

Snells Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association – SBRRA

Minutes of meeting – Monday 5 July 2021

Mahurangi East Community Centre – Betty Paxton Room 7.30pm

Present: Peter Beekman(chair), Dale Rabot(treas), Eileen O’Loan(sec), SBRRA committee –Maurie Hooper, Diane Taylor, Kate Hawken., - Greg Sayers AC Rodney Councillor, Beth Houlbrooke RLB, Rebecca Kemp AC Senior Conservation Advisor + 35 members and guests

Apologies: Paul Shanahan, Marja Lubeck MP, Joselyn Fox, Shelley Trotter, Alison Coates, MaryAnne Church, Tim Holdgate RLB, Dave Parker

Previous minutes. 3 May 2021 – accepted Maurie/Dale

Matters arising:

Roading:

- SBRRA committee agreed to support the letter re Hill Street funding – complied by Dave Stott – co-chair of Transport & Infrastructure for Mahurangi Area. See attached letter. Peter, Eileen and Barry & Diane Thompson journeyed down to support Greg at the AC Transport meeting. Greg to give update later in meeting
- The raised pedestrian crossing outside Horizon School is progressing. From the floor – mention that the traffic management lights could be better sequenced. Queues building up quickly.
- Sandspit Road/Hamilton Road safety barrier in progress. Concerns raised that communication with all of the peninsula was needed. Clearer signage – as there was a lot of confusion – Where was the road closure and what dates?
- June Turner - How/when do we get the Roller/coaster section on Sandspit Road fixed? General discussion – however all the community is encouraged to raise the issue with AC – thru the website. Log the problem and get a job number and expect a reply. SBRRA committee will do this also. www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-problem/pages/default.aspx Save this link and use it.
- Maurie Hooper (SBRRA Committee) Frustrating that there are no names given out for AT contact. Very different to how things were managed previously. It would be good to ask locals where we want money spent
- More roading explanations given by Greg and Beth in their updates below.

Beachfront bird info panels: A local graphic designer is now working on a broad concept design for the panels and placement. The next stage is to present this to RLB for landowner approval. If this gains RLB approval then we take the concept to the SBRRA members and wider community for consultation. Panels will be placed upon a gabion basket. 115mm long, sloping 600mm height at the back, 450mm at the front. 6 panels planned at this stage. Question from floor – will there be community consultation on panel design and placement – Yes is answer.

Safe roosting area: Committee are still awaiting information from the AC officers re progress on this Auckland Council proposal. Question from the floor Will there be community engagement? Yes

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Correspondence: In/Out : Dave Stott, Beth Houlbrooke, Greg Sayers, AC officers, Dave Parker, Gary Heaven, Joe Koppens. **Topics:** Hill Street, Pedestrian crossing updates, Sandspit Rd crash barrier, beach erosion, polystyrene recycling, local planting days, WW Heritage Group, Festival of lights, Future speakers

Financial Report: 30 June 2021

Camera	\$664.11
General funds	\$5151.60
Total funds	\$5815.61

Payments made: Farewell gift \$76.99 Website domain subscription \$44.99

Financial statement approved. Maurie / Peter

AC report – Greg Sayers:

- A comment on June's question above re the roller coaster ride on Sandspit Road. This is an operational maintenance issue and not visible to the councillors. Would recommend that everyone logs a job with the council using the website and get a job/reference number. This number can be passed onto councillors for follow-up if not remedied or actioned in a timely manner.
www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/reportproblem/pages/default.aspx.
- An encouragement for all residents to log a job if any maintenance is necessary by the Council.
- **Action for SBRRRA committee.** Liaise with other Ratepayer Resident groups in the area and send a formal letter, asking for remedial work for the Sandspit Road.
- **Hill Street update:** Thank you for all the local support. Thanks also to the general area public, local politicians, Mayor Goff, Dave Stott & Roger Williams. At this stage AC has passed the 4.5million (25% of the costs) needed as it's contribution toward the costs – now NATA Waka Kotahi has to agree to fund the rest as agreed 14.1 million(75%). Meeting next month for finalising this. Change could still happen. Mark Mitchell, Chris Penk & Marja Lubeck all talking with the minister. Cautiously optimistic.
- The Area Transport forum meets shortly – local roading is always discussed along with the wider network transport needs. SBRRRA has representation on this forum

RLB report – Beth Houlbrooke

- Your local board is very willing to escalate local issues – please log the issue with the Council.
- Has found overall communication with/from AT very poor. Has recently attended a 3 day workshop with AT to help improve communication with the local boards and general public. Beth used the recent closure of Sandspit Road as an example of poor communication.
- Very aware of the roller coaster Sandspit Road – it seems it will be a big job to fix. Problem with the trees impacting the substructure of the road.
- RLB willing to help facilitate local projects – eg: the bird signage project. As it is on reserve land RLB has to give landowner approval to proceed with project.
- The Sandspit/Hamilton Roads. This is a road safety project in conjunction with NZTA and government guidelines. Road safety is a government priority. As a safety project AT receives funding (\$ for \$). Thus safety projects are able to proceed. However maintenance projects have to be funded totally from the AT budget, thus the delays.

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- Local projects – Skatepark – aware that this facility is in need of refurbishment
- Has funded the local planting initiatives – Te Whau and Mahurangi Trails

Any other business:

Beach erosion: SBRRRA has contacted AC officer re erosion at northern end. Have had a reply that a meeting on site has occurred and agreement has been reached on a solution for the reinstatement and planting of the dune.

From the floor – concern that Morrison Stream is no longer draining out to sea. SBRRRA committee to contact AC officer. What can be done and by whom?

SB shopping centre: SBRRRA has contacted the developer – was given very little information as to what is to happen in the future. Commercial sensitivity. Mahurangi Matters has also run the story.

SB Festival of Lights: Sunday 11th July 3pm – 7pm. At the Shopping Centre. Tunnel of lights, a light tent, tea cup rides, Kombi car rides, face painting, food stalls and the GRAND PARADE at 6pm start. A real family event for all the community. Prizes for best lighted child, best lighted shop

Community Roundup:

Highfield Garden Reserve Advisory Committee

- The Highfield Garden Reserve Advisory Committee are responsible for the care and welfare of the donkeys plus planting and pest control (both plant and rat/possum pests).
- 9am Tuesday morning, the volunteers gather and between us we groom and clean hooves and muck out the donkey shed, plant out new shrubs and trees supplied by Auckland Council, remove pest weeds (asparagus fern, agapanthus etc) and check/empty/re-bait the rat and possum traps around the reserve. New volunteers are always welcome.
- **The AGM will be on Monday 16th August 2021** at 2pm at the Betty Paxton Room. Visitors are invited to join the meeting and share a cup of tea afterwards. The guest speaker is Franz Jansen, a local farrier who has amazing stories to tell
- Everyone is welcome to visit the donkeys. They are well fed, so please only give them a little treat of silver beet or carrots if you would like to.

Mahurangi East Police Station

- The Mahurangi East Police Station, situated at 1 Hamatana Road, Snells Beach is open weekdays from 10 am to 2 pm. Our friendly volunteers will be pleased to help you with any community related matters – either Police or Neighbourhood Support related.
 - Note that the Police should be contacted to report any crime – 111 if the crime is happening now. 105 if the crime has already happened

Mahurangi Trail Society www.mahurangi.nz **AGM will be Wed 4 Aug 7.30pm Betty Paxton Room.** All welcome.

- Thank you to all the volunteers involved with the recent planting days.
- The recent planting Sat 3 July on Te Whau – 18 volunteers.
- Next Te Whau planting date is Sat 17th July 10-12. Lots of volunteers needed.
Please help.

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Neighbourhood Support:

- **The AGM for the Rodney district neighbourhood support is Thursday 5th August 7pm.** St Chad's Anglican Church 117 Centreway Road. Orewa.

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Kemp. AC Senior Conservation Advisor.

Rebecca has lived in the Northern Auckland region for most of her life and has worked in the northern environmental protection space for more than 20 years. She is a member of the Auckland Council Northern Delivery Team for infrastructure and environmental services. Her role is to work with the community to achieve success within the Pest Free Auckland objectives.

Auckland Council is a stakeholder not the driver of this initiative. Their objectives are - to try to understand the uniqueness of each group or individual involved, remain openminded around what groups will accept as appropriate actions, and deliver support with best proactive tools, advice, networking and funding. Community Leading Community.

Some Auckland facts:

- Hauraki Gulf is one of the world's richest endemic seabird breeding areas. At Snells Beach we have the NZ Dotterel and Godwits.
- Several endemic species found – geckos and skinks
- Auckland has 20% of NZ's nationally threatened species
- 44 Hauraki Gulf Islands are mammalian pest free
- 25% of Auckland enjoys community-led conservation action

Some other facts:

- Auckland one of the weediest cities in the world
- 26 million native birds killed each year in NZ by predators
- Kauri may disappear with 30 yrs. – Kauri Dieback impact
- The number of exotic plant species is 5x higher than native species
- Pest species in fresh and marine waters are increasing
- 2/3 of Auckland's shore and sea birds are at risk of extinction

Auckland positives:

- Has a large number of peninsulas – easy to isolate and manage the pest free projects. Mahurangi is one of those peninsulas.
- The already pest free status of our off shore islands
- We have a Natural Environment targeted rate in place for funding.
- Lots of interest in community-based pest control

What is Pest Free Auckland? – A community-led conservation programme to eradicate invasive ecosystem transforming plants, animals and pathogens, and concurrently restore the region's native ecosystems. Volunteers are the way forward to achieving these goals.

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Mammalian species being targeted:

- Rodents – Norway Rats, roof rat, house mice
- Possum
- Mustelids – Weasel, Stoat (apparently there has been a population explosion on our peninsula), Ferret.

Some websites/resources for you to investigate

- **Auckland Council North Delivery Team** for advice, design of a pest plan, trapping workshops, other helpful tools. **CONTACT:** Rebecca.kemp@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- **AC Regional environment grants programme. Opens 12 July 2021**
<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/grants-community-support-housing/grants/regional-grants/Pages/about-regional-environment-natural-heritage-grant-programme.aspx>
- **AC Community Coordination and Facilitation fund**
<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/grants-community-support-housing/grants/regional-grants/Pages/grant-details.aspx?itemID=77>
- **AC – Tiaki Tamaki Makaurau. Conservation Auckland.**
<https://www.tiakitamakaurau.nz/>
- **DOC Community Fund.** Applications closed at present.
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/doc-community-fund>
- **Predator Free NZ –** <https://predatorfreenz.org/> An easy to navigate site with many resources. Also has a backyard trapping fund. (Closes 18th July)
- **Trapping App – Trap NZ** www.trap.nz. A free service for recording trap, bait, monitoring and biodiversity outcome data

How do I start?

- Investigate the above resources and websites.
- Keep it small/local to start with
- Talk with your neighbours and local groups already trapping
- Work on a plan – so that there are not double ups – ie: every small suburban property doesn't need to rush out and buy a mustelid trap – as they have a wide spacing coverage. Community communication is important
- Purchase a trap – in no order of preference – suggest to shop around for a good price
- <https://shop.predatorfreenz.org/>
- www.connovation.co.nz
- <https://keyindustries.co.nz/>
- <https://deadrat.co.nz/shop-%26-order>
- <https://trapinator.com/pests-solutions/>
- <https://www.kiwicare.co.nz/products/pest/>
- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/doc200-predator-trap.pdf> For those who may wish to buy the trap and build their own boxes, CMI Springs sell the trap on its own.
- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/build-a-backyard-trapping-tunnel/> for rodent traps
- Auckland Council Service Centre's Orewa and Warkworth sell possum traps, both trapinator and timms.
- Local farm centres

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Contact Rebecca Kemp Rebecca.kemp@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for advice and support

Rebecca's talk was followed by 3 local trapping initiatives within Snells Beach sharing their trapping stories and journeys.

- **Sandspit Road/Solway Farm.** Gary Heaven.
- **Ferndale Road.** Kay Titchener. One street all involved
- **Boathouse Bay residents.** Dale Rabot

The variety of traps available was displayed along with some taxidermied pests

Next meeting: Monday 6 Sept 7.30pm Betty Paxton Room.

Guest speaker : Leroy Beckett from Watercare

Meeting closed 9.11pm

Attachments:



17 June 2021

Dear Councillor,

The Mahurangi Community including local business associations, community groups, ratepayers associations, the local board, MP's from both major parties and Councillors seek your support in endorsing the recommendation to provide supplementary RLTP funding for the reconstruction of the Hill St intersection in Warkworth.

We understand that funding was approved for the project in early 2019 and verbal confirmation of this was also provided by the Mayor. Funding however was rescinded in the emergency budget that followed the Covid lockdown.

The community also wishes to thank Council and its Agencies for the funding and support that you have provided us over the years, but the community is also almost unanimous in seeking a solution to the Hill St intersection problems.

I list below the reasons for our community's request:

- Once the motorway is completed and commissioned, the intersection will come under the sole jurisdiction of AT and will no longer attract the 3:1 funding support
- Growth by 2030 is projected to increase Warkworth's population 5 fold. Growth is also occurring much more quickly than predicted by the Structure Plan with two private planning changes likely to kick developments off this year. These two developments will double the

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current population. Both developments are located such that all traffic travelling to the Town Centre will have to pass through Hill St.

These developments are both likely to be fully on stream within the next 2 to 3 years providing a very small window of opportunity for construction before the impact of this growth on Hill St reconstruction takes effect.

- Although the new Matakana Link Rd and Motorway will reduce traffic flows from Matakana to Auckland, more complex traffic flows at the intersection will be generated for motorists having to undertake a right turn if they wish to go to the Motorway from Sandspit Rd, thus providing little congestion relief.
- Because of congestion on both Matakana and Sandspit Roads, emergency vehicles are often unable to attend accident scenes and the use of helicopters is a regular occurrence.
- The intersection has been a problem since the 1950s and congestion has got worse progressively year by year.
- There will be significant reduction in carbon emissions as it often takes over an hour to travel the 8km from Matakana to Warkworth. There are no safe cycleway or pedestrian pathways currently through the intersection thus giving little option but for parents to drive their children to school, sport practices and after school activities. The intersection is seriously congested in the morning and afternoon before and after school hours. The new proposed layout addresses this issue.
- Health and Safety will be enhanced with the construction of the new layout. At present there is little pedestrian connectivity with pedestrian movements at the intersection being very hazardous. Although there haven't been many serious accidents, minor accidents regularly occur and the complexity of the intersection causes significant inefficiencies. Two local traffic engineers have calculated that the intersection operates at less than 50%, this being one of the main causes for traffic build up and congestion.

We look forward to your support for this project funding to provide relief to our community that has struggled to cope with traffic problems that have existed for several decades.

Yours faithfully

David Stott
Deputy Chair – One Mahurangi Business Association
Co-Chair - Warkworth Transport and Infrastructure Forum

Hon. Chris Penk
MP Kaipara ki Mahurangi
Co-Chair – Warkworth Transport and Infrastructure Forum

Hon. Marja Lubeck
List MP Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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