



To All Households

NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2018

CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING PAREMATA/PAPAKOWHAI/MANA/CAMBORNE

Let's start with an apology for not having produced a newsletter for so long. With the amount of time being spent on all the ongoing issues facing our community, we can tend to overlook the need to keep residents informed and we are sorry that has been the case in the last year. To make up for this, this newsletter is rather longer than we would like because it has to cover a lot of matters. Sorry about that.

We did recently advertise and hold a rather belated Annual General Meeting in the Mana Cruising Club on 16 May where the following Executive Committee was elected:

Ray Barker-Underhill
Michael Black
Maureen Gillon
Francesse Middleton
Russell Morrison
Tony Shaw

Ian Barlow
Judi Doornbos
Leina Isno
Coralie Morrison
Geoff Neill
Caroline Van Halderen

In accordance with the Association's rules, office holders will be selected by the Committee at its next meeting.

The rest of the AGM essentially involved discussion of the President's Report, the Financial Report and the setting of subscriptions for the current year. The President's Report is reproduced below:

PRESIDENTS REPORT to Annual General Meeting, May 2018

It's been over a year since our last AGM, although it doesn't seem that long. Perhaps that's because so many of the issues that we faced then are still ongoing. This report, although primarily for our financial year ending 30 September 2017, also tries to bring you up to date with those issues and other developments that have taken place since our last AGM.

Paremata Roundabout Issues

The difficulties and dangers associated with entering and exiting the carpark area at the Paremata Railway Station, the delays for southbound traffic at the Paremata roundabout and the queue of northbound vehicles heading towards SH58 in the evenings, are all problems that have been with us for some years now.

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As a result of the roundabout issues:

- Drivers heading to Wellington or the Hutt Valley are missing ferries or other connections or appointments.
- Commuters who might otherwise use the trains are using their cars instead, or are going to the Mana or Porirua Stations - travelling further and, in many cases, having to join the traffic queues on SH1.
- The increasing numbers trying to use the limited space for parking on the eastern side of the highway create difficulties for the school, residents and nearby businesses.
- Local motorists are having to readjust travel plans to avoid use of the road at critical times, or are using unsuitable alternative routes through backstreets or even along the beach.
- Ambulances and other emergency vehicles are often obstructed by the queues.
- The southbound queues along Mana Esplanade and St Andrews Road create numerous adverse effects for businesses, residents and pedestrians.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) currently has an extension to the station carpark (88 additional parking spaces) fully designed and ready to go with funding available, but these plans have been on hold for some time until the safety issues at the roundabout are resolved.

After a long wait, a public meeting was eventually held on 5 October last year where NZTA presented its proposed solution – aimed almost entirely at the difficulties faced by traffic exiting the station carpark. Despite serious reservations expressed at the meeting and subsequent requests for a chance to meet with NZTA’s advisers to discuss alternatives, NZTA chose to go ahead with its original proposal.

NZTA’s alterations at the roundabout were completed on 4 March and we finally managed to obtain an assurance from NZTA’s Regional Relationship Director, Emma Speight, that they would schedule a discussion with us once they have had time to review the impact of the new road layout. We have yet to have that discussion.

Our observations (and a quick survey of those who use the railway station carpark) show, however, that the changes have not resolved the issues. And the queues of evening southbound traffic are continuing to grow – often extending back through Mana to beyond Goat Point and taking up to 30 minutes for vehicles to clear.

We are again seeking to meet with NZTA urgently and have sought support from the Porirua City Council (PCC) to press for immediate action. We believe there are simple steps that could be taken immediately to alleviate the situation and believe they should be being trialled. Completion of Transmission Gully is still about 2 years

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away. Sitting back and simply allowing the problems to escalate over that time should not be regarded as acceptable.

Proposal by NZTA to Toll Transmission Gully

We understand that in early October last year NZTA approached the PCC seeking its views on a proposal to introduce tolls on Transmission Gully when it opens in 2020.

Although this Association had - in the past - been prepared to accept the imposition of tolls when they were suggested as a means of bringing forward construction, now that construction is underway that is no longer the case. Consequently we have made our opposition clear to the PCC. In brief, our concerns are that tolling the Transmission Gully route will compromise and significantly reduce the benefits of having the new road. Use of

tolls simply to raise additional funds for general use would be neither efficient nor effective – particularly in this instance when the road concerned is the one we most want motorists to use.

We are told that the PCC also opposes tolls on Transmission Gully but we are not aware that this position has yet been made clear to NZTA and the Government.

Future of existing SH1, SH58 and original Paremata Bridge

We understand that it is currently NZTA's intention to revoke the state highway status on the existing SH1 (between Porirua and Paekakariki) and on SH58 (Paremata Road) when the Transmission Gully route becomes operational in 2020. This would hand over responsibility for those roads to PCC and Kapiti DC. The Land Transport Management Act requires NZTA to consult any affected regional or territorial local authority before doing so. In addition, conditions imposed by the Environment Court when the "interim" clearways through Paremata and Plimmerton were approved in 2001 require consultation on a number of matters with GWRC, PCC, the Paremata and Plimmerton Residents Associations and Ngati Toa Rangitira.

Before NZTA can revoke any state highway status, it must ensure that the road affected will at the time of handover be "fit for purpose" – meaning that the revoked section of state highway will provide a level of service equivalent to other roads providing a similar function within the local road network, and be safe.

The PCC is currently working with NZTA to map out a process and timeline for the Council's response which will be closely tied in with their review of the District Plan.



We are trying to keep in touch with this very important process and are hoping that the results of our own strategic planning project for around the Paremata bridges can be integrated into the revocation exercise.

Village Planning Projects

Last year's (2016/17) funding for local village planning projects comprised:

- \$20,000 to explore issues and identify solutions relating to erosion of the Dolly Varden foreshore reserve.
- \$12,000 for construction of steps and/or a ramp to improve access from the coastal walkway around Goat Point down to the Ngatitōa Domain beach.

In addition, the Village Planning Team undertook to (a) facilitate discussions with Kiwirail regarding potential pedestrian access across the railway tracks from the northern end of the Mana Shopping Centre and (b) to assist in scoping the need for lighting near the old Post Office building.

Following the earthquakes and floods in November 2016, however, village planning projects were put on hold by the Council for some time as its officers were seconded to help residents affected. As a result little progress was possible on the planned projects and \$16,000 of the funding that had been allocated for them was carried forward to 2017/18.

In addition we received a further \$45,000 comprising:

- \$20,000 to develop a heritage trail on Ngati Toa Domain in partnership with the Mana Lions Club;
- \$20,000 to implement recommendations for improving lighting and other safety measures near Mana Station; and
- \$5,000 to upgrade an informal pathway between Eskdale Road and the Countdown Supermarket.

Assistance from the Council to prepare for the development of a strategic plan for the area around the Paremata bridges was also agreed to.

The current situation with these projects is as follows.

- Dolly Varden foreshore erosion

Coastal expert, Jim Dahm, was contracted to advise on this project and began with a preliminary walkover with Council staff in September 2016 and a further walkover of the affected area with local residents in April 2017. He then came back in September 2017 to present his ideas on possible foreshore management options – these included the use of targeted (and likely staged) reshaping of the dunes to: move the pedestrian pathway further back from the shore; increase the width of usable reserve; improve beach access; and undertake targeted beach nourishment.



There was initial general acceptance of these ideas and we have been waiting for them to be developed further. In order to maintain momentum, we asked that the \$8,000 being held for the proposed access to Ngati Toa Domain beach also be transferred to this project.

Our latest advice is that Jim Dahm will be here this week to undertake production of a model (using drone photography) which can be used to produce various path and layout options and associated excavation and beach nourishment volumes. This will allow assessment of costs, environmental effects and other relevant issues (e.g. resource consent requirements) for each option – which can then be discussed with the Council and the community to identify preferences and staging of implementation.

- Ngati Toa Domain Heritage Trail

This project is aimed at developing a history trail that will give the community and visitors a much enhanced knowledge and appreciation of the area – one of the earliest Maori settlements in the Wellington region. The project is being led by Ian Barlow and much of the preparatory work on board design and location has been completed with generous assistance from Pataka officers and others.

- Improvements to lighting, etc. at Mana Shopping Centre

This project stemmed from a lighting survey undertaken in the vicinity of the Mana Railway Station and participation in a CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) Audit of this area. Various lighting and pavement improvements have been costed and we are currently discussing possibilities for sharing costs with local businesses. For instance, after discussions with the owner of the New World Supermarket (Chris Lamont), agreement has been reached to improve the lighting behind and to the north of the Supermarket. Kiwirail have also agreed to take steps to make the pathway beside the rail corridor safer.

- Pathway between Eskdale Road and Countdown

This project was completed in October last year and residents are making good use of the pathway.

- Strategic Plan for the area around the Paremata Bridges

The aim of this project is to prepare a comprehensive framework of plans for the future of this area. Some work has been done on identifying the issues and options but, to some extent, progress has been complicated at present by overlapping exercises – particularly review of the District Plan and discussions about revocation



of the SH1 status. Plans for seeking community involvement are currently being developed.

Some of our Committee members will be attending a Village Planning “Get-together” next weekend and we expect to be asked in the next month or so for our prioritised bids for Village Planning funding in the next financial year. If any residents have views on projects that should be included, they might like to raise them at the AGM or contact us about them.

Acheron Park Community Book Fridge (Little Free Library)

Originally proposed as a possible village planning project, this idea put forward by committee member Leina Isno was energetically taken up by Councillor Dale Williams who procured a generously donated fridge from Trash Palace and did the hard work of installing this valuable little facility. Many thanks to those involved. Go and check it out in the little park at the bottom of Acheron Rd.

Other Matters

- Parking on Papakowhai Road. After considerable thought and consultation, Council eventually decided to limit the parking on Papakowhai Road (south of the pedestrian overbridge) to just the eastern side of the road. We hope that this has made things safer for traffic using that road.
- Aotea Lagoon. During the year, the planned Splash Pad was built, the northern carpark along Papakowhai Road was expanded and the small pond at the southern end of Aotea Lagoon (near the rose garden) was replaced with a garden. Proposals to construct a wakeboard cableway appear to have lapsed.
- Sewage and Stormwater Issues. We remain concerned about these issues particularly when heavy rain events cause diluted sewage to flow along the streets and into the harbour. We are assured that fixing these problems is a major priority for the Council.
- Sedimentation of the Harbour. Calls for action on this issue have been put in the “too hard basket” at this stage following a report to the Te Awarua-O-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee in December. The report outlined difficulties that would be involved in getting approval to carry out any form of sediment removal operation. At the same time, the Porirua Harbour Trust’s latest scorecard identifies the inflow of fine mud and nutrients into the harbour as its major cause for concern.
- Review of Porirua District Plan. PCC officers carried out a 6-week campaign of community consultation during October and November last year to encourage residents to have a say on how our District Plan should guide Porirua’s development for the next 10 to 30 years. Housing, suburban sprawl, harbour protection and public transport were apparently hot topics raised by

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residents. We have asked to be closely involved during the next stages aimed at producing some draft chapters for discussion in October, notifying a proposed Plan in 2019 and having an operative Plan by late 2020.

- Long Term Plans. Consultation on their Long-term Plans was recently carried out by both the GWRC and PCC. Of major relevance within the regional Plan was probably its Revenue and Financing Policy which proposes changes to the share of rates from each local Council area. PCC specifically sought feedback on seven issues including proposals for another fenced dog park, introducing paid parking in the CBD, and the possibility of strategic property acquisition as a response to the completion of Transmission Gully and its link roads. PCC plans to hold hearings in May, deliberations in June and release of the Plan in July.
- PCC Representation Review. The Council is also current seeking preliminary feedback on its 6-yearly review of representation arrangements including matters such as the number of elected members, ward boundaries, communities of interest and the possibility of community boards. Preliminary feedback is sought by 11 May but there will be later opportunities for submissions in July and formal objections in August/ September.
- Jumping/Diving Platform. We have received no further details about proposals to build a diving platform near the Paremata Bridge, but we understand that a summer survey (by the GWRC harbourmaster) of boat and other users has provided some useful information which will be used to inform future project decisions in coming months.
- Whitford Brown Intersection. Nor have we heard anything further about studies to improve the traffic situation at the Whitford Brown / Papakowhai Road intersection.
- Camborne Walkway Upgrade. This project to repair and protect the walkway from coastal erosion commenced in February and is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. PCC has stressed that working in the coastal marine environment is tricky and they have worked closely with GWRC and Heritage NZ to ensure the project has been carried out in an environmentally and historically sensitive way.
- Pest Free Programmes. The success of Pest Free initiatives in many of our local communities (Pukerua Bay, Plimmerton, Mana/Camborne, Golden Gate, Papakowhai, etc) has been immense. For instance, in less than a year, Pest Free Mana/Camborne removed over 700 rodents from its area, giving our nesting birds and lizards more chance to survive and thrive. The Association put in a few dollars last year to help establish a very successful trapping project by students at Paremata School. However we understand that organisers are still needed to get more traps out to the Paremata area between the bridge and Papakowhai. If you could be interested, please email the organisers at pestfreemana@gmail.com or find them online at <https://www.facebook.com/pestfreemana/>.



- Mana View Road Safety Improvements. Almost a year after receiving the original proposals for this project, we were recently sent the “finalised version of the proposed design”. With just 7 days allowed to provide “any significant comments”, we have not had time to further analyse or discuss the proposals – so are hopeful that those local residents who also received the revision are happy with them.
- Website. We are aware of the current limitations of our website and are hoping to update and expand it in the near future.

Thanks

I want to thank the rest of our current Executive Committee for their support and input over the last year. Members are: Michael Black (vice-President), Judi Doornbos (Secretary), Geoff Neill (Minute Secretary), Francesse Middleton (Treasurer), Leina Isno (Communications), Ray Baker-Underhill, Ian Barlow, Paul Crisp, Maureen Gillon, Caroline Van Halderen, Coralie Morrison and Tony Shaw.

We are also much indebted to Euon Murrell and Tommy's Real Estate for so generously printing our newsletters and to Ray Lovell for helping to maintain our website.

We value very much the contact we have with the GWRC and PCC councillors, particularly Jenny Brash and Ross Leggett (who attends all our regular committee meetings) and our dealings with PCC officers (especially those from the Village Planning team).

I hope that our communication with residents can be improved during the coming year.

Russell Morrison (President)

Recent Developments

There have been some developments since the Report above was written.

- We are still waiting for the promised meeting with NZTA to discuss the roundabout problems – latest advice from their Director (30 May) is that *“the team is still in the process of collecting and analysing data”* but *“we are identifying some possible dates and will confirm these with you as soon as possible”*.



- The Dolly Varden erosion project is slowly progressing. Drone flight work and surveying was carried out on 21 May and the data is being finalised. Work will then move to the next stage which includes designing some reshaping and nourishment options for a Council and community “conversation”.
- Consultation is continuing on the proposed Ngati Toa Domain Heritage Trail and the Village Planning funding is to be carried over to next financial year.
- Lighting plans for around the New World supermarket are being finalised and installation is expected this month. Discussions with other building owners are being held and KiwiRail will be replacing fencing next to the rail corridor. Pavement improvements and marking changes are also planned.
- Council’s Village Planning team has asked us for our preliminary thoughts on what we are considering putting forward this year.
- We have been asked to meet with the GWRC harbourmaster to talk about the conflict between swimming and boat launching between the bridges (including thoughts of shifting the boat launching area to the other side of the channel).
- We have expressed concern to PCC that the stormwater drain that discharges on to the sand at the north-eastern end of the Paremata bridge may have become a health hazard and reiterated our belief that it should be extended.
- Decisions on PCC’s long term plan were made by a council committee on 7 June and will be confirmed on 27 June. Amongst other things, the Committee: agreed to bring forward funding to upgrade the intersections at Whitford Brown Ave and Papakowhai/Okowai Roads; agreed to provide an additional \$350,000 in 2020/21 towards completion of the Te Ara Piko pathway around Pauatahanui Inlet, in partnership with Plimmerton Rotary; voted against short-term paid parking in the city centre but agreed to increase the cost of long-term daily parking in some areas; included \$200,000 to fund a dog park on part of Plimmerton Domain; and declined to set aside \$11 million for the purchase of strategic property.
- An organiser has been found for Pest Free Paremata, covering the area between the bridge and Papakowhai. Contact is pestfreeparemata@gmail.com . Latest catch figures from the Mana/Camborne branch give a running total of 348 rats, 807 mice, 8 hedgehogs and 2 mustelids.
- Paul Crisp, a long-time stalwart of the Association (and at times the only Papakowhai resident on the Executive Committee), did not seek re-election this year. His input will be sorely missed.



Contact Details

The Association has both a website www.paremataresidents.co.nz and facebook page www.facebook.com/paremataresidents. The website is about to be updated and improved, but if there is anybody willing to take on the role of "honorary webmaster", we would be delighted to hear from them. The Secretary can be contacted by email on secretary.parematara@gmail.com or by phone on (04)233 9693. We would be pleased to receive any suggestions or ideas to improve our community that you would like the Association to look into or help out with.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2018 remain at \$10 per household. Please use the form below if you wish to pay by cheque. If you would prefer to pay by Internet transfer the Association's bank number is: "Paremata Residents Association Inc" 38-9012-0506915-00. Please send an email to secretary.parematara@gmail.com with "Subs" as the subject, when you have made the payment. Please list the names of the members of your household, your address and the amount paid in the body of the email.

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A cheque for our household's 2016 subscription of \$10 is enclosed

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