



Chair's Report 2018

This year has been a quieter year for the Association, with our major effort over the Unitary Plan now in the past. As a result, we have had the time to consider how we might add the most value to the community as an organisation. Our conclusion is that we should be more proactive, and rather than simply responding to requests for consultation and other issues as they arise, we should also look for opportunities to actively improve our community.

Yes, we have continued to respond to consultation with the Council on a variety of topics, and we have offered comments and suggestions on improving projects and developments impacting our area, such as the Tamaki Drive cycleway. But in addition, we have decided to launch some of our own initiatives and to support other similarly minded groups trying to improve the community that we live in.

The first of these initiatives was the rat trapping project, where we have had 100 rat traps built and are providing these free of charge to local residents to try to provide a better environment for birdlife in the area. This project coincidentally dovetailed (excuse the pun) nicely into an independent project called the Eastern Songbird Project which has much the same goals, but for a larger area, and so we have supported this project as well. You will be hearing more about both of these projects later in the programme.

Another major project we have started is the Tamaki Drive promenade project. Our observation is that the Tamaki Drive Master Plan has been largely ignored by organisations designing projects on Tamaki Drive. For example, the Tamaki Drive cycleway and the Ngapipi Intersection projects did not consider the Master Plan and so missed a valuable opportunity to progress the overall vision. This has left us concerned that the vision displayed in the plan will never be realised unless someone facilitates the development of specific plans to do so. We have decided to be that "someone", at least until we can get some momentum going.

Our intent is to first develop some conceptual ideas around how the separated walking and cycling paths could be designed along the length of Tamaki Drive, and suggest prioritisation for the various sections. We will then use that plan as a tool to engage with Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and relevant local organisations to eventually agree on a set of principles and a broad timeline that could help shape the long-term development of Tamaki Drive and its environs. We are at an early stage still, and are very aware of the difficulties of getting large organisations such as Council and AT to think in terms of 30 year programmes of work, but we are hopeful that we can make a real difference here.

We are keen to get involved in other areas as well and would welcome suggestions from our members about where we could best make a difference. If you have any ideas, please feel free to discuss them with us.

The Association has continued to grow, with now more than 350 members. The more members we have, the more influence we are able to exert on behalf of the community, and so we will continue to try to grow our membership numbers. Our financial position is strong, as you will see from the financial reports, and we have an active and enthusiastic committee. We get good support from the Orakei Local Board, chaired by Colin Davis, with Kit Parkinson and David Wong attending most of our meetings.

I would like to acknowledge the effort of our Committee over the past year. The Committee comprises:

- Don Stock (Chairman)
- Cherie Cook (Secretary)
- Kathy Davies (Treasurer and Membership)
- Robert Benton
- Kevin McCready
- Alan Minson
- Mike Padfield
- Howard Small
- Lorna Stansfield

They have done a great job. A very big thanks to them all.

In particular, I would like to give special thanks to Alan Minson, who has led some key projects for us this last year. Alan was the guiding force behind the rat trap project, which he will be talking about later in the programme. He has also been our liaison person with the Eastern Songbird Project, and again, you will hear more of this later in the programme. Alan has also chaired our Tamaki Drive subcommittee looking at fleshing out a coherent long term vision and plan for Tamaki Drive and its environs, including separated walkways and cycleways from end to end. Last but not least, Alan has worked tirelessly with the Council to try to improve Madills Farm, from better reinstatement after the not-so-recent stormwater project, through ensuring dangerous trees have been dealt with, to lighting plans for the playing fields. Thank you Alan for all your good work.

Finally, thanks to you, our members, for your support over the past year. We look forward to working on your behalf over the next year.



Don Stock

Chair
Mission Bay Kohimarama Residents Association