

Hana takes fight to AT board

Hana Blackmore is taking her battle over Waiheke's revamped bus services to the Auckland Transport board.

Hana sent a request to Auckland Transport for permission to present her petition and a report she has written about changes to services at the council organisation's final board meeting for the year which takes place next week.

On Monday, Ms Blackmore received a response from acting chair of the AT board, Wayne Donnelly, saying that she can present the documents to the board on Tuesday 3 December.

Hana has been collecting signatures for a petition objecting to the withdrawal of the Wharf Road/Ostend Road service with Sue Pawley and they have gathered more than 1600 signatures.

"These were all collected in Ostend, this is talking to the people in Ostend," says Ms Pawley. "We've got double the number of people on our petition to what AT consulted with."

Ostend is the heartland of Waiheke, says Ms Blackmore, and the axed stop near the Ostend Memorial Hall "is one of the most important stops on this island. There's the RSA, the hall".

Now, she says, every elderly person using public transport to and from the RSA has to walk 300 metres to the new stop outside Countdown.

"AT has got the wrong end of the stick," says Ms Blackmore. "There's never been a loop, it's Ostend Road where the main service goes."

Ms Blackmore and Ms Pawley were both at the first morning tea and clinic held by new ward councillor Pippa Coom on



Power to the passengers: Hana Blackmore in front of Sally Ewins' Mural on Ostend Pricecutter which Hana says epitomises how Ostend is the heart of the island. Ms Blackmore will present her petition and report on Waiheke's bus changes at the Auckland Transport board meeting next week. Photo Erin Johnson

Friday 22 November.

In the afternoon, they took Ms Coom around the island to see the bus stops that had been removed from bus services.

"We had a fairly good meeting with Pippa Coom," says Ms Blackmore. "Sue and I took her around various places and I walked her through the streets of Ostend to show her the problems with the bus stops and the problems with the crossings."

They pointed out that the RSA corner in Ostend and the Artworks and library area at the top end of Oneroa are both social hubs for island residents and they've both lost their bus stops.

Cr Coom has since told *Gulf News* she

will be pushing AT to bring forward a review of Waiheke services.

Ms Blackmore is compiling a report that documents the services which existed before the bus changes, what AT said they proposed to do and the changes they finally carried out.

"One of the things that's really got to me is that when we used to get on a bus going to Matiatia you knew you would get to a ferry. Now you don't know if you catch this bus if you will actually get the ferry."

"They have to listen, we have to be able to go to a meeting so that we actually create something that services the people of Waiheke," says Ms Blackmore.

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Week 47: 18-24 November 2019

RAINFALL mm		MAX TEMP °C		MIN TEMP °C				
Island	City	Island	City	Island	City			
M	3.5	5.5	M	19.0	21.4	M	9.4	10.7
T	0.0	0.0	T	19.0	20.4	T	10.6	10.1
W	0.0	1.5	W	22.1	22.1	W	13.5	15.3
T	0.5	0.0	T	20.5	20.8	T	13.0	13.6
F	0.0	0.0	F	21.0	20.9	F	13.4	13.7
S	0.0	0.0	S	23.5	22.9	S	14.4	15.4
S	0.0	0.0	S	21.9	22.3	S	16.8	17.7

RAINFALL TOTALS		MAX AVERAGE °C		MIN AVERAGE °C	
Week	3.5 7.0	Week	21.0 21.5	Week	12.6 13.2
2018	62.5 46.0	Month	21.0 21.9	Month	13.5 14.1
Syr	20.2 16.6	Historic	20.2 20.4	Historic	12.3 12.5

Data by WeatherWise Auckland. 020-4023-0100.