



## Minutes of Newtown Residents Association Meeting – Monday 17 July 2023

**Present:** Rhona Carson (President), Jane Patterson (Vice President), Michelle Wolland (Treasurer), Carol Comber (minutes), Sam Somers, Stephen Pritchard, Kevin Lethbridge, Wendy Blue, Léonie Walker, Steve Dunn, Tom Law, Don McDonald, Fleur Fitzsimons, DM Laurie Foon.

**Apologies:** Steve Cosgrove, Joyce Gibson, Sam Chandler

### **Newtown Residents' Association's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

The Celebration will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July, with an Open Day for the public to view displays while the Market is open. From 2:30pm – 4:30pm people will be invited to gather in the Hall for afternoon tea, with speeches and cake-cutting from 3pm. Laurie and Nureddin are confirmed speakers. We are waiting to hear back from long-time Newtown advocate, Paul Eagle. Rhona will extend the invitation to afternoon tea to all Councillors.

The call has gone out for historical information about NRA and other Newtown-related material for the display. This could include timelines, events or submissions. Michelle is creating a powerpoint slideshow. There will be an audio-visual display, Stephen and Sam provided some technical input. Rhona will meet with Newtown School tomorrow to see what they have available in terms of AV equipment, cups and plates, etc.

Jane is organising catering and there have been offers of help. Carol will deliver the cake around noon and can help from then. Steve Dunn can help too.

Rhona has asked other Residents' Associations and local community organisations for material to display. The Houghton Valley Progressive Association was incorporated around 100 years ago and will supply some information. Newtown School started in 1882, they may have some archival information to display. Tom is arranging for Community Patrol information, and for CPNZ to be involved. More responses are expected.

Unfortunately we have lost track of records of the Association from incorporation in 1963 until the late 1970s – there's no information at the Incorporated Societies Office or at National Archives. During her research at the National Archive, Rhona did discover that in the 1980s the association was involved in lots of Planning Tribunal appeals, and at one stage when their appeal failed the Tribunal awarded costs against the Association – there were close to 400 members at that stage and the Judge made an award of \$800.00 costs; he suggested levying each member \$2.00.

Rhona will organise for copies of Laura Rosier's Newtown History to be at the event. Claire Nolan has been going through the Newtown Library collection of Newtown History. Rhona is in touch with the WCC Engagement team who may have display information available on upcoming consultations. The Adventure Playground Photographs are on exhibition at Kilbirnie Library, but Hilary Watson has some copies we can display.

Most longstanding members: Tom Law joined the association in the late 70s, and was the most long-standing member present at this meeting. Kevin Lethbridge dates from the 80s or early 90s. Sam reported that Sir Paul Reeves joined when he was Governor-General.

To advertise our event Social media posts will be made on our Facebook page, Newtown Peeps, the Community Centre - Te Whare Hapori o Ngā Puna Waioira, and Newtown Market FB.

## Changes to Incorporated Societies Act 2022

Rhona has read through the changes to the Act and her impression is that NRA already covers off many of these provisions, e.g. members actively opt in as members each year, and the association needs to regularly update its membership, which already happens. Many of the other requirements can be updated in the constitution fairly easily.

New requirements in the Act are: the association must have a disputes resolution process; and there are requirements about who is qualified to be an Officer of a Society. In some circumstances members will be disqualified from being committee officers, e.g. a conviction for a dishonesty related offence.

[The full Act: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2022/0012/latest/LMS100892.html>

A summary of the 1908 Act compared to the 2022 Act: <https://is-register.companiesoffice.govt.nz/law-changes-for-societies/key-changes/>

The section on the grounds for officer discharge:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2022/0012/latest/LMS100915.html#LMS100915> *The text of this section 47 of the Act is included at the end of the minutes.]*

After the festivities of 29 July, Rhona will start working on changes to the Constitution – Sam and Tom are interested in being involved. Draft changes can then be circulated to the membership, for a final confirmation at the AGM in September.

**WCC Community Facilities Review** - <https://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/wellingtons-community-facilities> Submissions on the draft plan are due by 5pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

It is great to see that ‘people having fun’ is one of the aims of the plan.

The review of facilities noted that Newtown is outgrowing the Library – among other issues.

The draft plan proposal for Newtown is to *“Undertake a suburb-wide needs assessment and feasibility study to assess the optimal network of functional, cohesive and sustainable facilities.”*

Laurie Foon reported that Council Officers had indicated that they wanted to look at the Newtown Workingman’s Bowling Club project in conjunction with the wider Newtown facilities. The Facilities Review does not capture the spirit of discussions to date. Michelle suggested the site could include a memorial to the Loafer’s Lodge tragedy.

This review is an opportunity to reopen the request for toilets in Carrara Park. The community would like to see toilets installed, particularly now that there are water fountains and gas BBQs in the park. We want to banish to the past the sight of parents discretely taking their offspring to squat behind a bush. There are no public toilets nearby. A petition (and/or WCC e-petition) would be a good way to gather support for a toilet at Carrara. (Including taking the petition to nearby childcare centres).

**From a Mt Cook perspective**, Carol said that the Community Facilities document commentary on Mt Cook facilities is conspicuous by its absence.

## General Business

Jane attended the blessing for the new Owen Street Kāinga Ora apartments, and commented that the residents will need to be able-bodied as there are steps to all apartments. Otherwise they are well appointed. Josh Clark from Kāinga Ora will speak at the next NRA meeting.

Don made a request of Laurie that she report back at the next meeting about how many people pay their parking tickets.

**Meeting closed at 8:45.**

**Incorporated Societies Act 2022 – further information.**

## 47 Qualifications of officers

(1)

Every officer of a society must be a natural person.

(2)

A natural person who is not disqualified by subsection (3) may be elected or appointed as an officer of the society, so long as that person—

(a)

has consented in writing to be an officer; and

(b)

certifies that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed or otherwise holding office as an officer of the society.

(3)

The following persons are disqualified from being elected or appointed or otherwise holding office as an officer of a society:

(a)

a person who is under 16 years of age:

(b)

a person who is an undischarged bankrupt:

(c)

a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the [Companies Act 1993](#), the [Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013](#), or the [Takeovers Act 1993](#):

(d)

a person who is disqualified from being an officer of a charitable entity under [section 31\(4\)\(b\)](#) of the Charities Act 2005:

(e)

a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years:

(i)

an offence under [subpart 6](#) of Part 4:

(ii)

a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of [section 2\(1\)](#) of the Crimes Act 1961):

(iii)

an offence under [section 143B](#) of the Tax Administration Act 1994:

(iv)

an offence under [section 22\(2\)](#):

(v)

an offence, in a country, State, or territory other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iv):

(vi)

a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere:

(f)

a person who is subject to any of the following orders:

(i)

a banning order under [subpart 7](#) of Part 4:

(ii)

an order under [section 108](#) of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003:

(iii)

a forfeiture order under the [Criminal Proceeds \(Recovery\) Act 2009](#):

(iv)

a property order made under the [Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988](#), or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under [section 32](#) of that Act:

**(g)**

a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraph (f) under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations:

**(h)**

in relation to any particular society, a person who does not comply with any qualifications for officers contained in the society's constitution.

**(4)**

A natural person who is disqualified from being an officer but who acts as an officer is an officer for the purposes of a provision of this Act that imposes a duty or an obligation on an officer.

Compare: 1993 No 105 [s 151](#)