

## **Chair's Report 2023-2024**

Kia ora koutou, welcome everyone

The past 12 months have been challenging for our community – impacts of the closure of SH25, the closure of the access tracks to Mautohe Cathedral Cove and economy / cost of living all impacting on visitor numbers - the life blood of our community. HRRRA formally acknowledges the massive effort made by the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and the contractors in getting SH25 open prior to Xmas 2023 – brilliant effort, thank you.

### **Mautohe Cathedral Cove**

It has taken significant drive and commitment by a number of people in our community to activate DoC into getting some focus on re-opening the Cove. Key was the lobbying to the Govt ministers (not helped by the election and change of Govt awaiting the Ministerial roles to be allocated) as to the importances of the Cove not only to our community's economy but also to the whole of the Coromandel and to tourism to NZ in general. At the recent key stakeholders meeting (attended by DoC, Ngati Hei, TCDC, business associations (both local and Coromandel wide), HRRRA and Hahei land owners' representatives) held on 3 October 24 DoC confirmed that the access track from the Grange Road entry and from Lees Road carpark will be opened in December (target is 1 December24). The access track from the Hahei beach to the Grange Road entry and access to Gemstone and Stingray Bays will remain closed this summer. Toilets (4 flushing) are being installed in Carter's property adjacent to the track at the Cove end of the WW1 memorial garden. Although apparently no final decision has been made it seems that DoC and Ngati Hei do not have any will to reinstate toilets at the Cove itself due to the environmental risks. The Grange Road carpark is to undergo some repairs this year to enable drop-off and pick-ups and shuttle vans (not buses) to be operated between the main Hahei carpark and the Grange Road track entry. HRRRA is still working with TCDC to get a traffic management plan in place for the peak season – to encourage / direct all day visitors into the main Hahei carpark and people walk to the Cove or the beach or use the shuttles.

Water based businesses will be encouraged to operate out of the carpark and provide shuttle services from there to reduce traffic within Hahei in particular at the beach front. Water based concessions that visit the Cove will be encouraged to limit visitor stay there to a maximum of 1 hour to reduce the build-up of numbers at the Cove and reduce risk

DoC is developing a more robust signage package addressing safety, environmental, cultural, personal responsibility, litter, toilets etc. A long-term visitor management plan is to be developed (with the key stakeholders) as part of the next phase of DoC's work. DoC's target is to have this completed by June next year. The investigations into more 'resilient' options for the access track to the Cove, the 'reinstatement' of the access track from Hahei

beach to the Grange Road entry and access to Gemstone and Stingray bays are all part of the next phase

I want to particularly acknowledge the unflagging efforts and commitment of Ray van Beynen in leading the drive, in particular, lobbying various Govt ministers which ultimately provided the stick / direction for DoC to get off their bums to get the Cove track open

### **Coromandel Alliance Association**

The Coromandel Alliance Association (CAA) is an alliance of residents and ratepayer associations across TCDC. It was formed earlier this year in response to frustrations by many communities over:

- rates (amount, what spent on, distribution of spend across the district),
- lack of empowerment of the Community Boards (waste of ratepayers' money having them under the current protocols),
- poor consultation (eg draft LTP produced and then communities asked for input – 'horse has bolted') and
- transparency (details of what included in some budget allowances and what monies are spent on what).

Some Resident & Ratepayer Associations have resigned from 'membership' and some are 'on hold' – due as a result of someone speaking to the media earlier in the year prior to all signing off the detail of the proposed initial communication with Council. Currently 10 Associations have committed to the alliance including Hahei. The other non-member Associations are being kept informed as to what is happening.

In terms of rates CAA believes that Council's focus should be on roading, water, waste water, stormwater and solid waste with a mandate to keep rate increases within CPI plus 2.5 percent. Individual communities should be able to opt to undertake special / nice-to-have projects (eg Thames swimming pool) but the same should be a special rate to the benefitting communities.

To date CAA has gained little traction with Council. CAA member representatives are scheduled to meet with Council and senior staff early November where the above is to be discussed and a way forwards on these issues demanded from Council. Note local body elections are next year and things need to change

## Long Term Plan

HRRA made a submission on the draft 2024-2034 Council long-term plan (LTP) and the draft 2024 – 2054 Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) and in each case presented to the 'hearings' committee. The five primary issues we focused on were

- mitigation of the flood risk at Dalmeny Corner / Newton's Bridge noting all communities from Hot Water Beach to Ferry's Landing are impacted by this – yet there was nothing in either the LTP or RLTP about this.
- upgrading and expanding drinking water infrastructure in particular TCDC taking responsibility for the Hahei Water Association assets noting TCDC new water supply and treatment plant is to feed this system (TCDC will charge the association for the water supplied) – there is some monies allocated in the adopted LTP but for what is unclear,
- waste water in particular to develop the design options, costings and the strategy for connection and payment of the properties along Wigmore Stream (some monies allocated in the adopted LTP over the next 3 years to complete this study)
- further development of the walkable village concept in particular speed limits in Hahei and pedestrian priority at the northern end of Hahei Beach Road and the beach front to beach pedestrian accesses

## Constitution

HRRA's constitution requires to be updated to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. The draft updated constitution was included with the documentation sent out to residents and ratepayers with the notice of the meeting together with a summary of changes (minor) to the existing constitution. It is requested that the meeting confirm approval of the updated constitution and then the committee can make re-application as a society as required under the new Act.

One of the consequences of the need to update our constitution to align with the new Act is that we will need to change the timing of the AGMs to have them at Easter weekend, as we did in the past, instead of Labour weekend as currently (the Act requires the AGM to be held within a set period of the end of the financial year)

## Community Resilience Group

TCDC has provided the Hahei community with a small generator (which will provide lighting and general power in the community hall in the event of an emergency) and a community resilience kit. As part of the kit a community resilience group (CRG) is required to be established and community response plan developed. In an emergency situation this group reports to the local civil defence group (Whitianga or Thames). Note this is separate from

the functions of Fire & Emergency and St John's but is linked. The CRG is being established under the leadership of Ray van Beynen and Maggie Beattie and a draft plan is in place.

The installation of the generator as supplied by TCDC is currently in progress – a flat pack shed (similar to the playgroup's new storage shed) and the generator exhaust kit have been purchased. HRRRA has received donations of approx. \$9.6k for the generator from various people from within the community. This money will be used for the above purchases and for the costs of installation (including the base slab and the erection of the shed), electrics etc – any surplus monies are proposed to be used for the on-going maintenance of the generator. Thank you to those who donated

### **Life Guards**

Hot Water Beach Surf Life Saving has advised that it does not have sufficient funding to provide guards at Hahei or at the Cove this coming summer. They need approx. \$54K to fund this service of the peak summer period. HELP

### **Anzac Memorial**

Kotare Reserve Memorial Garden Trust (KRMGT) together with HRRRA is proposing a permanent memorial and flag pole within the memorial garden to be located adjacent to but separate from the large stone wall. The concept design has been agreed in principle and KRMGT is currently seeking costs for the same to enable all to be forwarded to the community. The wording on the memorial will list those from our district who died in WW1 and WW2 but recognize the contribution of all to our war and peace-keeping efforts. HRRRA propose to contribute \$3K and will assist in the fund raising. John North has advised he will contribute the flag pole – thank you. The target is to have all in place prior to the 2025 ANZAC Day service

### **Donations**

This year HRRRA has supported the planting group with their planting initiatives, contributing to the beautification of our community; the screening planting around the public toilets opposite the community hall and library; rodent traps; defib pads; and new rescue tubes on the beach

Note thank you to the volunteers who acted as marshals for the Wander Women's Adventure Race held last November – over 400 women from around NZ participated in the event. Special thank you to Grant Kilby and his team for their contribution to a very successful event - some well needed money into the local coffers. For providing the marshals the event organiser donated \$2.7K to the community which was allocated to the planting group

## **Your Committee**

This year committee meetings were held bi-monthly via a mix of on-line and in-person meetings with other additional matter specific meetings held as required eg for confirming CAA membership and issues to be addressed; the Cove stakeholder inputs; community website.

I want to acknowledge and thank all committee members for their inputs / contribution – it is no small commitment.

I want to particularly acknowledge the many years of service given by Bill Stead (who had to resign earlier this year due to failing health and who passed away earlier this month) for his leadership (HRRA chair for 4 years) and considerable knowledge and input in addressing issues affecting our community – ka nui te mihi Bill.

I also want to acknowledge the dedicated service of Paul Revell, Di Simson and Jen Goldsworthy all who are standing down – all absolutely passionate about Hahei and its future - thank you

The nominations for the 2024/2025 committee (to be confirmed at the meeting) are

Myself (John Jonassen\*) - chair

Brett Harries\* – deputy chair

Penne Clayton\* – treasurer

David Pearce, Maarten Bangma\*, Maggie Beattie\*, Ray van Beynen\* and Tyrell Browne.

\*current committee members

As of writing this report there is no nomination received for the role of secretary – volunteer please. We would also welcome anyone else who would like to join the committee. Being part of this committee is a commitment but is rewarding. MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.

## **Communication Channels**

Throughout the year we have kept our community informed about Council and DoC initiatives, policy changes, local issues and various community events via our ratepayer newsletter and social media platforms, including our Ratepayer Facebook page and the Hello Hāhei page – thank you Penne. The community web site is currently being updated (work-in-progress). If you're not already subscribed to these channels, I strongly recommend you do so to stay updated.

Thank you all for your inputs, support and passion for our community. The number and variety of groups that contribute to our community is mind blowing and is what makes Hahei what it is and such a great place to live and visit.

John Jonassen