

Annual Report 2022-23

I am pleased to provide a summary of key events and developments that took place during the 2022/23 fiscal year.

Proposed District Plan

The Wellington City Council released the City's Proposed District Plan (PDP) for public comment, initiating the Association's efforts to respond to proposals to rezone parts of inner residential Thorndon as City Centre Zone and to significantly reduce the area proposed as Character Precincts. An Independent Commissioners Panel was convened last year to review the PDP. It is convening hearings across various topics such as strategy, residential areas, heritage, city center, and more. These hearings will continue into 2024, but the Commissioners' recommendations on residential provisions will be delivered later in 2023. To date the Association has submitted in three Hearing Streams.

Infrastructure and Urban Planning

WCC infrastructure projects and urban planning initiatives have continued to impact Thorndon. This included the implementation of cycleways in Bowen St and Tinakori Rd. More recently the Thorndon Connections proposal which will result in more than 100 car parks being removed from Molesworth, Murphy and Mulgrave streets. The Association joined the Thorndon Community Group to help the wider community get informed, engaged and to submit on WCC's proposals. This resulted in a clear majority of submitters opposing WCC's proposal. The response helped see some improvements adopted by WCC, however other significant and impactful parts of the proposal to change the layout and use of key streets were approved by WCC despite strong community objection, and offering viable alternatives. The Association expresses its appreciation to all the businesses and residents who actively engaged in this project.

Queens Park and Community

The Friends of Queens Park continue their monthly gardening activities, enhancing the park's beauty and enjoyment. Notable events in the park included the unveiling of plaques by the Governor-General and the Mayor to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. More recently a coronation event was held in collaboration with the Thorndon Society to commemorate the accession of King Charles III to the throne. WCC has acknowledged the work of the Friends of Queens Park and planned various improvements, including path repairs, tree maintenance, mulching, signage updates, and assistance in acquiring more trees and plants. The park working bees are enjoyable networking opportunities for anyone wishing to participate. See details on the website. We owe Peter Steel much gratitude for his considerable efforts and coordination of this project.

Building Developments and Renovations:

Major building developments, such as for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at 61 Molesworth Street, Archives New Zealand at the corner of Mulgrave and Aitken, and a newbuild in Kate Sheppard Place will bring notable changes to the area. We've watched the Proximity project at 172 Thorndon Quay being built and the ongoing Wellington Girls College refurbishment. Development of the former Revera House site, adjacent to Old St Paul's, remains on hold.

Emergency Response

We've refreshed our liaison with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) and updated information on ours and WREMO's website concerning emergency response and our Emergency Hub at Thorndon School where people can share ideas, skills, and resources to help each other get through an emergency.

Community Engagement and Advocacy:

The Thorndon community has demonstrated increased cohesion and engagement on local matters. This was particularly apparent with the response to WCC bike network proposals in the vicinity of New World Thorndon. The Association has continued to actively liaise with other Wellington Residents' Associations and other entities with shared values and concerns, such as [LIVE WELLington](#). The Association has actively engaged with Councillors to support residents and to voice opinions on achieving positive change. We have confronted the paucity of consultation by WCC and worked hard this past year to obtain better information from the council; perhaps the number of Official Information requests is a measure of this. Read the Association's website for more information or visit https://fyi.org.nz/user/thorndon_residents_association

Appreciations

We value the active participation and contributions of members and our community, and we remain committed to addressing concerns and advocating for residents' interests to help achieve a sense of community and maintain a healthy, vibrant, liveable Thorndon.

I express my appreciation to the TRA Committee, to TRA Members who have made special contributions to projects, Tommy's Real Estate for sponsoring the Newsletter, Anita our responsive webmaster, and Maxi for our Facebook presence.

The TRA wishes to acknowledge funding assistance from WCC's Social and Recreation Fund.

Richard Murcott

Chair

May 2023

<https://www.thorndon.org.nz/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ThorndonResidentsAssociation>