

MEDIA RELEASE

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Residents Association Seeking Ideas For Next Decade

Wellington, NZ

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One of Wellington's largest residents' associations says it has achieved almost everything it has set out to do and is seeking new ideas – and local businesses are pitching in to help.

The Newlands Paparangi Progressive Association is conducting a survey of nearly 5,000 households over the next fortnight to develop a 'Top Twenty' to-do list for the area.

The association last undertook a survey in 1990 and as a result several improvements to the area have been achieved including the new skateboard park, several children's playgrounds, closure of the Northern Landfill, a facility for New Players Theatre, bus shelters at many stops and – the jewel in the crown – the \$3M Newlands Community Centre.

The survey will be sent to all 4,770 houses in the greater Newlands area and people can either return them by post or drop them into any local business that is displaying an "Official Drop Off Point" sign.

Survey organiser and NPPA committee member Jarrod Coburn says it is important that a residents' association can show a mandate from the community for the facilities and services it tries to establish.

"Only a very small percentage of the population actually attend residents' association meetings," says Jarrod, "But that doesn't mean to say such organisations cannot fairly represent people."

Jarrod Coburn says the key is keeping people informed through regular communication and providing opportunities such as the survey to give all residents a chance to have a say on the future of their community.

"We've worked hard this year paving the way for a much more inclusive association. Newlands now has its own website – www.newlands.org.nz – and we are planning to publish newsletters every three months starting from next year."

The survey will be distributed to households on Saturday the 20th of November. Everyone who has their idea chosen for the final 'Top Twenty' to-do list will be invited to a gala launch of the strategy.

ENDS

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