 volumes”* **Trevor Easton, General Manager OUTLine New Zealand, a nationwide support helpline providing counselling which specialises in gender and sexuality issues.**

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## Local Improvement Projects

Apart from delivering projects and initiatives included in the Local Board Agreement 2015/16, the board funded a number of projects through the Local Improvement Projects (LIPs) fund:

- Barbeques in Cox's Bay
- Widening paths in Salisbury Reserve
- Installation of additional commercially-sponsored skate elements in Victoria Park



Victoria Park Skate Plaza is popular with all ages, and is a hub of activity most weekends.

## Local Input into Regional Policies

An important aspect of the board's work is to represent local communities through providing input into regional strategies, plans and policies. Over the past year, the board has provided formal feedback on a number of topics including:

- Proposed variation to the Auckland Regional Public Transport Plan and the Simplified Zone Fare System (July, 2015)
- Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act (ARAFA) Funding Model Review (September, 2015)
- Proposed Stormwater Network Discharge Consent (October, 2015)
- Auckland Transport's draft berm planting guidelines (October, 2015)
- Auckland Transport's proposed new network for Auckland's central suburbs (February, 2016)
- New Marine Protected Areas Act (March, 2016)
- New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme Review (March, 2016)
- Consultation document on next steps for Fresh Water (April, 2016)
- Draft Business Improvement District Policy (April, 2016)
- Auckland Transport's Regional Signage Project Trial (June, 2016)



An example of berm planting in the inner suburbs.

## Local Events

An important aspect of the board's work is to represent local communities through providing input into regional strategies, plans and policies. Over the past year, the board has provided formal feedback on a number of topics including:

### Board Delivered Events

The board recognises the importance and value of youth actively participating in Waitematā's civic, cultural and recreational life, especially when young people under the age of 24 constitute one third of Waitematā's population.

- Parnell Festival of the Roses (15 November, 2015)



Member Greg Moyle and Jacqui Knight, Monarch Butterfly New Zealand Trust trustee, at the Parnell Festival of Roses.

- Myers Park Medley (in association with the Music in Parks programme. 28 February, 2016)



Members Deborah Yates, chair Shale Chambers, Vernon Tava, deputy chair Pippa Coom and Christopher Dempsey at Myers Park Medley. At this zero waste event, all stall holders had biodegradable or recyclable packaging.

## Board Supported Events

- Festival Italiano (Newmarket, 27 September, 2015)
- Art Week Auckland (8-18 October, 2015)
- Grey Lynn Park Festival (28 November, 2015)
- Franklin Road Christmas Lights Opening Night (1 December, 2015)
- Victoria Park Annual Skateboarding contest (6 December, 2015)
- Buskers Festival (29 January – 1 February, 2016)
- Art in a Day (Parnell, 20 February, 2016)
- Japan Day 2016 (20 April, 2016)

The board contributed to the delivery of a truly exciting artistic venture which happened in the city over the summer. The board made the decision to delay the original construction programme scheduled for the much anticipated Myers Park upgrade, to accommodate the Pop-Up Globe, the world first temporary full-scale replica of the Shakespeare Theatre. The Pop-Up Globe was such a success that its season was extended beyond its original end date.



Crowds in the back streets of Newmarket enjoying another successful Festival Italiano.

The financial support provided to Festival Italiano, Art Week and Grey Lynn Festival is part of a three year partnership agreement which began in 2014. This provides funding stability to the organisers, allowing them to plan their events well in advance.

During the past year, the board allocated \$65,000 to the delivery of three successful events in Newmarket, the city centre and fringe suburbs and Grey Lynn.

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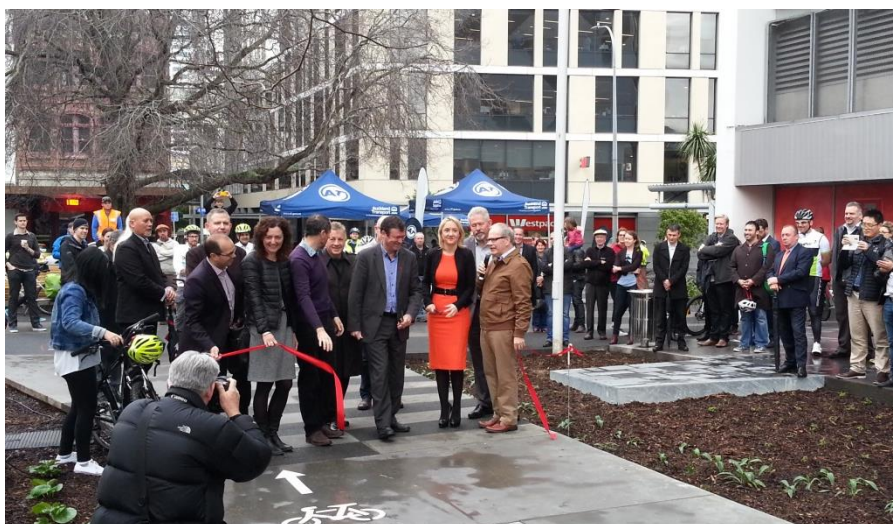
*“Waitematā Local Board played a key role to enable the successful delivery of Pop-up Globe Auckland by assisting us with finding a suitable location for the structure, in the heart of Auckland’s Aotea Art Quarter, and with facilitation to ensure that the event went ahead successfully” Miles Gregory, Artistic Director and Founder, Pop Up Globe*

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## Opening, Ceremonies and Celebrations

As representatives of their local community, local board members are often kept busy attending civic openings for board-led projects and initiatives completed by council departments and Council Controlled Organisations. During the past year, board members were present at dozens of ceremonies which symbolise some of the key improvements achieved in the area, from better connections for walkers and cyclists to enhanced amenities in parks and reserves for all to enjoy.

- Refurbishment and re-opening of Waitematā Plaza. 28 July, 2015. Chair Shale Chambers spoke at the event.
- The formal opening of the newly renovated Tole Reserve Playground took place on 22 August 2015, with a small ceremony attended by local residents. Chair Shale Chambers spoke at the event and member Vernon Tava MC'd.
- Opening of the Stage II of Beach Road cycle and walkway. 18 September, 2015. Chair Shale Chambers spoke at the event.



Mayor Len Brown, Councillor Mike Lee, board chair Shale Chambers, deputy chair Pippa Coom, members Vernon Tava, Christopher Dempsey and Greg Moyle, among others, opening the Beach Road cycle and walkway.

- Opening of Festival Italiano on Osborne and Kent streets. 27 September, 2015. Chair Shale Chambers spoke at the event.
- Opening of Art Week, Silo 6. 9 October, 2015. Chair Shale Chambers spoke at the event.
- Salisbury Reserve playground re-opening. 7 November, 2015. Chair Shale Chambers and member Vernon Tava spoke at the event.
- Parnell Festival of Roses at Parnell Rose Gardens. 15 November, 2016. Member Greg Moyle spoke at the event.
- White Ribbon March. 25 November, 2015. Chair Shale Chambers spoke.
- Opening of Nelson Street Cycleway. 3 December, 2015
- Art in a Day at the Jubilee Building. 27 February, 2016. Chair Shale Chambers was a prize presenter at the Prize Giving Ceremony and Auction.
- Myers Park Medley Festival. 28 February, 2016. Chair Shale Chambers spoke at the event.
- Community Garden Opening, Francis Street Reserve. 9 April, 2016. Member Vernon Tava spoke at the event.
- City Rail Link ground-breaking, Lower Queen Street. 2 June, 2016.



Members Rob Thomas, Vernon Tava, Greg Moyle, Mayor Len Brown, Chair Shale Chambers, Deputy Chair Pippa Coom and member Christopher Dempsey at the City Rail Link ground-breaking.

Local board members also attended a number of major events held across Waitemātā, including the Auckland Heritage Festival, Diwali, Pasifika Festival, the Pride Parade and the Lantern Festival. Other key events attended by board members included the ASB Classic at the Tennis Arena, the New Zealand Fashion Show, Blackcaps vs Australia at Eden Park and the Auckland Writers Festival.

## Transport Advocacy

The Waitemātā Local Board supports connected, accessible and safe transport choices. Working closely with Auckland Transport, the board ensures that there is a voice for transport initiatives that support walking, cycling and public transport use, improved safety and a reduction in congestion and carbon emissions. The board took a number of advocacy positions in relation to transport over the past year with some great results.

- The board has long advocated to Auckland Transport to undertake the planned Franklin Road Improvements project including road resurfacing, footpath upgrade, pedestrian crossings and more. Auckland Transport confirmed a budget for the upgrade and community consultation on the final design was undertaken in April 2016. The construction of the first Watercare works has now commenced.

The second stage of the project will start in October/November 2016 with a completion date planned for mid to late 2017. This will see a complete renewal of the street with services undergrounded, 3.5 metre wide footpaths, tree pits, on-street parking retained, a slightly raised cycle path on both sides of the road, a new roundabout at Wellington Street and raised speed tables at all side roads. This is a pedestrian safety outcome the board has advocated for since the beginning of the board's term.



Render of the proposed Franklin Road improvements project.

- Cycling in Auckland is considered a key contributor to improving travel options and increasing reliability across the transport network. The board has continued to advocate strongly for a transport network which prioritises walking and cycling infrastructure and programmes. A city centre network package valued at \$20.33 million announced in June 2015 is being undertaken. This includes key connections such as Karangahape Road and Upper Queen Street, Quay Street and the Waterfront and a number of east-west connections.
  - Auckland’s newest and highly anticipated piece of cycling infrastructure, the Nelson Street Cycleway, was opened to the public in December 2015. Following a recommendation from iwi the section of the cycleway which incorporates the Canada Street Bridge as well as the old Nelson Street motorway off-ramp is called “Te Ara i Whiti”, which translates as the Lightpath. The project team worked with Maori artist Katz Maihi and iwi throughout the urban design stages to include Maori designs and ensure the path has a distinctly New Zealand identity. The \$18 million overall project is part of a \$200 million package of cycle improvements in Auckland over the next three years.
  - The Beach Road walking and cycling project forms an important link in Auckland’s first urban cycleway and adds to the city’s growing network of safe separated cycle routes. Construction of stage two began in March 2015, extending stage one from Mahuhu Crescent through to Britomart Place, connecting with the Quay Street Cycleway. In addition to creating a cycle route, the project has upgraded the Beach Road street environment using distinctive patterned concrete paving, with small pocket parks dotted along the route to act as a natural demarcation between the pedestrian and cycle paths. On 18 September 2015, Auckland Transport and Auckland Council opened stage 2 of the Beach Road Cycleway. The Board was instrumental in preserving the budget for Beach Road stage 2 funded from the general city centre targeted rate.
  - The Quay Street cycleway began construction in early 2016, following public consultation on preliminary designs for a 3 metre bidirectional cycleway. The Quay Street project completion is planned for July prior to the City Rail Link Phase Two Enabling Works commencing.



- The board continues to advocate to Auckland Transport to improve pedestrian safety, access and connectivity. Several projects have been completed or are underway:
  - New pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Kitchener Street/Bowen Avenue
  - New zebra crossing at the intersection of Symonds Street/Wakefield Street
  - Pedestrian crossing improvements at Symonds Street/Grafton Road/Alfred Street to complete the circuit at this intersection
  - Pedestrian crossing improvements at Symonds Street/Wellesley Street
  - Walking improvements as part of the Grey Lynn town centre transport project
- The board continues to challenge Auckland Transport to consider every renewal or maintenance project so that the transport budget can be maximised and improvements made for all transport modes. For example, new feeder lanes and advance stop boxes on Ponsonby Road have been included as part of re-surfacing and on Williamson Ave as part of the Countdown development at the Board's request.



New cycle feeder lanes and advance stop boxes on Ponsonby Road.

- The board continued to advocate to Auckland Transport to deliver residential parking zone schemes in central suburbs to manage commuter parking. In April 2015, the Auckland Transport Board approved the Auckland Transport Parking

Strategy, which contains a policy for addressing parking issues in residential streets. The Residential Parking Zone scheme seeks to improve parking availability for local residents and local businesses within the residential parking zone. The Freemans Bay residential parking zone was approved by Auckland Transport in May 2016 (to be implemented in August 2016). Auckland Transport, with local board support, commenced consultation on a similar Ponsonby residential parking zone, to address the issue of daily commuters and local workers making parking in residential street difficult. Auckland Transport is working to extend the scheme to Grey Lynn, Parnell and Grafton.

- The board played a strong advocacy role for the construction of Parnell Train Station. The new station, at the end of Cheshire Street, will be developed in two stages at a cost of \$7.6 million. The board has advocated to secure the future protection of the historic linkage between Parnell Village and the Auckland Domain and the Greenways Route alongside Waipapa Stream. The board has committed \$350,000 from their Local Board Transport Capital Fund for providing an improved connection from the Station to Nicholls Lane. It is anticipated that the Parnell Train Station will be operative in the first quarter of 2017.



A group of school children leading the way at the opening of the Te Ara i Whiti cycleway

## Looking Ahead

Looking forward, there is a lot more planned for delivery in the year ahead. After engaging in wide consultation with the community for the Annual Budget, we confirmed we will continue to prioritise the preservation of our character areas, ensure the delivery of high quality developments and advocate for transport improvements.

The following months will bring some milestones such as the completion of the Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway, the first steps towards the delivery of streetscape improvements in Newmarket with the beginning of public consultation and the start of the construction stage of the re-developed Ellen Melville Centre.

We are very eager to see the Myers Park upgrade moving forward with the construction of the Mayoral Drive underpass linking the park to Aotea Square. We will continue working with council and Auckland Transport to support the extension of walking and cycling connections with the second stage of the Greenways route connecting Grey Lynn Park with Cox's Bay Reserve.

We will continue our support for the development of new clubroom facilities for the Richmond Rovers League Club as part of a new multi-use community facility at Grey Lynn Park; a much needed project as shown in the feedback we received for the Grey Lynn Park Development Plan and again in the recent consultation for the Annual Budget.

Earlier in the new year the board made the decision to change the name of Lower Khartoum Place after a consultation process showed strong support to rename this section of the road with a suitable name associated with women's suffrage.

In line with our commitment to promote connected, accessible and safe transport choices, we will continue to work with Auckland Transport to finalise the roll out of residential parking zones in the inner city suburbs, with Ponsonby scheduled next.

We are confident this will be another year of great achievements that will contribute to making Waitemata an even better place to live.

**Front Cover:** Local children enjoying the new play equipment at the Salisbury Playground re-opening

**Inside Front Cover:** View of Auckland City over Te Ara i Whiti – The Light Path.

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