

WHERE WE LIVE



To those who have recently arrived in Thorndon or Pipitea – **welcome.**

Thorndon and Pipitea are historic inner city suburbs, often spoken of as one community. Thorndon is one of Wellington's oldest residential areas. Pipitea Pā and the surrounding lands were home to Te Āti Awa (particularly the Te Matehou hapū) and Ngāti Mutunga from the 1820s to the 1840s, following the Taranaki migrations. Pipitea became a formally recognised suburb in 2003, encompassing the Parliamentary Precinct, the Beehive, and reclaimed land beside Thorndon Quay. Today, the Thorndon Residents' Association represents both suburbs, which are frequently described as a single, lively, inner city neighbourhood.

But where we live is more than boundaries, buildings, streams, and parks. Community is the lifeblood of these suburbs. It's a living network of relationships, shared experiences, and the simple act of looking out for one another.

Whether you're here for a short time or a lifetime, what matters is the desire to live in a peaceful, caring environment and to value the diversity that makes these suburbs special. Communities thrive when residents help shape the neighbourhood into something meaningful. Being surrounded by people who genuinely care about each other and about the place we live, turns a suburb into a home.

Do you know your neighbours? When did you last say *kia ora* or *hi*? Even a small connection matters. In serious events or emergencies, neighbours are often the first to step forward. Humanity has a way of dissolving differences when someone needs help.

Strong communities grow from individual contributions, no matter how small. In return, you gain a sense of belonging and the reassurance that you're not alone. Volunteering is one of the easiest ways to build these connections. Much of the support in Thorndon and Pipitea, formal and informal, comes from people who give their time with no expectation of reward. It's also a great way to meet others and learn about the area.

We warmly welcome your membership in the Thorndon Residents' Association. Members receive updates on local issues, events, and changes affecting the neighbourhood.

If you're new to the area, walking the suburbs is a great way to get your bearings. You'll meet volunteers and locals who love sharing stories about the places and buildings that make Thorndon and Pipitea unique. The National Library and Archives New Zealand hold rich material about both suburbs, but the streets themselves offer their own history.

Some walks to explore:

Te Ara o Ngā Tūpuna (The Trail of Our Ancestors): A 2 hour, 3.2 km trail beginning at Pipitea Marae and highlighting early Māori history, including Pipitea Pā and Kumutoto Kainga.

Old Thorndon Heritage Walk: Focuses on the suburb's residential history, including Katherine Mansfield's childhood home.

Commonwealth Walkway: A 9 km loop with six markers in Thorndon/Pipitea, highlighting significant monuments and buildings.

Old Shoreline Heritage Trail: Traces the 1840 shoreline from Te Aro to Pipitea Pā.

Parliamentary Precinct Walk: A short walk around Molesworth and Mulgrave Streets, featuring Old Government Buildings, Old St Paul's, and Parliament.

More information is available on the Wellington City Council website: <https://wellington.govt.nz/>

Enjoy these two suburbs – Thorndon and Pipitea – they are precious.



AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS)

This is the first of a two-part article about AED and CPR guidance specifically targeted for Thorndon/Pipitea residents. The next newsletter (Autumn) will call for interest in training to be able to administer CPR and use an AED machine. This will be arranged by the TRA Committee in conjunction with Wellington Free Ambulance.



- Should you have to use an AED would you know where to look for an accessible machine? Some are housed in office buildings and the AED machines are not accessible; some are not available after business hours or in the weekends or on statutory holidays.
- Did you know you need a phone with you to access an AED machine? You must ring 111 to get the code to enter the AED.
- There is a different placement of the defibrillator pads or AED electrode pads for adults than for children. Did you know?
- CPR for an adult, CPR for a child, CPR for a baby? Do you know what to do?

Let's find out more. You may need to use an AED machine one day or administer CPR. BE PREPARED.

What is an AED Machine

An **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** is a portable device that analyses heart rhythm and delivers an electric shock if needed to restore a normal heartbeat. AEDs are designed for **public use**, with voice prompts and visual instructions guiding you step-by-step.

Key points:

- Used during sudden cardiac arrest, when the heart stops beating effectively.
- Provides automated analysis—you don't need medical training to operate one.
- Early CPR plus AED use can increase survival rates by up to 80%.

Where to Find AEDs in Thorndon and Pipitea

New Zealand's AED Locations database lists thousands of publicly accessible AEDs. While availability can change, the following tools and resources help you locate the nearest device:

1. AED Locations NZ Website and App

The **AED Locations NZ** map shows AEDs across the country, including Thorndon and Pipitea. It's supported by Wellington Free Ambulance, the Heart Foundation, and others.

- Searchable by address
- Available as a **free iOS and Android app** or by accessing the website <https://aedlocations.co.nz/>
- Shows hours of access and placement notes

2. Community Emergency Hub – Thorndon School

Thorndon School (Te Kura o Pipitea) is the designated **Community Emergency Hub** for the area. The hub has emergency equipment and the school has an AED on site.

3. Local Businesses and Public Facilities

Many AEDs in Wellington are placed in:

- Government buildings (common in Thorndon/Pipitea)
- Schools and community centres
- Supermarkets and gyms
- Large offices and public-facing organisations

Because AED availability can change, the **AED Locations app** remains the most reliable way to confirm exact placement and access hours.

How to Get AED and CPR Training in Wellington

Several organisations offer training so you can confidently respond in an emergency.

1. Wellington Free Ambulance – Free Community CPR and AED Training

Wellington Free Ambulance provides **free Heartbeat CPR training**, funded by community donors:

- Covers CPR and AED use
- Designed for everyday people
- Offered regularly across Wellington for groups

2. St John New Zealand – First Aid Courses

St John offers a wide range of first aid courses, including AED training.

3. New Zealand Red Cross – Save-a-Life Course

A 5-hour course teaching CPR, AED use, choking response, and basic life support (\$115).

4. Heart Saver Ltd – AED/CPR Training

A shorter, 1-hour AED-focused session suitable for workplaces or community groups.

Why Learning to Use an AED Matters

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen anywhere, anytime. In Wellington, **4–5 people experience cardiac arrest each week**, and immediate action from bystanders dramatically improves survival chances. AEDs are designed so **anyone** can use them—training simply builds confidence.

Want to learn AED/CPR? Information about a free training session and how to enrol will be in the next Thorndon Residents' Association Newsletter.

WASTEWATER INTERCEPTOR ON MURPHY

Wellington Water's planned upgrade to the wastewater interceptor on Murphy Street remains in the investigation and design phase, with progress slower than originally indicated.

Last year, Wellington Water advised the Thorndon Residents' Association that the **concept design would be completed in August 2025**. During their internal review, they identified the need for **additional hydraulic modelling** to understand how the proposed works might affect the downstream stormwater network. That modelling work has been underway since October 2025.

At a site meeting in mid 2025, Wellington Water also noted several local factors that would need to be incorporated into the final design and traffic management planning, including the **school crossing, bus stop, cycle lane, motorway off ramp traffic**, and the preference for **school holiday construction windows** to minimise disruption.

The Association has been expecting further milestone updates, including the establishment of a mailing list for affected residents, businesses, and the school community. As of February 2026, no new information has been provided.

We have now formally requested a status update, including:

- the current stage of the design and modelling work
- the revised timeline for the next project milestones
- confirmation of how and when community updates will resume

Thorndon residents, Wellington Girls' College, and local businesses remain directly affected stakeholders, and the Association will continue to seek clear communication on behalf of the community.

We will share further updates as soon as Wellington Water provides them.

QUEENS PARK 2026

The Friends of Queens Park have begun another year of volunteer gardening. Each month the gardeners' gather to weave their magic into the park. New planting, maintenance of paths and an eye for a weed energises this group. All are very welcome.

NOTE: The next dates for gardening are:

Sunday 22 March	Saturday 18 April
Sunday 24 May	Saturday 20 June

Meet at 10am – 12 noon weather permitting.

Volunteers meet near the top of the Park Street steps. Just turn up and join in, and/or email Peter Steel at peter@steelfamily.nz Phone 021 244 1850 to get email notifications.

Rescheduling will take place if there is bad weather – potentially the day before, if the weather forecast allows this, or after a cancellation, we will shift the gathering to the following day or the following weekend.

Some volunteers tend to the garden between working bees to keep things thriving, and this is also a nice chance to say hello and see what's happening.

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY

TGIF lunchtime concerts began again in February at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul. The concert series will run all year. Most performances are between 30 - 45 minutes in length. They are held in the Cathedral Nave and a koha of \$10.00 is suggested. All are welcome. Further information at wellingtoncathedral.org.nz/tgif

CITY ART GALLERY

The City Art Gallery has been working out of the National Library while construction work has been ongoing in Te Ngakau Civic Square. The Director, Charlotte Davy says the gallery will re-open in Civic Square in October 2026.

MUSICAL PUNCH OVER LUNCH SERIES

The 2026 concert series at Old Saint Paul's will be on Thursdays, 7 May—23 July at 12:30PM

Joining the TRA helps support our community work
<https://www.thorndon.org.nz/join-us/>

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Proudly supported by Tommy's Real Estate.

Email contact@thorndon.org.nz with comments, or suggestions.

RECENT THORNDON SALES BY TOMMY'S



3 Lewisville Terrace, Thorndon



1 Parliament Street, Thorndon



1/180 Tinakori Road, Thorndon



6/24 Patanga Crescent, Thorndon



5 Torless Terrace, Thorndon



18D Hill Street, Thorndon

Wellington Market Update - March 2026

After a turbulent couple of years, Wellington's housing market is showing clear signs of stabilising. With interest rates appearing more settled and affordability improved from peak levels, buyer activity is building and confidence is gradually returning. Listing numbers have lifted and pre-approved buyers are active. However, with more choice available, purchasers are selective. Well-presented homes with good sun, access and location are attracting the strongest interest, particularly at the entry level.

While due diligence timeframes have lengthened, with buyers carefully working through finance, insurance and council reports, overall activity is tracking upward. Measured rather than frantic, today's conditions are creating opportunity or prepared sellers and considered buyers - a steadier rhythm that many see as a healthy return to normality.

Thank you for your positive feedback and support for me at Tommy's Real Estate. I've truly enjoyed helping those who have been in contact. Just a reminder—I'm more than happy to provide free market appraisals with absolutely no obligations, especially after the recent RV changes. If you're interested, feel free to give me a call on 021 969 808!

Barry O'Brien

The Peoples Agent

