

Westhaven Marina Users Association Inc

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Westhaven Marina Users Association Incorporated

Chairman's Report

For Financial Year ended March 31st 2016

A less hectic year, this year, as we wait for the wheels of justice to grind slowly along. We are waiting for decisions on both our submission to the Auckland Unitary Plan and the Environment Court on technical aspects of the SkyPath proposal.

We became a little excited when our previous acting chair, Barry Holton discovered that the Auckland City Council were attempting to sneak the Westhaven environs into an undisputed zone where the council could immediately move to multi-level accommodation. This eventually died a natural death when the citizens of Kohimarama and Glendowie exercised themselves to take the fight to Council, who subsequently decided to withdraw from the fray.

Last year we inveigled our membership to support our submission to the Unitary Plan with a one-off amount. This money has been well spent. During this year we were approached by the local Residents' Associations, to support their objection to the SkyPath proposal. We felt that we could not provide any financial support but we did provide research data and technical advice which some of our members possessed.

We are concerned with the dearth of technical data as to the engineering feasibility of the SkyPath proposal and have a longer term view of the disastrous pressure that this proposal will inevitably place on the parking facilities which our members funded when the two trusts were established.

We also spent some time deliberating upon what we could do to improve our relationship with Panuku Auckland Development and the Trustees of the two trusts. Panuku Auckland Development is a difficult beast because it clearly consists of at least two divisions which impact upon us directly. As their name suggests they have a Development arm which wants to develop the dickens out of Wynyard Quarter and provide less parking than the minimum Auckland City Council requirement, relying upon Westhaven to provide overflow parking.

They also have a Marina arm which manages Westhaven Marina into a world class facility. As you would expect we have a close relationship with the Marina Arm and are actively pursuing ways in which we can improve this relationship, so that we are involved at the beginning of their deliberations on any changes they may be planning.

Our role is to take a clearly biased view in support of your wishes. I have been a committee member for only 3 years and I have been impressed with the calibre of people involved and their ability to get straight to the nub of any forthcoming issue, call in expert help, and do their best to prevent our members from being ignored in the overall schemes which circulate around Westhaven. We have improved our relationships with other stakeholders in the area, including the St Mary's Bay Residents Association, the Herne Bay Residents Association, the Dragon Boaters and others. We began the first of our regular surveys, in April, where we received a wonderful feedback and are currently collating that, in order to get our ducks in a row. Tom Warren's Marina arm and the corporate trustees are also interested in the feedback that you, our members, are giving us, so, please respond to our future surveys as we are now being taken seriously and are receiving positive answers to your queries.

There are three issues that we are continuing to work through, in this year. These are Marina Security, Car Parking and Utility charges. All of these either have, or are, changing and we are talking with Tom Warren and his team, to help develop some mechanisms which may remove the hassle and angst associated with these subjects.

The longer term question will always be car-parking. My understanding is that Tom Warren's team does not want to reduce our parking access, but their Development Arm wants to promise it, to everyone else, who has not even helped to pay for it. Our parking is wide open for access to anyone and a lot more anyones are about to move into the district with the commercial developments in Wynyard Quarter plus the potential of the SkyPath proposal to proceed.

It behoves us to be involved in developing solutions, in conjunction with all stakeholders in Westhaven, to secure our car parking privileges into the future. We have some ideas which need exploring but we also need your help hence our plea for those of you who are interested, to contact us to offer your experiences so that we can build a real, long term solution, along with the Marina team at Panuku Auckland Development Also, please talk to your neighbouring berth occupiers and encourage them to join WMUA and enable us to carry on this good work on your behalf.

Euan Little
Acting Chair