



Auckland CBD Residents' Advisory Group Inc - P.O.Box 4437 - Auckland 1140

Now almost into its second decade, the RAG has just undergone a major change, following the resignations of Tim Coffey and Dick Ayres. Also being a founding member of the RAG, it was my privilege to get to know them both in their capacity as chair/secretary and treasurer respectively, and I have also enjoyed sharing observations about the city with them at various central city events, including launches, commemorations and the Auckland Conversations series. Please see the next page for more about Tim and Dick.

Enjoy the continuing summer, especially the outdoor open/green spaces that we are lucky to have in our urban environment. Sometimes we need to take action to ensure that these public amenities are preserved for future generations.

All past issues of the E-News are at

<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/serials/cbdcommunity.htm>

Audrey van Ryn - audrey@writeaway.co.nz

- also ... RAG RESIGNATIONS
- CITY CENTRE ADVISORY BOARD
- NEIGHBOURS DAY
- NEWS FROM K' RD
- OPEN STREETS
- WALK THIS MARCH
- NEWS FROM HOTCITY
- RIDE THE WHITE NIGHT WAY
- CENTRAL LIBRARY
- AUCKLAND ART GALLERY

Locate this Scene

I heard that some readers had expressed regret that this long-running competition had come to an end, so I decided to compile a collection of scenes from past newsletters - with answers on the next page. Maybe a new source for a prize may arise and the competition will continue - or maybe we'll just forget about a prize. You can let me know!



Masthead photos: Audrey van Ryn, Mik Smellie (centre photo), sketch by Murray Dewhurst

The CBD Residents' Advisory Group (CBDRAG) Executive Core Group current members, meeting on 15 February, accepted with regret the resignations of Tim Coffey, Chair and Secretary, and Dick Ayres, Treasurer, notified to us and more widely by email on 4 February 2015.

Since the CBDRAG's inception and over many years since, Tim Coffey has worked tirelessly and with considerable commitment, on a voluntary basis, to represent the relevant concerns of City Centre residents. In this endeavour he was actively and perceptively supported by Dick Ayres.

The pages of this new sletter and the agendas of the core group's meetings over nearly a decade are testimony to the many issues Tim addressed as chair/secretary on the RAG's behalf in a wide variety of for-

ums, including via written submissions as well as in person as a member of a large number of committees and consultative groups. In addition, Tim frequently encouraged RAG members to make their own submissions to Council on particular city centre issues and to make good use of the RAG to air concerns and discuss appropriate action.

The uncountable hours that Tim dedicated to the RAG are a real contribution to the community of the city centre and the extent of the work he carried out will not easily be replicated.

We record our high regard and sincere thanks for the contributions of both Tim and Dick in their roles as a voice for CBD residents. We welcome the commendations expressed by so many of those they have dealt with on the CBDRAG's behalf.

DICK AYRES



TIM COFFEY



Locate this Scene - answers



Victoria Park playground



Hopetoun Alpha, Hopetoun St



Pioneer Women's & EM Hall



Cnr of Turner & Queen Sts



23 High St



Rear of Vero Building, Fort St



In front of Central Library



Mayoral Dr behind Green Elephant Café

Stephen Greenfield and I have taken up the positions so ably filled by Tim and Dick, for which we thank them.

Due to the holiday break, activities pertaining to the ACCAB have been relatively subdued, and no meeting was held in January.

You may have followed the launch of Stage 1 of the Nelson Street Cycleway, particularly the famous magenta-coloured section. Stage 2, from Victoria to Quay Street, is planned to be completed by September 2016, while the Quay Street section has been prioritised to be completed by late May this year.

The Port Future Study moves along. This is the mayoral initiative to provide Aucklanders with an opportunity to have their say on the future of Auckland's port. RAG is one of the stakeholders, representing residents, to sit with this group. Aimed to be completed this year, you can find details here: www.portfuturestudy.co.nz/about/

There was a presentation from the CEO of Coopers & Co (who own most of the above-ground buildings in the Britomart Precinct), on their staged Britomart Streetscape Framework Plan. The board endorsed the plans, the first of which will see upgrades surrounding the Australis and Nathan buildings, which are currently nearing the end of their renovation and restoration works, on Takutai Square. These will see improved pedestrian and urban amenity provided.

Myers Park upgrades are ongoing, and the next City Centre project is to considerably improve the underpass under Mayoral Drive to create a proper pedestrian linkage between Myers Park and the Aotea Square/Town Hall area. This work has gone out to tender; however, a recently identified need to seismically assess the overbridge will certainly impact on the timeline for this project.

The designs for the Elen Melville Hall have been moved forward. Additional seismic, electrical and

roofing works have been identified, but once completed, this centre promises to be a much-rejuvenated community and activity centre.

The designs for Freyberg Square have been modified to take into account the range of feedback received. The major change is that some daytime vehicle access across the square will be maintained. This was in response to business concerns. The board endorsed the final design proposal, as well as to bring forward funding from the city centre targeted rate programme. Some design changes have been made, including extending the scope of the project up Courthouse Lane, including better linkages to the Metropolis terrace, and the extension of the shared space on O'Connell Street up Courthouse Lane. The Phoenix Palms will remain. This project will take 9-12 months to complete.

Further developments concerning the sale of QE Square and the redevelopment of that space have required a district plan change, which is currently being appealed.

Enabling works for the CRL along Albert Street are now clearly visible. These involve moving utilities before the major works, digging for the cut and cover tunnels, begins in May. For more info on the . For more information on the CRL, go to www.at.govt.nz/crl

TransportBlog has a rather fascinating report called : "CRL: Over 100 years in the making" at <http://transportblog.co.nz/2016/03/01/crl-over-100-years-in-the-making/>

Please note that the agendas and minutes of all ACCAB meetings can be found on the Council website: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

The next meeting of the ACCAB is 23rd March 3pm at 135 Albert Street. These meetings are open to the public. For further information, or information on ACCAB matters, please contact ak.cbd.rag@gmail.com

Adam Parkinson



Freyberg Square earlier this century
photo - Audrey van Ryn



Queen Elizabeth Square in the 1980s
Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 1021-531



الجار يوم پڑوسيوں کا دن

A **FREE** event

Celebrate your home
in the city centre!

Music, food, performances,
games, art classes, youth zone,
and much more!

Where: Freyberg Sq & Ellen Melville Hall

When: Saturday 19th March, 11am to 4pm



Ata whaianga te pa harakeke - Turning streets into neighbourhoods



www.neighboursday.org.nz





White Night

Saturday 12 March 6 --9pm



Auckland Arts Festival's free one-night arts extravaganza White Night is back! And in typical K' Road style, local galleries are promising patrons a weird, wonderful and whacky experience on the strip.

Watch artist Ernesto Ovalle traverse the city from Beresford Square to Lorne St accompanied by a team of sentinels clad in full Ned Kelly-esque armour. Experience jeweller Nick von K's top-to-toe

body-suited models parading over-sized jewellery along the precinct's pavements. And see street art manifest itself live outside 214 K' Road where inside Unitec Bachelor of Creative Enterprise students will be exhibiting their artistic endeavours.

For the full programme of events visit <http://www.hitenight.aucklandfestival.co.nz/>

Auckland Transport Open Streets - May 2016

K' Road is set to become a one-mile long playground for a day on Sunday 1 May. The street will be closed from Queen St to Ponsonby Rd with locals and visitors invited to enjoy a programme of music, live performance and pop-up activities: an arts trail, pop-up parklets and opportunities to re-design K' Road traffic and cycle lanes are all on the agenda. Retailers are invited to take their café tables, clothing racks and hand made goods out onto the pavements and into the parking spaces. For one day only, K' Road will be open for business outdoors.



Walk this March

March is walking month and Auckland Transport is encouraging Aucklanders to discover the many benefits of walking.

You can win prizes and take part in a fun team walking challenge, walking around New Zealand without leaving town: a virtual walk around New Zealand, tracked online and racing other teams.

<https://at.govt.nz/driving-parking/commute/cycle-or-walk-to-work/walk-this-march/>



AUCKLAND
FEET BEAT
WALKING CHALLENGE
1-31 March 2016

The Arts are Alive in the City this Autumn

Autumn is the season for appreciating all of the wonderful arts and culture events on offer in Auckland's central city. As the nights begin to draw in, the city's venues are packed with theatre, dance, comedy and more to keep you well entertained.

Heart of the City is a proud sponsor of the Auckland Arts Festival, currently underway, and the New Zealand International Comedy Festival, coming up in April. Some of the other events you'll want to make sure are in your diaries include the Pop Up Globe season running until next month and both the Auckland Writers Festival and the Auckland Art Fair in May.

For more information on what's on in the arts over the coming months visit www.heartofthecity.co.nz/arts-alive



photo - Jeremy Toth

Ride the White Night Way

Ride the White Night Circuit

12 March

Wear white, dress up your bike, try light and cruise around the White Night Auckland Central event-stops.

The Velociteers will perform on the beautiful Te Ara I Whiti, celebrating the illuminating life and creativity of David Bowie. West Terrace or the K Road overbridge are the places to be to view the synchronised 'White Light' cyclorama: **7.15, 8.15 and 9.15pm.**

Hang out in the Canada St Hub; where the road will be closed. Add to making installation piece Max and Bellan and Friends. Artists Donna Sarten and Bernie Harfleet focus on depression and anxiety disorders and just how prevalent they are. We'll be making windmills - a perfect analogy for the mind, having moments of stillness and of kinetic movement, installing them in Canada St.

Cycle Blend your own smoothie, or have a Dr Feelgood enjoy coffee and eats. Have your say on K Road's street-scape enhancement project with Auckland Council and Auckland Transport.

Then head off down Te Ara I Whiti [#LightpathAKL](https://www.facebook.com/events/846536692138502/) for an arts circuit. Your map will bring you back to Canada St for a coffee or a Goodnight Cocoa. Finish the night with a game of giant dominoes.

Supported by Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and Auckland Arts Festival

<https://www.facebook.com/events/846536692138502/>



Stars of Pasifika poetry 2016 - Tuesday 15 March, 5.30pm - 7.30pm

An evening of performances and readings featuring Pasifika poets: Albert Wendt, Robert Sullivan, Courtney Sina Meredith, Tusiata Avia, Serie Barford, Doug Poole, Amber Esau, Johnny Angel, Reverend Mua Strickson-Pua, and Louise Tu'u as MC. Refreshments served from 5.30pm

Author talk: The girl who stole stockings - Wednesday 16 March 5.30pm - 7pm

Elsbeth Hardie will be discussing her recent book with Janet Wilson. On 8 April 1811, the ship *Friends* sailed from England carrying 101 female convicts bound for New South Wales. One of them, Susannah Noon, would eventually go on to live in the rough whaling society of pre-colonial New Zealand. Come along to hear more of Susannah's fascinating story from her great-great-great-grand-daughter, author Elsbeth Hardie. To reserve your place at this talk, please call (09) 890 2441 or email ella.johnson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

In Dark Places: The Confessions of Teina Pora and an ex-cop's fight for justice Monday 21 March 6 - 7:30pm

Launch of Michael Bennett's new book hosted by Moana Manipoto. Teina Pora, a 17-year-old car thief, was wrongly convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the murder of Susan Burdett. Tim McKinnel, an ex-cop turned private investigator, discovered the long forgotten case 18 years later, saw an injustice had been done and set out to win Teina's freedom.

Shakespeare in his time exhibition Friday 11 March - Sunday 19 June, 9am - 4pm

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death in 1616, Auckland Libraries is showcasing its remarkable Shakespearean treasures.

Shakespeare in conversation: Shock of the old

Thursday 24 March, 5pm - 6.30pm

Ever wondered what it's like to be surrounded by an audience of up to 900 people, delivering some of the most famous lines in theatre history, in a reconstruction of one of history's most famous theatres? This year, a wide range of actors from across NZ and the UK have been given this opportunity right here in Auckland.

In this conversation they will share with us their unique experience of the triumphs and challenges of performing in an Elizabethan amphitheatre.

Wriggle and Rhyme

Every Monday at 11am, a fun, free programme for babies

Rhymetime

Every Tuesday in English at 11am, every Thursday in Mandarin and English at 11am. Music, songs, movement and finger rhymes for preschoolers

Storytime

Every Saturday at 11am, ideal for kids aged 3 - 5 years

Family History Lunchtime Series: Looking at FamilySearch

Wednesday 23 March, 12pm - 1.30pm

Jan Gow will look at eight layers of FamilySearch, helping you to know what to look for and how to use it. To reserve your place, contact the Central Auckland Research Centre on (09) 307 7771.

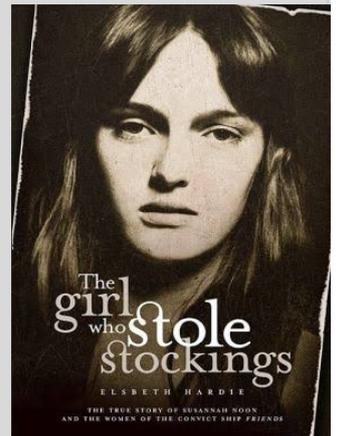
Monday Movies

Every Monday morning at 10am in Whare Wānanga, Level 2.

Come along for morning tea and catch a free film selected by the CBD rough sleeping community.

Book launch: Fat Science: Why diets and exercise don't work—Thursday 14 April

This small book draws on the latest research and twenty years of working with overweight patients to offer realism and policy solutions to one of our biggest problems. Dr Robyn Toomath shows how our modern world is making us fat. And while governments and individuals keep trying things that science shows do not work – from dieting to education campaigns – she outlines what just might make a difference in ending the obesity epidemic.



Fiona Pardington: A Beautiful Hesitation

5 March - 19 June

Explore themes of death, sex, flesh and the female gaze in *Fiona Pardington: A Beautiful Hesitation* at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. With more than 100 photographs on display, *A Beautiful Hesitation* is a comprehensive presentation of 30 years of Fiona Pardington's practice. Revealing the key elements that have helped to shape her work, the exhibition celebrates one of New Zealand's most notable photographers.

Pardington's majestic still-life works transform the traditional genre into something wondrously other. Her investigation of museum collections breathes new life into heitiki, natural-history specimens, life casts made on European voyages of discovery, death casts of French criminals and assassins, and much more. Pardington empowers and transforms the found object through her photography. Her series *One Night of Love* represents photographs of female nudes destined for men's magazines, while *The Medical Suite* re-presents photographs of disease from medical textbooks. In all her work, the personal and political – and ways of looking and being – are thoughtfully intertwined.



Fiona Pardington
My Mother's Roses, Pomegranates and Silver Platter of Ihumoana, Ripiro Beach 2013
courtesy of the artist and Starkwhite, Auckland

Necessary Distraction: A Painting Show

Until 28 March

Discover a new vigour in recent New Zealand painting in this ambitious multi-artist exhibition. Responding to the question "What can painting offer that other art forms cannot?" the artworks selected and commissioned for this survey share a focus on material and form, and are deliberately open ended.

Through suggestion and proposition, the artists invite us into conversations that, rather than being constrained by the ties of narrative painting, are speculative and forward-looking. Experience diverse work by 20 established and emerging painters and witness a future for painting that's still in the making.