

PRESIDENT'S REPORT June 2019

Acknowledgements

Firstly I would like to introduce and acknowledge the activities of the current Executive Committee that has worked for this community over the last year:

Russell Morrison (President/Vice P), Francesse Middleton (Treasurer), Geoff Neill (Minutes Secretary), Judi Doornbos (Secretary), Coralie Morrison, Ian Barlow, Ray Baker-Underhill, Maureen Gillon, Caroline Van Halderen and Michael Black.

I also want to recognise the invaluable contact we have with Greater Wellington and Porirua City councillors, particularly Jenny Brash and Ross Leggett, who regularly attend and inform our committee meetings. And also the input and help from the Council's Village Planning Team. Once again this year we need to recognise the assistance of Euon Murrell and Tommy's Real Estate for continuing to print our newsletters and leaflets. This service is very much appreciated.

General

At the January 2019 committee meeting Russell Morrison stepped down as President as he signalled when re-elected. I was appointed to the position and Russell accepted the resulting vacant position of Vice President. I am very grateful to Russell for his commitment and service to the Association and particularly over the last 12 hectic months. We are pleased that he will continue to be involved with issues that he has campaigned on for many years.

In February 2019 Leina Isno resigned from the committee to pursue medical studies in Dunedin. Leina did an excellent job getting our Facebook page up and running. Her enthusiasm and dedication will be missed. Fortunately Coralie Morrison has picked up the Facebook responsibility and continues to identify local issues and events and provide a forum for discussion. Check it out at: [**facebook.com/paremataresidents**](https://facebook.com/paremataresidents).

In April 2019 the committee nominated Judi Doornbos for a Porirua City Council (PCC) civic award to recognise her service to the community since the 1960's with a number of organisations. Judi was granted the award and received it at the award ceremony in June.

The 12 months since the last AGM have been quite demanding, with an emphasis on road and parking issues; village projects; feedback/submissions/review of PCC's annual plan, long-term plan, growth strategy and alcohol bylaw review; and Greater Wellington's environmental strategy.

Some updating of the Association's web site has been achieved this year, but it is far from complete. Improvement will continue in 2019 as time allows. Our web site will be the place for information about the Association, key issues and our projects and plans.

Key Issues affecting the Association's Residents

• Paremata Roundabout

Many of us have been affected by traffic jams at the roundabout, causing long southbound queues on Mana Esplanade and making it difficult to exit the train station. The Association has been raising this issue with NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) and PCC for many years.

The changes NZTA made to the roundabout and train station exit last year were intended to solve the problem, but the Association was not convinced and believed it could make the situation worse. We believed it could only be improved by creating gaps in the north and east bound traffic, such as with traffic signals. We requested a review of the changes made and NZTA eventually responded

with a proposal to install traffic metering signals to the traffic lanes approaching the roundabout from the south. All Resident Associations in our area, and PCC agreed to support NZTA's proposal.

I am pleased to say that NZTA have confirmed the signals will become operational on 1 July. The signals will operate on weekdays from 4pm to 6pm and be monitored/adjusted to ensure queue lengths are manageable. Refer to our website for more information www.paremataresidents.co.nz.

- **Mana Clearways**

NZTA and PCC are facing pressure to do something about the increasingly frequent and lengthy queues that are occurring for traffic using Mana Esplanade, particularly northbound traffic on weekends and before public holidays. Often this results from one or two vehicles legally parked on Mana Esplanade.

NZTA provided the Association with traffic data that showed some changes to clearway hours can be justified based on current volumes. Extending the clearway hours requires formal consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and, for changes of 3.5 hours or more, a change to the designation under the RMA. So receiving approval to change the clearway hours will not happen quickly. NZTA confirm that they have written to PCC on the clearways and are waiting for a reply.

In the meantime the Paremata Residents Association believes urgent action needs to be taken to relieve the impact on motorists and residents. In May we provided Mana Esplanade residents and businesses with a leaflet outlining the problem and seeking the cooperation and support (including their visitors and service vehicles), by not parking on the Esplanade at peak traffic times currently outside clearway hours.

If you want to learn more about the history of the T2 lanes (remember them?) and clearways read Russell Morrison's Mana Clearways-Potted History on our website.

- **Paremata Station Parking**

Paremata Residents Association has been asking Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) for an extension to Paremata station car parking since 2015, but met with resistance due to safety concerns over cars exiting the station. Since then parking has become a much bigger problem, particularly in the streets around Paremata School – and made worse in the last few months after GWRC changed the train fare zone at Paremata, attracting Mana and Plimmerton commuters.

In April, GWRC started work on the station car park upgrade. The extra car parks are expected to be completed by mid-July 2019. However, looking at the number of cars now parking elsewhere, we are concerned that the planned 70 approx. new car parks may not be enough.

Village Projects (current)

- **Dolly Varden Foreshore Erosion Control**

Over the last 12 months progress has been made by PCC's coastal consultant (Jim Dahm) in producing a 3D model of the beach reserve using drone photography and using it to develop options to reshape the sand dunes on the beach reserve for better/safer pedestrian access and use the sand to mitigate the effects of beach erosion.

A community workshop was held in February to explain, discuss and receive feedback on the preliminary options for excavation, path and beach nourishment for the southern and central sections of the reserve. We are now waiting for a draft proposal of the preferred option to be completed before coming back to the community and stakeholders for feedback. Detailed plans will then be drawn up and a landscape/planting plan completed.

Since this work will not be completed by the end of June, approval is being sought to carry over \$32,000 of the \$40,000 funding from the Council's village projects budget to 2019/20.

- **Mana Lighting**

The project is to provide pedestrian lighting from Mana Station at the rear and northern sides of New World that resulted from a safety audit carried out last year. Ian Barlow has project managed this project for the Association in conjunction with Bill Inge from PCC's Village Planning team.

Design of the lighting installation has been completed and application made for resource consent. Agreement has been obtained from Paul Deere, the new owner of Mana New World supermarket, and Foodstuff Ltd - since the lighting columns and cabling will occupy New World's and Foodstuff's land. Approval has also been given by the owner of Berkley Villas as affected owner. Paul Deere has also agreed to provide power for the lights and their ongoing maintenance.

Resource consents will not be approved before the end of June, so approval is being sought to carry over \$44,000 to 2019/20 year.

- **Ngati Toa Domain Heritage Trail**

This project is to provide a history trail of one of the earliest Maori settlements in the Wellington region with support from Mana Lions. Heritage boards were planned with information in both English and Maori at different locations to form a "trail". Ian Barlow has again been managing this project for the Association in conjunction with Bill Inge of PCC's Village Planning team.

We believed agreement on the content and location of the heritage boards was reached in discussion with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, however we have received advice from Council's archaeologist that has resulted in a review of some of the sites chosen. Certain areas of Ngati Toa Domain have high archaeological and cultural significance and any excavation will require Archaeological Authority approval. It has now been decided to review the heritage trail location and content with Ngati Toa representatives before applying to the Archaeological Authority.

\$20,000 provided by PCC was carried over to this year to complete the project. However complications with obtaining heritage approvals has delayed the project. Completion is now expected in the 2019/20 year, so approval to carry over unspent funding has been sought.

- **Paremata School Slow-down Zone**

PCC provided funding of \$15,000 for the investigation and implementation of traffic safety measures to address vehicle speeds along Paremata Crescent in the vicinity of Paremata School.

While speed data collected didn't reveal speed related issues, the survey identified that some signage identifying the "school zone" would be beneficial, particularly for motorists approaching the school along Paremata Crescent from the south.

A site meeting including Mike George (the Council's Road Safety Coordinator) outlined proposed parking changes in Station Road and along Paremata Crescent in the vicinity of Paremata School. The changes are intended to relieve congestion at school drop-off and pick-up times but are likely to affect commuter parking. The Association has requested that no changes are made until after the additional station car parks become available.

Village Projects (requests for 2019)

We have submitted 2 village projects to PCC for funding under the 2019/20 Village Planning Programme. These are in addition to the carry-over of funding for existing projects not yet complete. The projects are:

- **Dolly Varden Foreshore Erosion Control Physical works**

The current project will continue in 2019 to produce the draft proposal for beach reserve reshaping and nourishment, community consultation on the proposal and production of detailed design and landscaping plans. The 2019 proposal for Council funding follows on from the current project to produce consent applications for the physical works, and carry out the earthworks, reshaping, sand placement and landscaping required.

- **New Village Plan**

The current Paremata Village Plan was completed in 2012 following extensive community consultation on what was seen as pressing issues and key areas for improvement and development. It was a substantial piece of work achieved with support from PCC staff.

Over the last 7 years some issues have been resolved and projects completed (or underway) and community preferences may have changed. The 2019 Council Growth Strategy recognised that the planned opening of Transmission Gully Motorway in 2020 and revocation of parts of SH1 and SH58 should provide opportunities for significant change in our area.

We believe now is the right time for a new Village Plan based on the community's vision and aspirations for the future. We propose to develop the new plan through questionnaires, surveys and workshops to capture the community's preferences and to identify key issues.

Tony Shaw

President, Paremata Residents Association