



**INNER-CITY**  
**WELLINGTON** Te Reo Pokapū o Pōneke  
VOICE OF TE ARO AND WELLINGTON CENTRAL

## **OUR VISION**

An inner-city community that continues to thrive

## **OUR MISSION**

To enhance the wellbeing of residents living in Te Aro/ Wellington Central through active engagement with them, and by being an active and influential voice for them with appropriate public authorities.

## **OUR OBJECTIVES**

To engage actively with the residential inner-city community to support and promote their interests and foster local democracy

To promote perspectives on Living Environments that advance the social, environmental and economic aspects of the inner-city in a sustainable way

To build organizational capability sufficient to achieve our objectives



**14th Annual  
Report  
2021-2022**

## ✦ CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



This has been the final year of the triennial Strategic Plan that you approved in 2019. With limited resources and Covid disruptions we have had to refocus on a more limited set of objectives than those set out in the strategic plan.

To this end we have taken steps to simplify the way forward by introducing an Annual Plan which we hope will make it easier for you to understand what we are doing, and where you may be able to contribute to ensure we remain a vital player over the next few years.

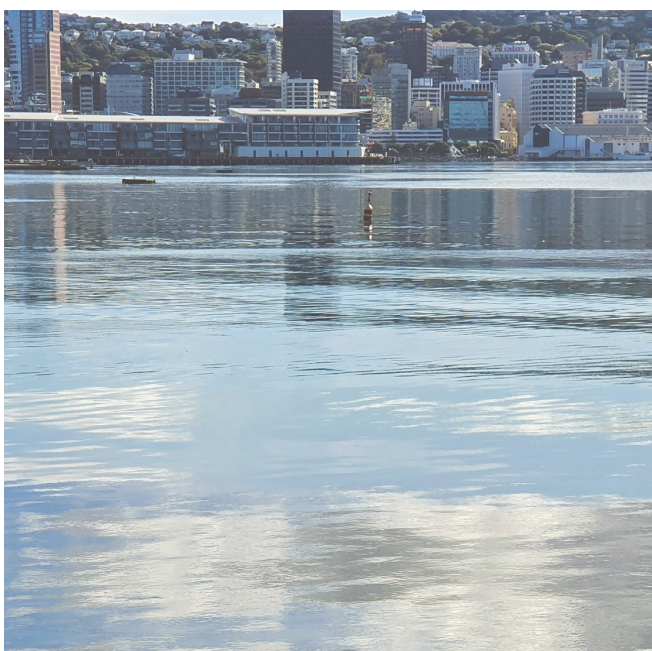
I want to thank the Committee for their support and their work. Sadly, some are moving on, and I particularly want to thank Wendy Armitage for her stellar contribution in ensuring our submissions and other presentations have been so professional, for her constant support in essentially managing external liaison, and all of the day-to-day work as well as that of Secretary.

Also, a big thank you to Shona Butterfield who has helped in drafting submissions and worked tirelessly creating and managing relationships. They will both be missed.

Thank you to St Peters for continuing to provide us with a home base and to our Ward Councillors, Iona Pannett, Tamatha Paul and Nicola Young, for their ongoing support in attending our meetings and responding to issues we raise.

Even though covid has had an impact on our work this year we still have much to report.

**Stephen King**  
CHAIR



## ✦ ICW GOALS

### GOAL 1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Advancing the social, environmental and economic aspects of the inner-city and of the wider city as appropriate – and focussed within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.*

#### ✦ Connecting City Communities

Throughout the year we have been part of regular meetings which have, as their goal, helping community organisations in the inner city to network and to share information, strategic thinking and to collaborate around upcoming events.

Through this network, our associations with inner-city organisations such as Free Store, Boys and Girls Institute, Everybody Eats and more, enables ICW to participate in, support and share awareness of, a diverse range of community initiatives on an ongoing basis.

*For example, events in which we have been involved include:*

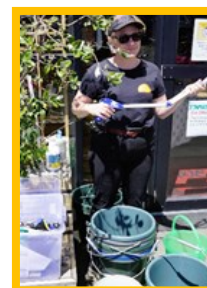
**Picnics in Parks:** The weekly community event where the passing public can join the shared Picnics in Parks trestle table parked outside a local café for coffee, kai and a chat.

**RepairEd (Repair Café):** Providing hands-on assistance at the event where the community were invited to bring in their cherished items which might be in need of a little TLC and repair.



**Play activations:** Supporting the Council's play initiatives such as the Glover Park Urban Games "afternoon of free fun and games".

**Community Clean Up:** Supporting the monthly Sustainability Trust initiative which invites the public, during their lunch hour, to become litter hunters. Using their 'pick up stick' and bucket (supplied by the Trust) they explore the inner city streets and help make them just a little cleaner.



**Seeds to Feeds:** Assisting with this initiative and its annual Seeds to Feeds Festival through which food grown in the city's community gardens is celebrated and enjoyed through a series of communal events.

## ✦ Submissions

We made substantial written and oral Submissions on the District Plan, Green Network Plan, Case Study on District Licensing Committee process, and an Oral submission on the redevelopment of Civic Square.

## ✦ Wellington Community Hub

Unlike our outer city neighbours, having no community hub for the over 15,000 residents of inner-city Wellington has been a major gap.

Throughout the year we continued to push for one to be established and we are pleased that the Council accepted the challenge and we now have a Hub in Manners Street and a Youth Hub to be opened shortly.



We want to work closely with its managers, the Y, to ensure we can help shape its programme, and that it responds to the needs and diversity of interests of all our residents – not just some.

## ✦ City Safety

Over recent months, we have been able to meet regularly (via Zoom) with the Council's Ponēke Promise team. This enables us to provide direct feedback about ideas and concerns raised by our residents and we recognise some of the good work that has been done by the team in response.

Issues covered included Te Aro Park safety concerns, the need for better lighting and CCTV coverage where incidents have occurred, unattractive empty shop fronts, the increase in graffiti and litter in parts of the city, the process involved in alcohol permits, and community amenities.

## ✦ Inner-city Emergency Planning

We have identified that the lack of any coherent disaster recovery plan for the Inner City is a major gap that we will work on with WREMO.

Of particular concern is the lack of emergency water supplies and evacuation centres for the inner city. Also the need to address how workers and visitors would be housed if unable to return home after an earthquake, for example. It is likely residents would need to assist here at least in the initial stages.

Planned work with WREMO to run some disaster recovery simulations in apartments was postponed due to Covid.

## ✦ Earthquake-prone buildings

Advocacy on behalf of apartment owners affected by the earthquake-prone legislation continued to require significant attention.

Some good outcomes were achieved from the review of the loan scheme to improve eligibility criteria to make it accessible to more owners.

There is ongoing engagement with Minister and officials on outstanding issues with the scheme, addressing the wider barriers many owners face to comply with legislation, and providing certainty to owners on implications of future changes to building code.

Further information is included as an Appendix to this report.

## ✦ Celebration

Our [Founding Day](#) celebration was well attended and the presentation by **Chris Moller** focussed on sustainable urban development.

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## GOAL 2: LOCAL DEMOCRACY

*Representing and acting as an advocate for the interests of the inner-city and the wider city where these coincide.*

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Submissions and meetings with WCC staff and local MP's were part of our advocacy.

We have been particularly pleased with the responsiveness of Sehai Orgad and her team associated with Ponēke Promise.

## ✦ Community Resilience

Our proposal for a Community Resilience and Safety Forum that would provide a Case Study in Community Engagement lapsed because WCC wanted ICW to take a lead role but we simply don't have resource and in any case, we wanted WCC to lead so they would be accountable.

## ✦ Engagement & co-design

With the Wellington Residents' Associations' Network (WRAN) we worked with WCC to develop and agree an Engagement Policy but it has not met expectations.

We know lack of staff to implement at WCC is an issue, but also the engagement is focussed on ensuring legal requirements for consultation are met rather than the community engagement and co-design that we sought.

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## GOAL 3: BUILDING CAPACITY

*To be a community-driven organisation able to realise its vision.*

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### Cooperation Agreements

**VUWSA** – It is a delight to work with students and to support their kaupapa in relation to pastoral care for students, many of whom reside in the inner city.

Unfortunately Covid issues meant their planned SUMMIT on housing, which we had indicated we would support, did not happen.

### Collaboration

#### **Wellington Residents' Associations Network (WRAN)**

ICW is an active participant in this network which has a monthly zoom meeting and also shares information through an internet platform.

It does NOT represent any particular position on issues, but individual Associations can support each other as appropriate. A good example of its usefulness this year was in the sharing of information regarding the District Plan, including a productive meeting with WCC staff who answered questions.

### Organisational Sustainability

#### **Constitution Changes**

We are mindful that the new legislation has been passed and this changes requirements for Incorporated Societies.

Although not onerous, they will be a little more demanding than currently and we would like more active support from members over the next year to be assured that going down that path will make sense.

Our current Constitution requires a Committee of at least 7 people who are financial members and we currently need at least two new members. Of course it would be great if we had more as we can have 12.

We would also like to have a Deputy or Co-Chair both for continuity and succession planning.

### Capability

Our population of residents (2018 census) was over 15,000 and we know it has grown considerably since then with the addition of new apartment buildings.

Clearly we want to grow our membership but to be sustainable, a strong Committee is also needed to provide oversight.

Over the year we have worked on ways to achieve the sustainability desired. Some progress has been made by working with others where we have the same agenda – for example in writing submissions; through supporting a variety of community events run by others; and through our website and social media.

However, as noted above, we need more Committee members along with others who may not want to make that kind of commitment but who are willing to help with specific issues or projects. See Appendix 2 which shows some of the areas you may like to become involved in.

### Connecting Neighbours

We have created a map of every high rise building in our area and we are actively seeking a contact in each building who will pass on information from us either through a maildrop or via their internal digital communications.

Neither WCC nor WREMO can provide such contacts and we believe it is a critical part of developing community, being resilient and ready to deal with any disaster.

Your help in adding names here would be very much appreciated. Please contact a committee member at the AGM or us on [innercitywellington@gmail.com](mailto:innercitywellington@gmail.com) if you are willing to share your apartment building details.

#### **Committee 2021-2022**

Chairperson	Rev Stephen King
Secretary	Wendy Armitage
Treasurer	Sarah and David Webb
Members	Shona Butterfield, Richard Norman, Joanna Li
Co-opted	Jill Wilson
In support	Geraldine Murphy (seismic issues Project Lead)
Trish Given	funded by WCC to provide Community activities in the Inner City.

#### **Cooperation Partners**

VUWSA  
Flagstaff Hill Residents Association.

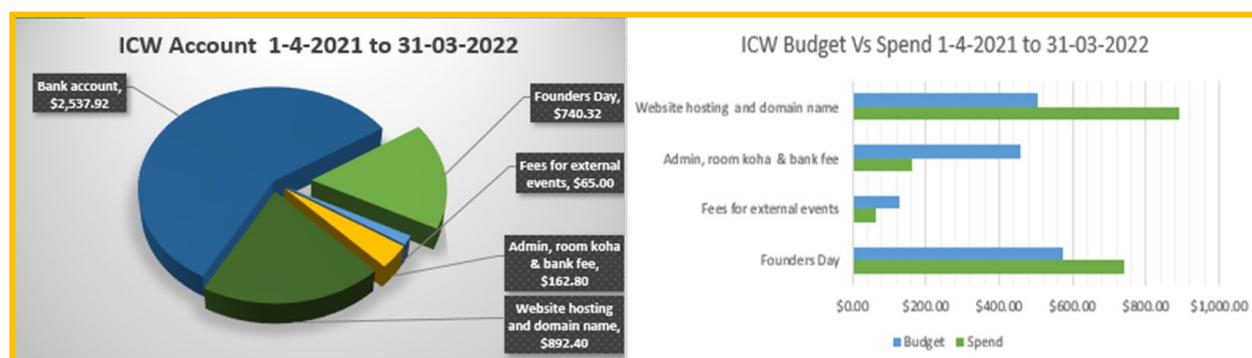
# Inner City Wellington Financial Statement

1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

	Current 2022	Last year 2021
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$2,681.44</b>	<b>\$2,289.09</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	\$780.00	\$754.00
Donations (Koha) +Raffle	-	-
WCC Grant	\$1,000.00	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,780.00</b>	<b>\$754.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Admin, room koha, gifts & bank fee Note 1	\$163.20	\$164.65
Website hosting and domain name Note 2	\$892.40	\$149.78
Founders Day Note 3	\$740.32	\$260.00
Fees for external events Note 4	\$65.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,860.92</b>	<b>\$574.43</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Kiwibank Account	\$2,537.92	\$2,468.66
<b>Liabilities</b>		
	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,780.00</b>	<b>\$754.00</b>
<b>Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,860.92</b>	<b>\$574.43</b>
<b>Income/Deficit</b>	<b>-\$80.92</b>	<b>\$179.57</b>

## Notes

1. No member meetings in 2021 due to Covid.
2. Reimbursement of the 2020-2021 website hosting fee and the 2022-2023 website hosting.
3. Catering, venue hire and printing of certificates.
4. Reimbursement of costs for committee members who attend external events.



## INNER-CITY WELLINGTON DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2022/2023

EXPENSE CATEGORY	ANTICIPATED SPEND	COMMENTS
<b>Meetings</b>		
Room hire	\$200.00	Koha for St Peters - 5 x \$40 per committee meeting. Note alternate meetings via Zoom.
Presenter gifts	\$60.00	Based on 2 'member' meetings per year
Fees for external events	\$130.00	For committee members to attend events/seminars
<b>Administration</b>		
Secretarial role	\$1,200.00	Honorarium to St Peters for Toni's assistance
<b>Founders Day</b>		
Food, drink, certificates, etc	\$700.00	Based on 2021 spend
Room hire	\$40.00	Koha for St Peters
Guest speaker gift	\$40.00	
Powhiri & Kapa Haka koha	\$100.00	
<b>Website</b>		
Domain name	\$0.00	Paid on 20/02/21 for 3 years to 20/02/24
Squarespace	\$388.00	Annual website hosting
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,858.00</b>	

Subscriptions - anticipated	\$980.00	
WCC grant	\$1,000.00	
Bank balance	\$2,537.92	
	<b>\$4,517.92</b>	



## APPENDIX 1: EARTHQUAKE PRONE BUILDINGS

Following the Review of the Residential Earthquake-prone Buildings Financial Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) in July/Aug 2021, which was reported to the Minister for Building and Construction in October 2021, the Government announced in early April [substantive changes to the criteria](#) that should enable more owners to be eligible.

As importantly, and for the first time, the report on the review (available at link above) clearly reflected owners' and ICW's concerns that there are wider barriers preventing many owners from progressing strengthening projects. Officials and the Minister have acknowledged these barriers, recommending further which as part of the Government's wider earthquake-prone building work programme and ICW will continue to monitor progress on this as no timeframes have been given.

On the 30 June 2021, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) released its [first evaluation report of the earthquake-prone building system](#). It was an internal review that found 'the system is working well overall, and provides useful information on how it can be improved'. ICW disagreed with these conclusions, as did many owners, and with the methodology that did not give affected owners

adequate representation for input. Looking forward ICW will work with others to understand the future processes for MBIE's reviews of the system; we understand a 5 year review is due.

Following that evaluation, we understand there has been work on other initiatives to support compliance, but no details have been announced. There is a Cabinet paper due to be considered by Cabinet in April on this topic.

Other areas of activity this year and will continue into next year include: seeking recognition of the financial impacts on all apartment owners affected by the legislation; calling for clear communication from the Minister and officials to provide certainty for owners who have or are complying with the current legislation when an updated Building Code is released; monitoring progress by MBIE on its work programme to understand the implications for existing buildings of an updated Building Code.

We continue to engage with Grant Robertson, as our electorate MP, to discuss the matters we propose to raise with the Minister. We are very appreciative of the time we get with Grant and his involvement in the details of this issue. Grant attended a recent meeting with Minister Williams, and again, did raise the issue of a review, but at this point there has been no progress on this.



Inner City Wellington's Geraldine Murphy says the Government-backed loans come with a huge burden of debt. **STUFF (May 2021)**

Inner-City Wellington has been lobbying Finance Minister and Wellington Central MP Grant Robertson and mayor Justin Lester for action.

It would now be vital to see the nuts and bolts of the scheme, and for it to be backed up with an advisory support service, Ms Murphy said.

"We are the canary in the mine ... people's property rights are being taken away for a public benefit." **RNZ**

"There are owners who have already strengthened at considerable expense under what we think is a flawed policy," Ms Murphy said. **RNZ**

Inner City Wellington (ICW) is pleased to read that the Mayor Justin Lester 'would not pledge to prosecute those who dragged their feet' in strengthening earthquake prone buildings. **SCOOP**

Petitions of Geraldine Murphy for Inner City Wellington:  
Comprehensive support for residential owners in earthquake-prone buildings; Review the earthquake-prone building provisions of the Building Act 2004

## APPENDIX 2: AREAS REQUIRING HELP

If ICW is to continue to represent its patch as it has been doing, the Committee needs more members. Participation is not onerous and attendance can be via zoom.

Another way of contributing without being on the Committee is to get involved in a single issue. Unless we get some help, we will be limited in what we will be able to do in the areas listed below.

Please take a look at these and get in touch for more information if you think you can assist in any of them.

FOCUS OF INTEREST	DETAIL	TIME COMMITMENT
City Safety	<p>Participation in Poneke Promise Zoom meetings every couple of months with Council staff.</p> <p>Keep eyes/ears open to issues to report</p> <p>Prep time to work via email with other ICW reps to draft agenda with our concerns and any positive responses we think WCC can implement.</p> <p><i>Working with 1 other committee member.</i></p>	<p>1 hour max per meeting</p> <p>Maybe up to an hour back and forth prior to meeting</p>
Green Spaces	<p>This is a critical area.</p> <p>As a stakeholder we have the opportunity to attend workshops with WCC regarding Frank Kitts Park.</p> <p>We will also be continuing our advocacy for more useable green spaces within the Inner City</p> <p><i>Working with 1 other committee member.</i></p>	Timeframes not yet available
Inner-city emergency planning	<p>Participation in meetings with WREMO, Council etc.</p> <p><i>Working with 2 other committee members.</i></p>	Average of 2 hours per month with addition of engagement in emergency simulation events as wished
Connecting City Communities	<p>Very much at development stage so opportunity to contribute to strategies/events as you wish</p> <p><i>Working with 1 other committee member.</i></p>	1 hour per month for meeting/ emails etc
Submissions to council	<p>Assistance with research, writing and oral presentations.</p> <p>ICW has some core position statements which form a base for submissions but there is always need for research, writing and sharing drafts and then formatting presentations. We need people who can help with each of these areas.</p>	Varies depending on the topic
Research	<p>After the census, updating our data on inner city demographics.</p> <p>There is also opportunity for specific research topics of relevance to inner city residents for which ICW can apply for funding if we have suitably qualified people to do the work.</p>	