



Auckland City Centre Residents' Group Inc P.O. Box 106-667 Auckland 1143
<https://www.ccr.org.nz/> <https://www.facebook.com/aklccrg/>

There seems to be an owl looking at me wherever I go ... They're with us for two months and then the 47 giant ones will be auctioned off in support of the Child Cancer Foundation. If that's not enough art around the city centre, the Auckland Arts Festival has just begun (check out <http://www.aucklandfestival.co.nz>) – but then so has the submission period on a number of Auckland Council plans: see page 3. If reading the plans gets a bit much, consider taking some time off on International Day of Happiness on March 20 #InternationalDayofHappiness

Past issues of the E-News are at

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

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

Audrey van Ryn - audrey@writeaway.co.nz

- also ...
- CITY CENTRE ADVISORY BOARD
- AK HAVE YOUR SAY
- VICTORIA QUARTER
- MYERS PARK MEDLEY
- PETITION FOR A NIGHT SHELTER
- PĀ RONGORONGO INFO HUB
- ACTIVE CITIZENS
- MUSIC IN THE CITY CENTRE
- and more ...

Locate this Scene



photo: Adam Parkinson



Email the editor: audrey@writeaway.co.nz if you know where the city centre scene above right is. A reader of the E-News sent me the photo (thanks, Allan!) and I thought that the City Hop cars might help give a clue as to where the plaque might be located. This time, City Hop is offering not one but FIVE free memberships for their “cars by the hour” service, so that means the first FIVE people to guess the scene will receive this prize – refer last page. (See page 2 for last issue’s scene.)

Since 2005, CCRG has had two seats (out of 18-20), representing city centre residents on the important Auckland City Centre Advisory Board (ACCAB). The board meets monthly, and meetings are open to the public.

The ACCAB advises Auckland Council on achieving the vision and strategic outcomes of the Auckland Plan, the City Centre Masterplan, and the expenditure of the city centre targeted rate on projects. All city centre ratepayers contribute directly to this fund – to the tune of around \$200 million over ten years. When you are allocating that sort of money, the adage “No taxation without representation” has guided the formation and continues to be one of the prime rationales for the Board. This money goes towards projects that enhance the city centre that would not otherwise be funded – think shared spaces, public realm upgrades, as well as supporting city centre activation through the great efforts of Activate Auckland.

While the CCRG are one element of many city centre stakeholder groups on the board, we do have a distinct outlook and a special interest that other groups don’t – we live here, and most us work, study, shop, and spend most of our time and money here – **the city centre is our home**. We work, and will continue working, to ensure that residents’ unique position is understood, and not ignored, diluted, or otherwise undermined.

The end of last year saw discussion around ensuring that the intentions for the targeted rate were consistently upheld. There is a feeling that some of the smaller projects, and those particularly focussed on benefit to residents (think

Emily Place upgrade, Nelson Street slip lane, Quay Park, Hobson/Nelson streets) were being shunted out of the 10-year programme, in favour of large fund-sapping “iconic” projects that might may be considered regional projects, as opposed to city centre targeted rate projects.

We have had our first meeting of the year. A significant (though not a city centre targeted rate) project starting in September this year is the Quay Street seawall rebuild, which will see a 12m-wide trench dug in Quay Street, in tranches. We are working to ensure that affected residents are properly consulted, and that their interests are not shunted behind the “traffic must flow” attitude of old, which has permitted very loud noisy night-time works. We expect to have a discussion next meeting over the poor state of city centre cleanliness, maintenance and care. Many of you have complained to us; we see it, councillors see it, the mayor sees it, we all see it, and know it is simply not acceptable.

We will continue to keep an eye on projects that impact residents. These might be smaller streetscape upgrades, or they may be larger infrastructural projects that may provide good opportunities to prioritise getting around the city safely, quickly and efficiently by foot, bicycle and public transport.

We farewelled our Chair, John Coop, after five years of service. The CCRG thanks him for his work, and the measured, thoughtful, and always insightful guidance that he provided. A real forward-thinker, John shares the CCRG vision of a city centre that puts people and place at its heart. We wish him all the best.

Adam Parkinson

The winner of Locate this Scene last time was Margaret Lewis, who said: “Thank you so much will be amazing and help me get to Papakura for a community art project I'm doing there. I don't have a car and usually use public transport so this is an absolute luxury.”

Thank you, City Hop!

Margaret lives in Freemans Bay and has a studio space in K’ Rd. She is a textile artist and most recently worked with people who have experienced homelessness to build a maze in the Auckland Central Library, which was called stuck in the maze // from housed to homeless.

The scene location was the corner of Sale and Centre Streets.

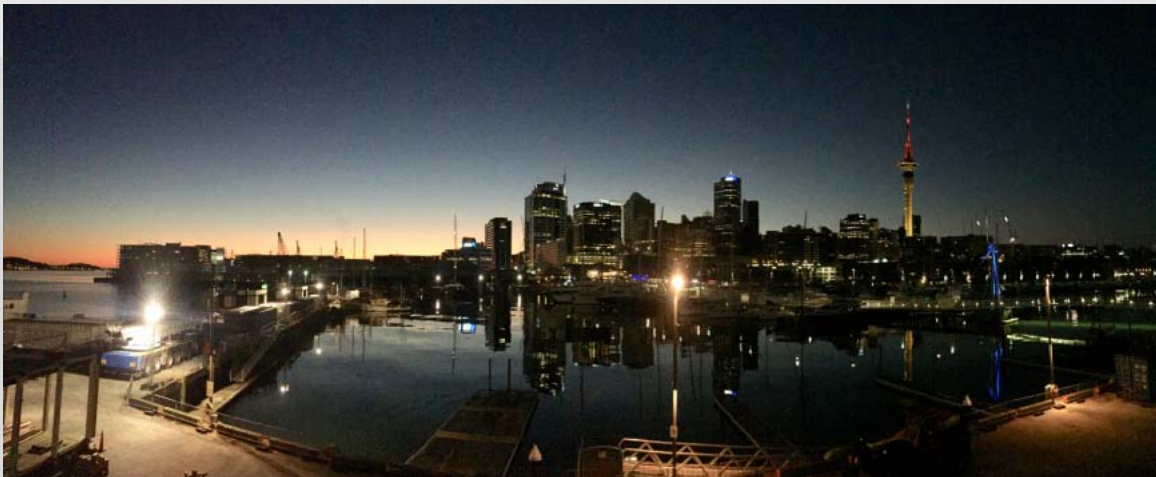




The 10-year Budget sets out Council's priorities and how to pay for them. The Auckland Plan 2050 sets our long-term direction and looks at the important challenges the city needs to address. Regional Fuel Taxes? Cleaning up our beaches? Protecting our threatened environment (kauri)? Rates increases? Local Board priorities? Transport? Heritage? And much more – things not only of interest to us all, but things that affect us all.

The CCRG will be providing comprehensive feedback on the current Auckland 10-year Budget, and the 30-year Auckland Plan 2050, both as members of the City Centre Advisory Board, but also as CCRG on its own - and we urge you all to do the same.

Council have provided this easy one-stop shop: <http://bit.ly/2EU1DMW>



Membership of the CCRG

If you would like to join the Auckland City Centre Residents' Group, please supply the following information to aklccrg@gmail.com

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Interests:

Occupation/qualifications:

Your full-time principal residence in the city centre is a membership requirement.

Transfer your \$10 individual membership fee to the Group's ASB account:

12-3066-0176459-00 (include your name in the reference field).

We look forward to talking with you!

The Auckland City Centre Residents' Group is running a **petition** to seek greater recognition for the issues faced by residents in the simple act of walking within their community, especially the areas east of Queen Street. This includes access to work, schools, shopping, entertainment, public spaces and public transport.

We've laid out a variety of objectives that can be summarised as:

- A change in mindset from NZTA and Auckland Transport around the priority and safety of pedestrians
- Finding the political will and dollars to meaningfully improve and maintain walking facilities
- Providing safe (all age and ability) and compliant crossings of all streets and intersections
- Balancing the needs of city residents against car commuters.

A long list of justifications that weigh on economics, traffic reductions and carbon emissions could be produced, but the simple fact is that the roads are too unsafe for able adults, never mind children or the elderly to simply go about their day-to-day lives, and that should be enough.

We have lots more information and a link to the petition at:

<https://www.ccr.org.nz/petitions/victoria-quarter>

If you feel strongly about this, please consider contacting a representative of the Waitematā Local Board (in addition to signing!).

David Roos

photos: David Roos



The Waitematā Local Board hosted the Myers Park Medley for the second year in row, this time on 18 February. This year, the CCRG had a booth where we ran the Human Library. While we didn't have many people ask about the books, we did make contact with a number of city centre residents who didn't know we existed. We handed out most of our flyers and had a great time engaging the visitors. The event was a family fun day, a great place for the CCRG to be. Attendees at our booth included: Adam, Clive, Audrey, Noelene, Emily and David.

Emily Reeves



photos: Emily Reeves



The city centre's marquee fashion moment is back

Heart of the City's 4 Days of Fashion in the City is back from 21 – 24 March, with more than 20 events.

Among the highlights are an open-air runway show by Ingrid Starnes in O'Connell Street, an exhibition showing the fashion history of Auckland through the designs of Bruce Papas at Smith & Caughey's, and a live performance by stylish musos Racing and Chelsea Jade in Fort Street. Plus there's a great line-up of more free events and in-store experiences like meeting top designers and being styled by fashion influencers.

4 Days of Fashion in the City is the perfect time to explore the unique and interesting stores and brands in our city centre shopping areas, including the High Street, Queen Street and Britomart shopping areas.

Visit heartofthecity.co.nz/fashion for all of the details for 4 Days of Fashion in the City.



Petition for a Night Shelter

As winter began in 2016, the Auckland City Street Count recorded 228 people sleeping rough within a 3-km radius of Sky Tower. 25% of these were women.

Many of these people are physically or mentally unwell and are among our most vulnerable citizens. Sleeping on the street brings exposure to physical and sexual violence.

24,000 is the estimated number of people across Auckland City who have inadequate shelter, which may mean sleeping in a car or in someone's garage.

The CCRG is supporting a petition that asks Auckland Council to help provide a night shelter. As city centre residents, we see people sleeping on the street in our neighbourhood every day. We acknowledge the work of Housing First and the wonderful groups and individuals who provide emergency and social housing. But the problem is getting worse. More needs to be done.

All other major cities in New Zealand have a night shelter, as do many other cities throughout the world.

The petition is at: <https://our.actionstation.org.nz/petitions/auckland-needs-a-night-shelter>

Please consider signing and sharing.

"When it rains, your cardboard gets wet." - Woman, on the street in Auckland City Centre for 20 years



Pā Rongorongo



Use the touch screen to create a customised map of the City Centre

photos - Kate Micaela



Moving image Digital Art: Jermaine Dean & Pati Solomona Tyrell

Opens: 10am Tuesday 13 March

Hours: 10am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday

Located adjacent to the site of an ancestral kāinga (village) and repo (wetland) where Māori life flourished alongside Te Wai Horotiu (the river that flowed down the contemporary Queen Street valley), Pā Rongorongo provides a new approach to sharing information with residents and visitors about our place and the changes that are occurring across the city centre.

Pā Rongorongo provides a safe and welcoming space within the heart of the city, underpinned by our reo matua (our founding tongue). Written reo Māori is strongly present in the space, and can be heard through interactive elements of the hub. Most importantly, the hub is manned by a kaimanaaki (host) who is able to converse with other reo speakers who visit the space.

Hub Features

- A kaimanaaki to answer questions, curate space and content, and assist people
- An interactive touch screen for creating a customised map of the city centre, to print out or send as an app to your phone
- Maps of art and culture, events, transport, development sites, City Rail Link, cycleways, walking routes, public facilities, community spaces, heritage places, urban forests and Māori sites of significance
- FREE guided tours of built developments, arts and heritage, urban forest and more
- Information about the city centre and its transformation
- Te Reo celebrated and spoken
- Opportunities to give feedback and have conversations with well-informed staff
- A conduit for information back to Auckland Council
- A platform to tell city centre stories and host community events/exhibitions/discussions
- Poster displays and brochures
- 3D printed sections of the city centre
- For the Love of Bees Auckland Heritage seed bank
- Exterior digital wall and façade programmed by artists in residence

Pā Rongorongo's first Kaimahi Toi ā-Whare are two members of FAFSWAG, a collective of artists and queer activists: Jermaine Dean, Ngāpuhi, a contemporary digital artist whose practice consists of photography and moving image, and Pati Solomona Tyrell, Samoan, an interdisciplinary visual artist with a strong focus on performance.

A world-leading social leadership and intercultural dialogue course, Active Citizens, will be launched in Auckland at the Ellen Melville Centre on March 23.

The course was created by the British Council and will run from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 March at the centre. A second course will run from March 30 to April 1.

“The Active Citizens programme aims to build intercultural awareness, problem solving and positive community engagement among participants,” says Gareth Farry, Active Citizens NZ programme manager and member of Splice. “Participants are encouraged to identify and take responsibility for their community’s needs and the course will help them access knowledge, skills and experience to address them.”

The course promotes intercultural dialogue and social responsibility as key leadership competencies in the 21st century.

Currently, the programme is being run in 54 countries around the world, with over 500 partner organisations and over 7,500 community-based social action projects.

The New Zealand courses will be run by a trained diverse group of facilitators (pictured below).

“Participants in Active Citizens courses run overseas have found the experience to be quite life-changing,” says Farry, “and they have access to a network of global Active Citizens’ inspiring and informative stories, experience and social enterprise projects.”

The two pilot courses are subsidised, making attendance very affordable at only \$100. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/o/splice-12848522456>

Splice has partnered with the British Council to become the exclusive delivery partner for Active Citizens in New Zealand.



Active Citizens Auckland facilitators at the Auckland Info Evening, Nov 1, Ellen Melville Centre



Lunchtime Concerts

Immigration and Politics **Tuesday, 3 April, 12.10pm - 12.50pm**

Solo piano works with immigrant and political themes. Music by George Gershwin, Chopin, Liszt, Sibelius and Gareth Farr. Ben Booker, *piano*. *Entry by koha*.

Babar the Elephant **Tuesday, 1 May, 12.10pm - 12.50pm**

Solo piano music by Chopin and Poulenc's enchanting children's story. Lisa Chou, *piano* Donogh Rees, *spoken voice*. *Entry by koha*.

Heritage Concerts 2018 - Autumn Series

Autumn series concerts are on 26 April, 10 and 24 May, 7 and 21 June, from 12.10pm - 1pm in the Whare Wānanga, Level 2, Central City Library.

The central library has a comprehensive music collection and a reputation for exceptional concerts brought to you by the local music community.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau
NEW ZEALAND

9 March - 5 October 1 - 2pm
Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds Street
Free admission

A free public concert series showcasing talented School of Music students in both individual and ensemble settings.

creative@auckland.ac.nz



Auckland Central Library has a range of events coming up, including those listed here. Join up to receive their events newsletter:

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/events-newsletter.aspx>

1 - 31 March Enjoy colourful Pasifika events and check out the Pacific collections and resources.

Saturday 24 March

Join New Zealand Fashion Museum for a communal updating of Wikipedia entries on subjects relating to fashion, gender, art and feminism

Wednesday 21 February - Monday 9 April

Take a tour round Auckland with Adrian and his maternal grandmother at The Quiet Achievers exhibition, as they meet some of the city's most inspiring Chinese artists, entrepreneurs, musicians, athletes, and more



Auckland Art Gallery Opt-In this Saturday

On Saturday 10 March, the gallery is holding a fun and free evening of art, food and entertainment to celebrate the opening of their latest exhibition: *Other People Think: Auckland's Contemporary International Collection*, which runs until 10 June. Live performances from Haere Mai Taiko, Henrique Morales Trio, Carnivorous Plant Society and bFM DJs. Talks from visiting artists Judith Wright and Rebecca Baumann, go dotty in Yayoi Kusama's *The obliteration room* and take part in a kids' art-making activity led by Cloud Workshop.

The exhibition vividly reflects a turn towards the Asia Pacific region, including South America, which respects the changing demographics of New Zealand's largest and most diverse city. Works in a variety of media, including painting, photography, video, kinetic sculpture and installation art.

Auckland Art Gallery is open daily 10am - 5pm.

www.aucklandartgallery.com

City Centre Help & Service Numbers

Emergencies: Police - 111

Non-emergency enquiries: 09 379 4240

Auckland Council noise and anti-social behaviour complaints: 09 301 0101

Noise and other port complaints: 09 336 4898

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

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