

**Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association**  
Draft Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
held at Kuaotunu Hall  
17 April 2022

*Committee members Brent Page, Chair; Kathy Speirs, Treasurer; Kate Nielsen, Minutes Secretary; Carrie Parker, Correspondence Secretary; Luke Reilly, Courtney Linnecar (standing down), Alastair Brickell, Bruce Pilkington (standing down), Danny Bay, Erica Sacault (standing down)*

**Meeting opened:** 3:03 pm

**Present:** Committee members: Brent, Kathy, Carrie, Alastair, Danny, Kate

Other financial members: 26

Public: Len Salt, Chair MB Ratepayers; Deli Connell, MB Community Board, 2 others

Quorum: With 188 members at the time of the meeting, a quorum of 63 is required (i.e. one third of total members). This was met with 32 members present and 59 having voted online prior to the meeting, on the resolutions that were put forward at the meeting. *NB 62 online votes were received, but 3 of those individuals were in person at the meeting.*

**Apologies:** Councillors Murray MacLean and Tony Fox; Rehka Giri-Percival, Chair of Mercury Bay Community Board; Scott Simpson MP; Heather Bruce and Dean Allen, TCDC; Courtney Linnecar; B & J Dixon, Steve McKenzie.

**1. Welcome** Brent welcomed the attendees and thanked us all for spending Easter Sunday afternoon together, and was pleased with the turn-out given the high numbers of advance online voting.

**2. Minutes** of the previous AGM, held 4 April 2021, accepted as a true and accurate record  
**moved** Carrie                      **seconded** Fleming Rasmussen                      **Carried**

**3 Chair's Report** Brent Page

See separate document for full transcript. Points covered:

- Dave Simpson's passing, and his lifelong commitment to the community, as part of FENZ, the Domain Board, and 25 years as Chair of the KRRA.
- Jenny Crawford's reinvigoration of the Dune Care Group
- Chris Charteris' bench & Kauri 2000 Arch
- Isabel Gilbert Palmer's work towards an Artspace on the Domain
- lack of traction - despite best efforts - on traffic calming and walk/cycleways
- working with Matarangi Ratepayers to keep Bluff Road open to pedestrian and cycle traffic
- Kuaotunu Hill layby remodelling
- Biosphere working group - haven't met recently for various reasons but still working quietly in the background
- wilding pine eradication on the Blackjack nearly complete
- 2 new epipens purchased for FENZ
- Kuaotunu Kleenup hi-viz vests purchased for roadside clean-up
- Recreation court resurfacing moving forward with TCDC

Brent thanked the individuals within the various groups (WRC, TCDC, MBCB) who work hard to advocate on our behalf; and also thanked this year's committee for their dedication & commitment (mentioning in particular Kathy Speirs, without whose tireless work the KRRA would not be what it is); and finally urged the community to keep engaged! Come to meetings, put yourself forward to work on or with the committee. Ground-up grass-roots democracy can work.

Brent **moved** his report be adopted. **Seconded:** Alastair, Marguerite Muellers. **Carried**

#### 4. Treasurer's Report Kathy Speirs

See separate document for full details.

##### Account balances

\$9037.00, \$900 of which is membership fees in advance (30% of members have paid 5-year subscriptions).

##### Ordinary operating income

\$2200, 99% of which is membership fees, 1% interest

##### Ordinary operating expenditure

\$462, maintaining Kuaotunu website, and zoom subscription for an online committee meeting

##### Net surplus

\$1737

##### Donations

none this financial year

##### Extraordinary expenditure

\$338 for 2 x epipens, and printed hi-viz vests

##### Operating surplus

\$1399

##### Membership to end of March 2022

188 (down 6 from last year); current membership 206

##### Membership fee

to be set at \$10 per annum (no change)

Kathy **moved** her Report be adopted **seconded** Danny **Carried**

#### 5. Election of Committee

The KRRA's constitution allows for 10 committee members. Bruce Pilkington, Erica Sacault, and Courtney Linnecar are not standing this year. Brent thanked them for their time and efforts over the past year.

Nominations received prior to the meeting:

- Brent Page
- Kathy Speirs
- Carrie Parker
- Kate Nielsen
- Danny Bay

- Luke Reilly
- Alastair Brickell
- Kevin Crawford
- Steve McKenzie
- Roimata Taimana

Brent asked for any further nominations from the floor: nil. Thus, the committee as listed above is elected without a vote.

## **6. Correspondence relating to the AGM**

Nil

## **7. General Business**

### **7.1 Pump housing**

A bore pump and electrical box have been installed on the reserve near the school bus stop, to provide water to the showers at the toilet block. Once the water quality has been tested, we hope it will also house a drinking fountain and bottle-fill tap. The pump housing is not particularly pleasant to look at, and the members of the meeting are asked to think about ideas for its beautification. Painting? Planting? Carving? We'd like it to reflect the artistic nature of the community.

### **7.2 Shoreline Management Panel update** Carrie

The panel's purpose is to define processes for monitoring threats, identifying triggers, and planning action in the event of inundation caused by sea-level rise and coastal erosion. It is a 100-year plan, and is not about immediate threats, so it can be hard for people to care. But it is important for future generations, and Carrie encourages the community to seek information on the TCDC website and attend public meetings. The next will be mid- to late- May in the Kuaotunu Hall.

### **7.3 Rings Beach Wetlands Group update** Carrie

The group has recently lost 2 tracking team members and is looking for replacements. If you enjoy walking in the bush and are interested in predator control, please consider joining this good, social group.

### **7.4 Waitaia Loop track update** Brent

The track has been closed since the 2018 storm, and updates from Matt Flynn (TCDC) on the progress to reopening have been hard to come by. However Nick Kelly (DoC) said that bridges have been replaced and track-upgrade work is due to "start shortly". John Scott reports that it is walkable clockwise.

### **7.5 Dune Care Group update** Jenny Crawford

As of 11 April 2022 the Dune Care Group is an Incorporated Society. Andrea Whitehead has taken over from Tanya Patrick as Coastal Co-ordinator. The group has big plans, and always welcomes new volunteers. Regular maintenance working bees are held the third Wednesday of every month, and on Matariki weekend there will be a planting bee on Grays Beach Reserve. Preparation work is underway at this site.

### **7.6 Dark Sky update** Alastair

Kuaotunu's Dark Sky aspirations is not a new thing; the drive was begun in 1997. It has recently gained momentum with support from Otama and Opito Ratepayers Associations, and country-wide there is steadily-increasing interest in limiting light pollution. The Grand Plan is for NZ to be the first Dark Sky Country!

- A brochure (mostly funded by TCDC) has been distributed in the Kuaotunu community
- A consultant has quoted \$56,000 to get a Plan Change through the District Plan; the Dark Sky group will not commit to this until speaking to all relevant groups in the area. Other communities around the country are getting their efforts funded by local councils; Alastair believes TCDC should fund ours.
- There are lots of easy things individuals in the community can do:
  - reduce the number of outdoor lights
  - make sure lights are faced downwards and adequately shielded
  - use lower-wattage lights
  - choose warm-colour lights (i.e. not blue). Look for Colour Temperature (CT) indications on light-bulb packaging; lower numbers (<3000) are better
- Alastair has a copy of *NZ Dark Sky Handbook* for loan; he is hoping to acquire a copy for the library but it is currently out of print.

Other comments:

- other NZ Dark Sky communities are noticing increased economic opportunities.
- suggest asking the new owners of the Kuaotunu Store to stock appropriate light bulbs.
- discussions are underway with local hardware suppliers to stock them too - suggest offering discounts on good lights

### **8 Any Other Business** Comments from the floor:

Jenny Crawford asked if TCDC could be asked to fund the replacement of mature pohutukawa trees lost in the stream-bank erosion during The Big Storm of 2019. Brent said TCDC still owes us four trees to replace those damaged by the steamroller. **Jenny to contact Tanya Patrick** TCDC Community Facilities Field Representative – Parks & Recreation Mercury Bay to follow up.

Robyn Balfour asked about the footpath/cycleway between Cemetery Rd and the Village - see Chair's Report. KRRRA continues to lobby for this, and for reduced speed limits, as it has been doing for 30 years with little traction. John Scott noted that recent road repairs to SH25 have made walking even more unsafe.

Deli pointed out that NZTA will not fund both KT West and Cemetery Road footpaths - how would we prioritise? - Brent noted that, while there are lots of families with young children on the Cemetery Road side, the West side is national roading infrastructure, and has pedestrians from Rings Beach and Matarangi.

NZTA/ Waka Kotahi is still "recalibrating" road speeds and doesn't reply to emails.

Brent reminded the meeting that local body elections are this year; nominations are open between 15 July and 12 August 2022. This year Mercury Bay will have 3 councillors (up from 2); the incumbent 2 are probably not standing. There are 4 positions available on the Mercury

Bay Community Board; thus there's a chance of 7 new voices representing our community, and an opportunity for *refreshed visionary thinking*. Keep focussed on ground-up democracy - get involved!

Deli recommended a stint on the Community Board before standing for Council. It's not a huge commitment: 6-weekly meetings plus informal huis every 3 weeks or so, plus regular MBNorth and MBSouth Chairs' meetings. Terms are 3-yearly.

Absentee ratepayers are entitled to one vote per household in local body elections, but have to apply in person, and Fleming advised it's a long and unnecessarily complicated process - but worthwhile.

Isabel Gilbert Palmer observed that the noticeboard is looking a bit tired, and recommended more regular and jazzy refreshment. **KRRA to table at next committee meeting.**

Diane Barren asked whether improvements to the near end of Bluff Road are in discussion, as it is prone to slips and sometimes requires tree removal. It is the only access for residents of Rings Beach.

As far as we know there is nothing in the works, and TCDC's current priority is Blackjack Road to Otama; but **Brent will query Ed Varley.**

Note this is a separate issue to the Bluff Rd to Matarangi pedestrian access, where a suspension bridge is under discussion; engineers have deemed it achievable; much of the funding is likely to be attainable privately in Matarangi; the hold-up now is getting TCDC approval. Brent is still trying to convene a meeting with Bruce Hinson - **Deli will follow this up.** Fleming suggests establishing an Incorporated Society to push the project and get targeted funding. **Brent will pass this suggestion to Mark Bedford**, Chair of Matarangi Ratepayers', as they are taking point on this project. Kevin noted that the key aspects are linkage of the two communities as well as the opportunity for TCDC to re-establish a walking and cycling link between Kuaotunu and in effect the far end of Matarangi Spit when most of the infrastructure is already in place.

Deli recommended lobbying now for funding for this essential amenity in next year's budget (before TCDC end-of-financial-year 30 June); also continuing to lobby MB Community Board.

Carrie wondered about the status of the community roadside clean-up. Major hold-ups: no-one volunteering to organise it; and traffic safety. The more formally-organised such an event is, the more liable the organiser could be. FENZ is unauthorised to manage traffic. Len noted there are moves afoot in Thames to provide traffic-management equipment to small communities to hold small events; however the cost of certifying people to use the equipment is proving prohibitive. **Len to find out and report.**

Carolyn W-B suggested, instead of a simultaneous group effort, individuals "adopt" a section of road and look after it. While a group effort has a better community feel, individuals might be an easier option. The Matarangi dump will accept roadside rubbish free of charge.

The group project is in abeyance until someone steps forward to plan it. (In the meantime, heartfelt thanks to the individuals who continue to do it.)

Garrick noted that overgrown vegetation on the Blackjack Road turn-off is impeding visibility. **KRRA to discuss at the next committee meeting** and submit an RFS to Waka Kotahi.

Bill Muir noted that the boat ramp would benefit from regular replenishment of big rocks.

Len Salt reported that the Whitianga Resource Recovery Centre (Seagull Centre) project is well underway. Construction has begun on a refuse transfer site; the plan is to incorporate the refuse recovery on the same site. A deed of funding has been signed and will be announced shortly. The recovery centre will be available to everybody; at first the focus will be on construction & building waste, and e-waste. The site will include a retail centre, proceeds of which will go back into the community. The project leaders are actively investigating opportunities to use plastics, e.g. to make fenceposts, and are accepting Plastics No 5 as well as 1 & 2. The resource recovery centre is projected to provide 12-15 full-time jobs. (The Extreme Zero Waste program in Raglan employs 30 people, and redirects 85% of "rubbish" left there.) A recent e-waste drive gathered 20,000 kg of material!!! Len encourages people to hang on to e-waste if they have the space, until the next collection drive.

Brent thanked everyone again for attending.

**Meeting closed:** 4:43 pm

## ACTION SUMMARY

who	what
Jenny Crawford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● follow up with TCDC re replacement pohutukawa trees on Blackjack Reserve</li> </ul>
KRRRA agenda items for the next committee meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● noticeboard refreshment</li> <li>● rfs to Waka Kotahi re trees/visibility at Blackjack turn-off</li> <li>● Brent- Ed V - Bluff rd improvements?</li> <li>● pass suggestion to Matarangi ratepayers re Inc Soc to drive suspension bridge project</li> </ul>
Brent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ask Ed V re Bluff Rd to Rings Beach improvements</li> <li>● pass along Suspension Bridge Inc Soc to Mark Bedford</li> </ul>
Deli Connell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● contact Bruce Hinson re Bluff Rd suspension bridge meeting</li> </ul>
Len Salt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● find out about community traffic management equipment</li> </ul>