

**President's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Newtown Residents' Association to be held at Newtown Hall, Daniell Street, on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at 7.30pm.**

We have discussed and submitted on **changes to the makeup of Newtown's residential areas**. In July we submitted on Private Plan Change 79, expressing concern and opposing the change to the zoning of a property at 42a Riddiford St from Inner Residential to Suburban Centre.

Concern has been raised over the **state of the Newtown Streets**, with services such as rubbish collection, clearing drains and gardening seen to be slipping. The Residents Association has agreed to write to Wellington City Council regarding this. Members of the Residents Association taken part in a review of the Keep Newtown Clean Initiative, and have agreed to look after Keep Newtown Clean moving forwards, with the initiative now holding four events per year, rather than monthly events. These events will still rely on volunteers, and we hope that more people will step up to assist with running these.

Along with the Newtown Cultural and Community Centre, the Residents' Association was one of the key drivers of the development of the **Newtown and Berhampore Community Emergency Response Plan** with the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO). Four sessions were held in 2014 with local business, organisations, community groups and community members to develop a plan for how our community would look after itself for the first 72 hours following a disaster. The plan is now in draft format pending final amendments.

We have written several **submissions**, namely the Draft Suburban Reserves Plan in December, the Land Transport Plan in February and the Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan in March. Thank you to those who contributed to these submissions.

The **Long Term Plan** was discussed at several meetings, and a workshop session was held to gather input from the community. A consultation paper was drafted and provided to Wellington City Councillors in advance of the Long Term Plan submission period, with positive responses received. We spoke to council regarding the Long Term Plan, emphasising the need to ensure basic facilities and functions were prioritized before funds were spent on big ticket items.

**Newtown Festival** had another successful year. The Festival won the Heritage and Environment category at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards, in recognition of the excellent work the recycling steering group and volunteers put into recycling, managing to divert 50% of waste from the Street Fair to either recycling or compost this year. Investigation into establishing a Trust to run the Newtown Festival has not progressed, and in the year that comes further work should be done to ensure we have sustainable financial governance in place.

Steps have been taken to ensure the **John Street Protocols** are being respected. Jeanie McCafferty worked with contractors, retailers and WCC representatives to reach agreement on how to conduct trolley upgrades in Constable Street in the least disruptive manner. This has now been raised with Major Celia Wade-Brown, as we would like to see policies that ensure this form of consultation takes place in the future.

Members of the executive were invited to view and comment on the plans for the **Salvation Army Redevelopment** of Riddiford St, Normanby St and Donald McLean St. The Salvation Army then presented these plans and addressed the concerns of the community at a larger meeting. We hope to continue engaging with the Salvation Army in order to mitigate residents' concerns over parking, safety and environment.

Having been involved in the process of getting the **Carrara Park** Mural reinstated, we look forward to seeing this take shape. The community gardeners have also continued their work in Carrara Park, celebrating their first birthday in December with a community BBQ.

We acknowledge the ongoing **financial support** provided by Wellington City Council for operating costs of the Residents' Association and for the running of the Newtown Festival. The operating grant has used to cover hall hire, association communications, stationary supplies and volunteer up-skilling over the past year.

Finally, a **thank you** to everyone who has been involved in the Association's work over the past year, and to those who have supported me coming into the President's role.

**Claire Pettigrew**  
**President**