

Snells Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association – SBRRA

Minutes of meeting – Monday 7th November 2022

Mahurangi East Community Centre – Betty Paxton Room 7.30pm

Present: Peter Beekman (Chair), Eileen O’Loan (Sec), SBRRA committee - Anouska Brown, Diane Taylor, - Cr Greg Sayers, Tim Holdgate (RLB) plus 20 people

Apologies: Kate Hawken, Dave Parker, Ian Taylor, Mike O’Leary, Maurie Hooper, Robyn Duffy, Alison Coates, Andrew Burt, Allan and Shirley Julian, Mark and Judy Dinniss, Ian Taylor, Margaret Faed, Michelle Carmichael (RLB)

Previous minutes and matters arising. 5th Sept 2022 – accepted John Norman/ Anouska Brown

Watercare – Follow up on question from previous meeting

We were informed that the existing ponds will be decommissioned and filled in as part of the project. Is this a consent issue or are there other factors necessitating the filling in of the ponds ? The reason for asking is that the quiet location has become a default roosting area for some of our shore bird species that have been displaced from Snells Beach due to increased human activity. We are also aware that other non endemic species such as geese have also found use for the ponds. Was any consideration given to an alternative use for the ponds such as a wetlands area

Watercare have acknowledged our request for information regarding the future of the ponds. At this point in the project, Watercare cannot respond to our request as the completion of the pipeline interconnection is delayed. Watercare are keeping their options open and will formally reply to our request as the project progresses.

Shorebird information panels: - Diane Taylor

- Slowly progressing with the feasibility study.
- SBRRA attended the recent "Welcome to the Godwits" event. Community response to the suggestion of information panels along the waterfront very positive.
- If you want to help with this project – please contact the SBRRA committee

SB shopping centre:

- Plenty of rumours – but it seems a Metro New World will be going into some of the Warehouse space.
- Warehouse leaving Snells Beach early 2023
- No confirmed update is available on the Fresh Choice proposal

Disc golf:

- SBRRA was invited to attend a meeting re this proposal. Kate Hawken attended on our behalf.
- Other attendees – Alison Wech, Hayden Shore, Fleur Coleman (Mahu East Library) Sue Dodds (AC strategic broker – community), June Turner (Goodall Reserve Advisory Committee)
- June Turner commented that a better location for the course may be at the end of Te Whau walkway – off Dawson Road. Her concern was the prospect of sharing the course with off leash dogs on Te Whau Reserve

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- Community engagement will be undertaken.
- ***Is there anyone in our SBRRA membership willing to work with Alison on this project?*** Please contact Peter Beekman(Chair SBRRA) or Eileen O'Loan (Sec)

Mahurangi Height subdivision:

- Andrew Burt is the SBRRA committee liaison.
- No resolution found at present time to resolve the issuing of Titles
- Residents have spoken to and are working with Cr Greg Sayers

Mahurangi Trail Society Inc – Gary Heaven www.mahurangi.nz

- Lots of planning undertaken in the covid lockdowns.
- Check out this link to the future trail projects www.mahurangi.nz/trail-projects/
- An interactive map is there showing all the planning details. Click and explore
- A lot of the future trail to Warkworth will now be on Shelly Trotter's farmland. Volunteers will be needed to build this trail as per the successful Te Whau and Hamatana trail projects.
- New bridge has been designed to give access to Muncaster Rd from the Trail
- Access to the trail @ Hamatana Road still closed while the Watercare project is underway
- Join the society now for newsletters and updates

Correspondence: In/Out : Watercare, Disc Golf, Greg Sayers, WALG minutes,

Financial report: 31 Aug 2022

Opening General funds	\$4,693.70
Opening Camera funds	\$ 664.11
Opening Balance	\$5,357.81 balance as of 16 Oct 2022
<i>Income</i>	<i>\$20.00 subscriptions</i>
<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>\$</i>
Closing balance	\$5,377.81 [General = \$4713.70 + Camera = \$664.11]

Financial statement approved: Diane Taylor, **seconded** Anouska Brown

AC report – Cr Greg Sayers

- A thank you for the support he received in the recent elections. Is proud to be able to continue to support and be an advocate for Rodney
- He has had 2 meetings with the new mayor Wayne Brown, and finds him supportive of the rural areas in Auckland City – Rodney and Franklin.
- Greg has been asked to be on the “expenditure control & procurement committee” To undertake a line-by-line analysis of expenditure across the council to keep rates as low as possible and to safeguard essential services
- Greg gave an overview of the mayor's vision for Auckland.
 - Would like the CCOs to have a greater representation of industry expertise on the boards – eg: AT to have transport engineers on the board
 - Funding and budgets are in a dire position – but is willing to address this issue with hard decisions
 - Fees and charges will still apply but wants to find savings of between 7-12%
 - Would like to reduce future rate increases for the ratepayers
 - Empower the community boards to have greater decision-making ability in their areas. Engage more with community groups.
 - Will support local expertise in relation to Hill Street and local roading
- Greg would like to see the consenting process reviewed

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- All roading improvements are unfunded at present. Unsealed roads and the maintenance of the sealed roads a priority

From the floor – concern over the announced future disruptions to the Rail network – especially with the public transport staffing issues. Hill Street – why can't the Matakana Link Road be opened early – to relieve the pressure on Hill Street? No date for opening of Motorway as yet.

Tim Holdgate – RLB.

- Thank you to the community for his re-election
- His fellow RLB councillors are: Michelle Carmichael and Ivan Wagstaff. He hopes, along with Greg, they will be able to work for and with our communities
- Chair of the RLB will be Brent Bailey (Kumeu subdivision) , Dep chair Louise Johnston (Dairy Flat subdivision)
- There is talk of a new small RLB office in Warkworth so that the community can have direct contact rather than going down to Orewa (in Hibiscus Ward)
- Everyone is encouraged to log jobs or concerns through the AC website . A job number will be allocated and then is able to be tracked. If there is no progress – then contact your RLB members for follow-up
- <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-problem/Pages/report-a-problem.aspx>
09 301 0101

Community Roundup: see details below. Updates from Highfield Garden Reserve and Donkey Society Inc, Heritage Mahurangi Inc and Snells Beach Community Xmas Lunch

Guest Speakers – Topic: The co-ordination of community pest control initiatives on the Mahurangi Peninsula

Gary Heaven – Mahurangi Trail Society Inc, Alan France – SSCC Snells Shoreline Conservation Community, Tim Armitage – Restore Rodney East and Jacquie Russell (SSCC)

Gary Heaven & Shelley Trotter

- Gary and Shelley have been trapping for many years on their land. But during the covid 2020 lockdowns they joined up to **Trapnz**. This website and tracking tool has enabled them to record and understand their predator control data. It has also enabled them to see the wider picture – other predator control initiatives in our local area and throughout NZ
- <https://www.trap.nz/> Explore this website – see what is happening in our area
- Gave an overview of the vision to have a pest free peninsula – including using an already partly formed barrier running Warkworth to Sandspit with a footprint across Hamilton Road incl Sharp Road and Monarch Downs.
- **Volunteers are needed to make this happen. Individuals or groups welcomed**
 - Volunteer to have a trap in your garden
 - Or Volunteer to check an existing trap or trap line in the neighbourhood – eg: Te Whau walkway, Trotter Farm Trail tracks, along the cycleways, Lawrie Reserve etc
 - Or not happy to manage a trap yourself – perhaps you can help collate your neighbourhood data onto the website

Alan France – SSCC www.snellsconservation.org snellsshorelineconservation@gmail.com

- The SSCC was formed Feb 2021 by a small group of SB residents

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- Purpose: Assisting our local community in protecting, improving and expanding the shoreline ecosystems which are critical to the survival of our native birdlife and will result in enjoyment for all
- Our vision for a predator free programme “To increase the protection of bird life in Snells Beach by getting rid of rats, mice, mustelids, possums and hedgehogs and to contribute to the creation of a Predator Free Mahurangi Peninsula.’

Action 1: Building a protective barrier from Mahurangi Road to the Shoreline

- Predator Trapping on Council and local landowners’ land
- A Shoreline trap line from Sunburst to Boathouses (25 Traps)
- A Trapline on Little Shag Pond – Arabella Road (5 traps)
- Brick Bay Winery (13 traps)
- Involving a number of individuals in setting up traps on larger properties (14 traps)
- No poison used in any of the traps managed by SSCC

Action 2: A Backyard trapping Programme

- Aims to have 1 in every 5 houses having a trap (long term plan)
- Received a small grant from Predator Free New Zealand - and support from local council
- Has over 100 + traps to give away (starting from Shoreline upwards)
- Has 14 traps already in place
- All traps are safe for Children and pets – no poison used in the bait
- Asks for donation – so we can purchase more traps
- You can sign up now if you want to have a trap or go to the webpage
- Email for Predator Programme: snellsshorelinepestfree@gmail.com

Tim Armitage – Restore Rodney East www.restorerodneyeast.org.nz

Vison – to support and empower local environmental and conservation projects from Puhoi to Te Arai.

- Supports 45 groups within the Rodney East Area
- Has RLB funding
- Working on a discussion paper to assess the level of potential interest in a pest free peninsula project
- There are at least 18 interested parties on this Mahurangi Peninsula
- Snells Beach will be a key point in the pest free peninsula project.
- Takatu point/Tawharanui and the Miramar peninsula are examples of a successful implementation of a pest free vision.
- We can do it with a strong defence trap line from Warkworth to Sandspit and at points down to Scotts Landing
- Encourage everyone in the community to volunteer as able and help the community initiatives already in place.

Jacqui Russell – SSCC – showed a video recently taken with a trail camera, of a cat destroying a dotterel nest overnight <https://ne-np.facebook.com/SnellsShorelineConservationCommunity/videos/is-this-your-cat-at-snells-beach/700741714585720/> Comment that although there is a Dog Control Act 1996 there is no law for the management of cats, therefore AC cannot introduce a bylaw to help manage this problem

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Questions from the floor

Q: How to dispose of the caught pests? **A:** Bury in your garden or wrap and dispose through the weekly rubbish collection

Q: Are there any plans to trap the Lawrie Bush area? A big bush area backing onto the landfill site **A:** Not aware of any plans at present, but as the future cycle trail is planned to go thru here it seems likely it will be added to the monitoring scheme. It is an Auckland Council Reserve

Websites to explore: <https://www.trap.nz/> <https://predatorfreenz.org/>
<https://predatorfreenz.org/the-big-picture/national-map/>

Who to contact: Alan France snellsshorelinepestfree@gmail.com,

Gary Heaven www.mahurangi.nz Sarah Churchouse RRE facilitator@rre.org.nz

Meeting closed: 9.04pm

Next meeting: Monday 6th March 2023 @ 7.30pm Betty Paxton Room.

Guest speaker – TBC

Community roundup – Mon 7th Nov 2022

Posters have been sent out to membership via email 8/11/22

Highfield Garden Reserve and Donkey Society Inc (new title)

- New name for the combined society. Chair: Jane Kelsey, Secretary Maxine Vitali, Treasurer Marion Jones, Memberships Liz Duhs.
- Xmas donkey day is returning – Saturday 3rd Dec from 11am. Traditional games, donkey rides, drinks and BBQ provided. Santa is also coming.
- Volunteer working bees – Tuesdays 9-11am. Helpers welcomed
- Join and support the Society \$10pa ASB 1 3095 025 4516 00
- Donkey Serenade newsletters – back copies on SBBRA website www.snellsbeach.co.nz

Heritage Mahurangi Inc

- Planning for Warkworth 170yr celebration now underway – public meeting was held Wed 9th Nov
- Contact Dave Parker chairman dhparker@xtra.co.nz 027 484 9935 or Sara Napier secretary sara14@xtra.co.nz 022 069 7937
- Provisional date November 2023 TBC

Mahurangi Community Christmas Brunch - @ the Beach. 25th Dec 2022 from 11.30am

- Sunrise Boulevard Snells Beach Reserve by the flying fox
- Bring beach gear, togs, mats, chairs etc.
- Rain venue – Mahurangi Community Centre, Hamatana Road.
- Contact Moana 021 024 61732 or Katie 021 701 779

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