



## Chair's Report 2021

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
- 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 been a year like no other, totally dominated by Covid and the impact this has had on our lives and on the country as a whole. In contrast, however, the Residents' Association's work has been largely unchanged, dominated by the same major issues that we have been working on for several years. Our major projects continue to be:

- The proposed 8 storey Mission Bay Development on Tamaki Drive
- Ongoing issues of noise and disruptive behaviour on Selwyn Reserve
- Securing the old Mission Bay Bowling Club land and facilities for use as a community centre and gardens
- Working with Auckland Transport to improve their proposals for pedestrian and cyclist safety in Mission Bay

The Mission Bay development proposal was turned down by the Council but has been appealed to the Environment Court. We are finally reaching the end stages of this process with a court hearing in the week of 24 May. The developer has changed the design to eliminate much of the community benefit of the development – no movie theatre, no restaurants on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level, no public space – and while they have reduced the height of a small part of the development, the overall height has slightly increased beyond the 8 storeys. In our view, the development's bulk and visual dominance remains inappropriate for Mission Bay. We have engaged experts to help us fight this and will be presenting a strong case at the Environment Court hearings. We are planning a separate public meeting on Tuesday 18

May ahead of the court hearings to update the community on the details of the proposal and our response. You are all invited to that meeting.

The issues of noise and anti-social behaviour in Selwyn Reserve, particularly overnight, has continued to be a major concern for local residents. We have been working with the Orakei Local Board and the Police for several years now, but feel that during this last year we have started to get some traction. While the problems are far from fixed, there is now greater clarity on how to report issues to the police, commitments from the police to patrol more frequently, commitments by both Council and Police to coordinate regarding enforcement of bylaws such as those for noise control and parking, plus additional community policing resources. A community patrol is also being established, although this will have more impact on other crime such as vehicle break ins and burglaries. During the course of discussions, it became very apparent that there are no simple solutions, but instead a number of small improvements can collectively make a difference.

Another major longstanding project has been our effort to retain the old Mission Bay Bowling Club land and buildings as an asset for the community. We have made several proposals for the buildings to be used as a community centre and the grounds to be turned into gardens. We have seen a strong demand for community centre space and believe that the gardens would be a great safe and quiet space for local families and retirement village residents alike. It has become apparent that asking the Council to fund the project was becoming too difficult in the light of Covid budget restrictions, and so we have moved our proposal towards the facility being run by a charitable trust. This appears to be gaining more traction. We will present more detail on this proposal at the same public meeting of Tuesday 18 May mentioned previously.

We have continued to work with AT to improve their proposals for safety improvements in Mission Bay. You will recall that their original proposal had 13 new pedestrian crossings and a complicated roundabout at the bottom of Selwyn Avenue which we felt was totally impractical and which would cause chaos. We were subsequently 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. This process was disrupted by Covid, but eventually a set of options was put out for public feedback, we held a public meeting to discuss these, and the public submissions have been assessed. Further changes are being made as a result of these submissions and a final proposal will be released very soon (hopefully before our AGM so that we can outline them there). The final proposal will add two new pedestrian crossings in locations where there has been a clear need, and will include a new cycle lane running continuously through Mission Bay.

As well as these major projects, we have continued to work on numerous other issues. We assisted local residents in the John Rymer Place area with submissions regarding the proposed Ryman retirement village, in particular, focussing on trying to minimise the disruption caused during construction. We have worked with the OLB to get the Selwyn Reserve playground reinstated, and we are pleased to report that a new and exciting design has now been approved with construction not far away. Most recently, we made a submission on the proposed bus lane on Kohimarama Road, questioning how a 300m long bus lane could provide sufficient benefits to justify the costs, including the congestion caused by a new signalised pedestrian crossing. Honestly, we sometimes wonder about the common sense or lack thereof of some organisations!

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 remind you of our website and social media presence which allows you to see more detail about work we are engaged. Our website is [MissionBayKohi.co.nz](http://MissionBayKohi.co.nz), and we have a Facebook group "[Mission Bay – Kohimarama Residents Association](#)" to provide two-way discussion of issues of interest. Please join this as it is a convenient way to keep up with activities in the area.

Our membership has grown slightly to almost 700, allowing us to provide a strong voice for the community. We will be asking members to renew their membership shortly. At that time we will include a request for Affiliate Members to upgrade their memberships to become full Members if they would like to better support our work. This costs only \$20 per year and would provide us with a stronger financial foundation.

Our financial position remains good as you will see from the financial reports. Our opposition to the Mission Bay development continues to drain our reserves, but we hope to replenish this with donations raised at the public meeting on 18 May. 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