



# INNER-CITY WELLINGTON

Te Reo Pokapū o Pōneke

VOICE OF TE ARO AND WELLINGTON CENTRAL

## 13th ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

*enhancing community well-being  
through civic engagement*

## OUR VISION

### what we want to achieve

An inner-city community that continues to thrive

## OUR MISSION

### why we exist

#### To enhance community well-being through civic engagement

In the interests of sustainable development and local democracy (focus) Inner-City Wellington seeks to serve as a progressive and influential voice (what) of and for the residents, organisations and property owners (who) in the suburbs of Te Aro and Wellington Central (where). It does so through engagement with the appropriate public authorities (how) for the purpose of enhancing the wellbeing of those living, operating or owning property in the inner-city (why).

## OUR HISTORY

### origins

Inner-City Wellington was founded on 3 November 2008 at the Southern Cross Tavern on Abel Smith Street in Te Aro. The founders were Grant Robertson, a Labour Party MP for Wellington Central and Mark Blumsky, a National Party List MP and former Mayor of Wellington. It was established with the support of all three Lambton Ward City Councillors at the time – Iona Pannett, Ian McKinnon and Stephanie Cook. Originally known as the Wellington Inner-City Residents and Business Association, it changed to its current name in 2017.

## OUR MANDATE

### who and what informs us

Inner-City Wellington seeks to pursue aspects of sustainable development and local democracy considered important by the inner-city community; respond where possible to reputable and relevant independent research concerning sustainable development and local democracy; and support at a local level the relevant United Nations Development Programme's Sustainable Development Goals (2015- 2030) unanimously adopted by all members of the United Nations on 25 September 2015.

## OUR STATUS

### legal entity

Since its 9th AGM on 26 April 2017 the organisation has operated as Inner-City Wellington (ICW). ICW is currently incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 as the Wellington Inner-City Residents and Business Association Inc.

*“Inner-City Wellington is a critical player in making our community great to be part of”*

*Grant Robertson MP for Wellington Central*



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



After what has been a fairly difficult year in New Zealand and world-wide our vision remains the same. That is to enhance community well-being through civic engagement to ensure an inner city that continues to thrive.

I want to acknowledge and thank the ICW Committee for their support and the passion and action they have brought in working to achieve this vision. We have been delighted to have Joanna Li join us informally, and we look forward to her continued and very valuable contribution in future. Also thank you to Neil Pryor and Clare Hutchins who have been representatives from Flagstaff Hill.

It is also with mixed feelings I announce that our Treasurer Grant Firth, and committee member John Albertson are retiring from the committee this year. They have both been dedicated and hard-working members of the committee for many years, and we will miss them, their contributions, and their friendship. I thank them for their unstinting support and involvement over the years and am happy to know they remain as ICW members and will be available for advice if/when required.

Having a home at St Peters has fostered wider relationships through sharing Nga Korero evenings for example, and we are very thankful for the use of the various venues the Church offers for our meetings, seminars etc. So, a special thank you to St Peters for their gracious hospitality and support.

We have valued improving relationships with Wellington City Council, and particularly thank our Ward Councillors, Iona Pannett, Nicola Young and Tamatha Paul, for their steady support. Thanks also go to all members and others who participated in different ways throughout the year. We adapted well to zooming and dealing with uncertainty in a year of significant local issues.

But there is much more to do. While in this report you will see the significant effort in making submissions on various plans and issues, we want to emphasise the way we are focussing more on co-design through community engagement with WCC – and on addressing implementation issues: in short trying to work with WCC to get some tangible immediate actions that will make a difference for residents and others in our inner city.

Our current triennial Strategic Plan, which focuses on three priorities, continues to provide our guiding framework. We have now completed the second year of the plan and have much to report.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Our sustainable development priority is centred on the relevant Sustainable development Goals of the United Nations development Programme (UNDP) to which New Zealand is a signatory. An overview of our activities in these areas follows:

### ✦ SOCIAL

#### **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING (UNDP GOAL 3)**

**Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

- Working with WCC and other agencies to connect people and city communities .



- Connecting Inner City Welly campaign - A series of posters around wellington city which pose challenges to inner-city dwellers encouraging them to think about their community and act on it.

## ✘ ENVIRONMENTAL

### **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES (UNDP GOAL 11)**

#### **Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

- Submissions on the Spatial Plan, Long Term Plan, Camera Base Wellington, Civic Square Redesign, Social Well-Being Framework, Unit Titles Amendment Bill. All submissions can be viewed on our website.
- Seismic issues continued to require significant attention. (See Appendix A).
- We are working with the Chief City Planner and his team to identify options that support high rise development in appropriate sites.
- Hosted a walkabout for WCC to showcase some of the issues with density in Te Aro and to highlight our focus on 'density well done.'
- Presented our views on what needs to be included in the revised Apartment Guidelines.
- A very successful Nga Korero was held in November at St Peters on 'Living environments for the inner city'.

## ✘ PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS (UNDP GOAL 17)

### **Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.**

- We have given written support for the Human Rights Commission's work to get a New Zealand version of the Right to adequate housing based on UN declaration into legislation.
- Support is being given to VUWSA in their endeavours to focus on housing issues through a Summit planned for later in the year.

## LOCAL DEMOCRACY

### ✘ ADVOCACY AND CRITIQUE

- Significant effort went into our submission on the Central Library where we focussed on its importance as our Community amenity.
- We proactively submitted on the proposed redesign of Civic Square and were given an

opportunity to present our views to the design team.

- We have widely circulated our strong views and dissatisfaction with the disestablishment of the Camera Base Wellington and our concerns about diminished safety in the inner city, and are working proactively in this area.
- Whenever possible we advocate for the rights of residents in the inner-city to be acknowledged and considered as we are now the largest and fastest growing population in the smallest area in the city
- Prior to the Elections, a very well attended Candidates' meeting focussed on earthquake strengthening issues, insurance, and Body Corporate legislation issues.

## ✘ COLLABORATION AND POLICY

- Ward Councillors – We continue to highly value the relationship with our Ward Councillors who generally attend our meetings and are always reachable in between.
- Meetings with the Chief City Planner and his team have been very productive and are ongoing..
- Wellington Residents' Associations Network (WRAN) has been instrumental in working towards getting better engagement with WCC and the sharing of information and understanding of each organisation's needs.

## BUILDING CAPACITY

### ✘ CONNECTIVITY AND COLLABORATION

#### • **Cooperation Agreement**

VUWSA – It is a delight to work with students and to support their Kaupapa in relation to pastoral care for their members where we can.

#### • **Communications**

We obtained funding to redesign our website and we hope you find it easy to use and of value .

We have also seen an increase in Facebook followers and we continue to try to enhance our presence on social media.

### ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

- We welcomed the service of Trish Given, whose few hours a week working for us as a paid coordinator has made a huge difference in our community involvement.

- However, to truly be sustainable we need to increase our membership and we would appreciate help from existing members to achieve this.
- We are also trying to obtain a small amount of funding to enable a few hours per week of office/secretarial support as this would make a huge difference to our ability to meet our objectives.

## ✦ 2020 FOUNDERS DAY

On 6 November 2020, we celebrated ICW's well-attended 12th anniversary. A Mihi Whakatau was undertaken by Peter Jackson.

The opening address was to be presented by The Hon Grant Robertson, MP for Wellington Central, but unfortunately this date ended up clashing with the swearing in of parliament, so Stephen King stepped up.

**Max Rashbrooke** delivered the 4th Nicholson Memorial Address on Democratic Resilience which had those present fully engaged



**Clive Moon** was then presented with a Gratitude Award for his dedicated and inspiring contribution to ICW.



The cake was then cut, and the rest of the evening was devoted to socialising and exchange of ideas

## OUR PEOPLE 2020-21

### OFFICERS

Chairperson – Rev Stephen King  
Secretary – Wendy Armitage  
Treasurer – Grant Firth

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Albertson  
Shona Butterfield  
Richard Norman  
Jessica Ducey  
Andre de Groot  
Mike Thompson  
Joanna Li  
Geraldine Murphy (Earthquake Project)  
Clare Hutchins (Flagstaff Hill)  
Neil Pryor (Flagstaff Hill)  
Geo Robrigado (VUWSA 2020)  
Michael Turnbull (VUWSA 2021)  
Grace Carr (VUWSA 2021)  
Trish Given (Community Services)

## CHANGE STARTS HERE

### Can you help?

- **Become a member**
- **Join the committee**
- **Join one of our projects.** We need people from many different fields and interests.
- **Help in writing submissions.** For example, we will have a lot of work to do to respond to the consultation on the District Plan later in the year as this is such a critical document and it will have significant longer term implications for development in the inner city.
- **Assistance in legal matters** such as the impact of new legislation on Incorporated Societies, our Constitution etc.
- **Joining others** to pursue progress in areas where you have a particular interest – e.g. safety, older persons, green space.
- **Identifying an issue** you think should be of concern to ICW and helping or leading a project to address it.
- **Make a donation/become a corporate partner**

*If you are interested in becoming a part of ICW please talk to a committee member or email us [innercitywellington@gmail.com](mailto:innercitywellington@gmail.com) with your contact details and we would love to chat with you.*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 April 2020—31 March 2021

|  | Current<br>2021 | Last Year<br>2020 |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| Opening Balance                        | 2,289.09        | 1,723.18          |
| <hr/>                                  |                 |                   |
| <b>Income</b>                          |                 |                   |
| Subscriptions                          | 754.00          | 1,118.00          |
| Donations (Koha) +Raffle               |                 | 70.00             |
| WCC Grant                              |                 | 1,000.00          |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                    | <b>754.00</b>   | <b>2,188.00</b>   |
| <hr/>                                  |                 |                   |
| <b>Expenses</b>                        |                 |                   |
| <sup>1)</sup> Meeting Expenses         | -               | 274.89            |
| <sup>2)</sup> Website & Software subs. | 149.78          | 489.53            |
| <sup>3)</sup> Founders Day             | 260.00          | 519.02            |
| <sup>4)</sup> Communications & advert  | 159.85          | 326.25            |
| Bank Fees                              | 4.80            | 12.40             |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>             |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                  | <b>574.43</b>   | <b>1,622.09</b>   |
| <hr/>                                  |                 |                   |
| <b>Assets</b>                          |                 |                   |
| Kiwibank Account                       | 2,468.66        | 1,723.18          |
| <hr/>                                  |                 |                   |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                     | -               | -                 |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                    | <b>754.00</b>   | <b>2,287.00</b>   |
| <b>Less Expenses</b>                   | <b>574.43</b>   | <b>1,998.98</b>   |
| <b>Income/Deficit</b>                  | <b>179.57</b>   | <b>288.02</b>     |

1) Meeting Expenses, AGM

2) Web Domain Names & Website

3) Founders day certificates, catering

4) Print Case Study

## APPENDIX A: UPDATE ON EARTHQUAKE PRONE LEGISLATION

It's been another busy year in our advocacy work to address the impacts of the earthquake-prone legislation on multi-owner residential buildings (ie, apartment buildings).

Also in August 2020, we completed the analysis of a survey of owners in earthquake-prone apartment buildings with 99 responses from owners across 18 buildings, plus a separate survey answered by body corporate representatives in 17 buildings, with 11 buildings also being represented in the owners' survey. The results reinforce the 2019 owners' survey and continue to show that the average compliance costs are far in excess of the costs used in the MBIE cost-benefit analysis in 2012. The reports were provided to the Minister of Building and Construction and her officials, but there was no response.

In December 2020, ICW along with two owners in earthquake-prone buildings met with Hon Poto Williams, the new Minister for Building and Construction. This meeting was organised and attended by our local MP, Hon Grant Robertson, and was also attended by Hon Dr David Clark, Minister responsible for the EQC. We felt that Minister Williams listened – and particularly engaged with the owners. She indicated that she was keen to continue to talk but to date there has been no follow-up.

However, a recent media article in early 2021 highlighted that a proposed remediation service was being planned but is subject to Budget constraints. This service was in the Labour Party manifesto, but interestingly it was not raised at the December 2020 meeting. ICW has no details about the proposed service, but notes that it will 'help some apartment buildings be safer, faster' (emphasis added). This does not sound like the comprehensive support that ICW has been calling for.

ICW, along with owners who participated, has been waiting since February 2020 for the release of report on MBIE's Evaluation of the Earthquake Prone Buildings System. We have been advised by Minister Williams she has asked MBIE to give the report priority and 'expects to receive it soon'. We know concerns were raised by owners in the interviews and are interested to see how these are represented in the final report.

Since the last annual report the Residential Earthquake Prone Building Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) opened for applications in late September 2020. At the time of writing, ICW is not aware of any applications being submitted but we know that some owners have engaged with Mike Webber, Senior Product Manager at Kainga Ora, who is responsible for the Scheme. Concerns continue to be raised about the Scheme. For example, the eligibility criteria mean some owners, who cannot access funds through retail channels, are not eligible for the Scheme and makes it very difficult for projects to progress. The Scheme must be reviewed within 12 months, which will be late 2021.

As indicated in the last annual report, on the 24 June 2020, ICW, along with Mel Johnston as a body corporate chair and owner, made an oral submission to the Governance and Administration Select Committee in support of the two petitions presented in late 2019. Unfortunately the Committee was not able to complete the report before the House rose for the election. The petitions have been referred back to the new Governance and Administration Select Committee. We know there have been private sessions of the Committee on the petitions but we do not know when the report will be released.

ICW has recently started a series of case studies by owners who wish to tell their story about the journey through the earthquake-prone building compliance regime. The impacts on owners are life-changing with substantial financial, health and social impacts. It is unacceptable that despite the evidence of the real costs and impacts of the policy on owners the Government ploughs on.

We continue to call for a review of the earthquake-prone legislation as it relates to multi-owner residential buildings, and call for compensation and an effective support service for owners caught in the regime.

Geraldine Murphy

**ICW LEAD: SEISMIC ISSUES**



**INNER-CITY**

**WELLINGTON** Te Reo Pokapū o Pōneke

VOICE OF TE ARO AND WELLINGTON CENTRAL

**Inner-City Wellington seeks to serve as a  
progressive and influential voice of and  
for the residential community in the  
suburbs of Te Aro and Wellington Central**

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**CONTACT US**

**email: [innercitywellington@gmail.com](mailto:innercitywellington@gmail.com)**

**website: [www.innercitywellington.nz](http://www.innercitywellington.nz)**