

Kūaotunu Residents and Ratepayers' Association
Minutes of AGM Meeting
held at Kūaotunu Hall
Sunday 20 April 2025

Committee members: Steve Hart, Chair; Ian Preece, Deputy Chair, Kevin Crawford, Minutes Secretary; Marguerite Muellers, Isabel Gilbert-Palmer, Gael Coleman, Roimata Taimana

Meeting opened: 3:09pm

Present: Committee Members: Ian Preece (AGM Chair), Roimata, Marguerite, Gael, Isabel, Kevin (minutes)

Other Financial Members: 53

New nominees for the Committee: Chris Brock, Dani Elliston (not present), Steffi Hammann

Public Officers: Deli Connell and John Grant (TCDC Councillor), Heather Bruce (Regional Manager for Mercury Bay), Bess Kingi, Caroline Hobman (MBCB members).

Quorum: 176 members at the time of the start of the meeting. A quorum of 58 members is required (one third of members). This was met by attendees and 58 having voted online prior to the meeting.

Apologies : 11 - existing Committee Members : Steve Hart (Chair), Len Salt (TCDC Mayor), Rekha Giri-Percival (MBCB), Tony Fox (WRRRA), Brent and Lise Page, Brian Dixon and Judy Arnold, Hamish and Jackie Noble, Dani Elliston each apologized for not being able to attend.

1. Welcome – Ian welcomed the attendees and thanked all for taking their Easter time to attend and noted the new Constitution and Electoral voting as a particular focus of the meeting. He as Deputy Chair was chairing the meeting in lieu of Steve Hart Chair overseas at present.

Karakia – Roimata Taimana

2. Chair Introduction

Ian summarised the agenda and noted there were 10 existing members standing again and that later any other nominations were to be called from the floor. TCDC Councillors would possibly present under Section 11 of the agenda. Whilst we are all aware there were Local Body elections upcoming October, Ian noted this meeting would be focused only on Kūaotunu community issues. No meeting happened in early January (after earlier announcement). The decision was made due to personal commitments of the committee and as nothing material had happened that had not been already been covered by the December Newsletter. Committee apologies were noted and this meeting was the forum for members' discussion.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the previous AGM held 31 March 2024 posted on the website - accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved minutes be adopted: Roimata Taimana **seconded:** Flemming Rasmussen **Carried**

No matters arising from the Minutes and no further correspondence from the last AGM meeting was received.

4. Chair's Report - Ian Preece presented the Chair's report on behalf of Steve Hart

See separate document on the KRRRA website for full transcript.

Highlighted points covered follow:

- Kūaotunu is an energetic community with KRRRA and a number of volunteer groups and a source of pride in the community.
- Role of KRRRA is to champion values of this community – led by community survey responses (last 2023) and surveys on specific issues like speed limit reduction. These responses are effective in our advocacy demonstrating the depth of community engagement.
- KRRRA has continued advocacy with TCDC senior staff, elected TCDC and MBCB members, NZTA and other RRAs throughout the peninsula – often to get things to be done and sometimes not to get done (e.g. NZTA putting up the speed limit). Wins are hard and frustrating but if you don't push then change can't occur.
- High engagement of our Newsletter with over 75 % readership - a further demonstration of community engagement.
- Activities over the year have included detailed engagement in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 and Annual Plan review regarding rate rises, footpaths, cyclone recovery.
- Cuts in Annual Plan budget for any new footpaths and only maintaining existing have resulted in no progress on safe walking and cycling Waitaia to Hilldale – not helped by funding issues of both TCDC's LTP and NZTA and Government policy which have affected many of items on this communities' agenda especially safe footpaths.
- Upgrade proposed FY27/28 \$285k to the Blackjack Reserve Conveniences – KRRRA have strongly advocated for an internal refurbishment only and requested it could be a do minimum and the balance reallocated to footpaths for this community.
- Speed limit reduction will be specifically discussed later in the meeting.
- Bluff Road Connectivity between Matarangi and Kūaotunu led by MRRAI and progress of the Feasibility Study into the bridge and consultation with Ngāti Hei progressing well.
- Fast track legislation has now been passed and KRRRA submitted to the Environmental Select Committee on the lack of opportunity for the community to have a say on aspects of projects such as Waitaia Forestry extraction and mining proposals and we will keep a watching brief on issues.
- Cemetery Road proposed subdivision in the Kūaotunu floodplain groups of residents approached KRRRA about the lack of notification by TCDC and their examination of the various risks to existing residents of development and fill displacing floodwaters. KRRRA noted the community survey responses regarding such catchments and wrote to TCDC and WRC on the issues and requested more transparency on their Resource Consent tracker about their questioning of the applicant through their correspondence as part of the RMA s92 process.
- In June KRRRA supported Ngāti Hei on their application for a scallop rahui extension and in October supported a beach cleanup organised by Nediilka Radojkovich.
- Donation policy formulated by KRRRA for not for profits and resources not for people– The process was published in the April Newsletter and Ian invited members to come talk to us on any requests – Donations detailed in Treasurers report.

- Special thanks to FENZ Kūaotunu (Gareth Simpson) for the response to the Blackjack fire and a donation of \$1000 to recognise their valuable contribution to this community.
- Other issues on our radar upcoming are listed in the Chair's Report.
- Ian noted the positive relationships with other neighbouring Ratepayers Groups and regular Chairs meeting with Community Board Council and TCDC provide a further forum to discuss and advance community issues and a strong congruence of goals with RRAs as a result. Noted as an example MRRAI support received for the speed limit reduction on SH25 west and east approaches to Kuaotunu showed this solidarity.
- Ian reiterated Chair's report that in all our dealings with agencies it often is the system that is the issue rather than the individuals we deal with and important not to individualise and polarize issues as a result. Ian noted the considerable change in agency staff and that added to those difficulties. Significant progress on several issues with TCDC and a number submissions to agencies on behalf of the community were made. Often the pace is frustratingly slow, but progress has been made.
- Appreciation expressed to Len Salt as Mayor for support of our endeavours especially speed limit reduction and to TCDC staff – Heather Bruce, Brian Taylor and Dean Allen for their support.
- Ian also noted particularly Tanya Patrick – Mercury Bay Parks and Open Spaces Manager for her work within a limited budget to have new stairs and platform installed at Gray Beach and support with Andrea Whitehead of Dunecare's programme with TCDC.
- Many thanks to Committee members for their personal time spent over the year, including those on the door and organising this AGM today and Secretary for work in submissions and following many issues on behalf of the community. Kevin noted his thanks to both Steve as Chair and Ian Deputy for their leadership of KRRRA.

5. Treasurer's Financial Report by Gay Breeuwer and read by Kevin Crawford

Kevin noted many thanks to Gay who has been KRRRA Interim Treasurer for the year and introduced new nominee for the Committee Steffi Hammann-Evans who has the skillsets for taking over the Treasurer role with Gay's assistance in the transition

See separate document for full transcript. Points covered follow:

Account balances

\$12,162.78 compared to \$11,798.44 last year - \$ 2,250 are membership fees paid in advance (i.e. for 5-year membership fees)

KRRRA's proposed contribution to Tennis Court overlay and potential contribution to pump house artwork were both not completed in the financial year and have had these allowances set aside. Approval of both fundings has been agreed as being withdrawn by the Committee and put back into allowances.

Noted that the report last AGM was to 24 March 2024 due to Treasurer Kathy Speirs leaving Kūaotunu and adjustments have been made accordingly with the last few days of March including membership fees received in that short period.

Ordinary Operating Income

\$2,326.34 compared to \$2576 last year

– 77% membership, balance 23% interest \$526.34 last year to \$476 last year

Ordinary Operating Expenditure

\$225 compared to \$ 207 last year – all for Kūaotunu.nz website operation.

Net surplus

\$2351 compared to \$1947 last year.

Donations: Nil received.

Extraordinary Expenditure \$1755

Rings Beach Wetland Group \$ 500 - for equipment, \$1,000 was donated to the Kūaotunu Firefighters Social Fund and \$225 for Epi-pens to Kuaotunu FENZ.

Operating Net Surplus

\$ 364.34 compared to \$2119 (31 March 2024)

Membership to 31 March 2025

171 plus compared to 195 last year

Flemming Rasmussen queried membership at c220 stated by Ian and 171 stated – Ian clarified a number of financial members were due to pay.

Projected Surplus 31 March 2026

Slight decline from \$2119 approx. if membership maintained at c200. Budget includes website maintenance of \$210 annually until 2027 and \$500 donation to Kuaotunu Dune Group approved 1 April 2025 meeting and paid next Financial Year.

1st resolution

Financial report FYE 2025 **moved** to be adopted: Roimata Taimana **seconded**: Alastair Brickell
Carried

2ND resolution

Motion to maintain the \$10 annual membership per person.

Moved motion be adopted: Jill Goodall **seconded:** Jenny Crawford **Carried**

6. Election of Committee

The KRRRA constitution allows for a maximum of 10 Committee members. All 7 existing members have confirmed they are standing. There are 3 additional nominations.

Details of all nominations including 3 new nominations are on the website. If there are any further nominations from the floor there will be an election at this AGM. Ian explained the process.

Nominations received prior to the meeting read as follows:

Existing Committee

- Kevin Crawford
- Ian Preece
- Marguerite Muellers
- Isabel Gilbert-Palmer
- Gael Coleman-Smith
- Roimata Taimana
- Steve Hart

New

- Dani Elliston (not present)
- Steffi Hammann-Evans (delayed to the meeting)
- Chris Brock

Chris Brock as one of the nominees gave a short speech of his and his family background from 2018 as a Kuaotunu resident and career background in IT as a Software Architect and these skills were relevant to assist KRRRA.

The existing Committee at the meeting stood up to be identified.

Ian asked for any further nominations from the floor, and none were proposed.

The Committee plus the three new nominees, all as listed above, were elected without a vote. All 10 are therefore confirmed as the new Committee.

The next meeting date post the AGM meeting would be decided in the next two weeks and involves Election of Officers. Members to be advised of this and the next public meeting of the new Committee.

7. Update to the KRRRA Constitution revision

Re-registration of KRRRA under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 is required prior to April 5, 2026. There are two main drivers of the Constitution revision:

- Compliance with the Incorporated Societies (2022) Act
- Other internal KRRRA changes which would make the processes within KRRRA more streamlined.

The KRRRA email highlighted each category separately and provided a background listing of 21 changes – blue 2022 Act requirements / red KRRRA changes. This is also on the website. 53 responses received to date – 52 accepted and 1 disagreed – 65% of financial members are required by the current constitution so that threshold has not been met today. The survey will be left open and reminders to financial members will be sent.

If the 65% (114/ 175) is not achieved and submitted by 5 April 2026 KRRRA cannot continue to operate and be wound up. Flemming Rasmussen outlined the consequences of any windup on community funds and their distribution.

8. Update on the survey / Public submission on Speed Limit reduction

Kevin outlined the excellent response from the January survey in local Kūaotunu and Matarangi businesses and public locations (hall - 10 Artists and libraries). This was followed by the online survey of members completing in early March. A total of 356 responses, 98% in favour of a permanent speed reduction back to 50km/hr. Hilldale Cres to just west of Kingfisher Way (east of the boat ramp) and 50km/hr. from the village to just south of Cemetery Road.

Total responses (survey and online) were received from 44 % residents 32 % bach owners from Kūaotunu – others from Matarangi and visitors. From the survey paper 23 % were visitors so it was an issue of safety to visitors as well.

We received material from NZTA from our request as to what was the basis of the temporary speed reduction when SH25A was closed because of Cyclone Gabrielle. This was in OIA response format and it was revealed that there were safety concerns for **both** areas not only due to the increased volumes of diverted traffic but safe walking and cycling adjacent SH25 on the two approaches to the village. NZTA only actually reduced Hilldale to the boat ramp to 50km/hr. in the temporary speed reduction.

Next steps – collation of data underway and then submission follows to NZTA Andrew Corkill – Director of Community Affairs and Relationships. Noted the support received in a letter from MRRAI on the subject on behalf of their c400 members.

Kevin outlined government Policy of increasing Labour s reductions since 2020 on specified roads” and noted reviewed community pushback and NZTA has since gone to consultation on 49 roads nationally and added more recently. SH25 is not a specified road but we understand via Len Salt that NZTA will get onto SH25 after these other specified roads have completed their consultation. Our aim is to be one of those communities and RRAs inputting to the questions in the formal consultation about communities detailed interaction / usage of SH25 and use the OIA data in support.

If Kūaotunu was selected for consultation it would be published on the NZTA website for 6 weeks of public consultation but not before 1 July 2025.

Kevin clarified in answer to John Scott s question that footpaths are not a requirement of NZTA under this government and that any footpaths were likely funded by TCDC or at best co funded TCDC/ NZTA. This later situation was the case in 2020 – east of the boat ramp and to Bluff Road to the layby - but only parts were done. There is a prospect where NZTA infrastructure fails – like the collapsed SH25 gabion wall west of the boat ramp that this model could be used again but needs to have TCDC on board.

9. Correspondence relating to the AGM: Nil and no other inputs from the floor.

10. Input from Attendees from the Floor:

Ian requested input from the floor, however there were no other inputs offered.

11. General Business:

11.1 Current TCDC Consultations

TCDC Councillor John Grant was invited as part of General Business to address the meeting on the three TCDC current Consultations open to ratepayers. He noted the importance of feedback via Consultation to either agree or disagree and in his view this was the duty of every ratepayer.

John acknowledged the contribution of RRAs such as KRRA and noted TCDC do listen to feedback that is received and noted the Bluff Road Connectivity as an example.

A summary is provided below – refer TCDC Consultation documents for detail:

1. Local Waters Done Well – Consultation on the management of water assets – the setup of water delivery entities under this Government’s model (formerly 3 Waters under Labour) and the options of TCDC going alone or joining with other Councils to increase the scale of benefits and potential savings and escalate water delivery developments faster than TCDC could do themselves.

It is important that ratepayers still respond even if you are not reticulated as it affects our rates as regardless of stormwater, water and wastewater is levied on a District wide basis and involves 50 % of Council assets.

2. Rating Review – Consultation on the option of whether rating is based on Land or Capital Value – 3 options including one of capital value and an Annual General charge. John noted it was not about increasing the rate but about the way rating is carried out. Consultation finishes on 10 May. Noted the perceived issues of eastern side supporting the western side and this is not the case.

John noted the website available to see how your property is affected under the different options. Target is to make the rating fairer and hence the wider the feedback the better. John noted the success of the dog bylaw roll back by the power of Kūaotunu community public submission.

Deli Connell provided an explanation on the rating of separate units (air bnb / granny flats) on the same title and there were several options for feedback to mitigate impact on ratepayers with fixed incomes. Several questions of detail from the floor were answered by John and Flemming. Note was made that the valuations were usually desktop and based on sales in the area.

Isabel Gilbert-Palmer proposed a Clinic / drop-in session be held for Kūaotunu residents and Ian invited a show of hands – 15 felt that was a good idea and Ian noted KRRA could try to facilitate this. Post meeting note: The meeting was subsequently held at the Fire Station.

3. Annual Plan FY25-26 review- Two previous years of high rate increases and John noted this Council was conscious of that and targeted to hold rates at 7.7 % rise rather than the double digits in the LTP. 7.7% is the basis of the consultation now. An example was cited as rubbish collection that could be a source of rate saving if the 2 collections / week in the summer peak period given the new bigger bins could be dialed back to one. Noted also environmental saving via collection vehicles.

12. Any Other Business - Comments from the floor

12.1 Bluff Road Connectivity Study Progress, funding, and access queries

Kevin noted the Feasibility Study in progress was funded by MRRAI / MCT and KRRRA contribution was Kevin s time in scoping the study and coordinating with the consultant and TCDC staff on technical matters and on Geotechnical Investigation procurement. This is for bridge foundations and cable anchorages and for track access viability as walking and cycling access and involved Whole of Life costing (funding is in TCDC LTP 24-25 for these). Presentations had been made to Ngāti Hei and Ngāti Huarere and awaiting feedback on graphics / fly throughs and after that there would be more public access to the concept.

Query from the floor if the bridge is to be suitable for mobility scooters – reply was width is now 1.8m for emergency access (bollard protected) but access and widths to be further discussed – The access road surface from Rings Beach is not proposed to be upgraded.

Building the bridge (50 yr design life) is proposed as community funded with opex for the track in the TCDC LTP.

12.2 KRRRA Donation to Kūaotunu Firefighters Social Fund - Gareth Simpson expressed his thanks to KRRRA for their \$1000 donation post the Blackjack Hill fire event – noting its 11-day overall duration and the donation of epi-pens. Locking of sport domain gate queried – Tanya Patrick TCDC Parks and Open Spaces was referenced to resolve.

12.3 Oceania Gold Exploration Status – Ian advised a Resource Consent was granted and a single hole drilled at the end of Owera Road which unfortunately kept the permit for exploration both north and south areas alive. No further news received but a watching brief of KRRRA.

12.4 Newsletter / Community projects – Ian advised members to go online and register as a subscriber and noted donation process for application for community projects \$500 available via KRRRA. KRRRA does not run projects but can support and lobby Council on a project behalf and could canvas the community on a proposed project via KRRRA survey software.

Karakia - Roimata Taimana

Meeting closed: 4:53 pm.