

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THORNDON POOL 1924 – 2024

In 1922 the Evening Post reported on a deputation from the Wellington North Ratepayers Association who *'waited upon the City Council last night to ask that immediate steps be taken to provide swimming baths for Thorndon'*. The newspaper went on to state *'the Mayor (Mr R. A. Wright) in reply, said that the council recognised that Thorndon was justly entitled to new baths'*.

The first swimming pool in the area had opened in 1877 at Pipitea Point and was known as the Thorndon Baths. This was a salt water, unheated pool jutting out into the harbour. In the same year there was a tidal wave that hit the harbour having crossed from an earthquake in South America. This damaged the Thorndon Baths and a new building and pool was built in 1900. Again, this pool was situated in the harbour. This building was demolished in 1920 to make way for a large reclamation project to provide land for railway and wharf facilities. The wide promenade, along Thorndon Quay, which was popular with citizens, had at the city end the Thorndon Baths. The promenade was also absorbed into these land developments.

The pool we know today was officially opened on 19 November 1924 by the Mayor. This is recorded on the original marble plaque on the exterior wall of the pool. At first the pool was salt water, then was chlorinated and heated. The first heating was supplied by the brewery across the road. The brewery tower still survives as part of Thorndon New World. The pool is now gas heated. As the Wellington City Council records on its website: *'While only open in summer, the pool is still cherished by the community, who will brave any Wellington weather to go for a swim'*.

With all the schools in the Thorndon/Pipitea area no longer having swimming pools, the local pool is a wonderful asset for children learning to swim.

Let's support our local amenity. A lovely time can be had by young and old in this sunny, safe, relaxing haven.



Thorndon Pool. National Library. c 1920s. Photographer unknown

CHILDRENS' PLAYGROUND—BOTANIC GARDEN

A new playground was opened in the Botanic Garden in February 2024. It is a lovely area for children, with all sorts of play spaces and fun physical challenges. The design and building of the playground was commissioned by the Wellington City Council (WCC). CREO (Play space, design and build) completed their work at a cost of \$0.95M.

The existing playground was 22 years old. The Council has a renewal schedule for children's playgrounds of between 17 and 22 years. Unfortunately, with this new playground development there comes very little parking. The playground is closer to the Kelburn 'top end' of the garden where there is spartan parking. Using the Kelburn entrance to the garden means a steep uphill walk to get back to a car. There is some Wilson parking at the Kelburn end of the garden, which is a cost to the visitor.

The recommendations for parking, if people are visiting the gardens, by the WCC all involve a cost. Parking on Tinakori Road or on Glenmore Street is now very limited with the Council having removed hundreds of parking spaces in the vicinity for bike/bus lane developments. None of this engenders the sense of freedom to easily visit the playground on a whim, let alone the destination landmark that is the Botanic Garden. Extra planning and logistics come to the fore not only for younger parents and caregivers but also for grandparents wishing to steal an opportunity to take grandchildren to the playground or the garden.

MEETING WITH WARD COUNCILLOR ROGERS

TRA Committee members met with Councillor Rogers in August. Rogers was elected a Pukehinau/Lambton Ward Councillor in the February 2024 by-election. The vacancy arose from the departure of Cnr Tamatha Paul who became the MP for Central Wellington. Issues canvassed the TRA's experiences with Council during the recent years, including impacts of the following:

- spatial and district planning processes
- reshaping our streets programme
- rates increases; consequences for owners and renters
- Court of Appeal judgement (July) against WCC - some decision making judged unlawful
- adverse impacts on local businesses

The TRA members highlighted reasons for Council to focus on fundamental infrastructure in Thorndon/Pipitea. Councillor Rogers was invited to respond but at the time of publication no response had been received.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HUB GUIDE

All Wellington City Community Emergency Hub Guides are available on WREMO's (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office) website wremo.nz

A link to the Thorndon Hub guide, as well as Section 5 of the guide, specifically dealing with Thorndon and Pipitea, is also available on the TRA website: www.thorndon.org.nz/emergency-response/

Section 5 of the guide contains information specific to Thorndon and Pipitea should there be an emergency. The Hub (formally known as the Civil Defence Centre) is situated at Thorndon School. This is where coordination for the areas named would take place immediately after an emergency was called. It is useful for residents to be familiar with the places and resources that are available should there be a major call for assistance. The Hub is at 20 Turnbull Street - Thorndon School and the playing field opposite contains a large emergency water tank. The document goes on to explain where there are safe large and small open areas and buildings where evacuated residents may need to go, as well as resources that may be assumed to be freely available, but would be rationed.

Having a plan for yourself and your family is important. Thorndon and Pipitea are through points for many people who move in and out of Wellington every day. There may be many children and adults who live outside central Wellington who will also need assistance should there be an emergency. The suburb needs to be ready and informed.

The Community Emergency Hub is activated when there has been a major emergency where people need assistance, and the support needed is beyond current capability of Council and emergency services.

There are numerous resources, translated into more than 15 different languages to help with 'preparedness' on the WREMO website: wremo.nz/get-ready/



BIKE LANES UPDATE

WCC advise that reshaping Molesworth, Murphy and Mulgrave streets *should* be concluded by November 2024. Community options for safer designs were rebuffed by WCC. We watch with concerned interest.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

QUEENS PARK WORKING BEE DATES

2024: Sat 19 Oct, Sun 17 Nov, Sat 14 Dec.

2025 Sat 22 Feb, Sun 16 Mar, Sat 12 Apr.

10-12noon, meet top of the Park St steps.

thorndon.org.nz/queens-park-a-forgotten-gem

OCTOBER HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2024

26 October - 17 November 2024

wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz

THORNDON FAIR 2024

1 December, Tinakori Rd / Hill St 10AM—3PM

www.thorndonfair.nz

STAKEHOLDERS INFLUENCE CHANGE

The Post front-page article on 30 July by Julie Jacobson noted the difficulties for emergency services navigating road works, bus/bike lanes, speed humps and raised pedestrian crossings.

Fire & Emergency NZ (FENZ) raised alarm bells over the planned speed humps on Thorndon Quay. They stated the proposed signalised raised crossings would slow fire crews and could be the difference between life and death. The same concerns apply to the ambulance service.

On Thursday 8 August 2024, Wellington City Council's Regulatory Processes Committee (RPC) agreed to changes relating to the raised pedestrian crossings and the number of traffic lights planned as part of the Thorndon Quay improvements. The RPC chose to reconsider the crossings following feedback from stakeholders.

The RPC's final decisions are listed below:

- Remove the signalised pedestrian crossing and raised safety platform at Gun City (87 Hutt Road)
- Remove the raised safety platforms and install signalised pedestrian crossings only outside Hirepool (243 Thorndon Quay)
- Remove the raised safety platforms and install signalised pedestrian crossings only outside Bordeaux Bakery (220 Thorndon Quay)
- Retain the raised safety platforms signalised and pedestrian crossings outside Co. Kids (170 Thorndon Quay) and VTNZ (162 Thorndon Quay)
- Retain the raised safety platforms and the signalised pedestrian crossings outside Pipitea Marae (55-59 Thorndon Quay).

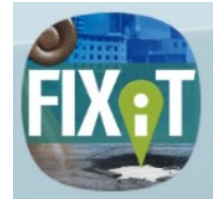
The ramifications of these decisions will be watched closely by the TRA.



BECOME A MEMBER AT WWW.THORNDON.ORG.NZ

WCC FIXIT APP

The smartphone app, FIXIT, gives Thorndon and residents of wider Wellington a great way to easily alert Wellington City Council about any problems you see which need fixing e.g. water leaks, street lamps, graffiti, potholes, fallen trees, etc.



The app is free and allows you to take a photo, tag the location on Google maps and leave a description of the problem. WCC log the report, staff or contractors are notified and you receive an acknowledging email.

THORNDON QUAY PETITION OUTCOME

In July 2024 a petition with 1,937 signatories requested WCC pause the Thorndon Quay/Hutt Rd project while an independent project review be undertaken of the condition of the pipes below the road.

In response officers reported that the risk is low for a significant water pipe failure either during or post construction. Accommodation has been made for regular access for Wellington Water to undertake routine maintenance and inspection activities within the design of the project.

On 12 September WCC's Environment and Infrastructure Committee upheld officer recommendations to continue with the construction works as planned and a usual post-implementation review to examine the overall project decision making process at the conclusion of the project. The target works completion date is by July 2025.

BUS STOP 5312 RECONFIGURATION—TINAKORI RD

The experimental temporary in-line bus stop and bike lane proved problematic including with it being too close to the Bowen St intersection. A permanent stop is now a few meters further along Tinakori Rd opposite St Mary St, beside steps to Anderson Park. Parked buses still interrupt traffic. The width of the pedestrian path has also been narrowed to fit the bike lane between the path and buses.

Published quarterly by Thorndon Residents' Association Inc. & distributed throughout Thorndon.
Proudly supported by Tommy's Real Estate.
Email contact@thorndon.org.nz with comments, suggestions or advertising.

