



thorndon.org.nz

Chair's report to the Members of Thorndon Residents' Association for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Community Disaster Response

The old Civil Defence Posts have been replaced by Community Emergency Hubs. About 160 have been set up in the Wellington Region and our local Hub is at Thorndon Primary School in Turnbull Street (off Murphy Street), right next to the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO). The Hub is now signposted at the main entrance to the school. Bearing in mind that the motorway may be a barrier for some to access Thorndon School after a disaster, other Hubs to note are at the Play Centre, Wadestown Road, Wadestown and the School at 15 Clifton Terrace.

The Hubs are a place for people to gather to offer and receive help, provide information or simply talk to others. There is a small kit of mainly stationery and a Hub Guidance document to help organise the Hub.

Your Residents Association has worked with WREMO and we now have our own Hub Guide for Thorndon containing information about facilities and amenities that could be useful after a disaster. All the Hub guides can be seen at www.getprepared.nz/my-community//. In the next year we will work with WREMO and Thorndon School on an open day that will give residents a chance to visit the Hub and enjoy an activation exercise.

Queen's Park

Your committee continues to support Peter Steele and other residents in their pursuit of a solution to the long-term neglect of Queen's Park. Suggestions for redevelopment were prepared by an advisor contracted by Wellington City Council. Preliminary ideas were discussed with residents. Several working bees to begin the clean-up took place.

Traffic Report

Progress on changes to parking zones and the anomalous Thorndon parking restrictions remains frustratingly slow. We made a submission to the Council on its new policy proposals. Action has been delayed by Covid-19 restrictions.

Thorndon School Land Swap

Productive negotiations with the Thorndon School Trustees resulted in all parties reaching agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding covering public access to the school grounds. The Ministry of Education developed an easement to be applied to the land title. All objections were withdrawn and the swap was able to proceed. Signing of the Memorandum was delayed by the summer school break and the Covid-19 lockdown but we expect to conclude the formalities soon.

Ongoing communication

We continue to publish the Thorndon Tribune and deliver a copy to all households in Thorndon but publication in the past year was limited to one issue. Our website www.thorndon.org.nz provides additional information.

Finances

The financial statement in the format approved for small charities is circulated with this report. There are no unusual matters to report.

General

We welcome Councillor Tamatha Paul and congratulate her on her election to the Wellington City Council. It was a pleasure to be able to meet with her soon after the election to welcome her to the role and to introduce the Association. We welcome back Councillors Iona Pannett and Nicola Young. Your committee has continued to monitor activity around Thorndon and has met with Cr Young to discuss these and other matters impacting on the Thorndon Community with a view to seeking suitable solutions.

I wish to record our thanks to Sadie Laurenson, our former secretary who has retired from the committee and to Reade Thompson-Trott who supported our digital communications and who has moved out of Thorndon.

We continue to seek help from others in our community. If you are interested in a role on the committee or assisting with preparing the newsletter, or other activities please contact us. Details are on the website.

We extend our thanks to you, our members, for your support, The Thorndon Hotel for its continued support, Wellington City Council for its financial support, Anita Henderson of i4Design for her work on maintaining and updating our website, and Tommy's Real Estate for newsletter sponsorship and financial support. We also thank our ward councillors for their continued support and assistance and the Principal of Thorndon School for his co-operation and help.

Marion Cowden

May 2020