

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe Local flavour



Vulcan Lane

City living has exploded, with the number of residents in the Waitematā Local Board area residing in the city and the suburbs that touch it burgeoning.

The board has an ally in the Auckland City Centre Residents Group, which works to make the city centre the best it can be for all who live there.

And that doesn't mean only those in waterfront apartments. The group recently chose to partner with the board, the Ellen Melville Centre – where it was heavily involved in the redevelopment of the centre and Freyberg Place – and the City Mission, to provide showers for the homeless.

"We were so pleased the board recognised the need for those kind of services," the group said on its website.

Volunteers from the group helped make the showers available to homeless people twice a week throughout July and August.

Emily Reeves is a city centre resident and serves on the group's committee. "My favourite part of living in the city is that everything is on your doorstep. There's always somewhere you can walk or cycle to."

Fellow committee member David Roos uses the city as his living space. "Apartment living, be it high-end and spacious or budget-friendly and space efficient,

lends itself to using the city. Where better to meet with friends than the local cafe or restaurant?

The group consults with other interested organisations, like business associations and residents' committees, and takes an advocacy position that represents community views. In the past it has adopted strong positions on transport, parks, environmental management and regulation, water and waste water, and development projects.

"It's critical they have a voice and make residents' concerns known, and by doing so, that we work towards achieving the kinds of living environments they want," Board chair Pippa Coom says.

‘If you are going to have an influence, and make a difference, you have to be involved.’

NGĀ POARI Ā-ROHE