



INNER-CITY

WELLINGTON Te Reo Pokapū o Pōneke

VOICE OF TE ARO AND WELLINGTON CENTRAL

*enhancing community well-being
through civic engagement*



12th ANNUAL REPORT

2019—2020

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

Our 2019-20 year began with renewed energy and focus on our triennial Strategic Plan for 2019-2022. This carried through our three priorities:

1. *Sustainable Development* – advancing the social, environmental and economic aspects of the inner-city and of the wider city as appropriate.
2. *Local Democracy* – representing and acting as an advocate for the interests of the inner-city and the wider city as appropriate
3. *Building Capacity* – to be a community-driven organisation with the capacity to realise its vision.

A report on our achievements within these priorities will follow.



However, first we want to acknowledge the strategic leadership of **Clive Moon** who, with his considerable capability, significant contacts and very inclusive style has made an enormous contribution to the development of this Association. We are sad that

Clive found it necessary to relinquish the role of Chair in May but we thank him for his amazing leadership and know he will continue to support our endeavours in any way he can.

In taking up the role of Acting Chair until this meeting, I would also like to acknowledge the support of the ICW committee. Their commitment ensures our Association survives and thrives. After the last AGM we formally welcomed to the committee Shona Butterfield and Eddie Chambers who had been informally working with us since the previous February and we were delighted to add new members Dimitra Pantazis, David Wood and Andre de Groot. Sadly Eddie and Dimitra had to leave us during the year but we want to acknowledge the contribution they each made while on the committee.

I have been privileged on behalf of our Church here at St Peters to offer a home to ICW, as well as a partnership that is beneficial to each of us in enlarging our awareness of inner city issues and supporting specific kaupapa where there is mutual interest.

We would also like to thank Tomoko Communications, Mevo Ltd and the Wellington City Council for their valued support of our activities. Thanks also go to all members and others who participated in different ways throughout the year.

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

ICW has worked cooperatively throughout the year with Mark Noyes (WCC Neighbourhood Resilience Advisor) re Connecting City Communities and supported a local initiative Meeting City Neighbours which didn't attract the support hoped for. It has been superseded by Wellington Conversations, also supported by WCC, which does seem to have gained traction.

► ENVIRONMENTAL

AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY (UNDP GOAL 7)

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

ICW welcomed any action that brought more urgency to energy efficiency to protect the environment. ICW submitted that WCC should foster public authority support for more prioritised sustainable energy options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strongly supported the use of solar power, and urged WCC to provide more permeable surfaces in built-up areas to assist with stormwater – i.e. green spaces instead of concrete inner city parks.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES (UNDP GOAL 11)

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

Planning for Growth

ICW's submission to Council on their Planning for Growth document May 2019 was a significant piece of work which highlighted the particular issues of high rise apartment living, like the need for different resilience strategies for 'vertical streets', and the need for more green space in areas of high density built areas.

Green Space

ICW strongly endorses the October 2019 report to WCC from NZ Centre for Sustainable Cities entitled "ON GREEN SPACE IN WELLINGTON CITY: Current Provision and Design for Future Wellbeing". We believe it clearly states the situation and a way forward that fits with ICW's position which we conveyed to our Ward Councillors.

To support our Living Environments project, work was undertaken with a small group of students to develop some short YouTube videos. Unfortunately, after a promising beginning, this did not proceed. However the concept has validity and we hope to find others who can make it happen during this triennium.

The Shift Aotearoa is a new organisation supporting the work begun by Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing. Leilani has very clearly identified the shift that has occurred in the financialisation of housing and has challenged countries and cities around the world to join in a movement to regain a focus on housing as a human right. ICW absolutely supports this stance and will work wherever it can to support the work of THE SHIFT AOTEAROA, in particular any activities in Wellington.

Seismic Strengthening of Earthquake Prone Buildings

ICW led a very successful public meeting, attended by over 80 people, at VUW in Vivian St to **present the findings of a survey of earthquake prone apartment buildings**. The survey focused on the costs of strengthening and the experiences and impacts on owners of the process and compliance burden. The result was a wealth of data and knowledge on the impacts of the legislation on owners that informed our advocacy and lobbying work.

An outcome of the public meeting was the **presentation to Parliament of two petitions** calling for comprehensive support for affected owners and a review of the legislation. The petitions were presented by Wellington Central MP Grant Robertson and referred to the Governance and Administration Select Committee.

After several postponements ICW has been invited to make an oral submission to the

Select Committee on 24 June at 10am. The presentations, a seismic strengthening project cost calculator, and information on the petitions is available on our website.

A second survey has recently been completed on seismic strengthening projects with responses from 20 earthquake-prone apartment buildings. We have also surveyed affected owners to get their personal responses and have had a fantastic response from over 100 owners. We expect that this combined data will again prove valuable in our lobbying and advocacy work – neither the Government nor Wellington City Council has this level of data on costs and impacts. The results of the survey will be released as soon as the analysis is completed.

Also in June, the Government announced that \$10m over four years for a **Financial Assistance Scheme for owners of residential earthquake-prone apartments** who are not able to obtain a loan through retail channels or would experience severe financial hardship. This is effectively a suspensory loan scheme where the principal or interest does not have to be paid back progressively, but at the time of sale.

This Scheme was in response to the Lender of Last Resort proposal developed by ICW and the Body Corporate Chairs' Group in early 2017. We understand the Scheme is expected to be open for applications in July 2020. Owners have been able to submit expressions of interest in the scheme and ask questions. ICW, along with the Body Corporate Chairs' Group, continues to liaise with Kainga Ora, the agency responsible for implementing the scheme, to get clarity on the eligibility criteria and how the Scheme will work. We hope to provide further information on this in the near future.

ICW's Spokesperson on Seismic Matters, **Geraldine Murphy**, has worked with a small number of owners of earthquake-prone apartments, along with the Body Corporate



Chairs' Group, as a 'collaborative lobby group'. This group has met regularly with Grant Robertson and has made some gains (eg, Financial Assistance Scheme) but more is needed to address the impacts of this compliance burden and lobbying will continue.



Geraldine Murphy

June 2019 was a busy month, with the **Wellington Mayoral Insurance Forum** being established by the previous mayor, Justin Lester.

The initial meeting provided a platform to again raise the cost issues of seismic strengthening coupled with the costs of insurance, and two members who attended were able to speak directly to the impacts of the insurance market.

The Body Corporate Chairs' Group participated in the subsequent Taskforce established and ably presented the apartment owners and body corporate perspective amongst a diverse group.

We have taken the opportunity of our regular meetings with Grant to provide data on the insurance issues for apartment owners. ICW understands that work by Treasury was underway, then overtaken by COVID-19. We expect that this will be picked up again, and possibly through the election campaign.

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (UNDP GOAL 12)

No action in the past year

ECONOMIC

No action in the past year

PARTNERSHIP FOR GOALS

(UNDP Goal 17)

Preliminary discussions are underway with appropriate NGOs in Wellington in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We have also continued our liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the government agency charged with the domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In relation to our Democratic Resilience project, preliminary work has been done on a draft Civic Charter, there is no progress yet on a YouTube

channel, but a Case Study was developed to highlight generic issues of not meeting legal requirements in relation to Consultation which ICW has recently presented and seeks to address with WCC. The critical factor here is the need for focus on their Purpose as set out in the Local Government Act 2002 and the Principles of Consultation set out in the same Act.

ADVOCACY AND CRITIQUE

During the year we reached the conclusion that with scarce resources ICW can no longer support the interests of both business and residents. We believe we need to focus on the interests of residents, while seeking always to work in partnership with business where that is in the interests of both groups. Since our inception, OurCBD has been formed to address business issues and that development also contributed to our decision to request a change to our Constitution at this meeting. One of our members continues to participate in OurCBD to ensure we are kept informed of any issues.

COLLABORATION AND POLICY

We have appreciated the relationship with our Ward Councillors who have often attended our meetings and have always been reachable in between. Discussions have been robust on a range of issues and their willingness to share information has been valued.

Our Co-operation Agreement partners (Flagstaff Hill Residents Association and Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association) have representatives on our committee and ICW looks forward to more interaction between all groups.

A significant collaboration recently developed is the Wellington Residents' Associations Network (WRAN) which now regularly shares information through an internet platform and meets as required for particular issues or otherwise monthly through zoom. ICW is an active participant and values this informal mechanism for increasing awareness of issues and supporting each other on matters of mutual interest.

BUILDING CAPACITY

CONNECTIVITY AND COLLABORATION

ICW hosted a very successful MEET THE CANDIDATES meeting prior to Local Body Elections. Each candidate answered set questions as well as those from the floor.

On 8 November 2019, we celebrated ICW's eleventh anniversary. A Mihi Whakatau was undertaken by Peter Jackson followed by a delightful performance by the Mt Cook School – Te Ararau Kapa Haka group. The Hon Grant Robertson MP for Wellington Central gave the Opening Address and Elisha Watson delivered the 3rd Nicholson Memorial Address.

A Co-operation Agreement, to work collaboratively on ideas and issues of mutual interest with Victoria University Students' Association, was signed by Tamatha Paul and Stephen King. We would like to acknowledge the work of Tamatha Paul, previous President of VUWSA in bringing this to fruition and congratulate her on her election as one of our Ward Councillors.

Grant Robertson then presented the first of three Gratitude Awards to Ian McKinnon who has been a great supporter of ICW going right back to our founding when he was a Lambton Ward Councillor and then Deputy Mayor. Throughout the years of Ian's involvement in local politics he has been a constant advisor to and supporter of ICW.

The next recipient of an award was Chrissy Hill who has been a member of the Committee, a Vice President and active in the lobbying work on the impacts of seismic strengthening on owners over a number of years. Chrissy was always willing to engage with the media to help the lobbying work and continues to provide information to help the current lobbying efforts when needed.

And finally, Brett Coram of Tomoko Communications. Brett is a graphic designer who has supported ICW as a volunteer since 2016. He created our new logo, developed our branding and has produced our annual reports, banners, brochures, posters, certificates, agreements and awards etc. He has sought no public recognition and we had to work hard just to get his company's name on our sponsors poster.

The evening celebrations ended with the Founders Day cake. Andy Foster and Grant Robertson blew out the candles and the cake was cut by David Wood and Grant Firth.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Lack of resource has hindered marketing this year but we aim to make it a priority in the next year – in particular improving our website.

Some progress has been made in achieving provision from WCC of the IT infrastructure Microsoft TEAMS for all Residents' Associations in Wellington – an initiative being pursued through a network of all associations. This will certainly assist in improving communications.

ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

We are delighted that we have been able to procure some few hours of administrative support from Trish Given who works for Mt Vic Hub with funds from WCC and has been able to add some time for our Association. We anticipate this will assist in work to enlarge our membership and improve our social media presence as well as maintaining ongoing communications and committee support.

Increasing membership is critical for our sustainability and we welcome any ideas and initiatives to help us in this regard.

We have made no progress on sponsorship this past year.

OUR PEOPLE

OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Albertson
Shona Butterfield
Jessica Ducey
David Wood
Andre de Groot
Geraldine Murphy (Earthquake Project)
Clare Hutchins (Co-operation partner)
Neil Pryor (Co-operation partner)
Geo Robrigado (Co-operation partner)
Trish Given (Administration)

CHANGE STARTS HERE: Can you help?

- **Become a member**
- **Join the committee**
- **Join one of our 2020 projects:** We need people from many different fields and interests.
- **Local Democracy Project:** *The project seeks to promote awareness and action within the local authority of their need to better serve the well-being of the people by strengthening the democratic process through more effective, transparent and accountable community engagement.*
- **Living Environments Project:** *This project is a local response to the predicted growth in inner-city living, rather than a comprehensive overview of New Zealand housing. It seeks to promote awareness and action within public authorities around three key perspectives affecting high-density living that appear to have diminished in importance at all levels of government.*
- **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 with your contact details and we would love to chat with you.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 April 2019—31 March 2020

	Current 2020	Last Year 2019
Opening Balance	1,723.18	1,435.16
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Income		
Subscriptions	1,118.00	1,170.00
Donations (Koha) +Raffle	70.00	117.00
WCC Grant	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<hr/> 2,188.00 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,287.00 <hr/>
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Expenses		
1) Meeting Expenses	274.89	780.00
2) Website & Software subscription	489.53	726.05
3) Founders Day	519.02	276.09
4) Communications & advert	326.25	204.84
Bank Fees	12.40	12.00
	<hr/> 1,622.09 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,998.98 <hr/>
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Assets		
Kiwibank Account	2,289.09	1,723.18
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Liabilities	-	-
	<hr/> 2,188.00 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,287.00 <hr/>
	<hr/> 1,622.09 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,998.98 <hr/>
	<hr/> Income/Deficit 565.91 <hr/>	<hr/> 288.02 <hr/>

- 1) Meeting Expenses, AGM
- 2) Web Domain Names & Website
- 3) Founders day certificates, catering, Koha to St Peters & Mt Cook School Choir
- 4) ICW banners, introduction cards



CONTACT US

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Website: www.innercitywellington.nz