

Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association
Minutes of Committee Meeting
held at Kuaotunu Hall
25 February 2021

Committee members Brent Page, Chair; Kathy Speirs, Treasurer; Kate Nielsen, Minutes Secretary; Carrie Parker, Correspondence Secretary; Luke Reilly, Courtney Linnecar, Carolyn Gibbs, Alastair Brickell, Bruce Pilkington, Danny Bay

Meeting opened: 6 pm

Present: Brent, Kathy, Carrie, Kate, Alastair, Danny, Bruce

Public: Marguerite Müller, Erica (Kirby) Saccault, Mark Simpson

Apologies: Courtney, Carolyn, Luke

1. Public input

Marguerite presented her submission to the TCDC (document in Dropbox correspondence) regarding a SupergoldCard concession for the Whitianga Ferry, and gave some background to the issue. Currently the ferry is classified as a commercial/tourist operation not public transport, and so does not qualify for a concession; however, there are many senior citizens who use the ferry to access health services and who find the fares a financial burden. Marguerite would like KRRRA to write a letter of support for the change to the ferry's classification, and subsidisation of ferry fares for supergold card holders. The committee agrees this is a good idea; Marguerite will draft the letter, as she is closest to the issue and has the best grasp of the facts; once it's sent to the committee, we will approve it, sign it, and return it to her to form part of her proposal.

Erica introduced herself as a long-time on-and-off resident of Kuaotunu, and a recent property-purchaser near the Midas Rd reserve. She is very unhappy that the Midas Rd reserve was discussed at the January public meeting as a possible site for responsible freedom camping, described by TCDC as staying overnight in an accessible public place other than a campground, in a certified self-contained vehicle. (Non-self-contained vehicles are completely prohibited everywhere.) (Erica disclosed that she, privately, is currently but temporarily hosting motorhomes on her property.) She has consulted with the other property owners near the Midas Rd Reserve, and other affected neighbours, none of whom are in favour of the proposal. She has also been in touch with TCDC and the NZ Motor Caravan Association, both of whom said nothing would go ahead if the community were not in favour.

Both Kate and Courtney had correspondence with Erica prior to this meeting in which they reassured her that the discussion at the public meeting was to assess if there was an appetite for such a site, and that the KRRRA's role is only and always to represent the community's wishes. (Erica's recollection of that correspondence was the impression that "it's the only place for the motorhome site, and she may as well get used to the idea".) Brent again reassured her that the KRRRA has not made such a proposal: it was made by Alastair, on behalf of the Domain Board, (see Item 5.2 below for further discussion); and that the KRRRA will never move forward with anything of that nature without full and transparent consultation with the community (while maintaining the pragmatism of never being able to please all people in all things!). It was reiterated that the public meeting discussion was a discussion only, the final summary of which was:

The community is not opposed in principle to having a dedicated responsible-freedom-camping site, provided the vehicles are self-contained, and the chosen site meets our [the community's] approval.

Asked how KRRRA could have handled the situation better, Erica suggested better wording in the minutes (NB Kate, as part of above-mentioned correspondence, has already apologised to Erica for any inadequacies in the note-taking). Alastair suggested Erica look into late submissions to the Reserve Management Plan (submissions have closed but the hearing has not been held yet). Alastair - Domain Board member - offered to speak further with Erica later about the issue. Brent thanked Erica & Mark for bringing their concerns to the meeting, and for their passion about the community - and encouraged them (and other members of the community) to come to meetings, and to stand for the committee. Erica left happier than she arrived.

Other discussion, re footpath: Mark (who leases part of the TCDC land through the wetlands) has been talking to Keith Goodall about the possibility of moving the fence a few metres and clearing a safe walking way along the fenceline, away from traffic. Brent will pass this on during the Footpath meeting in March (see Item 5.3, below).

2.Minutes: Minutes of the previous committee meeting, held 14 January 2021, accepted as a true and accurate record. **moved:** Carrie **seconded:** Kathy **Passed**

Matters arising from the minutes: Running through the action plan:
Alastair, Kate, Kathy, Carrie, Courtney: all done

Brent: scallop survey:

The Opito Rahui has had wonderful compliance. KRRRA has sent a letter of support to Joe Davis, but we have no Kuaotunu data. Disappointingly, no Kuaotunu survey has yet taken place. Luke Reilly and Steve MacIntyre were to undertake a survey, KRRRA paying for O₂ and boat fuel. Opito raised \$35,000 for their campaign; we need to find out how those funds were disbursed, and how much we would save by having private individuals undertake the survey rather than paying Dive Zone to do it (we don't know how much was spent on signage etc). We need some action before the next commercial dredging season: **Carrie will contact Chris Severne** with a request for a cost breakdown and circulate it ASAP, before **Brent follows up with Steve M.** We need to keep the momentum going rather than wait for the next committee meeting - which falls *after* the AGM.

Reserve Management Plan Submission - pending - **Carrie to confer with Brent; Brent to attend meeting.**

Side note: TCDC is automatically renewing all current reserves concessions; IE there will be no new ones for the next year.

3. Correspondence:

Correspondence is in the Dropbox and present members have read it.

Correspondence accepted, moved: Carrie **seconded:** Kate

Passed

Matters arising from the correspondence:

One item of correspondence which is at the time of the meeting *not* in the Dropbox is regarding new emergency-response brochures from Pam Bolt TCDC. The committee has not seen them yet; Brent has asked Carolyn to re-send them. Apparently there are two versions: Kuaotunu, and Kuaotunu West. The brochures have been produced, and we can give TCDC feedback for future runs. **Brent to ascertain how they will be distributed.**

4. Financial Report:

Number of current members 188 (+11)

Account balances total: \$7,476.71

Expenditures requiring approval: \$32.77 for renewal of kuaotunu.co.nz domain

Financial report accepted and expenditure approved, moved: Kathy **seconded:** Danny

Passed

5. Items for Discussion:

5.1 New notice-board guidelines:

Well done, Alastair, they're great. Accepted by all. **Alastair to post in NB. Kathy to see where they might fit on the website.**

5.2 Follow-up from Public Meeting

Photobook

Danny is the official project manager - thanks Danny! He started with the premise that there is & will be interest from the community in purchasing photobooks, and researched publishing possibilities, comparing bulk-purchase with on-demand ordering. He recommends merch-store fulfillment centre Gelato: they offer on-demand photobook printing (as well as lots of other merchandise), with a variety of formats and very reasonable prices. A 100-page hardback, with captions, costs \$50, including delivery. (140pp = \$65; 60pp = \$37). Quality probably won't be high photographic standard, but then many of the photos aren't high-quality either. The sales mechanism would be an online "store", through our website, and other than the initial set-up would require no administration by us.

Next steps: **Danny will produce a draft book**, for approval at the next meeting. Then he will upload it to the Gelato service, print a test copy, and if it meets our approval set up the online store. After that all we need to do is tell people about it, and they order their own.

Related discussion: the current photos cut off at 1960; we could in future extend, or make another book 1960-2020.

Keith Goodall could be encouraged to include a copy in his real-estate new-owner packages, along with *This Is Kuaotunu* (locally-written history).

Ian Patrick is available for consultation. Alastair has also offered to help.

In future, KRRRA could possibly consider selling other merch (t-shirts etc) for specific fundraising events.

Fireworks

We still haven't heard who the annual beach-displayer is; perhaps next year FENZ could be proactive and be there, approach him. **Brent will draft a letter to the Ministry of Environment, cc Scott Simpson MP** requesting a ban on all sales & use of fireworks on the Kuaotunu (Coromandel?) Peninsula. Brent will also take this letter to the next Mercury Bay Chairs meeting.

Midas Rd/ Domain Board

Discussion was had about the disparity between the Domain Board (composed of the same members it was established with, unelected, not accountable, and advocating on its own behalf) and the KRRRA (elected, accountable, advocating on behalf of the community).

The Domain Board exists - or not - in a very grey area, no longer officially extant yet still holding funds, raised years ago from the community to manage assets such as the Recreation Reserve (tennis courts) and Midas Road site. The Domain Board is strongly opposed to the funds being swallowed up by the TCDC through the dissolution process - a stance supported by Carrie and others - however many members of the current KKRA committee believe that the DB's focus solely on DB assets for disbursement of the funds - which reflected the aims of the past community when the funds were raised - is too narrow: because the DB does not engage in consultation, or any kind of interface, with the community, it does not know the present community's aims. Very few in the community are even aware the DB has submitted a proposal for a responsible freedom camping site at Midas Road; it is clear, from Erica's public input, that the community members most closely affected by the proposal are strongly against it. It is the majority belief at the meeting that the onus is *not* on the community to approach the Domain Board (or the KRRRA) to ask what plans and submissions have been made, but on the Domain Board (or the KRRRA) to communicate fully and openly with the community. Brent suggested that, during the final dissolution process, Dave Wight (Chair of the DB) form links with the KRRRA to use our platform as an interface with the community, to decide on the final disbursement. Alastair declined to approach Dave W with the suggestion, so **Brent will talk to Dave.**

Rubbish-collection working bee

This was left in the hands of the community.

Water-quality testing

Brent will follow up with James Muir. In future we should invite James to come to a meeting.

5.3 NZTA meeting

...was supposed to have happened in February but has been postponed until March. NZTA representatives Liam Ryan, Junine (Community Road Safety Manager), and a roading engineer, as well as Ed Varley TCDC will meet with Brent and Courtney.

Side note, there have been 227 responses so far to Courtney's footpath survey.

5.4 Scallop survey

See above, Matters Arising

5.5 AGM

Sunday 4 April 3 pm.

Nominations: All members of the committee present at the meeting are willing to stand again (waiting on confirmation from Luke, Carolyn, Courtney); Brent, Kathy, and Kate for possibly just one final year. **Re-standing members should all forward an updated brief bio to Kathy**, and also let Kathy know who their **nominators and seconders** are. Other possible nominees: Erica Saccault (**Kathy to follow up**), Helen Moberley (**Bruce to follow up**). When we have confirmed committee nominations, **Alastair will post the notice in the NB**. We do not anticipate a rush of nominations from the floor and no election may be necessary. In the event of more nominees than places, one of the current committee may be willing to stand aside, for the sake of a smooth quick process.

Advertising & Admin: 28 days' notice has already been given, so a small ad will go in the Informer the Wednesday prior to the meeting. A notice will be posted in the NoticeBoard, on KT Ketchup, and on the website. Financial members will be emailed, with advanced-voting forms. Lise will help with administration. **Brent to invite Councillors etc. Brent to write Chair's report.**
Set-up: all hands on deck at 2:30 and jobs will be delegated: setting up seating, welcoming party, signing up new members.

6. Any other business:

Newsletter Do we need one in March? - No, just had one in February.

Dune working bee 10-12 people attended the last working bee, and 360kg of weeds was taken away!

Watching brief:

- Helicopter landing pad - the new helicopter may be too heavy to land on the sports field in wet winter conditions, but there are alternatives such as the Bluff Road Reserve or the Boat Ramp, so the Blackjack Reserve should never be necessary
- Civil Defence Community Defense Response Plan - watching
- Aquaculture development plan - watching
- Council's Long Term Plan capital expenditure - given Council's catastrophic fiscal mismanagement (am I allowed to say that in public minutes?), there is no point in advocating for CapEx here in the next year. LTP CapEx will be henceforth removed from the watching brief.

Meeting closed: 7:30pm **Next meeting:** Thursday 8 April, the week after the AGM

ACTION SUMMARY

who	what	done?
Carrie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● request rahui campaign cost breakdown from Chris S ● confer with Brent re Reserves Management Plan mtg 	
Brent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● follow up with Steve M re scallop survey ● Reserves Management Plan mtg ● draft MoE letter re fireworks ban; take the letter to MB Chairs ● approach Dave W re DB/KRRA link-up to decide on use of DB funds ● follow up with James M for water quality update ● invite bigwigs to AGM ● write Chair's report ● find out from Carolyn how emergency response brochures are to be distributed 	
Alastair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● post NB guidelines in NB ● post AGM notice in NB, once committee nominations are confirmed ● 	
Kathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● see if NB guidelines will go somewhere on the website ● follow up with Erica re standing for the committee 	
Danny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● produce draft photobook 	
committee members standing again 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● forward updated bio to Kathy (or sign off last year's) ● make sure Kathy knows who your nominator/seconders are 	
Bruce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● follow up with Helen M re standing for committee 	