

**meet the  
OHARIU - BELMONT  
candidates**

**wednesday  
9th November  
7.30pm  
ngaio town hall**

**AGM**  
**20th October 2011**  
**7.30pm**  
**Ngaio Town Hall**  
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**new members**  
**are always welcome**

**it's our fault**  
which runs through central Wellington

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**NGAIO 2011**

**Salutations!**

It is my very great pleasure to present the 29th Annual Report of the Ngaio Progressive Association (NPA). For those of you new to the area this is the name for what is known elsewhere as a residents or ratepayers association. Actually we want to change our name, but more on this later.

The NPA meets the first Wednesday of the month in the side room of the Ngaio Town Hall at 7.45pm, and is made up of individuals with interests as diverse as law and ecology, which is useful really as I outline what we have been up to this past year. The main motivation of the committee is the betterment of Ngaio for its residents and a desire to work in the volunteer sector. We are always keen to have new members, and although all belong by virtue of living in Ngaio or Crofton Downs, only paid-up members are able to vote at the AGM.

Currently the NPA has three strategic goals:

**Goal 1:**

*Communication and interaction with residents and members of the Ngaio and Crofton Downs community will be effective.*

**Goal 2:**

*NPA will continue to advocate for Ngaio and Crofton Downs residents and consult with the Wellington city Council and Local Government Officials.*

**Goal 3:**

*The natural environment will be enhanced.*

Each year there are targets set for these goals, and we have achieved these for 2011 as follows:

**Goal 1:**

We want to change our name to the "Ngaio and Crofton Downs Residents Association". Approval is sought from the AGM as is required by our rules. We have always encompassed the geographical locale of Ngaio and Crofton Downs, but we want to formally acknowledge this in our name. Also the more straightforward "Residents" rather than the dated "Progressive" would be helpful in dealing with anyone under 35! Consequently this is on the Agenda for the Meeting.

We have also looked quite critically at our Rules, which is a prudent action every few years. This has been a larger task than anticipated, as there may be considerable work to be done. This will appear on the Agenda for next years AGM! At this point I want to acknowledge the assistance of Frank McGuire and Julia Williams for their efforts to progress this.

Every year we host at least one community function. This year, in view of the events in Christchurch, we held a "Network Ngaio" event mid winter, where we invited local businesses, professional groups and community and service organisations to meet each other, with a view to thinking about a civil emergency. We decided that

we should be able to reach a large number of people quickly, an advantage in an emergency. To this end we now have a viable database of community organisations although the primary criteria for an invitation was the size of the invitees database. It was also a reminder that many many small communities of interest operate within our geographical area. It was rewarding to be able to draw some together. My personal favourite was introducing the childcare groups to Save the Children representatives, who have a dedicated and ongoing role in the Christchurch recovery (the Journey of Hope).

I am pleased to report that NPA was ahead of the game in this respect; Wellington City Council is pursuing a theme of "community preparedness", and we have made a good start. Funding from WCC went towards the function expenses.

Our theme of raising our profile within the community has been met in several ways. Currently we are working on updating our suburbs walking map. We have held stalls at both Crofton Downs and Ngaio School galas, we have had press coverage over our efforts to restore the Roll of Honour in the Ngaio Town Hall (which is to be completed as part of the hall upgrade in Jan - Feb of 2012), and around the heritage tree in Khandallah and we have kept our website [www.ngaio.org.nz](http://www.ngaio.org.nz) current.

The website is our main method of contact with residents, and we have answered queries as simple as "is my house in Ngaio or Khandallah?" to "Was there a home for unwed mothers in Ngaio in the 1930's?". The website is also a preferred method of contact from WCC and I would like to publicly thank our retiring Secretary, Robin White for the constant monitoring of what at times is a deluge of information and correspondence. Due to the volume of traffic Robin is going to concentrate on our site's management and

we are very grateful to have this role in such safe hands.

We have also published our details in a new community directory initiative driven by the Johnsonville Citizens Advice Bureau.

One function we haven't held this year is our Junk Drive. This is partly because we are thinner on the ground in face of a rising tide of junk, partly because we are already committed for an electorate function later in the year and partly because WCC is immovable about the time of the year they will make their trucks available. In conjunction with Ngaio Scouts we have decided to make this a bi-annual event, so see you next September!

#### **Goal 2:**

We are pleased to report that Councillors John Morrison and Andy Foster have attended NPA meetings this year. These conversations are useful for us to see the thinking behind Council decisions and for us to express our concern over ongoing issues. The condition of the turf at Cummings Park, the ability of Council to develop a walking track from Cockayne Road to the Piwhakawhaka track, the ability of Council to rank spending priorities are all matters that we have drawn to the attention of John and Andy, and we are pleased with the relationships that we have developed. We have also welcomed a Wellington Emergency Management Office representative and residents keen to observe the workings of the association. On November 7 at the Town hall we will host our triennial "Meet the (Ohariu-Belmont) Candidates evening.

#### **Goal 3:**

We have held further working bees in the Silverstream Road stream area, to both plant and tidy up existing plantings. Residents in Collingwood Street were so organised they ran their own working-bee - although we facilitated the planting. We have guided WCC

in the planting of a new strawberry tree for the WW2 memorial. We have also freshened up the noticeboard and surrounding planting at the Khandallah Road end of Ngaio. Particularly I would like to mention the visible results of 10 years of our planting on Khandallah Road, on the east bank of Cummings Park, the Silverstream Road streamside and the Ngaio Railway Station carpark bank. Previously these areas were weed-infested that over time have been transformed and given visual pleasure to many. I would like to acknowledge the work of Trevor Lloyd here. Trevor has been a champion for the greening of Ngaio and we are indebted to his constancy in this.

#### **In 2011 we also:**

Made Submissions on:

- GWRC Draft Annual Plan
- WCC draft Annual Plan
- MA reform discussion document
- Building Competitive Cities
- WCC funding processes for residents associations
- Sale of road reserve at Churchill Drive shopping centre
- Reclassification of Ngaio Kindergarten land
- Parking bylaws

#### **Supported the:**

- Trelissick park Working Group
- Makererua Reserve Care Group
- Wadestown Resident Association Oban Street walkway bid
- Ngaio Scouts

#### **Attended the :**

- WCC introduction to the new mayor
- GWRC meeting on the future direction of the park at Baring Head/Eastbourne
- WCC Christmas function for community organisations
- Hearing re heritage Norfolk pine
- Otari WB AGM

- Public Meeting in Wilton re changes to kerbside recycling
- WEMO liaison meeting with new officer
- Volunteer Week Morning Tea
- Environment Court Role Play
- WCC Community Preparedness Grants Launch

But, there is always a "but". Because of our waxing and waning numbers, our energy levels, timing and a failure to get consensus there are submissions we didn't make. We didn't comment on the Wellington 2040 Strategy, the Buckle to Cobham Drive Transport Plan, the Guiding Principles of the Town Belt Management. We would like to do more - come along to a monthly Committee meeting, and become part of things!

As you can see much of the aforementioned involved e-mails, telephone conversations, co-ordination and discussion, not to mention meetings, subcommittees and document preparation, but we do it because of our passion for the betterment of Ngaio and Crofton Downs I would like to thank the members of the NPA Committee for their commitment and dogged enthusiasm. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of John and Andy on our behalf, and finally the local community who turn out to our events, give us feedback by phone or website - and become fully paid up financial members!

#### **Ngaio Progressive Association Committee**

Jo-ann Branthwaite, Erina Jamieson, Trevor Lloyd, Frank McGuire, Mary Munro, Michael Munro, Deborah Olson, Janet Robertson, Keith Rodgers, Fiona King, Ritchie Wards, Robin White

Viv Chapple  
**President**