



Annual General Meeting 22nd October 2024

Chairs Report

This has been my second full year as the chair of IBRA. When I joined the committee I had lots of ideas about how we may help connect our community. I have found it hard to action many of these. The reasons for this are multifactorial: the whole country is amid an economic downturn, and Wellington has felt the impact considerably with many job losses and ongoing job market insecurity. This and the cost of living crisis mean many are reigning in any discretionary spending. This has had flow-on effects on all industries in our city. The additional impact of the work on the Parade has seen our local businesses suffer due to restricted store access and a reduction in foot traffic. All of this has people feeling the strain, and this is often a focus of discussion at our meetings. In addition, time is precious; many of us do this community work alongside busy personal and professional lives, and balancing that is important to keep committee members engaged in the work.

I have decided to put my hand up for the committee one more year, to try and generate some positive community events and action after the works and cycleway are complete. Hopefully, we can take full advantage of the new layout along the parade, the connection of the cycleway into town, and the summer sunshine to help encourage locals out into the Bay and bring in visitors from other suburbs to enjoy what we have to offer.

Membership

As of 6th October, when writing this report, we have 607 members, down from 619 just prior to the last AGM. Being a member means you get our email updates in your inbox and have voting rights at the AGM. We maintain our member list in Mailchimp. Maintaining a member register, with member details and date of sign-up, and consenting to become a member are requirements of the new Incorporated Societies Act. You can sign up using the sign-up form on our website.

Financials

We have received two WCC grants, one in June 2023 and one in October 2023, totalling \$2000.

Our current account balance is \$1,599.85

Expenditure includes venue hire, website fees and community fund grants.

The financial report is to be confirmed at the AGM; this report and our account statements are available on our website.

For the last two years, I have paid personally for a professional account on Zoom to facilitate a Zoom option for our meetings. I will not renew that this year. The new committee must decide if this is a priority for our funds in 2025.

Committee Update

I want to thank Catherine Inder and Ben Everist, who contributed to our committee since our last AGM but stepped down earlier in the year, and Jeff McDonald, who is not standing for the 2025 committee. Everyone has busy lives so we are very grateful for anyone who can give their time in support of our community.



The remaining committee members have all put their hand up to re-stand for 2025:

1. Sonya Cameron
2. Sheila Hart
3. Mark Henderwood
4. Alex MacGibbon
5. Kirsten Matheson
6. Andrew Lourantos
7. Sandra Proctor
8. Kirsty Smith
9. Iliesa Tora

And we have four new nominations, which is excellent:

1. Joy Baker
2. David Bolt
3. Elena McDiarmid
4. Sharon Newman

This gives us a committee of 13, out of a maximum of 13. No election is required.

Incorporated Societies Act 2022

As part of the revised Act, we must re-register by April 2026. An updated constitution has been worked on this year, presented at our August update meeting, and then circulated to members for feedback. The changes to our objectives are the only fundamental changes suggested by the committee (and amended based on member feedback). All other aspects align the constitution with the revised Act requirements, particularly around membership, committee processes, and dispute resolution. Any constitutional amendment needs a 75% majority of votes to be passed. I would like you to have your say on this. You can vote in person at the AGM, or submit your vote in advance here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5C69WT7>

Email updates

We continue our monthly email updates, a collation of news and stories relevant to Island Bay and Southgate, and have received positive feedback on their value. If you have any stories that you would like to share, please send them to us. The updates go out on the 1st of the month (ideally!), so we need them prior to that date.

Website and Social Media

Work on the website continues. You can find all relevant information relating to our meetings and activities there. We are looking to expand the resources on our website this year - community events, a Te Araroa page, and a business directory.

Meetings and Community events

We have continued our monthly committee meetings, all with an open session, on the fourth Tuesday of the month; the day was changed to accommodate committee and venue availability. A small number of residents regularly attend the open session.



We have held two community update meetings. These are where we aim to get good community attendance and provide information and presentations to update on relevant issues.

The April meeting covered the following:

- Coastal restoration - Importance of the Dunes
- Parade Upgrade update
- Long Term Plan Update

The August meeting covered the following:

- Predator Free Wellington and Island Bay
- Rongotai Electorate Update
- Southern Ward Update
- Constitution Update

We held a WREMO Civic Hub workshop at Island Bay School in March, which had a good number attend to run through how to set up and run the hub. We enjoyed a trick-or-treat stand on the parade for Halloween and an Easter egg hunt at Shorland Park. Several committee members volunteered at the Island Bay Festival, helping set up or staffing the recycling station. We hope to expand on these types of activities in 2025.

I attend the monthly Wellington Residents' Association Network meetings.

Andrew Laurantos attends the monthly Southern Community Update meetings.

Alex MacGibbon has attended recent meetings with the 4C group and WCC to progress the climate change discussions relevant to the South Coast.

Advocacy

Over the year, we have discussed extensively our role in advocacy, particularly making submissions on behalf of our members. The current committee feels we can only do this in a way that represents all views in our community, which would be from one end to the other on any issue. Primarily, the requests for us to act have come in the form of opposing the cycleway and Parade upgrades.

We aim to provide as much information as possible to facilitate individual submissions by sharing relevant submission information and deadlines via our email updates and website.

Our meetings offer the opportunity to meet with our local councillors to discuss concerns and issues.

Community fund

Thanks to grants from WCC, we have continued our small community fund aimed at supporting community initiatives/activities. 2 grants of \$100 were awarded this year – Space Program at St Hilda's and Island Bay School fair.

Looking ahead to 2025

I look forward to working for the community next year as part of the committee. Ideas that have been discussed for next year include:

- Pataka Kai – this has been a bit of a labour of love for Sonya, but it is looking promising that this will be in place soon, next to the library
- Island Bay Festival involvement



- Te Araroa – encouraging walkers to come and visit our businesses at the end of their walk (North Island finishes at Shorland Park)
- Maintaining planter boxes/beds along the Parade – setting up a community group to support the work of WCC horticultural team
- Community clean up – like that done in Newtown recently
- Dune Restoration Group revival
- Easter Egg hunt and Shorland Park clean-up
- Picnic in the park
- Repeat Member Survey

I'm hopeful we can coordinate community-focused events to connect us and our shared goal of keeping Island Bay a great place to live, work, and play!

Sheila Hart
Chair 2024