

**Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association**  
Minutes of Committee Meeting  
held at The Hub, Irishtown Road, Kuaotunu  
4 November 2021

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

**Meeting opened:** 6:03 pm

**Present:** Brent, Kathy (online), Kate, Carrie, Luke, Courtney, Alastair, Bruce, Danny, Erica - full house!

**Public:** Isabel Gilbert Palmer

**Apologies:** --

Note re mask use: while the Coromandel remains clear of Covid cases we will continue to meet without masks; if that situation changes we will revisit the issue.

**1. Public input**

Isabel presented her proposal for a small, dedicated Arts (Heritage + Culture) space on the Domain; the Hall is impractical for loading exhibitions in and out between various other users. She showed pictures of similar venues (New York, Zanzibar, Tauranga, Hokianga). She has the support of Ngati Tamatera (who have statutory claim over the Domain land). Martin Smith has prepared some concept plans (two shipping containers joined by a central roofed open space) and a budget (approx \$106,000). (Isabel notes that the Hokianga building was achieved for about \$26,000.) Isabel is working with a small group of interested locals to push the project; she expects it could take at least a couple of years to get off the ground. She will send us a digital copy of her proposal for our records. Her next steps are to approach the Community Board, access funding, perhaps find a patron. Her purpose in presenting the plans to KRRRA is for information only. The committee wholeheartedly supports her initiative.

**2. Minutes:** Minutes of the previous committee meeting, held 23.9.21, accepted as a true and accurate record. **moved:** Luke **seconded:** Courtney **Passed**

**Matters arising from the minutes:** Running through the action plan:

Luke has talked to Ty re kauri-2000 arch carving but doesn't know if he's been in touch with Chris C yet. Ash re roadside clean-up - see item 5.5 below.

Carrie has talked to Tanya TCDC re kauri-2000 arch placement: it's DoC land not TCDC; Tanya notes the Cliff Heraud memorial sign was placed without explicit approval, and unofficially suggests we carry on with the arch. KRRRA unanimously agrees. **Carrie to report this to Chris Charteris.** Carrie has repeatedly contacted Chris Twemlow for a written update on the Waitaia Track, without reply, but will **follow up with Matt Flynn.** Hamish & Jacqui re roadside clean-up - see item 5.5 below.

Erica has received one quote for a 50 m fence on the KT Hill layby: approx \$14,000. Let's try two "monitored by surveillance camera" (or similar) signs instead (A3 or A2 size, available

pre-made; or made by sign-writer - circulate design of sign before purchasing). Erica to follow up.

Carrie moves that we approve expenditure of up to \$150 for 2 signs. Kate seconded.
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**Passed**

Alastair reports that the TCDC has received quotes for the resurfacing of the recreation court (tennis courts); TCDC will contribute \$11,000. They are waiting for DoC approval. (It is assumed by the meeting that Ngati Tamatera don't need to give approval as there is no new structure proposed, only repair & maintenance to existing structures.) Danny suggested local kids, as main users of the courts, be invited to give input on how the surface is painted (eg 4-square, hopscotch, a scooter trail, basketball markings etc; not just tennis). Danny to liaise with Dugald. The seismograph-repair & function article for the newsletter is still pending - Alastair to get this to Kathy within the week.

Courtney - reports from James Muir there has been no further progress with the Heron Trust wetland: he's been busy, they've been locked down in Auckland... Courtney will pursue this. It has been noted in the community that there are sometimes cattle grazing in the wetlands, where the fence damaged in the 2019 flood has not yet been repaired. Brent will contact WRC with some photos and a request for action.

Kathy official scallop rahui newsletter item still to do.

Brent - Boris & Cherie re roadside clean-up - see item 5.5 below

Kate - Kathy is writing the NL item; committee forwarded their *keep kuaotunu kuaotunu* thoughts to Brent; roadside clean-up post in Kuaotunu Ketchup got several "likes" and one "I'd like to participate" message, but no-one volunteering to organise. See item 5.5 below.

### **3. Correspondence:**

Correspondence is in the Dropbox.

**Correspondence accepted, moved:** Brent **seconded:** Alastair

**Passed**

### **Matters arising from the correspondence:**

- Brent, wearing his Kuaotunu Peninsula Trust hat, responded to Courtney's email regarding weed eradication on the Blackjack Hill. The KPT has approval from TCDC and DoC to eliminate weeds (eg cotoneaster, honeysuckle, woolly nightshade) from the verges of the Blackjack road. The work will be privately funded (separate from the KPT's wilding pine project) and will cover hand-pulling and cut-and-paste poisoning of roadside weeds; there will be no spraying. No work program has been suggested yet for the long-term eradication of pampas grass and revegetation of the land-slip areas; this will depend on funding and manpower, and may involve the use of granules instead of spraying.
- scallop rahui signs: Brent has 4 large core-flute signs advising of the official scallop ban. Where should they go? The main Kuaotunu boat ramp; the Matarangi boat ramp; the Whitianga boat ramp; as well as A4 paper copies in all community noticeboards, and the

Stunned Mullet bait shop. **Luke will send photo (or Brent will send digital copy) to Alastair for A4 printing.** The invoice for the signs is outstanding, approx \$120.

Carrie moves that we approve the expenditure for the scallop-rahui signs. Alastair seconds. <b>Passed</b>
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#### **4. Financial Report:**

Kathy gave her report from Australia. There is not much change from last meeting; only one committee-member sub still owing.... (you know who you are!!)

Account balances: \$9,453.80

No outstanding creditors

Financial membership 188

*The full report is in Dropbox.*

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

#### **Matters arising from the financial report:**

Brent wonders whether the coffers would stand some sort of KRRRA-subsidised end-of-year community Christmas gathering. Is it practical/advisable in the current Covid climate? It's not possible to plan ahead, but a fairly short-notice outdoor event could be put together (eg pizza oven in the Domain) depending on circumstances. **Everyone to think about this.**

#### **5. Items for Discussion:**

##### **5.1 Biosphere update**

Brent thanks everyone for their thoughts on what would *keep Kuaotunu Kuaotunu*; our clear definition of the 5th pillar of the biosphere (maintaining the culture and integrity of the small coastal village) is necessary for the working group to make progress. When we have a clear idea, we can forward it to Cameron and Chris (Otama & Opito) for their ratepayers' groups for feedback.

Common threads in KRRRA committee responses: green space, marine environment, connected community, healthy ratio of permanent: holiday population, community participation. These ideas could be summarised in two main headings: Natural connectivity and Social connectivity.

Discussion:

- We are surrounded by green & blue: bush, farm, river, sea; how can we retain that?
  - Delineate a "footprint" of existing housing, and not expand beyond that into the green space?
    - Kuaotunu is very spread out and making this delineation would be difficult
    - infill or more intensive development within the footprint is also not very Kuaotunu

- height restrictions?
- current zoning allows minimum 20-hectare sections; this is relatively generous and would maintain the feeling of green space - but is dependent on District plans which can be manipulated and could be altered by future councils, hence the need for a central-government mandate
- There are already lots of small good things going on: weed eradication, scallop rahui, etc. Is that enough?
  - a central-gov't mandated biosphere would protect these small good things in perpetuity
- In the Lake District (UK) World Heritage Site, farmers are subsidised to carry on farming
- paddock-to-plate food supply
- we should measure not only KRRRA membership, but also wider community engagement, eg volunteer groups
- ratio of permanent residents to absentee ratepayers is important and measurable
- ensure survival of working farms
- encourage families, and a broad demographic
  - this requires jobs
  - limit house prices??
- Just because the paradigm has been *growth* doesn't mean it has to continue so; if progress isn't managed then this little pocket of green & blue will be lost forever. Future development could be consented on the basis of *net environmental gain*.
- Human Carrying Capacity is a concept the Kapiti District Council began exploring several years ago, the main tenet being *safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems*.
- "Be a good ancestor."

In summary: the committee supports in principle the 5th pillar, understanding that no matter how it's worded, restricting development on private land will always be an obstacle. The committee is happy for **Brent to carry on fleshing out** and solidifying these definitions.

### **5.2 Update on lay-by fence**

See Matters Arising from the minutes, above

### **5.3 Progress on tennis-court resurfacing**

See Matters Arising from the minutes, above

### **5.4 Progress on Kauri-2000 sculpture placement**

See Matters Arising from the minutes, above

### **5.5 Roadside clean-up organiser**

No-one in the committee or the community has volunteered to organise an *event*, so the committee will set a date, inform the wider community (KT Katchup) when it's happening, and just do it. Anyone who wants to join in does so at their own risk; KRRRA can provide some hi-viz vests. **Brent to find out from Chris S (Opito) where they got theirs printed.**

The hope is that it might grow organically into something bigger and better.

## 5.6 Next Newsletter

Items thus far:

- seismograph article (Alastair)
  - official scallop rahui (Kathy)
  - recent KCERT survey (Carolyn)
  - Hall committee - landscaping
  - Otama Reserves Group new website
  - ? Kauri 2000 sculpture
    - not yet
  - ? Chris Charteris/ Cliff & Julie Heraud memorial bench **Isabel GP to send Kathy a photo & some copy**
  - ? link to online Shoreline Management Planning meetings
    - *post-meeting addendum: these meetings happen too soon for inclusion in the NL*
- Get copy to Kathy within 7 days and she hopes to have the NZ ready within 2 weeks.  
Thanks Kathy!

## 5.7 Dark Skies update

Brochures have been printed for distribution to letterboxes. They look great. Thanks for your hard work on this, Kathy.

## 6. Any other business:

Carrie: the recent Shoreline Management Planning group public meeting in Matarangi was poorly attended (though not as poorly as in Mercury Bay); however Carrie and Alastair went; Alastair likes the approach the group is taking (ie., planning *if* this trigger is reached *then* this action will be taken, rather than predicting specific amounts of sea-level rise etc). There are some upcoming online sessions; **Carrie will forward the link.**

Courtney: footpath/traffic calming: the mowers are happy to continue mowing, and a community group will continue meeting to determine what other actions can be taken to ensure the safety of children and others walking to the village.

Kathy: we usually have a public meeting in January. Given the C-word uncertainty, we will postpone planning this.

## Watching brief:

- helicopter landing pad
- Civil Defence Community Defense Response Plan
- Aquaculture development plan
- annual Labour-weekend road-side clean-up (see 2021 April minutes for details)

**Meeting closed:** 7:55 pm **Next meeting:** Thursday 9 December, at Carrie's: committee meeting, followed by Christmas drinks? Public to be advised that *our usual venue is closed, but public input will still be welcomed digitally.*

## ACTION SUMMARY

who	what	done?
Carrie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● report to Chris C re kauri-2000 arch placement</li> <li>● follow up with Matt Flynn re Waitaia Track progress</li> <li>● forward link to online SMP sessions</li> </ul>	
Erica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● get 2 “surveillance-camera” signs for layby</li> </ul>	
Danny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● liaise with Dugald (Domain Board) re court surface painting</li> </ul>	
Alastair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● write seismograph article for NL and send to Kathy</li> <li>● Print and post two A4 Rahui notices on noticeboards at shop and boatramp</li> </ul>	
Courtney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● pursue Heron Trust wetlands updates</li> </ul>	
Brent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● take photos of stock grazing in the Heron Trust wetlands, send to WRC with complaints and request for action</li> <li>● carry on working out 5th-pillar definition</li> <li>● ask Chris S re printed hi-viz vests for roadside clean-up</li> </ul>	
Kathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● draft rahui item for NL</li> </ul>	
Luke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● send Alastair photo of rahui sign for printing &amp; posting in noticeboard</li> </ul>	
everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● think about possibilities for community pre-christmas gathering</li> <li>● come up with slogan for roadside clean-up hi-viz vests</li> </ul>	
Isabel GP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● draft small item &amp; send Kathy photo of C &amp; J Heraud memorial bench, for newsletter</li> </ul>	