

## **KIAC report 2023 AGM**

It is almost 12 years since I took over as chair of KIAC with strong backing from previous KIAC chairs – Michael Marris and Lyn Hume. During this time I learned a tremendous amount about working with the island community, KIRRA, local and regional government.

The three main issues that had to be dealt with during those years are similar to those facing the community in the next few years: Land use regulations as Rodney district became part of Auckland city (the original proposals for the new district plan would have seen all of Kawau property designated as a Special Ecological Area with many restrictions placed on land use); Sandspit parking issues which arose from the amalgamation with Auckland city (at that time Auckland transport was suggesting a yearly fee of approximately \$2000 for parking); threats to the successful operation of the ferry company. There were many minor issues which also came to my attention.

One thing I do know is, KIAC, as a separate identity from KIRRA is important, giving Kawau Island twice as much exposure to council officials even if the council does not formally recognize this distinction. Furthermore, I think KIRRA should work towards convincing government that the issues facing Kawau are so distinct from other communities that somewhere with the local government act, there is a more formal place for this sort of representation.

Those of us who chaired KIAC have gone out of our way to remain neutral on divisive community issues such as pest control, wallaby control while representing not only those property owners who are members of KIRRA, but also the island businesses, and non-KIRRA members. We each found government officials liked having someone who was well informed about island matters who they could call upon to discuss whatever concerns came up through the year, someone who was there for the longer haul than a chairperson for a normal ratepayers and residents association. (Most KIAC chairs have worked at this job for 8 or 10 years at a time.)

Due to changes in my life, I wish to be formally retired from my work as KIAC and also as part of the KIRRA committee. The changes include plans to set aside as much outside work as possible so I can finish the book I am currently writing and also set sail from Kawau for some extended voyaging with David, my partner.

Sue-Ellen Craig has been the go-to person for KIAC issues for the past few years. She is amazingly competent and aware of how council works. I want to thank her for stepping in and working alongside me at first, then being more of the lead KIAC person as my life has gotten more complicated. I hope she will continue to do so. I, of course, will be available to provide any helpful information I can regarding the background of issues I dealt with and also those that affected the island during 38 years as a resident.

Thank you to everyone who has been so helpful along the way.

Lin Pardey