

Grange Road Water Association - 2022 Chairman's Report

To all Residents

Thank you all for your careful use of water over the peak season. Our water demand over Christmas and New Year was slightly less than last year. Since then, with the rain, cyclone and road closures, the demand has been much less than usual. Thank you also to the committee members for all the work they have done over the year and Tash Courtney for organising the sampling and testing.

As mentioned last year we would be keen to welcome new committee members. We have five or six meetings a year and no prior experience is required, just enthusiasm for an excellent water supply. So if you would be interested please let me know or come along to the AGM at 4pm on Saturday 22 April.

GRWA now has some pages on the Hahei community website. This has been set up by Bill Stead, thank you Bill, and allows members to access information on the water supply and key documentation through:

<https://www.haheicommunity.co.nz/grange-road-water/>

One unfortunate result of the cyclone has been the damage to Grange Road. About 50m of road has slipped and our main water pipe runs along this section of the road. At the time of writing this report, the pipe has survived, however it will have come under significant stress and we are concerned that it may fail. To mitigate this risk we have arranged for Donovan & Son Contractors to order the fittings and pipe that would be needed for the repair. If it does fail this will allow the repair to be effected quickly, minimising the time the water supply will be off.

Laurie Donovan

Very sadly Laurie Donovan passed away last year and we lost the person who has kept our system running for many years. Laurie always went beyond the call of duty to resolve leaks and any other problems with the supply, checking on it daily during the peak period.

His loss, as well as being a personal loss to me, was a worry; how would Grange Road Water survive without him? Fortunately he had the foresight to train up his granddaughter Katey and Tim Donovan has nominated Katey to do the weekly operation of the system. Katey is doing an excellent job and has brought more rigour to our operational procedures so it is all going very well.

Changes in Water Regulation

We reported at the AGM last year, concern over both the new Water Services Act and the draft drinking water standards and rules published by the new water regulator Taumata Arowai.

The Water Services Act 2021 increases the liability on volunteers involved with the supply. We have looked into the benefits of insurance and a legal supply agreement but have not resolved the best way forward at this stage and will keep members informed of progress. The liabilities and the relationship between Association members, committee members and the Association are complex because liabilities that fall on the Association would also, in effect, fall on the members as part of the Association. A reminder that we are all in it together and need a strong Association to keep our water supply.

The New Water Regulator, Taumata Arowai (TA) published draft drinking water standards and rules in 2021. As advised at the last AGM, these draft rules were very onerous and compliance would have been impossible for us without changes to how the Association is managed and much higher annual subscriptions. Fortunately Taumata Arowai have listened to the concerns we expressed in our submissions on the draft rules and the final rules are less onerous.

For GRWA the key changes required by the final rules are:

- The need for UV disinfection.
- Additional instrumentation.
- Quarterly E.coli testing of the source as well as the supply.
- Weekly E.coli testing during the period when the population supplied is greater than 100.

These requirements will result in some additional cost but are manageable with our current structure and operation. Our initial assessment of the effect on annual subscriptions is an increase of between 10% to 15%.

Water Supply Peak Demand and Capacity

Although peak demand over Christmas and New Year was lower than recent years, we were plagued with serious leaks in September, November and December 2022. You can see these leaks in the attached flow charts. For instance, from 23 September 2022, we were pumping more than 50m³/day (our normal consumption at this time is only about 15m³/day). Leaks continued during October and November, significantly affecting our overall annual consumption. We finally got leaks under control just prior to Christmas, but we see leaks having increased again to around 15,000 litres/day (15m³/day). We have to do better!

Most leaks have been on the connection to houses after tobies. These leaks demonstrate the importance of turning off tobies when you will be away from your house for more than a few days. It also highlights a concern over the state of the house connections.

Older house connections will be alkathene pipes, many of which will be reaching the end of their life. So, if you have an old connection and are doing work on your water pipes or in the vicinity of the connection (e.g. driveways) it is worth looking at replacing the pipeline with “Blue” MDPE pipe to avoid a leak and the need for emergency repairs.

Water System Improvements

The works planned for 2023 are installation of a UV system for regulatory compliance, and a pressure reducing valve and flow meter in the distribution system to help us reduce leakage.

Compliance with Statutory Requirements

We were fully compliant this year with our Waikato Regional Council consent to take water from the bores.

Our water quality testing and test results were fully compliant with new TA standards and rules. However, our treatment system will not fully comply until we install a UV disinfection system and associated instrumentation.

Financial Position

The Annual Performance report for the year ended 31 December 2022 is included in the AGM material sent out.

This shows a cash balance at the end of the year of \$52,000. This cash balance will reduce to about \$30,000, as a result of costs coming through between the end of 2022 and the receipt of annual subscriptions.

Annual Subscription

The \$600 annual subscription last year restored our cash reserves to over \$30,000 as planned.

This year we propose to keep the annual subscription at \$600. This allows for the additional costs from the new water regulations and an increase in contingency because of concern over the pipeline through the Grange Road slip.

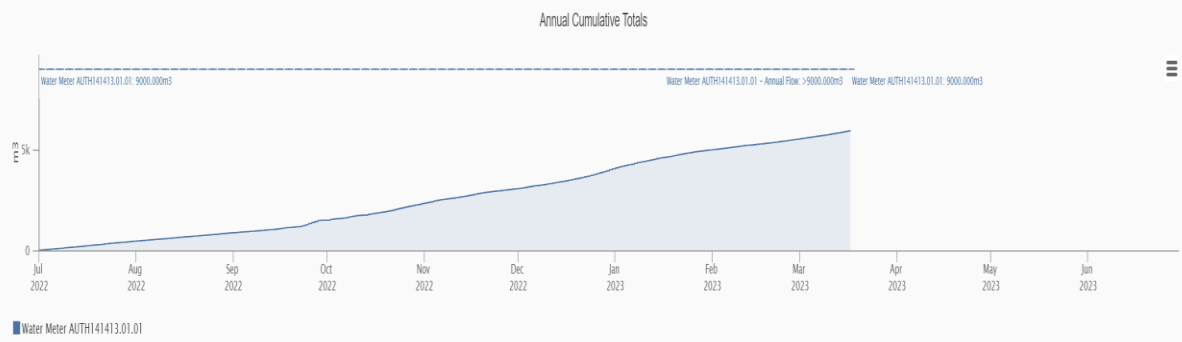
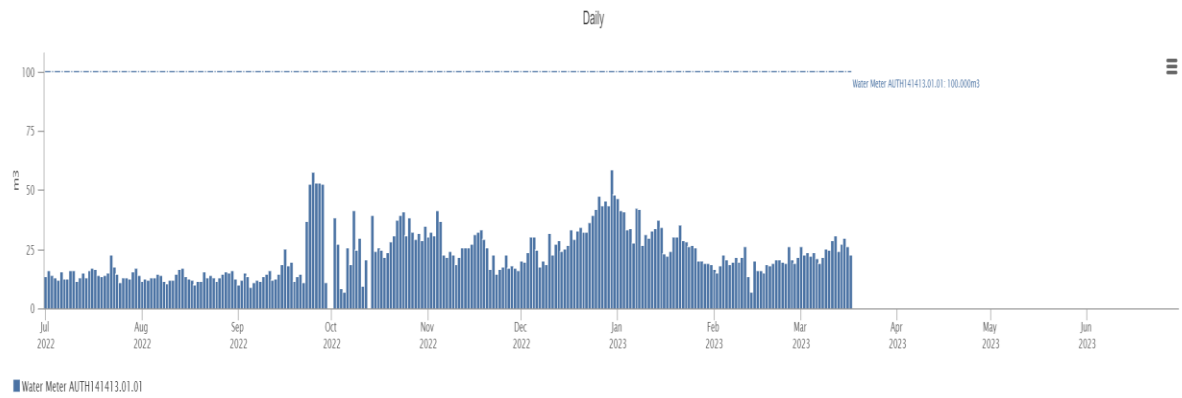
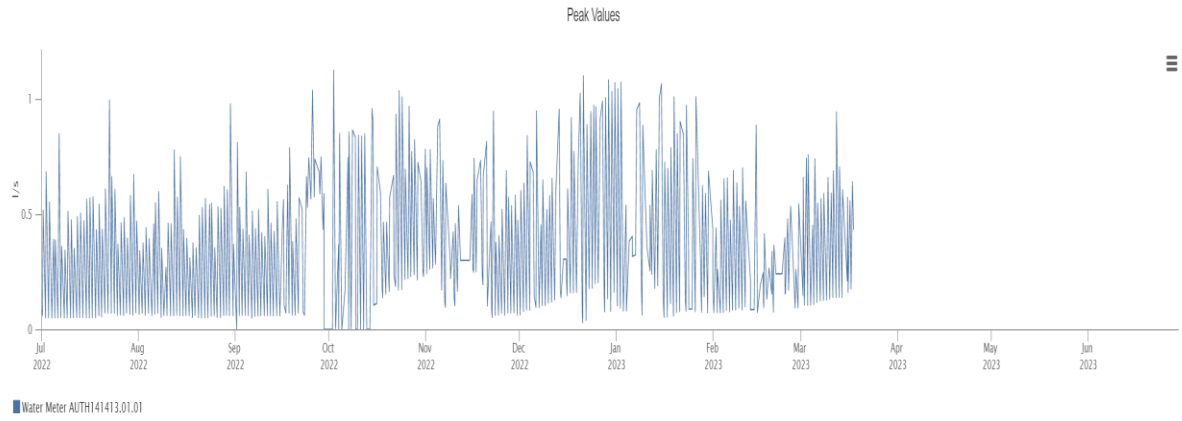
Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 4pm on Saturday 22 April. After the meeting we will adjourn to the Pour House, so it is an opportunity for meeting people as well as an getting an update on our great water supply.

Duncan Kingsbury
Chairman.

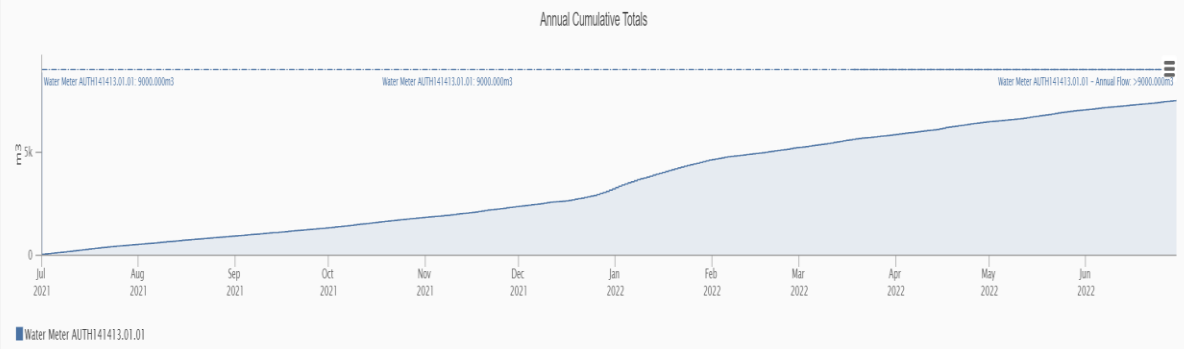
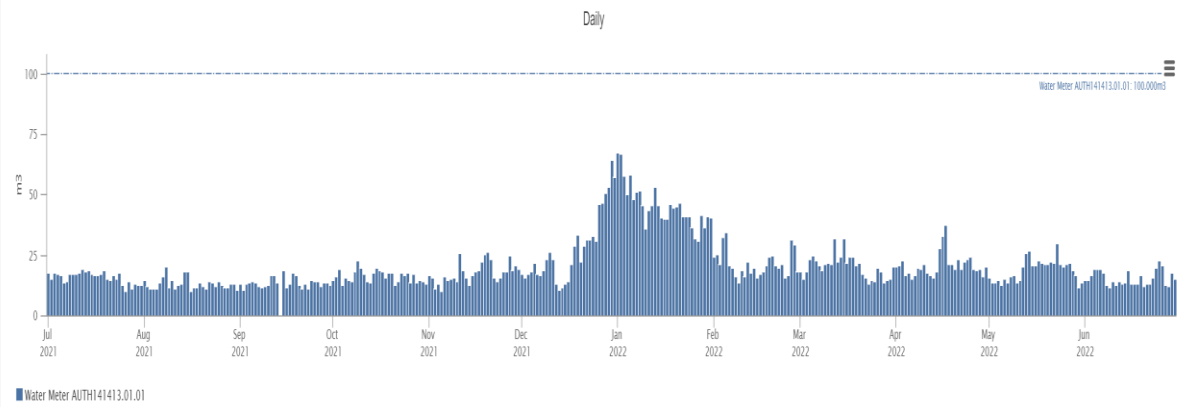
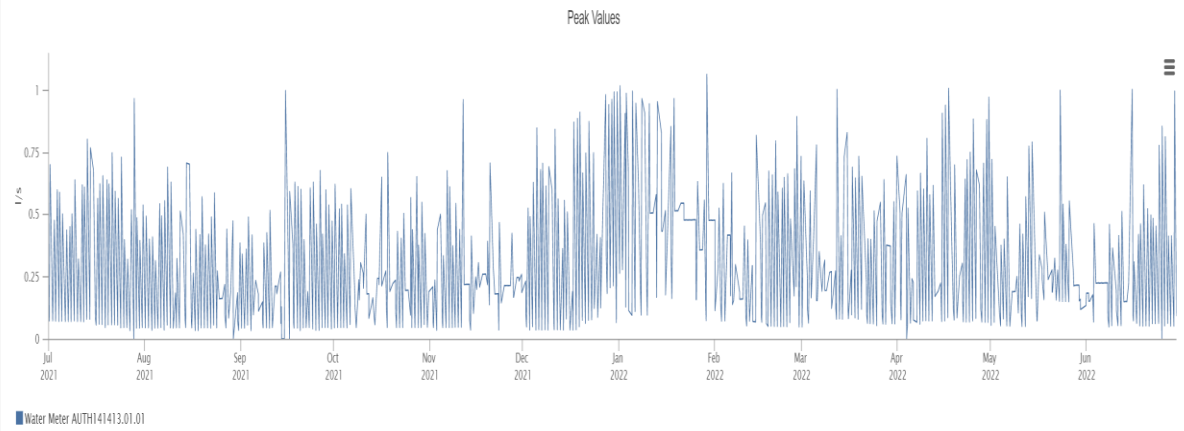
Current Water Consumption 2022 - 23

Charts



Water Consumption 2021 - 23

Charts



Water Consumption Comparison 2021 - 23

Charts

