



Chair's Report 2020

I would like to start by thanking the Committee for their service this past year. The Committee Members are:

- Don Stock (Chairman)
- Kathy Davies (Secretary)
- Ian Benet (Treasurer)
- John Beckett
- Robert Benton
- Cherie Cook
- Wanda Mountfort
- Robert Murray
- Richard Oddy
- Mike Padfield
- Howard Small
- Lorna Stansfield

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

This past year has, in many respects, been a continuation of the previous year, with three major ongoing projects dominating our activity. The proposed 8 storey Mission Bay development continued its way through the resource consent process, culminating in a public hearing before a panel of Hearing Commissioners late in the year. We strenuously opposed this development, arguing that the height and bulk of the proposal did not fit the current or future planned character of the area, and that it was completely inconsistent with the objectives of the local Unitary Plan zones. We were very pleased that the commissioners agreed with our position and rejected the resource consent application.

That is not the end of the process, however, with the applicant appealing the decision to the Environment Court. We have subsequently been involved in unsuccessful mediation with the applicant and the Council, after which the applicant has decided to change their design, supposedly to address some of our concerns. The new design is expected to be released in August, and we are advised it will retain the 8 storey height but reduce the height of some of the other buildings slightly. Unfortunately, it is also intended to remove any upstairs restaurants and bars as well as the movie theatre from the plans to keep the profitable apartment floor area the same. We see this a major concern, as the proposal is now effectively just an inappropriately scaled apartment development, with no added public facilities, and in fact a reduction of restaurant space compared to the current situation. There will be various exchanges of information over the next few months, with the case expected to go to an Environment Court hearing early in 2021.

Another big ongoing project was our attempt to achieve a sensible outcome from Auckland Transport's proposal to install multiple pedestrian crossings in Mission Bay. Their initial proposal included 11 new pedestrian crossings, but we were very concerned that this would do little to improve safety while creating major vehicle congestion issues. Our complaints to AT were eventually listened to, and we were invited to join a working group to consider the options and recommend changes that would provide a better balance between pedestrian safety and vehicle movement. These would then go out for further public consultation.

The working group made good (if somewhat slow) progress and was in the final stages of settling on a much smaller package of safety improvements when the Covid crisis hit. This stopped the group in its tracks, initially because of the lockdown, but then because it became apparent that AT would probably not have the budget to implement any improvements, at least until AT and Auckland Council had been able to reassess their budgets. The project is therefore on hold until sometime in 2021.

The solution on which we were close to agreement accepted that the speed reduction to 30km/h (which was outside the scope of the working group) would substantially reduce the risk of serious injury to pedestrians even with no further improvements. We did agree that some safety improvements were justified, and these included an additional pedestrian crossing at the eastern end of Mission Bay, plus both this and the existing crossing at Atkin Ave would be raised to ensure that motorists slowed to the posted speed limit. A separated cycle lane would also be included on the northern side of Tamaki Drive. We will revisit this later this year once AT know where their budget stands.

We have continued to push for the old Mission Bay Bowling Club land between Nihil Cres and Tagalad Rd to be retained by the Council as a park. This land has been transferred to Panuku, Auckland Council's development arm, by unclear means of dubious legality who want to sell the land for private development. We strongly believe that with the planned intensification of the area we will have an increasing need for greenspace, particularly a quiet park where local residents can relax outdoors away from the rather active and noisy Selwyn Reserve. It would therefore be crazy to sell this land for development. We have convinced the Orakei Local Board, and they are working to regain control of the land.

As well as these major projects, we have continued to work on numerous other issues, such as the reinstatement of the Selwyn Reserve playground, the perennial problem of noise and unruly behaviour in Selwyn Reserve that keep so many local residents awake in the wee small hours, and to establish a long term vision for separated walking and cycling paths the entire length of Tamaki Drive.

If members or local residents have issues that they would like us to address, we are happy to consider these and do what we can to help improve the community, so please feel free to let us know.

We have continued to upgrade our website and social media presence. You can see more detail about work we are engaged in on our website MissionBayKohi.co.nz, and we have established a Facebook group "[Mission Bay – Kohimarama Residents Association](#)" to provide two-way discussion of issues of interest. Our website now has a substantial section on the [history of Mission Bay and Kohimarama](#) which may be of interest to residents. I encourage you to check it out.

The Association has continued to grow, now with around 680 members. The more members we have, the more influence we can exert on behalf of the community, and so we will

continue to try to grow our membership numbers. Most of our members have joined as Affiliate Members for whom membership is free, however, leaving us with a relatively small income from membership fees. We would ask that Affiliate Members consider upgrading their membership to be full Members. This is only \$15 per year, but would provide us with a more stable financial foundation.

Despite this, our financial position remains good as you will see from the financial reports, although our opposition to the Mission Bay development has used a significant portion of our reserves. We intend to maintain a reserve fund to allow us to respond to unexpected issues with confidence.

I would like to acknowledge the good support we receive from the Orakei Local Board, chaired by Scott Milne, with Scott, David Wong and/or Sarah Powrie attending most of our meetings. We are developing an excellent working relationship with this new board and look forward to working positively with them into the future.

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