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**K**ūaotunu **R**esidents and **R**atepayers **A**ssociation
Minutes of AGM Meeting
held at Kūaotunu Hall
Sunday 31 March 2024

*Committee members: Brent Page, Chair; Kathy Speirs, Treasurer; Kevin Crawford, Minutes Secretary; Carrie Parker, Correspondence Secretary, Alastair Brickell, Kim Crosland, Roimata Taimana, Bella Pierce, Nicci Kerr, Marguerite Muellers*
*Those standing down are as follows: Brent Page, Chair; Kathy Speirs, Treasurer and Carrie Parker, Roimata Taimana, Bella Pierce Nicci Kerr*

**Meeting opened:** 3:08pm
**Present:** Committee Members Brent (Chair), Alastair, Roimata, Marguerite Kevin (minutes)
Other Financial Members**:** 48
New nominees for the Committee present: Mark Kilgour, Ian Preece and Elisabeth Resl
Public**:** Deli Connell and Rekha Giri-Percival (TCDC Councilors), Heather Bruce (Regional Manager for Mercury Bay), Caroline Hobman (MBCB member), Pauline Stewart (Informer newspaper)
Quorum: With 197 members at the time of the start of the meeting. A quorum of 66 members is required (one third of members). This was met with well more than the 26 members required to meet a quorum present with 40 having voted online prior to the meeting.

**Apologies:** existing Committee Members: Kathy Speirs, Bella Pierce, Kim Crosland and new Committee nominee: Steve Hart
Len Salt (TCDC Mayor), John Grant (TCDC Councilor) and several members apologized for not being able to attend including Grant and Danni Elliston, Jackie and Hamish Noble, Harriet Brickell – many have voted online.

**1. Welcome -** Brent welcomed the attendees and thanked all for taking their time on a sunny Easter afternoon to attend

**2. Minutes**
Minutes of the previous AGM held 9 April 2023 accepted as a true and accurate record.
**Moved minutes be adopted:** Flemming Rasmussen **seconded:** Marguerite Muellers **Carried**
No matters arising from the Minutes.

**3. Chairs Report** Brent Page
See separate document in correspondence on the KRRA website for full transcript. Points covered follow:

- Whilst there appears little progress there is a lot of time spent in online meetings reviewing TCDC reports and making submissions
- Continued advocacy with TCDC senior staff, Elected TCDC and MBCB members, Waka Kotahi and other RRA throughout the peninsula
- Thanked Heather Bruce and elected Councilors for their diligence in attending to our issues.

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- Slow progress on safe walking and cycling Waitaia to Hilldale – not helped by funding issues both TCDC LTP and Waka Kotahi because of cyclone events affected many of items on this communities' agenda especially safe footpaths.
- Community Plan 2020-2030 update submission done in July 2023
- Survey in July significant level of response – clean waterways, keeping Kūaotunu free from extractive mineral mining, safe cycling and pedestrian paths, and a desire to maintain Kuaotunu look and feel topped the polls.
- Submissions on Dog Bylaws, 23-24 Annual Plan, Significance and Engagement Policy and preparing the TCDC 24-34 Long Term Plan submission – all based on accurately reflecting community aspiration and supported by the survey results.
- Draft LTP KRRA submission underway with research of the LTP by Kevin Crawford / Alistair Brickell
- Finally, a sensible 30 km / hr. speed limit in the village after 3 years of advocacy but still no gateway signage or roundels (KRRA even offered to pay)
- Kuaotunu-Matarangi Connectivity and safe Walking and Cycling SH25 – Cemetery Road to Hilldale Crescent (Kevin) and Dark Skies (Alastair) advocacy noted Important members access the Minutes of meeting on the KRRA website and in our Newsletters to get a full picture of the detail of each of the issues KRRA is progressing.
- Positive engagement with agencies that is respectful and well informed is essential – it assists TCDC to understand the community needs. Important to make personal submissions.
- Significant progress on several issues with TCDC and several submissions to agencies on behalf of the community. Often the pace is frustratingly slow, but progress has been made.
- Many thanks to Committee members for their personal time expended.
- Brent thanked retiring Committee Members for their efforts and noted both Kathy and Carrie's particular long service contribution. Opportunity for new people and new ideas.
- Reiteration of the need for the community to connect with KRRA members so that your aspirations are reflected in what KRRA does.

**Moved his report be adopted:** Brent Page **seconded:** Alastair Brickell **Carried**

**4. Treasurers Financial Report** by Kathy Speirs and read by Carrie Parker
See separate document for full transcript. Points covered follow:

Account balances
$11,798.44 compared to $10,322 last year - $ 2,250 are membership fees paid in advance (i.e., for 5year membership fees)

Allowances remain set aside for KRRA Contribution to Tennis Court overlay $ 7,000 and potential contribution of $1500 to pump house artwork reduced the above funds in hand in upcoming FY.

Ordinary Operating Income
$2,508 – 82% membership, balance 18% interest $237 last year to $476 this year

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Ordinary Operating Expenditure
$225 compared to $ 561 last year – all for Kūaotunu.nz website 50 % was domain name renewal for 5 years. The website and email platform are $210 in the coming year.

Net surplus
$2351 compared to $1947 last year.

Donations Nil received.

Extraordinary Expenditure
$ 384 Football Nets
$ 500 Farewell gift to Kathy Speirs for services over many years

Operating Net Surplus
$ 2351 compared to $1467 (31 March 2023)

Membership to 31 March 2024
195 (with an additional 6-7 received at the AGM)

Projected Surplus 31 March 2025
$1700 approx. if membership maintained at c190.

**1st resolution**
Financial report FYE 2024 **moved** to be adopted**:** Carrie Parker **seconded:** Janet Clark **Carried**

**2ND resolution**
Motion to maintain the $10 annual membership per person.
**Moved motion be adopted:** Carrie Parker seconded**:** Marguerite Muellers **Carried**

**5 Election of Committee**
The KRRA constitution allows for 10 Committee members.
Those standing down are as follows: Brent Page, Chair; Kathy Speirs, Treasurer and Carrie Parker, Roimata Taimana, Bella Pierce, Nicci Kerr
Brent thanked them for their efforts and noted Kathy's large contribution as Treasurer and Newsletter production and the particular the long service contribution of both Kathy and Carrie.

Nominations received prior to the meeting:

**Existing Committee**

- Alastair Brickell
- Kevin Crawford
- Kim Crosland
- Marguerite Muellers

**New**

- Steve Hart
- Elisabeth Resl
- Mark Kilgour

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- Ian Preece – nomination by Brent Page seconded by Shirley Willey

Various of the nominees gave a short speech of their background relevant to the nomination to KRRA- Alastair Brickell, Marguerite Muellers, Elisabeth Resl, Mark Kilgour, Ian Preece and Kevin Crawford spoke.

Brent asked for any further nominations from the floor, and none were proposed.
**The Committee as listed above, was elected without a vote. Floor vote confirmed aye**.

The next meeting confirmed post the AGM meeting as being 17 April 6 pm at Hall and involves Election of Officers. Recent 11 March 2024 Minutes available for new members for their earlier briefing.

**6. Correspondence relating to the AGM:**
Nil

**7. General Business:**
**7.1 Re-registration of KRRA**
Re- registration of KRRA under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 is required.
The Constitution must be altered and in place before the end of 2025. Actual action on specific text changes the constitution would be voted on at the 2025 AGM.

Brent gave a summary of reasons for Incorporation fiscal credibility, liabilities, tax exemption. Fleming Rasmussen gave a summary and noted it was aimed at operating to standards and protecting all members from liability. Details of membership need to be kept.

A vote had been taken online 40 votes and the Meeting confirmed the action with approximately 48 votes in a hand count met the quorum.
**Resolution** carried.

**8. Any Other Business -** Comments from the floor
**8.1 Fast-Track Approvals Bill – Open for Submissions till 19 April**
Martin Smith as Chair of the Kuaotunu Anti Mining Action Group (KAMAG) spoke on the situation to date of no new mining applications to the Kuaotunu area and that this was likely because of “Lock the Gate” signage refusing mining access to land by most landowners in this community.

Areas under threat are Kuaotunu and near Whangamata by Oceania Gold exploration and new applications covering Whenuakite / Cooks Beach, Hot Water Beach to Coroglen through to Tapu and Tairua.

However, the content of the Fast-Track approvals Bill currently out for public submissions is a major threat to the hard work over the years to keep mining out of the Coromandel. He noted

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the Bill related to fast tracking a wide range of infrastructure development projects including mining. It overrides a raft of environmental legislation were listed including the RMA.
It is derived out of the Coalition agreement and is from NZ First policy and their agreement with National.

A significant number of environmental safeguards will be lost with the removal of Schedule 4 - No Mining on the Coromandel – and allowing Mining on Conservation land. This means mining interests are reinvigorated and there are renewed challenges to protect our communities' environment.

3 development-oriented Ministers – Shane Jones (Regional Development), Chris Bishop (Infrastructure) and Simeon Brown (Transport) will have the say in appointing a 4-person expert Panel and in making the final decision on approval of a project with limited apparently no input by the public, and limited involvement of affected parties. The Ministers of Environment or Conservation are not involved in the referral of projects to Expert Panels or the decision of the 3 Ministers. NZ citizens and our Councils will no longer have a say in these projects.

The c100 projects involved are not noted in Schedule 2 and there has been stated by Chris Bishop Infrastructure Minister that there is currently no intention of publishing them before the bill is reviewed by the Environment Select Committee.

A flyer was available for the public meeting at the Hall 4 April 630-730pm on the Bill presented by KAMAG and Coromandel Watchdog. Further background of the effects of the Bill and materials will be provided which will allow the Bill to be read and templates for submissions provided.

The deadline is 11:59pm 19 April for submissions to Members of Parliament, the Select Committee and formally to the Ministry of Environment website.

**8.2 Vote of thanks to Brent Page, Kathy Speirs, and Carrie Parker –** Alistair Brickell
Alistair Brickell gave a passionate vote of thanks to all three long standing Committee members of KRRA. He thanked Brent for his leadership and his collaborative working with council and other Ratepayers association in the Alliance.

**8.3 TCDC Councilors address to the Meeting –** Deli Connell
Deli on behalf of the MBCB and 3 District Councilors thanked Brent for his untiring work of behalf of KRRA – his humour and his wisdom highly valued by Council. Also, thanks to Kathy and Carrie and looking forward to working with the new Committee in a positive and productive manner.

Noted an update from Mohammed Imtiaz – Works Manager TCDC that a pool of monies was available for signage and roundels and Deli will follow-up on this.

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CE to respond this week on progress on the Bluff Road report from Urban Solutions Lorenzo Canal and respond to Kevin Crawford.

**8.4 Roadside Cleanup –** Brent Page
Brent described the scope and that it was not a large commitment < 3hrs and best in the next few weeks. Rubbish deposition notified in advance by 2-3 weeks to access Matarangi collection site. Contact Heather Bruce.

**8.5 KRRA LTP 24-34 submission –** Kevin Crawford spoke on KRRA Submission underway. Following points summarise issues taken from 11 March KRRA minutes and March Newsletter with updates

LTP out for public consultation and closes 8 April. LTP formal public submission hearings 1 & 2 May – then potential changes, then to TCDC full council 29 & 30 May and adoption 1 July 2024

- Includes requests for responses on 5 decisions including Decision 1: Rate rises, Decision 2: investment in planning, Decision 3: Connected communities' investment $400k p.a from FY25, Decision 4: increasing user fees and charges and Decision 5 the Thames Council Offices refurbishment required due to various non compliances. Detail described on some of the options below.
- an Alliance of Coromandel Peninsula Ratepayers Associations has been formed and received a briefing from TCDC on the LTP 21 March
- The Draft LTP is unaudited and has proposed an average rate rise of 16.3% p.a over the next two years smoothing of rate spikes and an unexpectedly low rate rise for the last 7 years causing a lack of credibility to the overall LTP.
- Decision 3: Connected communities' investment $400k p.a from FY25 – KRRA proposing yes but delivered via Community Boards and requiring submission and monitoring of spends.
- Decision 4: Charges are only increased 3% and more user pays should be proposed but KRRA committee felt this should not be targeted rates as there is no guarantee of a spend to an actual project given Matarangi RRA experience. Developer contributions should be received and spent in locations.
- Decision 5: the Thames Council Offices refurbishment. KRRA nominating the option stay in existing and WFH as the building is progressively upgraded.
- Other feedback is requested, and it is this that is most important for our community: Kevin noted that of KRRA priorities given in our submission October 23 **none of the 8 items have made it to the LTP**.
- KRRA needs to represent the macro picture and the micro picture for this Community. KRRA priorities for our LTP submission to TCDC presented October 2023:
  • Road safety walking and cycling / footpaths SH25 Waitaia / Cemetery Road to Hilldale. If a preference was required, then completion of the footpath Kingfisher Way to boat ramp and onto Bluff Road on road safety grounds.
  • Kūaotunu to Matarangi making safe and restoring the strategic link at Bluff Cove.

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• Request that the Item in Community Facilities -refurbish Blackjack Reserve toilets FY27/28 ($280k) be redirected to footpath safety - earlier and more.
• Refresh of the Community Plan is not stated – to be referred to in our KRRA submission.

- Kevin noted the Transport Activities section of the budget - notes for footpaths and cycleways and streetlights investment – TCDC have had to make tough calls and issues of funding "nice to haves "results in **no new planning or funding infrastructure for the next 10 years** – only a statement that they will maintain what they have.
- KRRA will note these are not "nice to haves" - they are called Road Safety and Community wishes – they are top of our community priority made clear in Oct 23 submission and clear as being issues that are top in KRRA Community Survey Feedback.
- With regards to Kūaotunu to Matarangi making safe and restoring the strategic link at Bluff Cove – in our submission we will say we wish to see LTP funding for **Building Back what we had.**

Review of Other Capital expenditure items:

- Other TCDC big ticket items noted:
  - Thames Council Offices refurbishment - Option 1 ($9m capex)
  - Whitianga Esplanade Upgrade $12.5m no background and Councilors requested at the meeting for background and noting it was coming out for consultation shortly.
  - Thames Subregional Swimming Pool (increased from $14m - $39m)
- Noted of the big-ticket items some are Crown funded – Road cyclone recovery works: Tapu-Coroglen, Colville but also including Coromandel Bypass $37m (nothing to with Flood recovery). LTP report notes the risk that some or all of these may not receive funding.
- Coastal and Hazard Management not identified for Mercury Bay – or Kuaotunu needs explanation.

**From the Floor Observations included**:
Sharon Brass re Thames Monatarari Coastal protection $78m as large capex in the LTP without detail

Flemming Rasmussen noted the extensive documentation supporting the LTP and the good job in outlining how they wish to spend the money in the Consultation Document and in the Capital Expenditure Document Community by Community of a total $744m spend. He noted credit where credit is due to TCDC officers in compiling the LTP and up to all of us to respond in our interests – owe it to ourselves as well as Council. If we do nothing, then TCDC have a mandate.

Kevin and Brent encouraged members to submit personally also to the LTP and to an online form material were in the last Newsletter in March as well as list of the issues above for their submission. Input into submissions go online and input your issue into other Feedback in the form.

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Rekha Giri-Percival noted the Conveniences at Blackjack Reserve $280k item maybe because of the facility reaching End of Life and septic or water tank replacement but would need to clarify with Council. Brent noted the facility was good for a few more years with just toilet pan upgrades c $20k and the balance of money better spent on road safety and footpaths – an asset we have been waiting 30 years for.

Rob Dixon asked re impact of the pending repeal of 3 waters had on our rates in a rural community. Kevin replied most Councils have re-incorporated 3 waters back in costs with no smart solutions as to how costs could be alternatively funded. Several councils have taken option to delay – e.g., Waipa and Waikato DC but if this is done no ability to strike a new rate and then shortfall in overall funding.

**8.6 Speed Management SH25 -** Kevin Crawford spoke - notes below are 11 March 24 Minutes and have been updated below.

Kevin noted the new government's repeal of lowering speed restrictions for productivity reasons may put the current reductions at risk especially now that SH25A is open. Kevin noted that Waka Kotahi had done a full audit of road speeds around the Peninsula and had made safety decisions on speed as well as higher traffic loads on some sections (but most of these here were not productivity decisions).

The speed limit from west of Kingfisher Way to just beyond Hilldale on SH25 speed was reduced to 50km/hr. but signage stating it was Temporary was also installed.

KRRA will take the opportunity to re-iterate our community safety position and request the 50km/hr. be retained (Hilldale to the Village) and advocate again for Waitaia Rd / Cemetery Lane to the village for 50km/hr.

A recent well-attended 200 strong public meeting on the Thames Coast seeking the similar temporary reductions being made permanent was advised by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) to make their voices heard by making submissions on safety grounds.
Kevin reported he had contacted Andrew Wharekawa-Smith Waka Kotahi regarding making the temporary speed limit permanent.

This speed limit change is only Temporary and now that SH25A is complete and other SH25 recovery work underway, the threat is the new Government's direction to agencies and local councils to restore reduced limits back "if it is safe to do so". It is likely to result in a return to 70km/hr. In our situation it is certainly not safe to do so and given our long campaign for speed reduction on SH25 through our community, making all our voices heard is key to making this 50km/hr. permanent and reducing Waitaia / Cemetery Road to the village to 50km/hr.

We have been advised similarly to make submissions via an email as soon as possible to speedmanagement@nzta.govt.nz during the Ministry of Transport review of the Speed Limit Rules to inform NZTA Waikato submission and that strong community feedback will be a key

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consideration. Advice was that Waka Kotahi are making submissions to the MoT based on safety. Waka Kotahi Waikato are saying that Temporary Speed reductions will remain throughout SH25 until all recovery works complete possibly mid/late 2025 but the risk is this may be overruled by Ministers directive via Speed Management Rules adoption.

**8.7 Additional Local issues** – from the Floor

8.7.1 KRRA position on Fast Track approvals Bill and Schedule 4 Mining Protection removal
Request that KRRA make a clear statement of protection of the Natural Environment from Mining for any of the Eastern Coromandel Catchments and in Mercury Bay (at risk of seabed mining). Brent noted KRRA have on record their support and full support of KAMAG. Also noted our Biosphere Aspirations along with Otama and Opito RRAs.

8.7.2 Cuvier Crescent Road Surfacing Remedial Works Marguerite Muellers
Description of the RFS reply from TCDC that drainage culvert repair work next month (April) imminent and road pavement strengthening work surfacing work next year. Safety concerns remain until the remedial work on the road is completed.

8.7.3 Village Entry Road – and state of the under-slip against the Kuaotunu River John Scott
Brent noted TCDC aware of the issue and barrier installed. There are potentially other higher priorities – currently the slip appears stable and TCDC aware of its importance.

Kevin advised it should be on a RFS (Request for Service) so it can be tracked - 114 projects on the recovery agenda. Suggested John make that RFS.

8.7.4 SH25 Recovery Works Waka Kotahi
Kevin was asked regarding Kuaotunu Hill retaining wall project programme. Kevin replied he was aware tenders over budget and still to be resolved by Waka Kotahi and maybe action in Q2 2024 but still subject to funding.

Urgency regarding safety particularly for northbound traffic and lack of visibility of oncoming traffic until it is too late. Need for a priority signage. Kevin to ask Waka Kotahi to resolve given actual work likely to be delayed.

**9. Meeting Closure**
Brent thanked everyone for attending and support of existing members and support to the new nominees for putting themselves forward. Requested members support the committee and continue to engage with KRRA on any issues.

**Meeting closed 4:38 pm**