



President's Report April 2021

Lawrence Collingbourne

It has been a privilege to have become your President at last year's annual meeting, which was delayed until the end of June due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. Welcome to my first annual report. I will follow prior practice and report on the activities of the last 12 months.

A big thank you!

First of all I would like to thank all the members of the ORCA Committee who were elected at last year's annual meeting. It has been a pleasure to work with such a strong team. Together they have shown great energy, worked diligently, brought significant connections, brought specific knowledge and skills and have been the backbone of all we have organised and produced. Here they are:

- Rayward Chung (Vice President)
- Lance Pratley (Secretary)
- Lachman Prasad (Treasurer)
- Martin Jenkins
- Shirley Morrison
- Annie Van Herck
- Barbara McKenzie
- Ross Murdoch.

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, New World Khandallah, Mitre 10 Crofton Downs, Paul & Helen Anderson, The Independent Herald, Dominos Pizza Khandallah, Whittakers Chocolates, Ying Min Chu and The Cancer Society.

Covid-19 and Community Resilience

Nobody foresaw the impact of the global pandemic that prevented any ORCA activity for the first three of the last 12 months. We have certainly learned some new language; would you say we have reached our "new normal" yet and do you think any of what we were told was "fake news"? One thing we had to change was our constitution last year so we could survive lockdowns and hold meetings by "Zoom" if we had to. You'll be glad to know we have no more changes this year!

On a more serious note, we learned that resilience is not just for the individual or the family; we need community resilience as well. ORCA produced templates and encouraged members to contact neighbours to ensure that nobody was left totally isolated by level 4 lockdown. In my street we refreshed our neighbourhood support contacts and identified those who were willing to help and those who needed it.

Look out for a couple of a couple of events this year that explore how we can build on this by using the community emergency hub to get the support we need to prepare for a future emergency.

Looking after our waterways



Our Environment & Parks portfolio group, led by Shirley Morrison, organised our first event after lockdown in September last year to inform us about the path and history of the Tyers Stream and its fish life. We were reminded of the damage human behaviour can do to the water purity. Guest speakers included residents Neil Deans and Lynn Cadenhead, together with James Looty and Nick Pearson of Greater Wellington.

Eight recommendations to protect our streams made can be found at <https://onslowcommunity.org.nz/looking-after-our-waterways>.

The Draft Spatial Plan



Two public meetings were held later in September to discuss Wellington City Council's draft Spatial Plan, one organised by resident Jo Stevens. These meetings helped our residents understand what the plan means for us, to empower us to make a response, and give us a say about what our district becomes over the next 30 years. We want to build a brighter future. More than 186 people attended. ORCA made submissions based on the feedback from the public meetings.

Stay in touch with us as the Council prepares a response later this year before they engage again with a new District Plan. Will it lead to a brighter future?

Khandallah Village Fair & Christmas Party

December was a busy time for us attending Rotary North's Khandallah Village Fair where we signed up some new members and holding our Christmas Party. Each one of our events is worth more than the annual subscription! Many thanks to Khandallah Trading for their sponsorship of the drinks.

We also took the time to plan our programme for 2021 – in so far as it survives changes the year brings!



Khandallah Park Picnic

What better way to kick off the new year than with fun in the Park? We can't claim any credit for the weather being so good, but our local MP Greg O'Connor believes the sun always shines at our picnic. We had a great turnout and it was so good to see the large audience for KAT's summer play that followed: The Reluctant Dragon.



What would you rate as the most fun? Do get in touch and let us know by emailing us at <mailto:onslowcommunityassn@gmail.com>. Was it the ORCA sausage sizzle, or the Presbyterian pulled-pork buns, or maybe the ORCA cupcakes or the Dominos Pizza slices? More likely that the kids enjoyed the KAT novelty races, or the ORCA & KAT treasure hunt, but my favourite was the Big Bubbles, sponsored by the Khandallah Trading Company? Did you get a predator trap at Khandallah Predator Free's stall?

We'd like to also thank New World Khandallah, Paul & Helen Anderson, Mitre 10, the Independent Herald, Dominos Pizza, Whittakers Chocolates, Ying Min Chu, the Cancer Society and Wellington City Council.

Transport Public Meeting

About seventy people attended the ORCA Transport Public Meeting on March 16th 2021. Chair Daran Ponter GWRC, Councillor Roger Blakeley GWRC and Bill Guest of Karori Residents Association spoke. Mayor Andy Foster, MP for Ohariu Greg O'Connor and Councillor Diane Calvert were in attendance.

There was wide ranging debate on Wellington's transport, with a large majority wanting to focus on the status of the Johnsonville Railway Line. Chair Daran Ponter and Mayor Andy Foster both said that in its current form they did not consider it to be a Rapid Transit System, as defined of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development. Daran Ponter observed it was important for local residents to make submissions on this if they wanted the two Regional Transport Plans contrary statements removed.

ORCA has made written submissions on both plans and is making oral submissions this month.

Future Programme

We plan to keep up the momentum this year by focusing on the next saga in Spatial / District planning, community emergency preparedness and some practical road safety.

Please stay in touch with us as we come and ask for more feedback and direction from you later this year so we stay focused on topics that you care about.

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