

KIRRA Special General Meeting

Minutes

Date and Time	Saturday 9am 6 May 2023
Venue	Zoom
Attendees	Colin Bright, Kate Wheatcroft, Mandy Weaver, Carl Weaver, Michael Wheatcroft, Nikki Porteous (Secretary), Pippa Tabron (Chair), Greg Tabron, Sue-Ellen Craig, Lin Pardey, Megan Lithgow, Lyn Hume, Katherine Truman, David & Elizabeth Findlay, Doreen & Graeme Phipps, Jackie Shaw, Graham Dawson, David Kingston, Lyn & Fendall Halliburton, Robert Van Heiningen, Ken & Linda Selby, John Sinclair
Apologies	Michael Marris, Sally Ostick (Treasurer), Pam Dallow, Fay Richardson, Hilary West, Patria Hume, Chris Carding

Ngā meneti Minutes

Item	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Discussion	Motion/decisions/actions
1.	Resource Management Act	Sue-Ellen Craig	<p>Lin Pardey offered her assistance as she was one of the islanders who worked on the Unitary Plan.</p> <p>Sue-Allen replied once we are in the public phase, we will need a group of people who can support with the public engagement. She is talking about the work before that.</p> <p>Pippa informed everyone that KIRRA will be forming sub-committees. There has been a lot of feedback from islanders wanting to be involved.</p> <p>Lin Hume also did a lot of work with the district plan so would also like to be involved.</p> <p>Linda Selby asked for an example of environmental, cultural, social and economic values.</p> <p>Sue-Ellen replied that it is very similar to Kawau's Vision Statement but is more outcome focused e.g an environmental thing might be Kawau wants to retain its existing character rather than natural character.</p> <p>Every council document has these four things and what we put in them would be up to us.</p> <p>Jackie asked if anyone has seen the Waiheke Island's document?</p>	

			<p>Sue-Ellen replied that the structure would be identical. It has to show that we have consulted with islanders on the content that goes in it. There are other similar ones from around the country. We would ask "does that work for us" or if not, how would we change it.</p> <p>Lin Pardey commented that one of the major differences with Waiheke are the larger number of properties on Kawau close to the shoreline.</p>	
2.	Pest Free Kawau initiative	Carl Weaver	<p>The final draft of Auckland Council's and Island Conservation's feasibility report or consultation document has just been sent to Pohutakawa Trust and KIRRA for some feedback before it is released to the public. Islanders need to understand what is involved prior to it taking place. In the proposal for the removal of pests there will be a bio-security protocol for keeping the island pest free. Carl has not seen its content. He doesn't think it's about whether it happens or not. It's about how we engage in the process.</p> <p>Pippa asked if we don't undertake a pest eradication programme such as this, what will the island look like in one, three, five, ten years?</p> <p>Carl answered probably the same as it looked like 30 years ago with very few kiwis, no native trees or plants germinating or being able to reach maturity. Possums eating everything from one metre upwards and wallaby eating everything from a metre down. The gains that everybody is seeing would be lost. In Carl's view Kawau has made huge advances on the ecological restoration of the island.</p> <p>Lin asked if in the report did they say that not everyone is happy?</p> <p>Carl replied that they did detail the fact that they couldn't contact everyone and that there is a percentage of people whom they have consulted who are against it. The document has been peer reviewed which was quite scathing in some areas e.g. that they have slanted the content to reduce the impact of the negatives and excel the positives.</p> <p>Lin commented that in a democratic society where on the governance group local people cannot be involved seems like something we could take to the courts.</p> <p>Carl reiterated that the Trust's view is that islanders need to know what the plan is going forward.</p> <p>Colin asked if this document was going to be presented to the executive committee before it becomes final?</p> <p>Pippa responded that this is part of consultation process and still a draft for feedback.</p> <p>Colin's second question was where and when have we as the committee</p>	

		<p>explained to the members what the plan is?</p> <p>Carl explained that it isn't a plan. AC does not have the funding to undertake this process themselves. They are seeking funding from Predator Free 2050, MPI and several other providers.</p> <p>Pippa responded that we haven't talked to members about it as we have been waiting for the draft which only just arrived late last night.</p> <p>Colin's third question is when are we going to tell our members when the plan is implemented that they won't have any say in the governance of it? They will have no power to deny access to their properties to implement the pest eradication.</p> <p>Pippa said that she doesn't believe that anything is going to be held from anyone which is one of the reasons why we have been pushing AC to get this feasibility report to us.</p> <p>Colin also asks why the people being consulted haven't been told about the potential consequences of pest eradication? In 2013 Michael Marris wrote a piece in the Kookaburra graphically describing what these are.</p> <p>Carl responded that the trust is here to represent the landowners. They have been asking the council for this information for a long period of time. They do not yet know what the processes or requirements are. He says that Ngati Manuhiri who are on the governance group denied access to Kawau landowners.</p> <p>Sue-Ellen explained that there is no way in which a council or ministry is able to exclude landowners directly from conversations. It is more about the ability of islanders to speak with one voice. The process is the need to identify what goes into a plan, the plan then gets written and then deciding how it gets implemented. It is then decided what properties would be impacted, what easements would look like, and the landowners would be contacted.</p> <p>Fendall Halliburton shared their experience of the Ostend area on Waiheke. It has been part of an experiment to see if this residential and industrial area can be made pest free. It has been a success. On their property there were two bait stations and two traps which were visited twice a week by the Te Korowai Trust. It has had very wide support on the island. The difference in birdsong compared with Kawau is like chalk and cheese. While it might be a fight to make Kawau pest free, it is certainly well worth it.</p>	
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3.	Takutai Moana Act	Colin Bright	<p>John Sinclair commented as a retiring sub-committee member that Colin properly sets out the most serious consequences of this act going through. It has been kept totally away from people. The real question is can we do anything about it? We need to speak with one voice. We can keep a watching brief. We can't stop them, but we can mitigate them. Sue-Ellen said that this has been before the courts for some considerable amount of time. There is a wealth of information available. The purpose of this meeting is to decide where KIRRA funds are to be spent. She doesn't believe that keeping a brief on this act requires any funds. There is a group that has been formed called https://www.democracyaction.org.nz/. They are funded, have their views on this act and refer to Kawau.</p> <p>Lin Pardey commented that without KIAC is it possible to constitute an elected official who speaks for the whole island with KIRRA as the consensus port? No other community has the unique problems that Kawau has.</p> <p>Sue-Ellen responded that there is a process to do this. This process will be starting again in 2-3 years in which case we could consider it. However, she doesn't believe that Kawau has its own voting base to elect a representative on the local board. Also, we would be better served if we were in the Waitemata and Gulf ward with other islands rather than Rodney.</p> <p>John Sinclair has spoken with Beth Houlbrooke and Greg Sayers who are in agreement that we should have KIRRA representation at Council level to provide a conduit for closer engagement with Council policy.</p> <p>Lyn Hume points out that we have been talking about having 'one voice'. AC as a body have different viewpoints and cannot claim that they have 'one voice'. We must show that KIRRA is no different in this way but will and does present all the information to get a majority census view to be able to partake in governance discussion. We have a representative who presents all the information.</p>	<p>Motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pippa proposed that we have a separate discussion about whether we have island representation at council level at the next KIRRA meeting • Seconded: Carl Weaver • See action 1
4.	Environment Issues	Pippa Tabron	<p>John Sinclair agrees entirely that we need to call on wider interest in these issues. No one cares more about the Kawau environment than Kawau property owners. Kawau has always had a history of successful action on problems and mitigation.</p> <p>Michael Wheatcroft reflected that we don't have a broad environmental group on Kawau. It would be good to bring the groups together to share information.</p>	

			<p>John Sinclair reflected that the group is KIRRA.</p> <p>Pippa would like to see a forum for information sharing.</p> <p>Jackie Shaw commented that having a digital portal for information that everyone can see would be helpful.</p> <p>Lyn Hume says that having sub-committees in KIRRA as collaboration and sharing of information has always been important. The Restore Rodney East group is an example of this that could work well as a sub-committee.</p> <p>David Kingston reminded everyone that is what Pohutakawa Trust is all about. They have been doing pest eradication and implementing plant restoration as well.</p> <p>Megan Lithgow spoke regarding public access work on their road from the wharf to their properties which has been going on in South Cove. It would have been beneficial if KIRRA was a force behind this. What they have been able to achieve in South Cove is great but a lot more needs to be done.</p> <p>Carl reminded us that if anyone needs any resources all assistance from Pohutakawa Trust please let them know.</p>	
5	Digital Ecosystem	Kate Wheatcroft	<p>Kate would like to see the website be more community focused rather than visitor focused as it is now. There are already people who have offered support on a sub-committee. We may need \$3,000 - \$4,000 to redesign the current website or look at a separate community hub.</p> <p>Pippa thanked Kate for her work and the first newsletter which was so well received.</p> <p>Kate said that of all the emails that were sent out 80% opened it which was extremely high. We hope to get the newsletter out every 4-6 weeks with more information about the initiatives which will become our priorities.</p> <p>In regards to Pippa's motion, Carl wonders if it would be a bit too early and we wait until we receive the final report from council on Pest Free Kawau.</p> <p>Sue-Ellen suggests that we keep it simple. People don't need to know all the information but what they would like KIRRA to prioritize.</p> <p>Megan suggested that we could also include an 'other'.</p> <p>Sue-Ellen suggests that we write a draft of the survey and circulate it for comment. We can add links to provide enough information.</p>	<p>Motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pippa proposed that we have a voting survey to look at prioritization on the issues we have discussed today plus other. • Seconded: Nikki Porteous • See action 2

6.	Treasurer's report	Sally Ostick	Nikki read Sally's report.	<p>Motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carl proposed that we accept the treasurer's report and the increase in fees from \$50 to \$60 per annum • Seconded: Colin • See action 3
7.	Restore Rodney East	Michael Wheatcroft	<p>Michael, Lyn Hume and Jill Hetherington attended a Restore Rodney East event at Warkworth townhall last Sunday. They are an umbrella group who help pest eradication and restoration groups in the area achieve the best outcomes. There were conservation speakers one being Prof Caroline (Kim) King who gave a very interesting talk about mustalids. They had very limited success with the Goodnature traps. It made Michael realise that Kawau is not well represented.</p> <p>Lyn added that Prof Kim King would be happy to come and talk to us as a group on the island. She puts both sides of the argument forward. Lyn has a copy of her book.</p>	Lyn Hume to write something about a proposed visit of Prof King for the newsletter and Kookaburra

Item papers available here [KIRRA Special General Meeting 9 May 2023 — Island Updates: Kawau Island](#)

MEETING CLOSED AT 11am

Ki mua Actions

Item	Action	Who	When	Closed
1.	We have a discussion about whether we have island representation at council level at the next KIRRA meeting.	KIRRA executive committee meeting	31 May 2023	
2.	We have a voting survey to look at prioritization on the issues we have discussed today plus other.	Sue-Ellen and the committee	?	
3.	Increase the membership fees to \$60 per annum in the invoices to go out this year.	Sally Ostick, Treasurer	May 2023	