

Thorndon Tribute

Thorndon Residents' Association & Tommy's Real Estate

WINTER 2025

QUEENS PARK UPDATE

Winter is the time when many of the plants in our garden sleep. Around Thorndon/Pipitea at present are some plants that like the colder weather and bloom happily. Many different varieties of daffodil, magnolia, lavender, iris and camelia are presently giving the suburbs shots of colour.

Queens Park begins at the intersection of Wadestown Road and Grant Road. Here you will see the Nathan Memorial Fountain. This fountain was acquired by S. George Nathan in 1947 and dedicated to his son, Benson, who died during the Battle of Crete in 1941. This corner of the park is known as the Lady Mackenzie Garden.

Gardening volunteers have met for a number of years to clear, rehabilitate and maintain parts of the park and complete new planting and preserve areas such as the stand of oak trees at the north end of the park.

Have you had a wander through the park to see the work that has been completed? Presently you will see different coloured winter rose (helleborus) flowering along with ajuga, rhododendron and the beautiful red flowers of the kakabeak.



Friends of Queens Park

Saturday 30 August, Sunday 28 September,
Saturday 18 October, Sunday 16 November.

10AM – 12 Noon weather permitting. Meet near the top of the Park Street steps. All very welcome; just turn up. See more here: <https://www.thorndon.org.nz/queens-park-a-forgotten-gem/>



WELLINGTON HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Wellington Heritage Festival is a volunteer-led, community-sourced heritage and culture festival celebrating the region's people, places, and stories.

Wellington Heritage Festival acts as a platform to promote events set up by individuals, organisations, and communities in Thorndon/Pipitea and across Te Upoko-o-Te-Iko-a-Maui (the Greater Wellington Region).

All festival events are run by volunteer groups or individuals, and Wellington Heritage's role is to highlight the events on their website, social media promotion, press coverage, and more. A full calendar of events will be updated at: <https://wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz/>
You will then be able to book events.

When does the festival run?

In 2025, Wellington Heritage Festival will run for 22 days, from Saturday, October 18th until Sunday, November 9th.

As mentioned the festival will feature events across the Greater Wellington Region, with different areas highlighted each weekend. The first weekend (Oct 18-19) will focus on Wellington City & Suburbs, Mākara, and Johnsonville. The second weekend (Oct 25-27, Labour Day weekend) will focus on Tawa, Porirua, and the Kāpiti Coast. The third weekend (Nov 1-2) will focus on Lower Hutt & Upper Hutt, and the final weekend (Nov 8-9) will focus on the Wairarapa.

BOTANIC GARDEN PARKING

WCC is investigating parking options in Glenmore St to improve access to the Botanic Garden. Look out for public consultation to occur on a new Traffic Resolution, for the new Council to consider.

USING SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTING (STV) IN THE OCTOBER 2025 LOCAL BODY ELECTION

With STV, voting is easy

Instead of ticking the candidates you want to vote for, with STV you number the candidates in order of preference. Put a "1" beside the candidate you like best, then a "2" beside your second choice, "3" by your third choice, and so on. You can vote for **as many or as few** candidates as you like.

So what does the numbering do?

By giving the number "1" to a candidate, you are saying that the candidate is your number one choice.

By ranking candidates in your preferred order - 1,2,3,4 and so on - you are also saying which other candidates you prefer:

- if your top choice doesn't have enough support to get in or,
- if your top choice doesn't need all the votes they received to be elected.

What else do I need to know?

For your vote to be counted there just needs to be a single '1'. After that the numbers you use must be in sequence and there must be only one of each number. If you make a mistake, your vote will be valid up to when you made the error - for example, if you miss out a "4" and just rank 1, 2, 3 and 5, only your first three preferences will be valid.

How candidates are elected

In an STV election, candidates must reach a certain number of votes to get elected. This is called a [quota](#) or an absolute majority (in the case of a single vacancy election). The quota is based on the total number of votes and the number of vacant positions.

[Click here](#) to see a demonstration of how candidates are elected by Single Transferable Vote.

Here's how candidates are elected:

- The counting process tallies all first preference votes.
- A candidate is elected if they reach the quota.
- If a candidate is elected, they keep only the proportion of the vote they need to reach the quota. The surplus part of each vote is transferred to the voter's second preference.
- The votes are tallied again.
- If another candidate reaches the quota or gets more votes than they need to be elected, the surplus part of each vote for that candidate will be transferred to the voter's third preference.
- If no more candidates have enough support to get elected (i.e. reach the quota), the lowest polling candidate is eliminated and all votes for that candidate are transferred to those voters' next preferences.
- This process is repeated until enough candidates are elected to fill the vacant positions.

The transfer of votes is done in order of voters' preferences. This means that surplus votes are not "wasted" but are available to help other candidates to get elected.

It's a job for a computer.

Votes are counted using specially developed computer software - the formulae involved are too complex for counting to be done by hand.

The computer program:

- Works out the [quota](#) needed by each candidate to be elected.
- Keeps track of the preferences each candidate receives including transfers between candidates.
- Calculates the result.

The step by step counting process is [explained here](#).

The Department of Internal Affairs developed the program (called the STV calculator). It has been independently audited and certified, as required by law. The software is very sophisticated and provides very detailed results.

(Information provided by Internal Affairs/Te Tari Taiwhenua, 2025)

Postal Vote

The local election is held by postal vote. People who are enrolled can expect to receive their voting pack in the mail from 9 -22 September. Voting closes at noon on Saturday 11 October 2025. The last day for posting a vote by mail is 7 October 2025. After this date votes must be returned to the Council's secure orange voting bins, available at 50+ locations around the city. You can still enrol up to Friday 10 October and still vote.

Special Vote

You can cast a [special vote](#) at the election hub at Te Awe Library, 29 Brandon Street from 9 September – 12 noon, 11 October 2025. The voting hub will be open from 9.30am – 5.30pm.

WCC can send special vote papers to you. To request your papers in the post email: election@wcc.govt.nz

More details and options are available on the WCC webpage

(Wellington City Council, 2025)

COMMUNITY CANDIDATE EVENTS

WCC hosts a webpage to help advertise candidate meetings that are being convened by local communities. These events provide opportunities to hear from your local candidates.

<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/elections/2025-elections/information-for-voters/community-candidate-events>

LEAD-BASED PAINT

Moving towards Spring is often the time that people are readying their houses for painting. This can be preparation to complete painting inside or outside their home. It is important to understand the possibility of lead-based paint being present and the precautions that should be taken. Many people do not realise that furniture, including older cots and toys can contain lead-based paint.

Lead based paints began to be phased out in NZ in the mid -60s and pretty much banned altogether in the 80s. Which means, any lead-based paints that are still on properties are 45 plus years old.

As all coatings have a finite life, painting over any 50 odd year-old paint system is likely to result in some issues with your new system, like bubbling and de-lamination. A sound lead-based paint system isn't a health concern but care needs to be taken when removing it. There are guidelines for the safe handling and removal of lead-based coatings.

In conjunction with Ministry of Health and the Health Promotion Agency, [Worksafe.govt.nz](https://www.worksafe.govt.nz) has produced a set of guidelines for dealing with lead paint. Lead-based paint dust and fragments could be an issue. A good idea is to get the paint checked by a professional, who can reassure you. The paint is not always toxic when it's undisturbed. You can also test for lead in paints, using a lead paint test kit (available at paint stores). More here:

<https://www.consumer.org.nz/articles/how-to-detect-lead-in-paints-around-your-home-and-in-your-garden>

HEALTHY WINTER HOME

Branz has useful tips about improving and keeping a home warm and healthy. Discover where moisture lurks and heat escapes! There's a useful graphic to help identify where to improve your living space for maximum comfort and better health:

<https://www.branz.co.nz/healthy-home/>

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED)

An AED is an electronic device that analyzes heart rhythms and delivers an electrical shock to restore a normal heartbeat in cases of sudden cardiac arrest. Refer to the AED map: <https://aedlocations.co.nz/> to familiarise yourself with AED availability in your area.



BECOME A MEMBER AT WWW.THORNDON.ORG.NZ

NEW SPEED LIMITS NEAR SCHOOLS

Wellington City Council has proposed the implementation of the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024.

The new limits will apply to streets near these schools: Sacred Heart Cathedral School, St Mary's College, Queen Margaret College, Thorndon School, and Wellington Girls' College.

Full details here:

<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/projects/safe-speed-limits-outside-schools>

The proposal allows for a change to the posted speed limit from 50 kph to 30 kph during morning drop off and afternoon pick up school times. It affects many Thorndon streets. The times may vary depending upon which school is near.

The Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits states that all school gates and extending 150 metres in both directions from all school gates are included in the variable speed limit zone.

The 30kph signs will be both static and electronic. The static signs show the timeframes when 30 kph applies on the roads. Electronic signs are turned on and off to show the applicable speed limit.

The proposal will result in signs being installed by 1 July 2026.



If you come across a problem with graffiti, parking, street lights, water & drainage, street cleaning, issues on a road or footpath, noise, or something else, you can report the details using WCC's FIXiT app. on your phone or by using the form at

<https://services.wellington.govt.nz/report/>

The app allows photos, pinning the location on a map, and room for a meaningful description of the problem.

We encourage all residents to download and use this app.

Joining the TRA helps support our community work

<https://www.thorndon.org.nz/join-us/>

Published quarterly by Thorndon Residents' Association & distributed throughout Thorndon and Pipitea.

Proudly supported by Tommy's Real Estate.

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

Spring is only a month away!
Time to get a Free Appraisal?
Call Barry - 021 969 808

RECENT THORNDON SALES BY TOMMY'S



96 Hill Street, Thorndon



35 and 35A Grant Road, Thorndon



29 Grant Road, Thorndon



16 Parliament Street, Thorndon



5 Torless Terrace, Thorndon



26 Newman Terrace, Thorndon

Market Update - Despite the winter chill, Wellington's property market is showing signs of renewed energy. Lower interest rates have boosted buyer confidence, particularly among first-home and family-home buyers, many of whom are now entering the market with pre-approved finance.

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

