



For Residents of Paremata, Papakowhai, Mana & Camborne

Newsletter - September 2022

Local Body Elections

“Meet the Candidates” Meeting

Sunday 25th September, 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Ngati Toa Domain Hall

Voting papers for the Local Body Elections will be posted to electors from 16th September and need to be returned to the Council either by post or by hand not later than noon on Saturday 8th October. Residents are strongly encouraged to make an informed vote. If you would like to know more about the candidates you are being asked to vote for, this meeting will give you that opportunity.

The Paremata Residents Association has invited to the meeting the **Porirua** candidates for **Mayor**, the **Pauatahanui General Ward**, **Parirua Māori Ward**, and candidates for the **Tawa-Porirua Constituency of Greater Wellington Regional Council**.

Each candidate will be given a short time to speak to the meeting, followed by a period of questions from the floor. Refreshments will be provided for those who wish to talk to candidates after the meeting.

2022 Annual General Meeting

The 2022 AGM was held on 11 August at the Mana Cruising Club with reduced attendance because of Covid factors. All members of the current committee were re-elected, and one new member elected. Officer positions will be decided at the next executive committee meeting on 8 September.

The financial statement was received, and the annual report was tabled and discussed. Key activities covered in the annual report are included in this newsletter, and the full annual report is available on the Association's website www.paremataresidents.co.nz. A proposal for rule changes to enable the Association to apply to IRD for Not-for-Profit status, followed by Donee Organisation status, and registration as a Charity if preferred, was presented to the AGM, and passed unanimously. This change will provide tax advantages.

Your committee for 2022/23 is: Tony Shaw, Russell Morrison, Francesse Middleton, Frank Moes, Coralie Morrison, Ian Barlow, Lorraine Taylor, and Mark Morrison.

We always welcome more assistance from our community and encourage anyone who wishes to be involved with the Executive Committee to email us at secretary.parematara@gmail.com.

Paremata Residents Association - Hon Secretary, P O Box 54-186, MANA - email: secretary.parematara@gmail.com

Key Activities in 2021/22

Mana Esplanade Clearways

The decision by Waka Kotahi - NZ Transport Agency to renege on their commitment to close the clearways when Transmission Gully Motorway (TGM) opened and to ignore our requests for information and action (including a trial closure) has been both frustrating and time-consuming.

Because of this, the Association found it necessary to involve the Ombudsman, Minister, and local politicians but without any progress on the issue.

Waka Kotahi is required to consult with the Association and others on a range of issues relating to how our roads should operate in the future and this consultation is expected to take place between this October and April next year. The outcome will have great significance for the future of Mana Esplanade, St Andrews Rd and Paremata Road and whether we are able to achieve a healthy and safe environment for residents, pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

A document setting out our "*Initial Thoughts*" on those issues - influenced by previous expectations and the directions set by the *Porirua Growth Strategy* in 2019 - was put before all the households in our area in October 2020 and received almost unanimous support from those that responded. Recent Council plans promoting significant residential developments north of Plimmerton, have introduced extra complexity to the issues, however, and although our initial thoughts still apply in the short term, it is clear that considerable attention needs to be given to how the extra pressures on roading and other infrastructure as a result of these developments can be met in the longer term.

We are hopeful that the Association will be able to keep the community informed and to seek residents' views during the forthcoming processes.

PCC Proposed District Plan

The Association has made submissions and presentations to the hearings committee on the proposed district plan covering proposed residential and commercial zone changes (particularly multi-storey/high density residential buildings and local commercial). We have opposed changes to the NZTA designation for SH1 (now SH59), which proposes to remove many conditions relating to the health and safety of Mana Esplanade and St Andrews Road that were imposed by the Environment Court.

The Association also provided initial feedback on the proposed Variation 1 (zone changes to comply with the Government's policy statement for urban design). Variation 1 has now been released for public submissions, so we will again lodge a submission, and suggest that you familiarise yourself with the significant impact this will have on Porirua's residential building development.

Village Projects

- ***Village Planning Programme***

A review of the Village Planning Programme was completed this year and submitted to Council in June. The Association provided information and comments to the reviewer with the opinion that the programme should continue, perhaps with some improvements. Council has approved pausing the programme for a further year to allow consultation on the options put forward in the report. Our remaining 2 projects are continuing.

- ***Dolly Varden Foreshore Erosion Control***

The original plan to reshape the foreshore to protect against erosion was clearly unachievable after the village programme was paused. Instead, we were faced with having to negotiate a limited scope of work with the Parks dept. This resulted in plans to improve the access path between the reserve and beach, replant surrounding erosion prone areas and widen a section of the higher pathway along the reserve to improve safety. This work is now underway. Parks staff are also to carry out maintenance on other reserve vegetation and the existing timber wave wall.

- ***Ngati Toa Domain Heritage Trail***

The challenge this year was to complete the Heritage Trail. While completion has not been achieved, substantial progress has been made and some funding spent. Four storyboards and an information board are intended. The storyboard frames have been manufactured, the style and wording of Ngati Toa and European history has been agreed, and archaeological authority has been approved for 3 of the 4 storyboard locations (location of 1 board is still to be finalised).

Local Issues

- ***Dolly Varden Reserve Access Barrier***

PCC Parks staff have raised the issue of vehicle access onto Dolly Varden Reserve causing damage to grassed areas on several occasions in the past. We have consistently argued against blocking access to the public. As a compromise bollards and signage have been installed at the bottom of the right of way between 34 and 36 Mana Esplanade. The gate is to be removed once the grass becomes established.

- ***Dolly Varden Car Park***

Parks staff have remodelled and upgraded the Dolly Varden car park. After members of the Association, together with immediate neighbours, and the Commodore of the Paremata Boating Club met with Parks managers on-site, concerns over parking for boat trailers and boundary planting were resolved. Additional lighting for dark areas was also agreed on subject to funding.

- ***Esplanade Telephone Box***

The Spark telephone booth and free Wi-Fi facility is in the footpath outside the Dolly Varden car park, and partially obstructs sight lines for traffic leaving the car park. The Association has previously argued that the telephone box should be re-positioned to overcome sight obstruction but believed that it has value for this area (particularly for emergencies). Spark argue that the box is infrequently used, and the phone equipment is obsolete, so they have decided to remove the facility altogether. Another community asset lost.

- ***Papakowhai Rd/Whitford Brown Intersection***

Investigation and design to improve this intersection is underway, with the work planned to be carried out in the 2023 financial year.

- ***Work in Pascoe Avenue – Parking & Islands***

Criticism from residents and on social media alerted the Association to work being carried out in Pascoe Avenue and at the rail crossing in late April this year. This is a KiwiRail crossing upgrade project that also includes two traffic islands each side of the rail crossing. The traffic island closest to the Esplanade includes a pedestrian refuge, which is intended to guide pedestrians across the road to the new rail crossing. However, this reduces the width of the road for parking and traffic in each direction. KiwiRail contractors have extended no parking yellow lines on both sides of the road – ***something that normally requires prior public notification.***

We raised residents' concerns with the PCC – particularly concern for the loss of valuable parking spaces - with suggestions for change, including widening the road in conjunction with the proposed townhouse development on the former Marina Motel site. Our suggestion that there be a discussion involving all the interested parties was ignored but we were told it was up to KiwiRail to consult with the public. That hasn't happened, but the changes to the road have continued regardless.

• **Harbour matters**

It's great to see the planting programmes being carried out by the PCC and GOPI aimed primarily at reducing sediment inputs to the harbour and streams. As stated in our submissions on both the PCC and GWRC long-term plans, we believe that the options available for restoring the tidal prism or increasing the flushing ability of the harbour also need more consideration. When these matters were discussed in December 2017, it was understood that the community would be "re-engaged" on these issues when the Harbour Strategy and Action Plan was to be reviewed in 2020. It is time that this review is given more priority.

• **Aotea Lagoon - Duck Pond**

The duck pond is no more. Contractors have been filling in the duck pond since April and it's taking longer than planned, not helped by the wet weather. Since the Police College Lake drains into this area, it is intended to landscape with planting and a meandering stream into the main lagoon.

Subscriptions for 2022/23

The recent AGM agreed again to keep subscriptions at \$10 per household for the 2022/23 year, trusting that subscriptions and donations will continue to cover our administration costs.

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 also suggest saving this information as a "saved payee".

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 the members of your household, the total amount paid, and any donation made, **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 2022/23 subscription of \$10 was paid by internet/phone banking on/...../.....

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

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