

NEWSLETTER – August 2017

Hi everyone

Here’s the latest news from the Residents Association.

## **Community Walk**

The Community Walk that was postponed from earlier in the year has now been scheduled for Sunday 12 November, at 1.30pm, commencing from the Dales. More information on this is on a separate newsletter which will be delivered to your letterbox.

## **Ministry of Education consultation**

The current Ministry of Education survey closed on Friday 25 August 2017. The intention of the survey was to get interested parties to vote on their preferred options. There were nine options in total, with things like a new school being split into a new school on Aotea College grounds, or a new school somewhere south in the Aotea suburb. When we asked the Ministry if they could provide us with more information on where this proposed site was they advised it was too early in the process to enter negotiations on obtaining a piece of land. This leads us to surmise that there may currently be no alternative site other the college grounds, although we may be wrong.

From here the Ministry advises a final decision for future schooling will be made in Term 4.

## **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The Aotea Residents Association AGM is set down for Wednesday 27 September at 7.30pm, to be held at Horouta Marae, Whitford Brown. All are welcome. We will have the full results from the speed signs placed on Aotea Drive and John Burke Drive, as well as a discussion about Aotea joining other suburbs in becoming pest free.

## **Village Plan**

We are delighted to let you know the Council has approved Village Plan funding for improvements to Jasmine Underhill Reserve.

There will be an opportunity for residents to provide input into the project once it kicks off, so we’ll be in touch.

## **Aotea Drive**

## At the ARA’s request, the Council installed a temporary speed sign along Aotea Drive, between Nelson Ave and Kaimai Place. The sign was in place for a month and recorded speeds only, i.e. no vehicle data was captured. This forms part of our project to help understand how fast people go along Aotea Drive, and will be used to formulate possible solutions. Although the full data is too long to display here (We will have this at the AGM, and it is available for people on request by emailing aotearesidents@gmail.com), the highlights are:

* Data was captured from 15,640 vehicles.
* The average daily speed was 48kms/h
* On average only 59% of vehicles went 50kms/h or slower (although a total of 90% did 55kms/h or slower)
* On almost every day there was a speed recorded faster than 70kms/h, and there were two speeds of over 95kms/h during the period.

To put these stats into perspective, the Ministry of Transport does an annual survey of random sites around the country to work out the mean speed of drivers in urban areas. In 2015 the result was 50kms/h for the whole of New Zealand, and 48kms/h for the Wellington area. So we’re in line with the rest of the Wellington area.

However police stats show that the majority of crashes occur in the 1-10km/h band above the speed limit. And some drivers treat the area as a drag strip rather than a suburban road, which needs to be addressed, sooner rather than later. We will be using the AGM as an opportunity to collect suggestions from residents on a long term solution. In the meantime we will liaise with the Council and the Police to see if something can be done to make the area safer.

## **Annual Quiz night**

Our annual quiz night was held on 30 July at The Supply Room in Mana. We had a total of ten teams and thanks to some extremely generous sponsors, almost everyone left with some sort of prize. Well done to all the participants.

## **Annual membership subs**

The Aotea Residents Association works on behalf of residents in a number of ways, as outlined above. It’s an entirely volunteer run organization, but there are instances where we need funds for things. Our annual membership subs are set at $10 per household. Traditionally they have been due at the time of our AGM in October, however we are moving the payment due date to July each year, to fall in line with the start of our financial year. We’d ask that people help support us as we continue to work on your behalf. Payment details are:

Aotea Residents Association
06 0705 0468949 00
Reference: Your surname

Please email us as well to let us know you’ve made a payment.

Regards

Rodney Strong
Chair