



## **Meadowbank & St Johns Residents Association**

### **2019 Annual General Meeting**

#### **Chair's Report**

**Welcome to the 2019 AGM of the Association whose aim is to help make Meadowbank & St Johns, Auckland's Most Liveable Suburbs!**

**I have had the privilege and pleasure to Chair your Association for only eight months at this point because we made the decision this year to bring our financial year and committee year into closer alignment.**

**Some of the highlights of the period since our last AGM in July 2018 have been:**

- **Finance - despite calling on Auckland Council/Orakei Local Board grant funding at a much lower level than previous years, our financial position has strengthened slightly however we have significant expenditure planned in the year ahead. Additional income has been generated from increased membership subs, sponsorship and advertising.**
- **Membership - growth has been strong at both levels "Associate Members" (people on the database who receive our newsletter) – up by 89 or roughly 17% and "Financial Members" (people who have paid their annual subs) up 37 or roughly 30%. While we have more work to do in this area, we interpret the growth in these numbers to mean that we are communicating better to a wider audience, and our advocacy on Transport and Environment issues in particular strikes a chord with the residents of our suburbs.**
- **Communications – the quality of our monthly e-newsletter has continued at or even above the level of past years and has been the subject of a number of complimentary comments. In addition our Facebook posts which we believe take us to a different demographic group, have resulted in our "likes" now exceeding 1,000, "engagement" almost 2,000 and "reach" now almost 12,900.**
- **Transport - initiatives in this area include continuing dialogue with Auckland Transport on matters such as the pedestrian crossing on Meadowbank Rd, the public meeting we held in conjunction with OLB on Gowing Drive traffic issues and our support for the on-going petition from local residents, our own on-going petition seeking reinstatement of the bus service through St Johns Park, submitting to AT on reduced vehicle speeds, continuing interest in progress on Stage II of the Glen Innes to Tamaki Drive Shared Pathway and the local connections to it, and addressing safety concerns over the intersection .**

- **Environment – this year the Association joined a group known as SASOC (Save Auckland from Sewage Overflows Coalition) after continuing concerns about sewage overflows into the Pourewa Creek; we again participated in the annual Clean Up of Purewa Bush; we made a start on our Rodent Eradication Project having now placed 40 rat traps and with a quantum leap forward on this project planned for the coming year; we have taken a close interest in progress on the replacement of the Meadowbank Community Centre and we picked up on the concerns of local residents about the intrusive nature of the new floodlights on the Remuera Golf Course**

**None of this work happens on its own which means that we have demanded effort and time from our volunteer Committee that in some cases has exceeded a reasonable level and I wish to record my thanks to all of the 2018/19 Committee for the results we have achieved.**

### **Committee Changes**

**Towards the end of the year we lost the services of Lakshman Abeynaike who moved out of the area. Lakshman was on the Committee for at least 4 years and on behalf of members and the Committee I thank him most sincerely - his wise counsel will be missed.**

**We appointed a new Treasurer Ron Hamilton late in 2018 but unfortunately due to a medical issue he felt it necessary to resign before he was able to make the contribution he undoubtedly would have.**

**Our biggest loss for next year is Lynda McCartney who is standing down after at least 5 years on the Committee, four of those as Secretary, having become for at least the last three years our “keeper of the culture”. Again on behalf of members and the Committee I thank Lynda for all her efforts and wish her well in the future.**

**On a positive note, we have been successful, thanks largely to our Communications lead Anna Jackson, in recruiting a number of highly qualified and talented people for the 2019/20 Committee into the Membership (Sue Craigie), Environment (Kieran Tibble), Environment/Transport (Ensiyeh Gavampour), Treasurer (Bonnie Nunn) and Secretary (Charmaine Vaughan) roles and we look forward to the contributions each of them will make in their areas and to the Committee as a whole.**

### **Sponsors**

**We owe a great deal to our sponsors; the Orakei Local Board for their on-going financial support; Carmel Claridge and Troy Churton our OLB representatives for their support and their regular, detailed OLB updates at meetings; the financial and advertising support from Judith Everitt of Ray White Realty and Linda Jones of Meadowbank Corner Chemist; and the financial support from Charles Benedict of Barfoot & Thompson Meadowbank.**

**On a final note, this is your Association and your Committee is here to listen and where possible, act on your concerns. You can help us to achieve our objectives by taking an interest - reading the newsletter, liking or engaging our Facebook posts, talking to neighbours or friends and family in the area who are not members; by telling us if you have concerns; by making constructive suggestions if you believe we**

can improve or if there is an area that we haven't covered; and most importantly, if you feel strongly about an issue, volunteer to help.

I look forward to leading the Association in the coming year and to making further progress towards our objectives.

**Barry Stewart**

**Chair**