



For Residents of Paremata, Papakowhai, Mana & Camborne

Newsletter - October 2023

2023 Annual General Meeting

The 2023 AGM was held on 16 August at the Mana Cruising Club, with around 30 residents attending. The opening presentation by Mayor Anita Baker, which covered a wide range of issues affecting local residents, was well received by those present.

The financial statement was received, and key items from the annual report presented. Our current Treasurer, Francesse Middleton, retired from committee after many years of service to the Association. All other current committee members were re-elected, together with one new member. Office holder positions were decided at the executive committee meeting on 8 September.

Your committee for 2023/24 is: President - Tony Shaw; Vice President - Russell Morrison; Secretary - Frank Moes, Treasurer – Luke Waghorn; Media - Coralie Morrison; Ian Barlow, Lorraine Taylor, Mark Morrison and Judi Jones.

We always welcome more assistance from our community and encourage anyone who wishes to be involved with the Executive Committee to please email us at secretary.parematara@gmail.com or simply come along to one of our committee meetings held upstairs at the Mana Cruising Club on the second Thursday of each month (except January) starting at 7.15pm.

Key Activities Carried Out in 2022/23

The full annual report is available on the Association's website www.paremataresidents.co.nz.

Mana Esplanade & St Andrews Rd

Prior to the opening of the long-awaited Transmission Gully route on 31 March last year, we had high hopes that this would allow improvements on Mana Esplanade and St Andrews Rd. As expected, traffic volumes fell significantly and vehicle counts indicated that only one lane should be needed in each direction. But we were concerned that both lanes were still being used at all times by both cars and trucks with no changes to the clearway hours and still no attempt to enforce the rules either during or outside of clearway hours.

Paremata Residents Association - Hon Secretary, P O Box 54-186, MANA 5247 - email: secretary.parematara@gmail.com
Website: www.paremataresidents.co.nz Facebook: facebook.com/paremataresidents/

We pointed out that - as always envisaged - the clearways should be closed “in conjunction with” the opening of Transmission Gully but were told that would not happen until the NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi - NZTA) had completed consultations on the future use of the road with designated stakeholders (including PCC, GWRC, Ngati Toa Rangatira, and the Paremata and Plimmerton Residents Associations).

That consultation eventually started near the end of January 2023 but it was clear that NZTA had already decided that nothing would change until a Strategic Plan was completed for the whole of SH59 - despite all stakeholders submitting that measures should be taken or trialled now (not “in a few years’ time”) on strategic or health and safety grounds. At this stage we don’t know when the proposed Strategic Plan will be completed.

Our argument that the clearways should close at least temporarily for health and safety reasons and to avoid overcapacity was ignored by NZTA. At the same time, a Traffic Safety Audit commissioned by them (but not released to stakeholders until after the consultation) identified numerous existing crash risks - not only between Paremata and Plimmerton but also elsewhere on SH58 and SH59. The audit recommended consideration or investigation of actions to reduce those crash risks, many categorised as being “likely” and expected to be “serious” or “fatal”, but it looks like those recommendations are also being ignored at this stage. So, this stretch of road remains dangerous for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, and residents.

The Association has raised several concerns with the Ombudsman relating to Waka Kotahi’s handling of these issues but we are still waiting for our complaint to be investigated. For those interested, copies of our “Consultation” feedback and the Traffic Safety Audit can be viewed on the Association’s website.

Proposed District Plan & Variations

At the beginning of the financial year PCC issued a variation to the Proposed District Plan and changes to the Operative District Plan, primarily covering new housing height and density rules to comply with the Government’s National Policy Statement (NPS(UD)). These new rules provide for buildings up to 6 storeys high in high density areas near a transport hub, up to 5 storeys high in medium density areas within walkable distance of a transport hub, and up to 3 houses up to 3 storeys high on a section anywhere else.

Hearings were still not completed on the original PDP when the Association had to make further submissions on those changes, particularly querying the wisdom of building high density housing on low-lying land vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surges, liquefaction and close to the Ohariu Faultline. Decisions from the Hearings Panel were expected to be available in August, but the Council has requested that the Minister extend that time until December 2023.

Meet the Candidates Meeting

Last September Paremata Residents Association (with some assistance from Plimmerton Residents Association) held a “Meet the Candidates” meeting in Ngati Toa Domain Hall for the local body election. All but one candidate for the City Council’s Pauatahanui Ward, the Parirua Maori Ward, and the Regional Council’s Tawa-Porirua Ward gave presentations and answered questions from the audience. The hall was packed with residents. We believe it was useful in helping residents decide their voting preferences.

Aotea Lagoon Duck Pond

Following the Council’s decision to fill in the duck pond, work to dewater and backfill the area took much longer than expected because of a very wet period. The area is now filled and traversed by a stormwater stream through to the lagoon. We understand that landscaping is intended when the ground has settled. In addition, funding from the Government’s Transport Choices Programme (led by Waka Kotahi) has been procured to enable the construction of a “Pump Track” – for those on bikes, skateboards and scooters - on the reclaimed area, possibly by December 2023.

Village Planning Projects

- Dolly Varden Foreshore Erosion Control

As reported last year, due to Council funding and time constraints it was decided to use the funds to improve the path from the foreshore to the beach, widen the foreshore path around the top, and plant the

area. The work has been completed and provides a much safer route to/from the beach.

The only disappointment was the loss of the grassed track just to the north that joined at the base. It was used frequently for access, but PCC's Parks Dept insisted on blocking it off with infill planting.

- Ngati Toa Domain Heritage Trail

After 5 years of discussion and planning between Council, Ngati Toa and ourselves, this project again missed its June target completion date. However substantial progress has been made. History board locations are agreed, archaeological approvals received, frames constructed, English text completed and recently translated into Te Reo. Now the focus is on layout and graphics. So, we expect to be able to report successful completion next year.

Other Matters

During the year there were also a number of other local activities and issues your residents association was involved with. These included:

- Glengavel Playground upgrade
- Pascoe Avenue rail crossing and parking
- Porirua Speed Management Plan
- Dolly Varden foreshore rabbits, swans, geese
- Tweed Avenue Chorus Cabinet mural
- Dolly Varden foreshore access barrier
- Porirua CBD Parking

Current and Future Activities

Northern Growth Area – Special Development Project

While a Hearings Panel has been working its way through the Proposed District Plan and related issues, PCC has also been working with Kainga Ora and Ngati Toa Rangatira to assess whether the Porirua Northern Growth Area (NGA) should be recommended for establishment as a Specified Development Project (SDP). The NGA is an area of around 1,000 hectares of greenfield land between Plimmerton and Pukerua Bay, primarily made up of seven major land blocks. Selection of the area as an SDP would provide "an alternative pathway for navigating the multiple, complex, and otherwise separate processes typically required to deliver housing and urban development".

On 31 August Kainga Ora gave public notice of the proposal and sought feedback by 29 September on its key features (i.e. the proposed area, objectives and governance body). The Association's feedback indicated support for the more integrated and planned approach that should be possible with an SDP but stressed potential concerns about the possibilities of adverse impacts on the existing nearby communities and the need for these communities to be included.

Papakowhai Road Shared Pathway and Whitford Brown Intersection

Proposals for a new shared pathway along the eastern side of Papakowhai Road and changes at the Whitford Brown Ave intersection were presented to the public for feedback at Papakowhai School on 19 September. PCC hopes that work will get underway in November with completion in winter 2024. The pathway will mostly be 3.5m wide from Whitford Brown to the southern footbridge to Paremata Station. It is fully funded from the Government's Transport Choices Programme, led by Waka Kotahi. Plans for the intersection will include signalised pedestrian crossings, traffic signals and an additional left turning lane out of Papakowhai Road. More information can be found on the Council's website.

Other Activities

In addition to the above, over the next year or more we expect (at this stage) our emphasis will include:

- Wellington Water network discharge plans
- Mana Esplanade potential residential intensification projects
- SH59 Strategic Plan progress
- Porirua new District Plan
- Porirua Long Term Plan
- Impacts of General Election results

Communications with Residents

The only comprehensive way at present for us to keep in touch with all the residents in our area is by delivering newsletters to the approximately 2,200 households and businesses involved – and at this stage we propose to continue doing so. There are occasions, however when a newsletter is not feasible or fast enough (such as providing advice or asking for feedback on local issues). We also post information to our Facebook page [Paremataresidents](#). So, we have been putting together an email list of members and others who have shown an interest in being kept advised in such situations. If you would like to be on our email list, please let us know by email to secretary.parematara@gmail.com .

Subscriptions for 2023/24

The Paremata Residents Association exists for our residents. We liaise, represent, lobby and provide feedback on behalf of our residents with local and central government and their agencies, aiming to achieve better local outcomes.

To do this work the Association needs to cover its administration costs, and a very important means of doing that is through your annual subscription payment and donations. This year the AGM again agreed to keep subscriptions at **\$10 per household** for the 2023/24 year.

To pay your Subscription by Internet or Phone Banking

The Association’s bank account is:
Paremata Residents Association Inc, account number 38-9012-0506915-00.

Please identify “Subs” in the Particulars field and “Family name” in the Reference field. We suggest saving this information as a “saved payee” to make transactions easier in the future.

Then, when you have made the payment, please either:

- Send an email to secretary.parematara@gmail.com with “Subs” as the subject. In the body of the email identify your address, the names of your household included, and the total amount paid, **or**
- fill in the details on the slip below and post it to our PO Box.

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To: Paremata Residents Association Inc.
 PO Box 54 186
MANA 5247

My household’s 2023/24 subscription of \$10 was paid by internet/phone banking on/...../.....

I have also included a donation of: \$....., so total payment was \$.....

Contact Name and Address:	Contact Email:
Name(s) of other members of the Household:	

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