



Mission Bay Kohimarama Residents Association

Update March 2016

[Unitary Plan – rezoning by stealth](#)

The Council proposed to change the zoning in the Unitary Plan to change our suburbs from a predominantly suburban nature to a predominantly urban one. A community backlash forced them to withdraw their proposals, but was that the end of the matter?

[Entrance to Bastion Pt Steps](#)

The ugly duckling entrance to the steps from Tamaki Drive up to Bastion Point has had a makeover. Find out more.

[Mission Bay Streetscape project](#)

Auckland Transport, the Orakei Local Board and Drive Holdings (the owners of much of the Mission Bay shopping area) are proposing a project to enhance the Mission Bay dining experience. This is a chance to have your say.

[Menz shed](#)

Menz Shed wants to start a Menz Shed in the Eastern Suburbs. What is it? It involves men, tools, sheds and Terry the Toolman. Read on.

[Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve - Draft Reserve Management Plan](#)

A draft management plan has been released for this reserve which comprises the land around Kepa Rd between the Orakei shops and Orakei bridge, currently utilised in part by the pony club. Click on the link to take a look at the plan.

Unitary Plan – rezoning by stealth

In late January, the Council filed their evidence on zoning matters under the Unitary Plan with the Independent Hearing Panel. It was immediately apparent that they were proposing a massive upzoning of the Eastern Suburbs, and doing so in a manner which precluded those impacted from having any input into the decision.

As I am sure most of you are aware, local community groups got together to oppose this rezoning by stealth approach. Mission Bay Kohimarama Residents Association, in conjunction with the residents associations in Orakei, St Heliers/Glendowie, Remuera, and Meadowbank/St Johns organised a public meeting at the ASB stadium. We have an attendance of around 700, and received written submissions from 609 people, all but 6 opposing the Council plans.

We then took a strong message to the Council, who called an extra-ordinary meeting of the Councillors to consider the issue. Ultimately, after a marathon 8 hour meeting, the Council voted to withdraw their upzoning proposal.

But that was not the end of the matter. Housing NZ jumped in and subpoenaed the Council's evidence to adopt as their own. They then took an even more aggressive approach that proposed more than twice as much upzoning in our area as even the Council had asked for.

The issue now sits with the Independent Hearing Panel. They have heard testimony from Housing NZ, and counter testimony from Auckland 2040, the Orakei Local Board, Save our St Heliers and ourselves, amongst others. The hearings are continuing for a few more weeks.

The issues are many and complex, and perhaps the hardest part was trying to condense our position down to a 10 minute speaking slot. Although I failed in the 10 minute goal (thankfully this was not MasterChef!), I think our speaking notes give a clear and coherent argument for why making wholesale zoning changes without public input is not an acceptable way to proceed in a democratic society. Rather than repeat those arguments here, if you are interested then click on this [link](#).

So where to from here? The Hearing Panel will continue hearing from all submitters, and then go away to try and make sense of the massive number of submissions and counter-submissions they have heard over the past couple of years on a wide range of both broad and narrow topics. I don't envy their job! They are charged with making decisions and producing the (almost) final version of the Unitary Plan by August, at which point it goes back to the Council for their final blessing or rejection.

Entrance to Bastion Pt Steps

The steps from Mission Bay to Bastion Point have long been neglected and underused, in part, I suspect, because the entrance off Tamaki Drive has been overly discrete and ugly. That has now changed. The entrance has recently been given a makeover, based around five stunning mosaic medallions. Although the area is small, it now provides an interesting and welcoming entrance for the steps which lead to one of the area's greatest assets, Bastion Point.



The artwork, created by artists Graham Tipene and John Botica, reflects the five themes of:

- Air – our flying history: The first flying school in New Zealand established at Mission Bay and the return of native birds
- Sea – our sailing history: A canoe to represent the earliest ships with compass points in the background pointing to the early European sailing traditions
- Land – the coastal forest: The tūī, and the kowhai flowers, abundant again after revegetation of the area
- Place – Our Mission Bay
- People – All who are here now and who came before us.

The artwork was officially opened with a blessing on Friday 18 March at dawn. I would encourage you to go down there and take a look, the mosaics are fantastic.

Mission Bay Streetscape project

After many years of discussions, there is now a concrete proposal to upgrade Mission Bay's streetscape, and this plan is out for public consultation right now. You will be receiving information from Auckland Transport about this through your letterboxes this week.



Basically, the plan is to substantially widen the footpath from Patteson Ave to the Fish Pot Café to provide for much more al fresco dining. Pedestrians will walk down the centre of the new area, with dining on both the building side and the road side. The pavement will be resurfaced in a material more suited to a dining area. In the process, the car parks on this portion of Tamaki Drive will be removed.

You can take a look at the plans [here](#), and feel free to make any submissions on what you like or dislike about the plan [here](#).

Menz shed

We were recently approached by the Menz Shed organisation to ask if we could help raise awareness of their activities in the Eastern Suburbs. A Menz Shed is basically an expanded home workshop, where men can come together together in one community space to share their skills, have a laugh, and work on practical tasks individually (personal projects) or as a group (for the Shed or community). The Shed offers men an opportunity to foster new friendships outside the social circles of their partners, and give them a new focus particularly after retirement.

There is no Menz Shed in this area as yet, but Terry Moore is trying to change that. He is keen to speak with any men who think that this concept would appeal to them.

Further details can be found on their website <http://menzshed.org.nz/about-us/what-is-a-shed/> and Terry can be contacted on aucklandeastmensshed@gmail.com , phone 0271 082 90970

Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve - Draft Reserve Management Plan

The Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve is basically the land around Kepa Rd from the Orakei shops down to the Orakei Bridge, currently partly utilised by the pony club. The land is owned by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and jointly managed by them and the Council through the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Reserves Board. They have prepared a high level management plan for the area to guide its future development. This is now out for consultation, and can be viewed either at the St Heliers Library or online [here](#).