



[www.newtown.org.nz](http://www.newtown.org.nz)

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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT to the Annual General Meeting of the Newtown Residents' Association to be held at Newtown Hall, Daniell Street, on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 7.30pm.**

As with last year, Newtown continues to undergo change with large projects for housing and commerce nearing completion. The road works for the John Street intersection along with the Countdown supermarket, Ronald McDonald House and apartments on the old Collins Motors site, will see a significant change in the western end of Riddiford Street. There is also potential change in large sites nearby where the Tip Top site remains vacant and St James Church held its last service. WCC social housing upgrades at Te Ara Hou, Hansen Court, Regent Park and Newtown Park are major improvements in the housing stock and community wellbeing. The Newtown Festival, housing and transport remain at the top of the list of NRA activities. All this within a difficult financial recession.

We acknowledge the ongoing **financial support from the Wellington City Council** for the festival as well as an annual operations grant that covers some costs. The grant this year will cover hall hire for meetings and developing an improved communication within the NRA membership.

The **Newtown Festival** is well established on the events calendar. This year, the organisers' hard work was recognised by Wellington City Council in giving an Absolutely Positively Wellingtonian Award to Festival committee members; Martin Hanley, Anna Kemble Welch, Peter Frater and James Coyle.

The **John Street intersection** changes that were described by WCC traffic engineers, Steve Spence and Stephen Harte in March, are now well underway with the relocation of underground services. Once this is complete, the additional lanes on the west side of Adelaide Road will be constructed.

Regular requests for **on-street parking** changes that require resolutions through Council, prompted the formation of a small group of members to regularly meet and take a broader view of people movement through Newtown, including how cyclists can be accommodated and the impact of hospital staff parking on local streets. Meetings will continue with Gail Reeves (WCC southern area transport) joining the group.

Greater Wellington Regional Council has started a review of the **bus and transport system** for the region. Initial bus route changes have been refined and a review of user charges is underway. A key component is a strong link between the Railway Station to the hospital, which may become a hub connecting other bus routes.

It is saddening to see **heritage buildings** not having future uses and the prospect of demolition. Churches in particular are being hit by high insurances, strengthening requirements while only having limited resources. St Anne's Presbytery and St Jame's Church are two in our area.

On a positive note, the setting up of the **Newtown Ethical Lending Trust** to give financial assistance, the **Inner City Gardens Scheme**, **Time Bank** and the **Sustainability Trust** operating in our area are very worthwhile initiatives for our community.

Finally, I wanted to note and give a personal vote of thanks to **Peter Frater** who has for many years looked after the finances of the Association, running postal deliveries and assisting with the Festival. Peter, your contribution has been immense over the many years on the NRA Executive and Festival Committee. We sincerely appreciate your dedication.

**Steve Dunn**  
**President**