

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT – KRRA, APRIL 2020

Twelve months ago, no-one in our community and certainly not one of your Committee members could have predicted the challenges we were to face in the year ahead.

The deluge we experienced last September, unprecedented for most of us, resulted in substantial damage to some properties and whilst we were all working hard to restore order, NZTA announced that our bridge on SH25 at the Blackjack Rd intersection would be closed to all traffic to allow strengthening following flood damage. A very frustrating 4 weeks followed, but yet again, our community showed its true colours with outstanding, proactive support wherever and whenever it was needed.

And now, as I write this, we are all in a Level 4 lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic. A core group of residents with appropriate skills have quickly formed our Kuaotunu Emergency Response Team and this group has an excellent picture of those members of our community who are most at risk and those who need special assistance. We are so lucky to have these brilliant people on this team devoting their unpaid time to our wellbeing. Remember, they also have their own families to look after. There is no doubt we have had great value from the preparatory work that had already been carried out on our Emergency Response plan, in conjunction with Pam Balt of TCDC.

We have still managed some great project successes –

- the footpath running east from the boat ramp on SH25 finally exists!!! Despite its controversial safety fence, it works well and is a huge relief for the many pedestrians and cyclists amongst us. Indeed, the Matarangi Ratepayers have expressed their delight also and offered to throw support behind us as we lobby Council to bring forward work on the section running west into the 2020 Capex program.
- Finally and huge thanks to all those involved, our new Constitution was voted in at the last AGM and we also completed our new refreshed Community Plan which provides us all with a clear blueprint to follow.
- We are all enjoying the new mural on the toilet block at the Toroa Reserve. Huge thanks to Rebekah Pearson, Roimata, Alastair and Marguerite.
- We are gaining tremendous support in our endeavours to obtain Dark Skies international rating for the Kuaotunu Peninsula and this project is being steered with passion by Alastair Brickell and Chris Severne, Chair of Opito R&R.
- Our new website is up and running and without boasting, it is very, very good: great new layout and easy to navigate. Whilst recognising that

content is always a work in progress, we do enjoy the positive feedback we have had and we thank Kathy Speirs for her work on this.

On a less positive note your Committee, with great reluctance and disappointment, voted not to proceed further with the plans for a skate half pipe and is currently in discussions with all donors. After 3 years of talks and meetings, the powers that be, DOC, TCDC and iwi have been unable to agree on a suitable site within our village, despite our identification of possible places. A less than desirable outcome for our young people.

Some projects underway include –

- Our submission against the proposed Spat Farm
- We continue to lobby Council to ensure our refreshed Community Plan, which has been amalgamated into an overall Mercury Bay plan (despite our Mayor's assurances to the contrary), will be referenced separately with its own identity on any matters relating to our area.
- We are in the process of lobbying the Mercury Bay Community Board to ensure your Committee is consulted prior to any concessions being granted for activities on our reserves.
- We are delighted that one local, James Muir, is undertaking work on measuring water quality with some exciting new proprietary technology.

Your Committee humbly recognises that the real work in this community is carried out every day of the week by our "volunteer armies". It would be unfair to single out individuals but we know you all join us in thanking these people who give up so much of their time to improve both the wellbeing of our environment and the quality of our lifestyle here in Kuaotunu.

With our inability to hold our normal AGM at Easter, we asked you all to consider allowing the current Committee to remain in place until such time as a public meeting could be safely held. We received a large number of replies, 99% in favour. Thank you for your ongoing confidence and support.

On behalf of all Committee members I extend our thanks to all of you who communicated with us throughout the year in writing or in person. At best, we can only reflect the concerns and aspirations you have by staying connected and involved. Now, more than ever, we will be relying on one another so, please read our newsletter and keep in touch!

In closing, let's remind ourselves we are extremely blessed to live amongst the colour and vibrancy of this community and to have the freedom to enjoy its awesome environment. Long may it remain this way!