

President's Report March 2023

Lawrence Collingbourne

It has been privilege to have been your President during 2022. One of my responsibilities is to report to you on ORCA's operations. This past year has been one of Covid recovery and we look forward to an active year in 2023 - without any more cyclones!

A big thank you!

First of all I want to acknowledge that without the ORCA Committee we cannot serve our members nor strengthen our community in Broadmeadows, Khandallah and Kaiwharawhara. So I begin as is my custom, by thanking all the members of the ORCA Committee. It has been a pleasure to work with such a strong team.

- Ray Chung – Vice President)
- Ian Duncan (resigned July 2022) – Secretary
- Lance Pratley (resigned August 2022) & Lachman Prasad – Treasurers
- Martin Jenkins
- Alastair Hutchens (co-opted May 2022)
- John McGrath (co-opted May 2022)

I also want to thank those organisations who have generously sponsored ORCA and its events in the last year, both through direct grants and donations and also help in kind, free product or discounted services: Wellington City Council, Khandallah Trading Company, Paul & Helen Anderson, The Independent Herald, Ying Min Chu, and the Cornerstone Trust.

Covid-19 and Weather – A tale of missed picnics

We look upon the Covid pandemic as business-as-usual now, but last year's flagship event, our Khandallah Park Picnic, was scuppered by Covid rules, and at last year's annual Meeting we were still in compulsory precautions. Great party we thought, though.



2023 has started with monumental rainfall. No problem watering the garden – if you still have one that is. Once again our hearts go out to those in the North Island severely damaged by cyclones. Although not cyclonic, the weather meant we had to cancel this year's picnic after we set it up with our partners. Thanks in particular to KAT-Theatre and the Khandallah Presbyterian Church. A trifecta of wind, rain and low temperatures could not be ignored, even though they finally arrived later in the day.



The Wellington City District Plan



The densification of Wellington City is finally moving to its penultimate phase. In July last year Council Officers presented a Notified District Plan to Council. Following a report from ORCA and JCA members, Councillors rejected the designation of the Johnsonville Railway as a Rapid Transit Service. Great: 4-storeys not 6+-storeys.

We have now moved to the formal hearings process under the RMA. In August we held a public meeting and formulated a submission from your feedback in September, followed by further submissions in December

A panel of Commissioners is now receiving oral presentation in several streams and In February we returned with expert assistance to counter Council officers who propose to reinstate the Rapid Transit Service designation of our heritage railway. There are two more streams we want to address before the end of June. Many thanks to Felicity Wong and Julie Ward for their considerable efforts on our behalf.

Stream Walks – Korimako & Tyers



Last year we focused on our local environment and parks with two organised walks to enable our members to get to know our local streams and their parks with some expert guidance.

The first was in July at Trelissick Park to see the Korimako and Kaiwharawhara Streams. The second was deferred to March 2023 to see the Tyers Stream. Thanks to Ian Duncan and Lynn Cadenhead for organising these walks.

Please let us know if you would like more.

Community emergency preparedness

Last year the Covid emergency caused us to defer our long sought plan to engage with you about community emergency preparedness. However following the recent cyclones, we will revisit this in 2023 with Heather McCaskill of WREMO. The East of the North Island was effectively cut off from power, water, communications and access from outside. Each community had to cope by itself for significant periods. even after air-lifted and sea-borne assistance arrived. How would we do this?



Christmas Fair and Party 2022

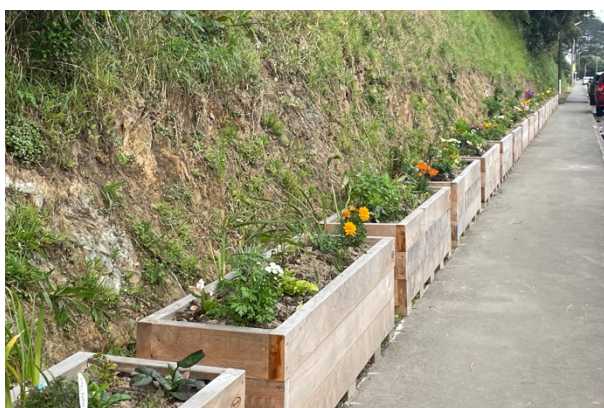


We celebrated Christmas and the end of another year at two events: The Khandallah Fair (organised by the Lions) and our own Christmas Party upstairs in the Khandallah Town Hall.

It was so good to party without masks and enjoy great company over drinks and refreshments. Our local politicians Greg O'Connor, Diane Calvert and Ray Chung joined us.

On Sunday we promoted ORCA at the Fair.

The Berm on Burma



Last year ORCA supported residents at Malvina Major who wanted to beautify the Burma Road with some planting along the opposite footpath.

After long discussions about the infrastructure below the footpath, the neat solution of using planter boxes has now been completed.

The project cost \$19,000 and was funded by the Council. The Onslow and Johnsonville garden clubs have gifted plants to help fill the boxes.

Come and join our Committee



ORCA runs with support of our members, through the work of our Committee, to create great outcomes for our community. Without our members we could achieve nothing. Please come and take a more active part if you are not already doing so. Come and join our Committee as a doer, with focus on our activities.

2023 is the last year I can serve you as your President. I hope to complete the District Plan journey and safeguard our neighbourhoods.





Future Programme

Looking forward, our programme for 2023 includes the following elements:

- May – Road Safety Expo
- July – Update on progress with the District Plan
- September – Community Emergency Response
- December – Christmas Party

Please come and give us your feedback at our Annual Meeting and let's have a drink and some refreshments as we look forward to a brighter future.

Lawrence Collingbourne

ORCA President

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