

Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held at Kuaotunu Hall
4 April 2021

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

Meeting opened: 3:05 pm

Present: Committee Members - Brent, Kate, Kathy, Danny, Courtney, Bruce, Carrie

Other Financial Members - 57 (including Scott Simpson, MP)

Public - Tony Fox, Councillor; James Muir & Ali Titulaer; Ben Dunbar-Smith (Tairua);

Ross Maegaard; Ivan McLellan

Quorum – With 207 financial members as at the time of the meeting, a quorum of 69 was required (i.e. one third of the total members). This was met with 64 financial members present at the meeting and 46 financial members having voted in advance (online) on the resolutions that were put before the meeting.

Apologies: Rehka Giri-Percival, Alan Tiplady, Murray MacLean, Heather Bruce, T&R Lampen, Mat Johnson, J&H Noble, L&B Muir, H&A Brickell, L&P Hammersley, C&P Milbank, S Marsh, B&J Dixon.

1. **Welcome:** Brent welcomed our financial members, invited guests and other members of the public.
2. **Minutes:** Due to Covid-19, no physical AGM was held in 2020. Instead, the formal part of the meeting (acceptance of Chair's Report, acceptance of Treasurer's Report, election of Committee) was held electronically, with other key issues communicated to members and the rest of the community via the newsletter. Notes on this process were posted on the website.
Members of this meeting were all in favour of accepting these notes in lieu of minutes.

3. Chair's Report:

Brent summarised his report (see separate document). Key points:

- "Keep Kuaotunu, Kuaotunu" was the strong message from the community since the Community Plan Refresh and has been foremost in the committee's thinking and decision-making in the past year.
- We have 207 paid members, as of this meeting, which gives us a strong mandate in our advocacy with TCDC, WRC, etc.
- there is a new AED by the noticeboard (see also addendum in 7.3, below)
- Kuaotunu Emergency Response group received accolades from TCDC for their Covid response
- kiwi are returning to our bush
- Carrie has been selected to the Coastal Panel group

- 2 new epipens funded
- 4 local environmental groups made a successful grant application to MPI and have received \$365,000 for wilding-pine eradication
- historical photo-book project taken on by Danny
- committee supported Opito Bay's voluntary scallop rahui; MPI has subsequently undertaken a full consultation on Ngati Hei's request for a 2-year ban on scallop fishery (including commercial) on the Eastern Coromandel. The community is strongly encourage to submit in support - [KRRRA to circulate link to submission page](#)
- Alastair is stepping up the Dark Skies designation process

Brent on behalf of the Committee thanked our partner organisations, TCDC, WRC, MBCB; and expressed his gratitude to the committee for their time and efforts.

Brent **moved** his report be accepted **Seconded** Fleming Rasmussen **Carried**

4. Treasurer's Report:

Kathy read her report (see separate document). Key points:

Total funds: \$7,638, slightly down on last year

Most of the half-pipe funds, previously held in escrow, have been refunded; the rest have been folded into general funds.

99% of income is membership fees; most expenditure is maintaining the website/email platform. The company providing this platform has recently discounted their fees for non-profit organisations.

Membership is up; due to this, individual email acknowledgements of subscriptions paid will no longer be sent; however emails advising of an upcoming AGM will clearly state whether people are paid up or not (the committee can also be contacted if anyone is unsure). An email advising that membership fees are due for the financial year ending 31 March 2022 will be sent to all members in May 2021.

Kathy **moved that** her report be accepted and the annual membership fee for the year ending March 2022 be set at \$10 per person. **Seconded** Carrie Parker. **Carried.**

5. Election of the Committee:

10 nominations have been received prior to the meeting:

- Carrie Parker
- Kathy Speirs
- Brent Page
- Luke Reilly
- Courtney Linnecar
- Kate Nielsen
- Danny Bay
- Alastair Brickell
- Bruce Pilkington

- Erica Sacault

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

6. Correspondence pertaining to the AGM:

Nil

7. General Business:

7.1 Footpath

Courtney gave an update on the recent productive meeting with representatives from TCDC and NZTA:

Slowing down the village:

Progress on this can be expected in September, including Kuaotunu-style “gateways” at either end of the village; a lower-speed-limit sign; and a painted crossing (not a zebra crossing, as these require 500 pedestrians an hour!)

Post-meeting note from Paula Williams: a rainbow crossing would be perfect for our community.

SH25 footpath/cycleway:

Funding had previously been allocated for the Quarry-Point-westwards footpath but is now paused. The community is asked to submit to the TCDC’s Long Term Plan, regarding the Mercury Bay Cycleway Strategy (footpath/cycleway/shared-use pathway= interchangeable terms, covering Cemetary Road to Hilldale Crescent), to reinstate this funding for the boat-ramp-west footpath. **This is urgent as submissions close 12 April. KRRA to circulate template submission letter as an email attachment**, to make it as easy as possible for people to make this submission, as well as circulate the link to the submission page. **KRRA to submit also.**

Other points discussed:

- Matarangi R&R are in support of the footpath/cycleway too
- extending the 50kph speed limit zone will make crossings easier to achieve
- extending the 50kph speed limit zone will make no difference to speed
- 54 children live between Waitaia Rd and the village, who are currently being driven to the school bus instead of walking/cycling; it’s a health & well-being issue as well as a road-safety one. Please let Courtney know about KT West kids, as NZTA likes statistics.
- NZTA has new personnel and the thinking has changed from “let’s move vehicles from A to B as fast as possible” to “zero-harm”; although no commitments were made at the recent meeting, the mood is cautiously optimistic that they will get back to us with final design ideas. There will be a workshop sometime in July - date t.b.c. - at which we can make a presentation.

- a concern from the floor: that the Western Way (boat ramp-Hilldale) is being prioritised by the committee over the Eastern Way (Cemetary Rd- village), where there are 54 children.
 - No, just that the funding in question was historically ours and we want it back; the committee is committed to and has been lobbying for shared-use pathways the whole length of Kuaotunu.
- Are there any other engineering solutions (like Mexico's sensor bumps, that raise when approaching vehicles are too fast), or speed cameras (eg one at each end, sensing if a vehicle gets from one end of the area to the other in too short a time)? - Possibly a privately-funded camera? (See 7.3, below)
 - The major issue is that NZTA sees *enforcement* as a police job, not NZTA's.

7.2 Biosphere Working Group

Brent gave an update:

At the most recent committee meeting, following approval at the public meeting in January, the KRRRA moved to join with representatives from Otama and Opito Ratepayers' , with Joe Davis (Ngati Hei), and a DoC representative, in forming a Biosphere working group (*note this is a working title only*). In the Community Plan refresh the top 4 aspirations were all environmental, and there are many local environmental groups doing award-winning work. The biosphere working group's aim is to find common goals and a joint way forward, perhaps towards establishing a conservation designation that does not yet exist in New Zealand; it has no decision-making mandate. Notes from the meetings of this group will be available on the website.

7.3 KRRRA Funds expenditure

Ideas for spending KRRRA funds:

- speed cameras, with a prominent sign somewhere that says "...in operation in Kuaotunu" (without saying where) **KRRRA to contact Tairua Ratepayers re their privately-owned cameras**
- CCTV cameras (like Matarangi has) to dissuade folks from bad behaviour
- another AED near Waitaia/Pumpkin Flat
 - *post-meeting addendum: Paula Williams recommends everyone download the free AED app which gives specific locations of all AEDs in the country; also the St Johns app which gives tutorials on use of AEDs and giving CPR; she will prepare a notice with this info to go in the noticeboard*
- donation to KSAR? - Steve Hart says they have enough funding currently
- contribution to NZTA for Kuaotunu-ising village gateways
- ongoing water-quality monitoring (see 8.4, below)

8.4 Water Quality

James Muir described the work he's been doing with water-quality, the conclusions he's reached after 3-month-long periods of constant monitoring, and why it matters. Water quality - Kuaotunu stream and Pito-one stream in Kuaotunu West - is poor; the wetland systems are degraded. Water temperature is too high, from lack of vegetation giving shade. This affects the number of fish populations and will lead to algal blooms, endangering the health of stock, and of the children who swim in the river. The solution is riparian planting, to shade waterways and lower the temperature.

Planting riverbanks and wetlands also "dampens" flooding: roots aerate the soil, allowing more absorption of floodwater, spreading and thinning it, causing less damage to houses & infrastructure. Healthy wetlands also protect coastal areas from erosion.

Next steps: James suggests forming catchment management groups; he is happy to provide support, facilitate, and help with the water science. Much of the wetlands are privately owned so these landowners need to be involved; more data collection could help influence behaviour. KRRA funds could be used here - JM has been very generous so far. Scott Simpson thinks that approaching individuals quietly in an incremental way will get positive results.

8.5 Waitaia Loop Track

Carrie has received correspondence asking about the 2-year closure of the track. She has spoken to Mat Flynn (DoC), and reports that the plan is to re-route parts of the track out of privately-owned land, to widen the track, make some of the steps less steep, make it generally safer and more accessible. Kauri Dieback has to be carefully considered. The plan is to re-open in 2023. (Thanks also to Paula W for additional reporting.)

9. Any Other Business

Isabel Gilbert Palmer advised the group of her intentions to pursue an Arts space in the village: there's a Hall, and a shop, and a café, and a library, and tennis courts... but nowhere to exhibit art, other than the Hall where the hireage has time limits.

Marguerite Müller thanked the community for their support of and contributions to the library.

John Thorburn would like support of local mountain biking by requesting forestry companies open their roads to cyclists as they do in other parts of the country. **KRRA to write to Earnslaw.** John to follow up with mountain-biking clubs in other areas to see how they deal with health & safety/liability issues.

Julianna MacLean wondered if local businesses could be encouraged to stock only products that are recyclable in the TCDC's current system (#s 1&2). Ensuing discussion:

- recycling is only as good as the sorting
- sorting is only worthwhile if further along the line the materials are actually being recycled
- there are problems with TCDC's existing waste-management contracts
- nationally-applied waste levy is currently \$10/tonne, going up to \$20, then incrementally to \$60/tonne, applying financial incentives to using recyclable materials

- however, while this may work in urban areas, here people will just dump rubbish into the bush if landfills become too expensive
 - Paula requested the picnic area at the top of the Kuaotunu hill be permanently barred, to stop people dumping their rubbish into the bush there. The meeting unanimously agreed - **Brent to follow up with Alan Tiplady.**
- funds from this levy go half to local Councils and half to the Waste Management Fund (administered by the Ministry of Environment). These funds can be accessed by local groups.
 - Future Post is a firm that makes fenceposts from soft plastics
 - Flight Plastics (Wellington) recycles PET plastics
 - James Muir has been looking into e-waste recycling: currently there is nowhere on the peninsula, but an enterprising local with shed space for storage and a truck for transport could take it to Auckland. Waste Management Fund could support?
 - Marguerite adds that a Seagull Centre (similar to Thames) is opening in Whitianga soon.
 - Paula requests that single-use, single-serve bottled water be banned from sale in Kuaotunu. Also that a drinking & bottle-filling fountain be installed in the village.
 - Related: can we co-ordinate a community road-side clean-up day? Earth Day would be a good day. *Post-meeting discussion: three groups start on three hills (?), work down and meet at the village, do a weigh-in, with a prize for the biggest load of rubbish, then have a KRRRA-funded bbq.*

Dog-walking hours query - are they reviewed? Yes, by-laws are reviewed every 5-7 years, and were last looked at 3 years ago. Note from Steve Hart: people with any by-law issues should contact Council immediately and have them recorded as "identified issues" - these are the first things looked at when there's a review.

Boat ramp - user-pays fees in Matarangi, Whitianga, and Whangapoua are set to increase from \$80 to \$200, which will increase use of the Kuaotunu boat ramp and consequent boat-trailer parking issues. (NB a footpath along SH25 will necessarily limit boat-trailer parking, a Good Thing.)

No other business: the meeting thanks Brent, to a round of applause.

Meeting closed: 5 pm

ACTION SUMMARY - KRRA AGM 4 April 2021

who	what	done?
KRRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● circulate link to scallop-rahui submission ● circulate link to Cycleway Strategy submission ● URGENT draft submission-letter template & circulate to community ● make Cycleway submission ● get info from Tairua Ratepayers re speed cameras ● write to Earnslaw requesting mountain-bike access to forestry roads ● look into water fountain ● co-ordinate (Earth Day?) road-side community clean-up 	
Brent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ask Alan Tiplady re closing “picnic” (read: dump) site on KT hill 	