

**Co-chairs Report**

**Community Networks Wellington Annual General Meeting**

**17th November 2021**

Community Networks Aotearoa

Annual General Meeting 2021

Co-Chair’s Report

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa

Warm greetings to you all, welcome.

I am pleased to present the Co-Chair’s report on behalf of the Board of Community Networks Aotearoa to the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

I would also like to acknowledge our community groups, members and individuals who are working every day in our communities to provide comfort, shelter, kai, advice and connections to the vulnerable and those who are going through challenging times, be that either temporary or a longer time frame our communities are supported and served by Community Networks Wellington.

One of the most important and valued pieces Community Networks Wellington brings to us all is connection. Being connected, being heard, listened to, and being present are all pieces of a vibrant and healthy community.

Our organisation is a reflection of the community organisations supporting the local communities and this is reflected in our Executive Members who donate more time, expertise and energy into ensuring we as an organisation are able to deliver to our communities. I would like to acknowledge all our Executive Members, these are :

* Julia Hennessy, Co-chair Presbyterian Support Central - Family Works
* Vicki Hirini The Salvation Army, Oasis
* Juliane Tandy, Treasurer Citizens Advice Bureau – Karori
* Donna Redmond BGI
* Dan Mustapic Atareira
* Alex Bengree Community Law Wellington & Hutt Valley

And resigned members:

* Mike Hinton, Co-chair Restorative Practices Aotearoa (RPA)
* Elizabeth Young KiwiClass
* Janie Walker Community Research

We need to also acknowledge the organisations that our Executive members work for. Often these organisations give freely the time of their employee to attend our meetings, forums and activities that make up the work of or Executive members on a regular basis.

We have been blessed over many years to have great staff at CNW and this is especially true for our wonderful staff today. Debbie Delaney has consistently kept our office running, balancing books and ensuring we are all well prepared, Janette Ritchie is producing our excellent newsletter and supplements, website and member database. Also, a big thank you to Janette for her excellent and timely work getting information out and the disruption list up to date with everything ‘Covid’ (she really has done some awesome work). And thank you to Vivian Mitchell who has helped with the mapping project, co-ordinating and co-hosting the radio show.

We need to make a special mention of the Mapping Project we launched in September and thank Janette who spent many hours getting the data and inputing it into the google map. Vivian also helped with the initial work and videoed the online presentation. We hope this will be a helpful resource for anyone wanting to find what social and community services there are in the Wellington area and the groups they serve.

The Radio Show has been a lot of work but has been popular over the year and is booked until the beginning of March 2022. A very big acknowledgement to Vicki Hirini for all her work co-ordinating and hosting the show. Viv has also doing some coordinating and hosting. And thank you to members Jude Douglas and Matt Dagger who put their hands up to help host when we put the call out in the middle of this year asking our members if they would like to assist with hosting.

We have been well supported at our monthly hui with great speakers, including:

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| Serena and Henare Parker from WCM, Shreshtha (Shree) Saluja from TSA Community Ministry Hope Centre, Taone O'Regan from Aro Mai - Housing First Collaboration Wellingtoni and Rua Eagle from Kahungunu Whanau Services |  | 21/10/2020 AGM - Panellist's from Wellington City Mission, The Salvation Army, DCM and Kahungunu Whānau Services Join us to hear our speakers give an update on the developments on vulnerable housing provision in Wellington |
| Amy Brannigan and Fiona Bailey from WCC |  | 18/11/2020 - a short presentation on WCC's Long Term Plan followed by Q&A |
|  |  | 17/02/2021 - Member network round (in C19 level 2) |
|  |  | 17/03//2021 - Government House Afternoon. A thank you celebration with the Gov. General (no network mtg) |
| Esther Gedye Taylor from Wellington Access Radio |  | 21/04/2021 - member profile from Esther Gedye Taylor of Wellington Access Radio |
| Save Seruvatu from Kahungungu Whanau Services |  | 19/05/2021 - We welcome Save Seruvatu from Kahungungu Whanau Services who will be talking to us about the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine for their vulnerable community. |
| Raewyn Hailes from CCS Disability Action |  | 16.06.2021 - Raewyn Hailes from CCS Disability Action will be presenting our ‘member profile’ this month and will be talking to us about the work of their National organisation and particularly the services available in Wellington, with the vision that every disabled person participates in the life of their family and community. Services include the Mobility Parking scheme and a National Library Service. |
| Sue Barker - Charities Law reform |  | 21.07.2021 - Our Speaker in July is Sue Barker, she will be discussing developments in charities law in Aotearoa New Zealand |

It was great to have motivational interesting and such diverse speakers.

Covid-19: We could say a lot, but we wont.

It’s been tough and we are still experiencing it today. Be safe and be kind, not just catch words but how we should be always. Kia kaha.

I would like to take this time to also acknowledge and thank our funders.

Wellington City Council, The Wellington Community Trust, COGS and MSD

I would like to finish with a brief look forward…..

Connections are the glue that hold communities together, with Wellington Community Networks we have over many years developed, evolved and grown to one of the most connected communities within Aotearoa. We are all now operating in a manner and environment that we have never experienced before. There is no way the world will go back to the way it was pre-covid ever!

Now, more than any time in our history is it important to stay connected, look for connections and support our whole communities.

*Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi*

Julia Hennessy   
Co-chairs Community Networks Wellington  
November 2021