

**Minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc. held on Sunday 19 April 2015 at 10.00am at Scott House**

**Present**

Chairman	Bruce Scoggins
Secretary	Denis Willers
Treasurer	Mark Iles
41 residents and ratepayers	

**In attendance**

Councilor Penny Webster  
Local Board members Beth Houlbrooke  
Greg Sayers

**Apologies**

Mark Topping	Elaine Shepherd
Mari Ann Moss	Warren Treadwell
Heather and Alan Seelye	Mona Townson
Grahame Powell	Merv Wilson
Linda and John Pinder	Barbara Johnston
Bruce Trethewey	Colin Harvey
Gary and Marilyn Gwilliam	Fraser and Linda Macfarlane

**Address by Dr. Nick Waipara**

Dr. Waipara, the Principal Advisor for Biosecurity to the Auckland Council, explained the work required to stop new plant and animal pests at the border and to control those that have become established. As a major port Auckland has a key role in stopping new pests, e.g. Queensland fruit fly, but the cost falls on the ratepayers. Kauri die back is a massive scourge and we still do not know where it came from. Argentine ants are on Kawau as well as many parts of the mainland.

A good neighbour policy re weed control is being prepared. Beth advised that the Local Board has some funding available for projects.

**Minutes of the previous AGM**

As the minutes had been on the website for 12 months without comment the minutes were approved as a correct record.

**Chairman's Report**

Bruce welcomed the elected representatives and thanked the committee for their support. He advised that he was not standing for the committee again because of wider responsibilities he has taken on with the Warkworth Area Liaison Group.

It is clear that nothing further will be done to the Hill Street intersection until the motorway is complete and altered traffic flows can be observed. Further Ridge Road maintenance has been promised shortly.

Bruce thanked John Waugh for his work on the website. We are still looking for further assistance with the website if anyone is willing to contribute.

#### Animal pests

Mark Croft advised that possums are back. He has caught 4 on his property in the last three weeks. Another 4 have been caught. We have a weakness as the bait station line in the Brown brothers' property is not being maintained. Mark has identified a tree line near the macadamia farm to install an alternative barrier. Bait volumes will also be increased.

#### Plant pests

Janette Iles does not know what else she can do to get people to take responsibility for their properties. Agapanthus and pampas are everywhere. AT are useless as far as their paper roads are concerned. She thanked those that had replied to the recent questionnaire on roadside spraying. There will be a working bee in May.

#### Electricity

Stuart Windross reviewed the changes made by Vector to improve our security of supply. There is still some tree trimming required by Treescape.

#### Neighbourhood support

Susan Beer reviewed the last year's incidents that came to her attention and introduced her coordinators.

#### Harbourmaster

Jim Farnell said his first priority is to keep peace on the water. He is the first point of contact if you have any problems. In response to a question he said he had heard nothing about the possibility of the grid being removed.

#### **Elected Representative Report**

Penny thanked the Chairman and committee for their positive attitude. Council staff are working on a policy aimed at empowering communities – i.e. what Rodney Council used to do. Hearings on submissions on the long term plan commence this week. The proposed Matakana link road is needed at the same time the motorway opens but depends on the outcome of the Warkworth growth strategy. In response to a question Penny advised that approximately 60% of the rates paid in Rodney come back to the area.

Greg advised that the key theme in local submissions were roads, paths and transport to Silverdale. The Board has only \$1m in discretionary spending. It is looking at making grants to community organisations in order to keep costs down.

Beth emphasised that the Local Board is here to support the community not to help the Council. The Board has moved from a portfolio approach to having two main committees – transport and parks, culture and community. This has been done to ensure that the Board's work is more transparent and faster.

#### **Financial Report**

Mark Iles advised that last year's audit was completed without any problem. Again this year's audit is outstanding.

Subscription and donation income was \$891 and interest \$259. Expenses totalled \$544 including \$461 for the BBQ. Current bank balance is \$6,586 including \$1,208 of civil defence funds.

Mark proposed and it was resolved that the financial statements be approved, that Roger Harvey be appointed auditor for the coming year and that the annual subscription continue at \$10 per property per annum.

### **General business**

Matters raised were

- Danger with the boat ramp in certain wind and tides and a suggestion of 3 poles along the ramp. The harbourmaster thought that would create another hazard.
- Maori heritage features in the unitary plan. The committee had submitted on that matter and supported a very well prepared submission by the Taxpayer's Union.
- Treaty of Waitangi claim over the DOC land above Scott House. The committee has had communications with the Minister of Treaty Settlements and copies of that correspondence had been supplied to those property owners neighbouring the DOC land.
- A fire last weekend in long kikuyu was a warning to be very careful. New members are needed on the fire team, contact Murray Smith.
- Bill Townson spoke about the progress of NAG and, depending on the currently awaited outcome of a Court hearing, his recommendation for urgent action by this association.

### **Election of officers**

As noted above Bruce is not standing as Chairman. Stuart Windross has agreed to be nominated as Chairman and was so nominated and seconded from the floor. There were no further nominations. It was unanimously resolved that Stuart be elected Chairman.

Denis Willers is not standing again and Colin Harvey has agreed to be nominated as Secretary. Colin was nominated and seconded. There were no further nominations and it was unanimously resolved that Colin be elected Secretary.

Mark Iles was nominated and seconded as Treasurer. Mark was unanimously elected.

Up to seven committee members can be elected. Six of the present committee are prepared to continue (i.e. the present seven less Stuart). Rob Munro is prepared to serve on the committee which will give valuable representation from Point/Young Streets. These seven were nominated and seconded and unanimously elected. The committee members therefore are

Susan Beer  
Mark Croft  
Janette Iles  
Geoff Johnston  
Mark Kirby  
Rob Munro  
Mark Topping

Geoff moved a vote of thanks to Bruce for his work for the community and Bruce thanked Denis.

The meeting closed at 12.10