

WATERFRONT WATCH INCORPORATED

**President's Report – AGM 19th June 2011 - 2 p.m.
Central Library - Mezzanine Floor**

Thank you for coming today and before a brief summary of the year, would like to thank most sincerely my committee who have supported me throughout what has not been any easy year. With their various skills everyone has brought new ideas and enthusiasm in the preparation of submissions, letters to council and fund raising. We would also like to thank Alana Bowman and John Galloway who joined us in our fund raising campaign towards the costs of legal fees in our Environment Court Appeal challenging Variation 11. Johnny Warren has also offered to help. I would also like to thank the many members who send messages of support like the one received last week “Keep up the good work and thank you for your magnificent efforts.”

Once again I would like to place on record our sincere gratitude to Past President Lindsay Shelton (who is currently overseas) for his assistance with the editing of our newsletters. Would recommend his column on the Wellington Scoop website where he has generated much debate on matters of concern to Wellingtonians, and just not the Waterfront. The committee is also grateful to Patrick McCombs who continues to keep our membership list up to date and to Ralph Higham who over a number of years has prepared and updated our website but with his work and family commitments we have now found a replacement. Our website is up to date and a good selection of photos taken during the summer at Frank Kitts Park, we welcome any contributions. I would also like to acknowledge the work done by Chris Greenwood and assisted this year by Alana Bowman in setting us up on Facebook.

Your committee has met 15 times, most of which included our fund raising volunteers and sent out 2 Newsletters and one email to members and friends. Would also like to acknowledge here the incredible work done by members and friends in the distribution of the “Help Save Wellington’s Beautiful Waterfront” leaflet resulting in new members and very generous donations, which boosted our Appeal account. Chris Horne, Victor Davie, David Lee, Russell and Pamela Tregonning (and a number of associates), Mary Varnham, Ron Oliver, Barbara and David Fowler, Jackie and Richard Randerson (and their daughters Rebecca and Joanna) Stuart Duff (plus friends), Brian Burrell, Peter Henderson, John Galloway and this also an acknowledgment to the many “nameless” who helped the abovementioned.

A special mention here to Pat (and Lindsay) Linney for their incredible fund raising efforts in July 2010 Peter McLeavey “The Man in the Hat” Film, August Christopher Salmon “My Life in Music”, September “Pre-Loved clothing/book sales”, plus two “pre-loved” sales at Hataitai and Mt Victoria, and of course to the committee who did sterling work at all these functions. Funds raised, which also included house painting (by David), book sales, etc (less expenses) totalled over \$4,000. Would also like to extend thanks to Jack Yan with his donation of new clothes/shoes from the Chinese community.

Chris and I represented Waterfront Watch at the forums organised by Council last December for many volunteer organisations in the city. We were interested in the points raised by other groups. Although there appears to have been little follow up, at our request Chris, Pat and I met with the Mayor, Cr Pannett and a council officer on the 4th March and many points discussed but with emphasis on Variation 11 where the point was made that V11 is basically undemocratic as it removes the right of people and at that date our only meeting with our lawyer and members of the planning team “without prejudice” had not been followed up. We also requested that Waterfront Watch be part of the Review of the 2001 Waterfront Framework.

We have made a number of written submissions and attended meetings of Council, S and P, and CCO’s with matters pertaining to the waterfront and the latest written and oral was presented in May and stressed two points under Principles: The Waterfront as a whole, is and will remain, a unique asset to the city and any review of the Waterfront Framework 2001 should include full open public consultation. It was very pleasing to read similar points made by members of the public. Three pupils from Onslow College requested information on Waterfront matters and the Hilton case so Pauline met with them last week and introduced them to Variation 11!

Queens Wharf: In the 2011/12 Waterfront Draft Development Plan (pages 170-171 it would appear that council has been given an extensive redevelopment plan for the area but in light of the continued economic downturn, WWLtd is not recommending that this be progressed, rather that it be reviewed for viability in 2/3 years. The plan goes on to say that WWLtd’s focus will be on investigating modest intervention to Shed 1 and the feasibility of developing one of the winning entries in the 2009 Outer T Blue Skies competition – which would involve the relocation of Helipro from the southern end of Shed 1 into a purpose built low level building on part of the Southern arm of the Outer T.

Since our Newsletter our lawyer has been in correspondence with the Council Officer re mediation and requested that a joint memorandum to the Court requesting the Court to allocate a mediation date at the earliest possible time. A matter of “watch this space”

Finally would like to quote from the introduction to our Oral submission on the 24th May 2011 WATERFRONT WATCH CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE FOR THE PEOPLE OF WELLINGTON WHO LOVE THE WATERFRONT AND HAVE MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR OVER MANY YEARS THAT THEY WANT IT TO BE A MAJOR OPEN SPACE WITH FREQUENT CONNECTIONS TO THE CITY, SIGNIFICANT GREEN SPACE AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE WATER’S EDGE.