Te Poari ā-Rohe o Ōrākei Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

ŌRĀKEI LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Volume 2.12

Ōrākei Local Board
Auckland Council

Mihi

"E ngā kainoho, e ngā hapori
Anei te reo matakuikui ka hora ki ngā iwi
kua whakakāinga nei i a Ōrākei

Tēnā koutou katoa.
E noho nei au i te maunga o Ōhinerau
ka titiro ki te raki, ki a Maungarei.
Ko aku karu ka whai i te awa o Tāmaki e tere rā
ka rewa ake ki runga i a Taurere
ki te Pane-o-Horoiwi.
I konei ka huri whakawaho taku kaikanohi
ki Tikapa Moana, ka matika ake he moutere,
ko tōna rite he tōtōeka,
e patī mai ki runga i ō tātou tāhuna.
Mai i konei ka rere tonu rā ki te Waitematā,
ka paratī mai ōna tai kārohirohi
ki runga i ōna takutai.
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e.
Tirohia tō mātou tirohanga whānui
kei ngā whārangi nei.
Nōu hoki te tirohanga? Whāki mai!

Residents and communities
This is a warm welcome to all who have
made Ōrākei home.

Greetings to you all.
Here I sit on Mt Hobson
and look to the east as I gaze towards Mt Wellington.
My eyes follow the flowing Tāmaki River
then pass over Mt Taylor
to Achilles Point.
From here I look out and see
the waters of the Hauraki Gulf, where islands rise
like greenstone,
as they lap onto our beaches.
From here it's on to the Waitematā
whose shimmering waters
touch our coast.
The connections are made.
Look to our vision
shared in these pages.
Is it yours too? Tell us!"

◀ **On the cover:** St Heliers Anzac Service

He kōrero mō tēnei rīpoata

About this report

This annual report tells the story of how Auckland Council has performed in delivering services in the Ōrākei Local Board area from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2024/2025. It's part of the wider annual reporting package for the Auckland Council Group and meets our Local Government Act 2002 obligations to report on our performance against agreed measures. It reports against the council's Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Ōrākei Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It features a story about a council or community activity that adds special value to the area and demonstrates how **together we're delivering for Auckland**.

Contents

▼ Adopt A Drain launch

He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

We achieved some significant milestones in 2024/2025 and are pleased to present some of the highlights from a busy year

The board has agreed the terms of a proposal from Auckland Cricket that will see significant upgrades at Colin Maiden Park to support the relocation of its domestic cricket operations, subject to funding and accommodating displaced winter sport activity. There is much work still to do but our meeting resolution is a key step forward.

We are pleased to have completed a comprehensive interior refurbishment of Ellerslie War Memorial Hall, and to then have leased it to Dust Palace, a charitable trust providing circus classes and performances, while still providing bookable spaces for other community groups. Dust Palace's presence will boost Ellerslie's arts and business scenes.

We completed an upgrade of the facilities at Tagalad Reserve and have entered an agreement with St Heliers Church and Community Centre to manage the community use of the site. These actions fulfil local residents' long-held desire to access the site, and while it took longer than we wished, we are glad it's now being used.

Last November, we held our biennial Volunteer Recognition Awards to acknowledge all the brilliant volunteers in our local board area and the wonderful work that they do. It was a great evening.

We completed the seismic strengthening and refurbishment of Remuera Library on budget and ahead of schedule. Somervell Church provided a temporary home for the library while works were done. We held an event in April to celebrate the library's re-opening.

The board funded a complete upgrade of the Michaels Avenue Reserve playground. It's a fantastic space that caters for a range of ages. Judging by the patronage, it's a success!

We completed a comprehensive renewal of tracks and pathways at Tahuna Torea Nature Reserve making it much easier and more pleasant to enjoy this beautiful spot.

We have approved our work programme for 2025/2026, and we look forward to delivering it.

Scott Milne
Chairperson,
Ōrākei Local Board

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Te Poari ā-Rohe o Ōrākei

Ōrākei Local Board

▲ (L to R) Penny Tucker, Angus McPhee, Sarah Powrie (Deputy Chairperson), Troy Churton, Scott Milne (Chairperson), David Wong, Margaret Voyce

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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Ōrākei projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

Delivered projects

1. Tahuna Torea - renewal of tracks and pathways (stage one and stage two)
2. Renewal of open space buildings at Auckland Radiology and garage building at Colin Maiden park, YMCA building at Michaels Ave Reserve and commentators building at Ellerslie Domain
3. Renewal of open space lighting at St Heliers Bay Beach Reserve
4. Michaels Avenue Reserve - renewal of sports fields and lighting
5. Remuera Library - seismic strengthening and minor renewals
6. The Landing buildings - minor refurbishment of Auckland Sailing Club and Fergs Kayaks buildings
7. Tagalad Reserve - renew buildings
8. Ellerslie War Memorial - building refurbishment
9. Renewal of open space paths, walkways and car parks
10. Orakei Basin - renew pathway
11. Michaels Avenue Reserve - renewal of connections and playspace (stage two)

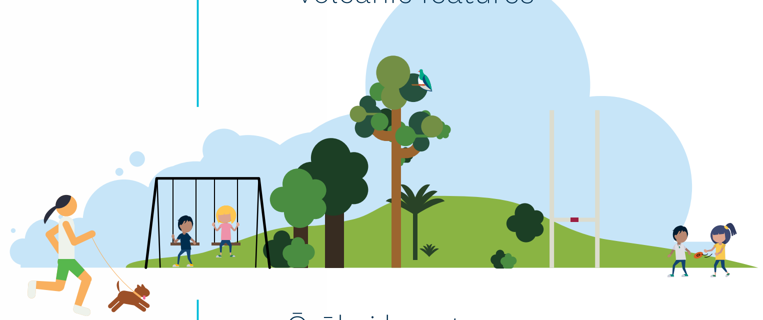
Current projects

1. Renewal of open space furniture, fixtures, fencing and structures at Tagalad Reserve including ramp and decking
2. Selwyn Reserve (Mission Bay) - minor renewal work at carpark

Map legend

Local board office · Public open space (Unitary Plan) · Motorway · Major road · Arterial road · Medium road · Minor road

7 community centres and halls and **6** volcanic features



Ōrākei boasts over **20km** of coastal walks

Ōrākei is home to over **8** swimming beaches

122 parks and reserves, **2** libraries

A population of **83,196** with estimated population increase to 112,949 by 2050

Data sources: Council Growth Scenario AGS23v1 (Feb 2024), StatsNZ Census 2023 (initial release May 2024)

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Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

KEY

Achieved | Substantially achieved (+/-2% slim margin) | Not achieved | Not measured

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 122-123 of Volume 1 of this Annual Report.

Local Community Services

We supported strong, diverse, and vibrant communities through libraries and literacy, arts and culture, parks, sport and recreation, and events delivered by a mix of council services, community group partnerships and volunteers. Our key initiatives included connecting communities and building resilience across our diverse communities through the delivery of events. Key events included ANZAC services, sail event Splash Landing and Matariki celebrations. We awarded nearly $118,000 in discretionary grants to the community and we delivered several capital projects including seismic strengthening of St Remuera Library. We offered choice across community services and recreation opportunities.

Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities

The number of visits to library facilities

	Target	Result
2025	**326,000**	**298,356**
2024	428,020	345,041

Remuera Library was closed for most of the year for remedial and seismic strengthening work. The library reopened in April 2025 after operating from Somervell Presbyterian Church as a temporary location. This affected visitor numbers. Overall, our libraries successfully met their final quarter's visitor target, demonstrating resilience and continued commitment to serving the community.

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community[1]

	Target	Result
2025	**100%**	**100%**
2024	New measure	New measure

Number of visits to Pool and Leisure Centres

	Target	Result
2025	**62,000**	**65,227**
2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of time main Pool and Leisure Centre services are accessible to the community[1]

	Target	Result
2025	**95%**	**100%**
2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition[2]

	Target	Result
2025	**82%**	**96%**
2024	New measure	New measure

Within the building portfolio, a significant proportion of roof system assets, including roof panels, gutters, fascias, and downpipes, are currently in average condition, and expected to deteriorate further as part of standard asset lifecycle. These components are anticipated to require renewal over the coming years and will be incorporated into our renewals planning process.

Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives

Number of partner organisations and groups funded to deliver placemaking activities

	Target	Result
2025	**15**	**41**
2024	New measure	New measure

Targets were set conservatively as this is a new measure; however, outcomes surpassed expectations, supported by local board funding and reflecting strong community interest.

Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and ngahere) and access to the coast

Percentage of local parks, facilities and spaces meeting maintenance quality standards[3]

	Target	Result
2025	**90%**	**95.6%**
2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition[2]

	Target	Result
2025	**95%**	**92.8%**
2024	New measure	New measure

Six per cent of assets are currently rated as poor, and 1 per cent as very poor. While most poor-condition assets have been renewed, a notable portion previously rated as average have now deteriorated into the poor category. These will form part of our renewals planning.

Number of trees planted in the Urban Ngahere programme[4]

	Target	Result
2025	**44**	**48**
2024	New measure	New measure

1. This measure compares actual opening hours to advertised opening hours to achieve a result.
2. For definitions of "Community Facilities" and "Local open space assets" please refer to the Glossary in Volume 1 of this Annual Report, pages 124-126
3. Maintenance quality standards are defined through SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and asset maintenance contracts. These standards are monitored by staff who have received specialised training and are audited through a quality process to ensure consistent scoring.
4. Urban Ngahere delivers specimen trees intended to be over 3m tall. Additional plantings occur outside this programme.

Local planning and development

We supported local town centres and communities to thrive through town centre plans and development and supporting Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) including Ellerslie, Remuera and St Heliers Village through targeted rates. The BID programmes help improve the business environment, encourage resilience and attract new businesses and customers.

Support a strong local economy

Percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) targeted rate grant agreement obligations

	Target	Result
2025	**100%**	**100.0%**
2024	100%	100%

Local environmental management

We support healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, healthy homes, and waste minimisation projects. Key initiatives included continued improvement of water quality and ecology in Newmarket/Middleton Stream, Hobson Bay, Ōrākei Basin and Pourewa Valley. We supported our community groups through the Wildlink Eastern Bays Network, Eastern Bays Songbird Project and Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum to create positive impacts on the environment. We helped to protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage.

Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage

Number of participants in sustainable initiative programmes

	Target	Result
2025	**420**	**500**
2024	New measure	New measure

Targets for this measure were set conservatively as it is the first year of reporting. However, interest was greater than expected allowing us to exceed the target.

Rounds of pest control carried out in key areas

	Target	Result
2025	**23**	**29**
2024	New measure	New measure

Weather conditions from the previous year were considered when setting targets, however the reduction in weather conditions this year allowed us to exceed the target.

Rounds of environmental monitoring carried out in key areas

	Target	Result
2025	**10**	**29**
2024	New measure	New measure

Weather conditions from the previous year were considered when setting targets, however the improved weather conditions this year allowed us to exceed the target.

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Local governance

Activities in this group support the local board to engage with and represent our communities and make decisions on local activities. This support includes providing strategic advice, leadership of the preparation of local board plans, support in developing local board agreements, community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities, and democracy and administrative support. Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori communities

Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori communities

Number of local activities that deliver moderate to high outcomes for Māori as outlined in 'Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau' (Council's Māori outcomes framework).

	Target	Result
2025	**Set baseline**	**11**
2024	New measure	New measure

Activities in this group supported the board in engaging with and representing its communities, and making decisions on local activities. This included strategic advice; local board plans, agreements and work programmes; community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities; and democracy and administrative support.

▲ Ōrākei Arts: Cheekee Hero

▲ Splash Landing

Community event ▼

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Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Tamariki combat pest problem

Twenty-one teams of dedicated kids joined the war on weeds in the local board's annual Ōrākei Moth Plant Competition.

Moth plants are fast growing vines that smother native plants and grow seed pods, each of which can release up to 1,000 seeds back into our eco-system.

The aim of the competition was for teams to collect and dispose of as many of these seed pods as they could, as well as moth plant vines and roots where possible.

Altogether, 38,122 pods and vines of this pest plant were removed from neighbourhoods in the area, with cash prizes up for grabs to incentivise their hard mahi.

The competition was funded by the local board and supported by Auckland Council's Sustainable Schools programme and local environmental community groups who are keen to encourage the next generation to get involved in conservation.

St Thomas's School hosted the prizegiving, where teams had an opportunity to share their experiences and learnings with each other in a variety of formats, including some creative videos.

Overall winners were 'The Moth Pod Catchers' team from St Thomas's School (pictured) who collected the most moth plant pods during the competition period, removing more than 10,850 nasty pods from the environment.

"It was really satisfying," says Jenna, one of The Moth Pod Catchers.

"Pulling the pods off, it was fun!"

Glendowie Kindergarten won the pre-school category with 739 pods collected, and other teams were recognised for the impressive amounts collected, educational video diaries, fun stories and innovative collection methods.

Sustainable Schools Advisor Nicky Elmore congratulated everyone on their efforts. "We're grateful to all the teams, whether they collected a little or a lot. Every pod has the potential to create a thousand new moth plants. Along with this impressive seed dispersal, the vines strangle and out compete native plants, so each and every one collected makes a huge difference."

▶ Ōrākei Moth Plant Competition overall winners

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Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2025

$000s	Notes	Actual 2024/2025	Annual Plan 2024/2025*	Annual Plan 2023/2024
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		17,092	17,092	17,198
Targeted rates		573	601	581
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		28	22	22
Fees and charges		490	515	600
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts	1	463	614	1,015
Total operating funding		**18,646**	**18,843**	**19,416**
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	2	17,308	14,975	15,378
Finance costs		1,520	1,520	940
Internal charges and overheads applied		2,189	2,189	2,661
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		**21,017**	**18,684**	**18,980**
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		**(2,371)**	**159**	**436**
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt		7,831	7,981	3,509
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding		**7,831**	**7,981**	**3,509**
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		50	14	102
- to improve the level of service		2,488	4,530	76
- to replace existing assets		2,922	3,597	3,767
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		**5,460**	**8,141**	**3,945**
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		**2,371**	**(159)**	**(436)**
Funding balance		**0**	**0**	**0**

* Same target as the Year 1 of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034

Variance explanation Actual 2024/2025 to Annual Plan 2024/2025

1. We received less income than expected from fuel tax, fines, and other sources. This was mainly because we received less rent than expected because a building at Colin Maiden Park that has been vacant for over four years and needs repairs before it can be rented out. The local board has set aside funding in future budgets to carry out this renewal work.
2. We spent more than expected on staff and utilities. This was mainly because of wage increases to support the living wage and higher costs for things like electricity, gas, and water due to rising market prices.
3. The actual spending was much lower than planned because the redevelopment of the Meadowbank Community Centre was delayed due to financial constraints. The project has now been moved to a future year, as it requires a new development partner. The local board has also agreed to increase the budget to help deliver the original vision for the centre.

▲ Marine education programme

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Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau