

# Onslow Residents Community Association – Annual Report

Annual General Meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Chairman's Report

It is my pleasure to present my report to the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

In opening, I would firstly like to thank the Committee for their tireless work and dedication in providing the events and activities, which are needed to ensure our community is offered as much information as possible to maintain those aspects of our ORCA catchment of Khandallah, Broadmeadows and Kaiwharawhara which are precious to us all.

Like any organisation which is dependent on Voluntary commitment and community funding to provide the events needed, so all are informed about issues which may cause harm or interfere with our lives and also to be the watchdog to try to check that the core services and activities we all expect just to be there are maintained, is a huge call on a small team.

During the past year ORCA has been at the forefront in trying to provide clear information about risks we face from Natural Events which we face and the impact they may have on our lives. ORCA involved the Wellington Regional Emergency Organisation in a number of presentations; to try to raise awareness of residents to understand the risks the impact of an unplanned natural event could cause to all in the wider Onslow catchment. It is clear to all of us on the Committee that unless Residents become involved in Emergency Planning, the flow on effects could be devastating on us all should an unplanned and unforeseen disaster occur.

Mid year, ORCA became embroiled in a level of controversy, when the Station Kitchen applied for a full Liquor Licence at the same time the installation of the new traffic lights at the junction of Box Hill, Station Road, Baroda Street and Burma Road were being completed. After an informal investigation, ORCA requested a short extension to the application timetable, as some residents and other affected parties felt they did not fully understand the impact the Traffic Lights may have together with the change in parking and road markings which would occur. Sadly, two Councillors standing for re-election, chose to highlight the issue, making misguided and incorrect accusations stating ORCA was opposed to the establishment of the business which was incorrect. While efforts were made to have these accusations corrected neither of the parties would do so, which had an adverse effect on all the Voluntary Officers of your Association.

Other activities which ORCA offered and was involved in have been;

Driver revision for older drivers,

Dog Control and ownership responsibilities

The Khandallah Fair

Four Candidate Meetings for Mayoral aspirants and Councillors

Representations for Council support for community gardens

## Road Safety (Inattention, Intersections, Driver Fatigue)

Lastly our most ambitious initiative which is subject to the Key Address this evening. This has been borne from ORCA's concern about Emergency Management planning and Community Connectivity between the more than 40 Organisations or Activities which are dependent on Community Volunteers to run them. Each currently exists as an independent organisation. As a Community few residents are aware of the many groups providing activities and services across our suburb. In undertaking an investigation of what is available to us all we were astounded at what is available and the breadth of their reach.

As your residents Association ORCA, undertook consultation and investigation to find a avenue where anyone could find out what is available to us and if there was a way to provide communication and understanding between all of the voluntary groups. This level of communication is especially important for new residents and if an emergency situation arises in our suburb and residents need to be advised of the risks or management in place to assist us to help us all.

ORCA is very keen to see more residents involved in building the association into a really viable base which is recognised as being a key part of our suburb but also in recognising that prior to 1934 Khandallah and Ngaio were in fact a single entity as the Onslow Borough. The two suburbs sit in a single valley which is serviced by four road accesses, Ngaio Gorge, Onslow Road, Churchill Drive and Burma Road. Each of the access points has frailty which we all have to contend with whenever there is a severe weather event, namely slips. We also need to realise that stormwater is also an issue, as there are just two streams servicing all the excess storm water from our area, plus input from Johnsonville/Newlands, Wadestown, Wilton, Northland and Karori. These are the Kaiwharawhara Stream which runs from Zealandia in the South and from Clark Street in the North and Tyrer's Creek which runs from the Khandallah Village in the South, Mt Kau Kau in the West and Johnsonville and Newlands in the North. Every residential and commercial roof contributing to what they have to carry to the harbour.

The time has come for me to step away from the Committee and I look forward to seeing ORCA evolve in its work within our community and success in developing the initiatives evolving for the future. It has been a privilege in being involved in this suburb again after starting my life here many years ago.

David Binning

Retiring Chair ORCA.