

President's Report March 2024

Lawrence Collingbourne

It has been privilege to have been your President during 2023. One of my responsibilities is to report to you on ORCA's operations. This past year has been my last as President, as my term ends at our 2024 Annual Meeting.

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
- Lachman Prasad – Treasurer
- Martin Jenkins
- Alastair Hutchens
- John McGrath
- Paul Carey (co-opted September 2023)
- Joan Shi (co-opted December 2023)

I also want to thank those organisations who have generously sponsored ORCA and its events in 2023, 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.

The Wellington City District Plan



As we meet for our Annual Meeting this year, the densification of Wellington City is has finally completed its process of going through Council. Some matters still remain under the full RMA process, but these do not affect zoning and building rules.

The Independent Hearings Panel (IHP) completed the fast track process and made its report to Council in February. During several streams of Hearings, Lawrence and Julie Ward made four presentations on behalf of our community, expanding on the written presentations we made the year before.

Our principal goal was to avoid other submitters re-litigating the Johnsonville Train Line as a Rapid Transit System, as this would lead to High Rise Development in Khandallah.



We had to come up to speed with the RMA process for the District Plan very quickly. However we succeeded in achieving our principal goals, using three independent experts to support our case in partnership with the Wellington Character Charitable Trust. We achieved the following:

1. The Commissioners established as a matter of fact that the Johnsonville Rail Line was not a Rapid Transit System and accepted key points from our evidence to this effect,
2. The Commissioners kept the 1.5m front setbacks and 1m side setbacks for medium density housing, which Council Officials had also supported,
3. The Commissioners rejected the concept of City Outcomes that would have enabled Local Centre and Medium Density heights to be increased without resource consent.

Council met last week to review the IHP modifications to the Proposed District Plan. The dominant left block voted for a few significant changes to the Plan, which have been exaggerated as a “generational change”. As you will be aware from my email yesterday, these included using Kāinga Ora and Stride qualitative submissions to amend the Johnsonville Train Line to be a Rapid Transit System, completely ignoring the expert evidence of Waka Kotahi and the detailed analysis of the Commissioners. Rebecca Matthews also pressed a motion to remove the front and side setbacks from medium density housing. So Khandallah has a 22m height zone within a 10-minute walking catchment of our three stops on the Johnsonville Train Line. I sent you the amended zone maps.

The matter is now in the hands of Chris Bishop, the Minister for Housing. He must decide whether to accept the Council amendments or keep the IHP recommendations for the issues voted on last week, all of which carried despite the best efforts of other councillors, including Diane Calvert and Ray Chung.

Community emergency preparedness – November 2023

In November we held our community resilience summit in Khandallah Town Hall jointly with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office. Many thanks to Martin Jenkins and Heather McCaskill for helping to organise this. The summit identified the issues that we can expect if we have a significant earthquake or flood event of the magnitude of Cyclone Gabrielle – which a year later is still badly affecting rural communities. The impact of these is expected to deprive us of any external support from emergency services for at least a week. This covers services such as the following:

1. 3-waters services will be broken – replacement fresh water will take time to set up
2. Electricity – expect to be cut off for an extended period
3. Communications – cell towers stop operating when their back up power runs out
4. Road access – will be cut off
5. Food – supermarkets cannot operate without electrical power, or deliveries
6. Healthcare – pharmacy, general practice and hospital access all unavailable initially
7. Shelter – many houses will be uninhabitable.

This means that we must prepare for such an event by firstly ensuring our own household resilience: water storage, emergency toilets, emergency food and cooking facilities (eg bbq), a battery radio, adequate supply of prescription drugs, cash to buy food or other essentials, etc., etc. The next step in 2024 is to define what our community resilience looks like when our household resilience runs out.

Road safety Expo – July 2023

In July we held a Road safety Expo to explore how we can stay safe on our roads. Many thanks for Martin Jenkins for organising this. Five guest speakers addressed the following topics:

1. Understanding driver behaviour – Peter Sheppard
2. Intersection safety – Zackary Moody, WCC
3. Speed management – Ash Williams, NZ Police
4. Cyclist safety – Jonathan Kennett
5. Drowsy driving – Martin Jenkins

One of the most dangerous things we can do is to assume we know all we need to know; I certainly did not. Peter gave us some great safe driving tips, Zackery took away several suggestions for improving our road intersections, Ash reminded us of the fundamentals through insights into how essential they are, Jonathan talked about how to get down to the City safely, and Martin highlighted one of the worst enemies of road safety – microsleeps while driving.

Christmas Party 2023

Once again we aimed to celebrate 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. Regrettably the Khandallah Fair was had to be a much smaller affair held in the Town Hall due to weather, so we skipped it. However our party was a great celebration of another ORCA year where we put our community first.

Apologies

Due to many prior commitments for almost all of our small Committee we were unable to hold the Khandallah Park Picnic with the KAT summer play this year.

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.

We have some notable gaps we all need to help fill.





Future Programme

Looking forward, our programme for 2024, this includes the following elements:

- Community Hub Rehearsal
- Neighbourhood Groups Summit
- 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

Outgoing ORCA President

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