



To All Households

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2016

Meet the Candidates Session **Wednesday 21 September commencing at 7.00pm** **Mana Cruising Club (Ngatitua Domain) - Upstairs**

Voting papers for the forthcoming local body elections are to be posted out from 16 September and need to be returned before midday on 8 October. If you want to know more about the large number of candidates you are being asked to rank, you are encouraged to attend this meeting. We have invited the 6 candidates for the Porirua Mayoralty, the 13 candidates for the Porirua Northern Ward and the 4 GWRC candidates for our area who will all be given 3 minutes to address the meeting. A period for questions from the floor will follow and a cuppa will be provided for those who want to stay and talk to the candidates after the meeting.

If you are unable to make this meeting, an alternative session is being hosted by the Whitby Residents Association at the North Porirua Baptist Church lounge, Whitby Village Centre, Discovery Drive on Thursday 15 September at 7.30pm.

AGM and New Committee

It has been over a year since our last newsletter but we did hold a somewhat belated Annual General Meeting in May of this year at which the Annual Report and Annual Accounts were presented and a new committee was elected. The President's report outlined a large number of issues that had been or were being addressed, while the annual accounts revealed a small surplus of \$166 for the previous financial year. The current committee is:

Terry Knight (President)	Russell Morrison (V. President)
Ron Bremner (Treasurer)	Judi Doornbos (Secretary)
Geoff Neill (Minute Secretary)	Leina Isno (Communications)
Paul Crisp	Francesse Middleton
Coralie Morrison	

Our rules provide for more committee members so if you are interested, or know anybody else who may be interested, please let us know. Meetings are currently held on the fourth Wednesday of every month.



Road Re-surfacing through Mana and Plimmerton

For the last few weeks, the NZTA has been resurfacing the section of SH1 between Acheron Road and the Plimmerton Roundabout. The work is being carried out by Capital Journeys (Fulton Hogan/Opus) from Sunday to Thursday nights between 7pm and 5.30am. Weather permitting, this section is expected to be completed by mid September at which time work will begin on the northbound section of Mana Esplanade between the Paremata Bridge and Pascoe Avenue and all lanes close to the bridge. Some preparatory repairs will also be done immediately south of the bridge on SH1 and SH58 ahead of resurfacing works that are scheduled for later in the summer maintenance season.

High-tide Walkway along Dolly Varden Foreshore

The Association's main Village Planning project for 2015/16 was construction of improved access for walkers and cyclists along the Dolly Varden foreshore reserve, particularly at two sections of the reserve which were very difficult to negotiate at high tide. The work was completed early this year and, following meetings with local residents, a working bee to carry out improvements to the surface of the reserve was held in April. A further working bee was held in June to plant hundreds of native plants on both sides of the new stretches of pathway. Many thanks to all those who turned out. Further working bees are anticipated in the near future to replace some clumps of exotic weed species in selected areas elsewhere on the reserve and to maintain the natives already planted.

This Year's Village Planning Projects

We have recently been advised of allocations made under the Council's Village Planning Programme for this financial year. For Paremata:

- \$20,000 has been allocated to explore issues and identify solutions relating to erosion of the Dolly Varden foreshore reserve.
- \$12,000 has been provided for construction of steps or a ramp to improve access from the coastal walkway around Goat Point down to the Ngatitua Domain beach.
- In addition, the Village Planning Team will facilitate discussions between Kiwirail and the Residents Association (and other stakeholders as appropriate) regarding potential pedestrian access across the railway tracks from the northern end of the Mana Shopping Centre and will assist in scoping the need for lighting near the old Post Office building.

Aotea Lagoon

A number of changes are anticipated at the Lagoon. We were recently advised by PCC that the Shade House needed to be demolished after an engineer's



examination found it was structurally unsound. We also know that Rotary is working on planning and design for a proposed sound stage in this general area.

In addition, Council is planning to build a water play area (splash pad) at the Lagoon. Council originally committed \$545,000 to the project in its Long-term Plan but recently was asked to provide additional funding of \$341,000 which would enable construction of a 250 square metre splash pad on the preferred site currently occupied by the northern duck pond.

The Association has also made requests for a pedestrian crossing on Papakowhai Road outside the Lagoon. Latest advice from PCC is that they will be undertaking a further survey of pedestrian patterns in the coming spring months to help assess where any crossing would best be located.

Paremata Roundabout Issues

Most will be aware of the frequent delays for southbound SH1 traffic at the Paremata roundabout caused by the constant stream of northbound traffic turning into SH58. And those who use the carpark at the Paremata railway station know of the difficulties and dangers involved in entering and exiting that area. These matters have been taken up with NZTA, GWRC and PCC, so far without any results. The latest situation appears to be:

- Surveys of car park usage (including origin/destination surveys and CCTV analysis to determine potential wait times for drivers exiting the station car park during evening peak traffic flows) have been carried out by GWRC and NZTA;
- Traffic modelling analysis of the roundabout and traffic flows has been undertaken to provide some potential lane reconfiguration options. According to NZTA, the next step is wider consultation on these options and *“then these potential improvements would be prioritised against other network operational efficiency improvements”*.
- It seems clear that NZTA are determined that any changes made at the roundabout do not have a negative impact on through traffic flows and would rather see train commuters using other car parking options (e.g. Mana).
- In the meantime, GWRC is not prepared to develop additional parking at the south end of the existing carpark (an estimated 50 additional parks) because they are *“reluctant to further exacerbate the existing safety issue by introducing additional cars to the afternoon exiting hazard”*.
- And as a result, cars are being parked in places never intended for that purpose - including that stretch of Papakowhai Road to the south of the pedestrian overbridge where cars are now parking on both sides of the road effectively reducing the usable road to one lane. We have asked the Council to address this issue and they are currently investigating the best possible solution, probably by limiting parking to one or other side of the road.



Need for Dog Park

Dog owners (and others) are telling us that they would like there to be a secure off-lead dog exercise park in Porirua. Given the large number of dogs in our area and the advantages of having dogs exercised in a secure area, the Association would welcome any ideas that residents may have which could be passed on to the Council.

Ngatittoa Domain Playgrounds

There have been some big changes for the younger set at Ngatittoa Domain. The Council has erected a tower with two slides, along with a tyre swing, on the western slope of the domain (between the playing fields and the foreshore) aimed at older children. For younger children, the old playground by the Playcentre and netball courts is now equipped with a multi-bay swing a see-saw and a "springy animal". Some people have told the Association that they are disappointed by the changes to the old playground. If you have any concerns about this, please let us know so that we can pass them on to the Council.

Other Matters

- The St Barnabas Church has advised us of major plans to develop its Mana Esplanade site with construction of a new hall, meeting rooms, kitchen and children's area. It is planned to construct the new community facility over the next 12 months.
- We understand that the Council has set aside funding for building a diving platform near the Paremata Bridge this year (subject to contributions from GWRC and NZTA) but don't know any details at this stage.
- The Council recently carried out a review of its property holdings, including reserves. Although it was agreed to retain Moray Park in Papakowhai, we note that the Council has decided to declare as surplus Halladale Reserve and Iona Park (Papakowhai), Penryn Reserve (Camborne) and 4A Karoro Place (Paremata).
- We have not heard anything further about studies to improve the traffic situation at the Whitford Brown / Papakowhai Road intersection.

Website and Facebook Details

The Association has both a website www.paremataresidents.co.nz and facebook page www.facebook.com/paremataresidents. The Secretary can be contacted by email on judid@paradise.net.nz or by phone on (04)233 9693. We welcome your feedback.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2016 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” 389012-0506915-00. Please send an email to judid@paradise.net.nz, with Subs as the subject, when you have done so. To enable us to adhere to the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act, please list the names of the members of your household, your address and occupation(s) in the body of the email

✂-----

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

A cheque for our household’s 2016 subscription of \$10 is enclosed
I would also like to make a donation of: \$.....

Name(s):	Address	Occupation