

Whau Ward Councillor Report

APRIL 2026

Sarah Paterson-Hamlin

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Introduction

Kia ora!

Ensnared among the usual busyness, the welcome coinciding of a recess week with school holidays has given me the opportunity to have some 'real-life' encounters with Tāmaki Makaurau this month, including the Wintergardens, Museum, 'The Worm' at Te Pou, Zig Zag track, and more of what makes our city such a great place to grow up in.

Key updates from Governing Body and Committees

Some big and challenging decisions have come before us this month. On 31 March, Governing Body voted by a significant margin to progress the **'Western Springs Bowl'** option for that site after a long and controversial process. After much deliberation and many meetings, reports, and conversations, I am confident we have voted in the best interests of Auckland's future.

Cr Fairey proposed a Notice of Motion which I was proud to second, regarding UNSCR 2334 and the steps Council can take to effectively sanction illegal occupations in Palestine. As I expressed during the debate, we may not be able to walk back a genocide, but as kaitiaki of a significant amount of public funds, we are not powerless. It was profoundly moving to have the support in the room of Dayenu (NZ Jews against Occupation), Palestinian Solidarity Network Aotearoa, and friends and Whau constituents, including their young children, who arrived from Gaza last year.

With friends and former colleagues at the Raukatauri jam session at World Down Syndrome Day celebrations in Papatoetoe



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Other updates & priorities

Other significant topics on agendas this month include:

- Advisory Panels underway
- Waste Political Advisory Group
- People's Plan Extended
- Te Whau Pathway opening and progression
- Marine biosecurity

Following the inauguration event, the **Advisory Panels** are now underway with their mahi, and interim Chairs will be presenting on 22nd April on the 2026-27 Annual Plan. **Avondale Racecourse Alliance** have also now completed work on the People's Plan: Extended, which I am going through with Councillors and staff on an individual basis, explaining the significance of the Avondale Racecourse and promoting the Plan.

I am one of 6 Councillors appointed to the **Waste Political Advisory Group**, which might not sound glamorous but I'm genuinely very interested in this crucial aspect of what we can do as Council to reduce waste and positively impact our environment in partnership with Aucklanders.

It was such an honour to attend and cut one of the ribbons at the opening of the Roberts Field section of **Te Whau Pathway**. This also serves as a timely reminder of what an asset the completed pathway could be, and the Community Committee positively recieved input from Te Whau Pathway Environment Trust just a couple of weeks later.

Advisory Panels inaugural event



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Events & meetings attended

- 12.03.2026: Hauraki Gulf Forum introductory meeting
- 16.03.2026: Governing Body (GB) and Houkura joint hui
- 16.03.2026: Advisory Panel Lead Officer meeting
- 17.03.2026: Budget and Performance Committee
- 18.03.2026: GB workshops
- 20.03.2026: Te Whau Pathway Opening Celebration
- 20.03.2026: Councillor Clinic, Avondale Library
- 22.03.2026: World Down Syndrome Day Event, Papatoetoe
- 23.03.2026: AT Western Line Level Crossing Programme update
- 23.03.2026: Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting
- 23.03.2026: Closing Speech at the Auckland Council Advisory Panels Welcome Function
- 25.03.2026: Governing Body meeting
- 25.03.2026: Whau Local Board Business meeting
- 25.03.2026: Policy Committee and GB workshops
- 26.03.2026: Meeting with Aktive Chief Executive
- 26.03.2026: Meeting with the Principal of Avondale Intermediate
- 27.03.2026: Meeting with Blockhouse Bay Business Association
- 27.03.2026: Meeting with CEO Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust
- 27.03.2026: Site visit with AT and residents at Rankin Avenue
- 30.03.2026: Community Committee briefing
- 30.03.2026: Mataawaka Annual Plan Hui at Hoani Waititi Marae
- 31.03.2026: All in for Arts: He waka toi e eke noa nei tatou
- 31.03.2026: GB meeting
- 02.03.2026: Meeting with Area Operation Manager
- 02.03.2026: Advisory Panel Lead Officer meeting
- 02.03.2026: Meeting with Megan Tyler
- 13.04.2026: Spoke at City Centre Advisory Panel Mihi Whakatau
- 13.04.2026: Attended Demographic Advisory Panels induction
- 14.04.2026: Policy, Planning and Development Committee
- 15.04.2026: Meeting with CEO Fair Food
- 15.04.2026: Meeting with Jaclyn Bonnici, ARA
- 15.04.2026: Meeting with Mayor's Office
- 15.04.2026: Policy Committee Workshops
- 16.04.2026: Community Committee meeting
- 16.04.2026: Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting
- 17.04.2026: Site visit Avondlae-Southdown rail corridor
- 17.04.2026: Councillor Clinic, Blockhouse Bay Library

*With CEO Michelle Blau at Fair
Food on Rosebank Peninsula*

