

KIRRA AGM

Minutes

Date and Time	Sunday 28 January 2024, 12pm
Venue	Mansion House courtyard
Attendees	Abigail Harrass-Blass, Andrea Moses & Rob Fry, Angela Buckton, Caroline Boot, David Kingston, Doreen & Graeme Phipps, Erin & Peter Hyde, Fendall Halliburton, Gavin Brunton, Greg Tabron, Ian Munro, Jasmine Hweh (Fisher family), Jill Hetherington, John Milais, Judith Danks & Martin Louw, Ian Munroe, Katherine Truman, Les & Dorina Mellars, Lyn Hume, Matt Wheeler, Pepper, Phil & Helena Hamlin, Rob Sutherland, Robert van Heiningen, Staniland West, Tim Duffett, Tuula & Paul Dixon, Vaughan Spurdle RSVP'd but not on attendance register – Blu Steven & Michelle Mearns,
KIRRA Executive in attendance	Carl & Mandy Weaver, Colin Bright, Jackie Shaw (Editor), Kate Wheatcroft, Megan Lithgow, Michael Wheatcroft (Chairperson), Nikki Porteous (Secretary), Peter Buckton, Sally Ostick (Treasurer), Shelley Futcher
In attendance	Colin Smith (Rodney Local Board – Support Your Local Wellsford), Delma O’Kane (Ngati Manuhiri Settlement Trust), Julie Alach (Island Conservation), Lisa Tolich (Auckland Council), Melissa West (Support Your Local Wellsford), Phil Brown (Auckland Council), Richard Griffiths (Island Conservation), Tim Holdgate (Rodney Local Board)
Apologies	Alan Hume, Chris Penk (Auckland Council), Bill Foster (Northern Action Group), Debbie Aldred, Grant & Tacia Whitehouse, Greg Sayers (Auckland Council), Don Galbraith, Greg & Alison Knowles, Joanna Hopkins & Mike Davison, John Duder, Judy & Craig Bettley, Julie & Andrew Boyd, Ken & Linda Selby, Lin Pardey, Lynne Halliburton, Michelle Carmichael (Rodney Local Board), Olivia Keane (DOC), Pam Dallow (Executive), Patria Hume & Trevor Tait, Paul Steincamp (Coastguard), Peter Morton, Pippa Tabron, Ross West, Russell & Jan Hughs, Sue-Ellen Craig, Thomas Hynes (DOC Ranger)

Ngā meneti Minutes

Item	Agenda	Facilitator	Discussion	Motion/decisions/actions
1.	Welcome & apologies	Michael Wheatcroft (Chair) & Nikki Porteous (Secretary)	Apologies accepted	
2.	Minutes 2023 AGM and matters arising	Chair	Nil discussion	Motion: AGM 2023 accepted as true and accurate record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved: Michael Wheatcroft • Seconded: Shelley Futcher

3.	Chairs report	Michael Wheatcroft	<p>In summary:</p> <p>Aside from weather events a lot has happened on and around Kawau last year.</p> <p>After 9 years Davo and Robyn left their management role at Kawau Boating Club which was met with much sadness. With relief Daniel Ivel and Renee Young have taken over as the new operators, reopening the newly refurbished club in late October.</p> <p>The new Northern Motorway was opened in June making the commute safer, faster and a great deal easier.</p> <p>Midyear the invasive seaweed Caulerpa was discovered in Kawau Bay. We are grateful to Ngati Manuhiri for jumping in the water in an attempt to remove it. This will no doubt be an ongoing operation.</p> <p>In August we were presented with the Pest Free Kawau Feasibility Report which brought to the surface many different values and opinions.</p> <p>Jude Wood resigned as Editor of the Kookaburra but not before passing the role over to our fantastic new editor Jackie Shaw. Thank you Jude for all your hard work.</p> <p>In September the Council confirmed us that the Sandspit carpark is to remain at its current size and that the Kawau community must be involved in any decision making. Thank you to all of those who sent in a submission. The hearing was held in December. Thanks to Lin Pardey for her presentation. And thank you immensely Sue-Ellen Craig for monitoring the carpark developments last year.</p> <p>Also in September the Government introduced a new Marine Protection Bill with a new protection area map for the Haurakii Gulf. This included a marine protection area spanning the SW coast of Kawau with the E coast of Mahurangi Peninsula. This raised concerns with the S Cove community. A very large thank you goes to Megan Lithgow for the many hours she put into this.</p> <p>Much kudos goes to Robert Van Heiningen for organizing and running the inorganic waste collection during the final quarter of last year.</p> <p>In November Camp Bentzon celebrated their 50th anniversary. Congratualtions!</p> <p>Long time S Cove residents Chris & Karen Carding have sold their property. We thank them for their many contributions on Kawau.</p> <p>After 9 years the hard-working Robyn Adair left Kawau Cruises. Her colourful character will be missed.</p>	
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4.	Treasurers report	Sally Ostick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership - Thank you to all of those who pay their subs promptly. We urge the slow players to consider payment earlier. I contacted the overduees over the last 2 weeks and nearly \$1500 has come in so thank you for that. Is there anyone new in your neighbourhood who would like to join us? • Kookaburra - Our darling magazine continues to cost. Members have told us in the surveys and in person that you want to keep it as a hard copy so keep it, we will. Jackie Shaw came on as editor last year and is continuing the great job Jude left for her. Jackie has already signed up new advertisers which are our lifeline, and we are always looking for more. Please spread the word if you know of anyone who could benefit from the islander's business. In fact, would anyone like to come on board to help with advertising? There will be rate rise for advertisers from the Autumn edition which is the first in 4 years. • Detailed financials provided on the day • It was asked if KIRRA pay for the inorganic collection. Members and non-members paid for their own collections. • Colin Smith RLB asked if we had applied for funding with them for the sign at Sandspit wharf? We were not aware of this opportunity but will consider it in the future. Thank you 	<p>Motion: The treasurers report and corresponding financials are accepted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved: Peter Buckton • Seconded: Mandy Weaver
5.	FENZ update	Vaughan Spurdle,	<p>Vaughan, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Gavin Brunton, Chief Fire Officer provided the following update. In summary:</p> <p>Team – This consists of 14 operational members. During the last year we said a sad goodbye to Chris Carding (South Cove) but have been joined by Rob Harper (North Cove) and have also welcomed back Maiya Wells (South Cove).</p> <p>Fire and Emergency New Zealand's kaupapa (purpose) is "protecting and preserving lives, property and the environment" with a matakitenga (vision) of "stronger communities protecting what matters." As can be</p>	

			<p>expected on an island, the Fire and Emergency Kawau team lives the organisation's vision by responding to all sorts of fire, medical and other emergency situations.</p> <p>In 2023, we responded to 43 callouts. This is by far the most that the team has faced in a year and included many weather-related incidents. The callouts were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 civil defence (weather) • 15 medical events • 4 fires <p>Training - The team trains monthly on the island and regularly attends training on the mainland. Most of us also completed our two-yearly medical co-responder refresher course in 2023.</p> <p>Fire Safety and Other Initiatives – We continue to use both social media and signage to promote fire safety, and awareness of (and compliance with) restricted and prohibited fire seasons. We thank those in the community who have taken up the offer of free fire outlets for their water tanks (funded by KERT) and those who have taken the time to check whether they have trees getting dangerously close to power lines. We have also updated our map information for the island including the location of easily accessible water tanks and will continue this process through 2024.</p> <p>FENZ completed the upgrades of lighting and sirens at our South Cove and Schoolhouse depots. The first thing to do in an emergency is call 111. This ensures the whole fire team is notified through our messaging system.</p> <p>Each member of the team now has a FENZ issued radio. We are still working with FENZ to install a radio repeater. Similarly, we continue to push for a more appropriate fire vehicle that will help us get team members, equipment and patients around the island's tracks in any weather.</p> <p>Our team - We are very proud of all that the team has achieved in the last year and look forward to working together whatever challenges are thrown our way.</p> <p>If you're interested in being part of the team, or supporting us in some other way, please get in touch!</p>	
6.	DOC	Thomas Hynes Olivia Keane	Nil report	

7.	Coastguard	Lyn Hume	<p>In Paul Steinkamp's (President) absence, Lyn shared his update. In summary:</p> <p>Whilst not able attend in person, I can assure you that Kawau Coastguard will always try to live up to its name and support the Kawau Island community, however we can. We service not just the island, but from Bream Tail in the North to south of the Mahurangi river in the south and outwards to Great Barrier and The Mokohinau Islands. Our callouts come through the Coastguard Operations centre at Mechanics Bay. They can be contacted on marine radio Ch60 or *500 on your mobile.</p> <p>Currently we have thirty volunteers.</p> <p>Our callouts dropped in number through the covid years and then during the bad weather of 2023, and we are currently averaging around 2 callouts per week or 100 per year, against 120 in 2018. This year looks to be increasing.</p> <p>Call outs can range from the dramatic, such as sinking boats or medical emergencies to the mundane such as flat batteries and no fuel.</p> <p>Our boat will be 15 years old in 2026 and we are currently planning for a replacement. Since only about one third of Coastguard's national funding comes from the government, we will need to raise around \$500,000 locally.</p> <p>We are organising several fund-raising events, including a Golf competition and Dinner at Omaha on April 12th and possibly a March fishing competition.</p> <p>To improve our reaction time, we are asking Auckland Transport to be allowed to use Sandspit Wharf as a mooring. While we realise it will reduce access to the wharf, we are trying hard to ensure that we minimise any loss of mooring space for Kawau Islanders.</p> <p>We have also had built up a good relationship with Gavin Brunton and the FENZ team. This is especially important if we are required to help transport fire fighters to isolated parts of the island, carry out evacuations, or bring across St Johns paramedics for medical emergencies. We have also carried out some joint training in the past couple of years.</p> <p>We also have similar aims to Kawau Islanders over the use of the carpark at Sandspit and we will continue to work together on this. If we can't park, we can't launch, and why should volunteers pay to park when called out to help people?</p> <p>I would also like to thank Lyn Hume for representing us on the island</p>	
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			<p>over the past year and making people more aware of some of the work we do. Thanks Lyn for your time and efforts.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to wish all Kawau Islanders a great 2024 and thank all of you for your support of our unit. Thank – you.</p>	
8.	Ngati Manuhiri Settlement Trust (NMST)	Delma O’Kane	<p>Delma started by saying she has a million things to share but will focus on Caulerpa. This exotic seaweed showed up in July of last year. Thankfully she was overseas at the time so was able to make the time to talk to some of the experts in California. She has talked widely to many people. The government’s response was a little slow, so NMST put the pressure on. In 2020 the trust had purchased three police boats to protect the local waters. These were put into action. Hand removal was very time consuming and ineffective. Evaluation and awareness are now the focus. A suction dredge is being trialed in the Bay of Islands so they are hoping that this will be effective.</p> <p>Delma will share their newsletter with KIRRA which will keep us up to date.</p> <p>She spoke about two more things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandspit rubbish facility – as the current facility is not working the trust is discussing an alternative solution with Auckland Council. • NMST’s marine team - will start operating out of the carpark caretakers house. <p>Discussion followed about caulperera. For any further information Delma passed out their new flyers with QR codes. Also, checkout their website https://www.ngatimanuhiri.iwi.nz/</p> <p>She looks forward to working more with us in the future.</p>	<p>Action 1: Delma and Kate Wheatcroft to work on the Maori content of our website.</p> <p>Action 2: Delma to share their newsletter with KIRRA.</p>
9.	Rodney Local Board (RLB)	Tim Holdgate & Colin Smith	<p>Tim reminded us that they are here to represent the ratepayers. He attends 8 other ratepayer groups. It’s a large area and a lot of it is rural. They try to facilitate works with Auckland Transport (AT) prioritising the needs of the communities.</p> <p>Colin introduced himself and the Support Your Local Wellsford group. He’s probably their biggest agitator as he is passionate about the community.</p> <p>Discussion followed about the ferry costs to and from the island. Why don’t we get subsidies? Also, the need for a bus service between Sandspit and Warkworth. The RLB have spoken to AT but the options have always been very expensive. It was suggested that the local contracting or taxi companies could be approached. The future of the carpark was also discussed.</p>	<p>Action 3: Agenda the cost of ferries and transport between Sandspit and Warkworth</p>

			Tim and Colin welcome emails with any concerns and they will advocate on our behalf.	
10.	Kawau Island Pest Free Project	Lisa Tolich & Phil Brown: Auckland Council (AC) Julie Alach & Richard Griffiths: Island Conservation (IC)	<p>Lisa gave us a brief recap. The feasibility report was published and shared in August 2023. This was followed by a four-week period of intense engagement. A webinar was held with 100 people live on the night. There have been 400 downloads since. There were field trips to Rakino and Tiritirimatangi Islands with waitlists for each trip. Four drop-in sessions were held. Feedback was sought throughout this period. AC and IC continue to work with islanders, the majority who support a pest free island.</p> <p>Concerns expressed have been about rat and wallaby eradications.</p> <p>The first point Lisa wanted to make was that there are two phases to this project. The first stage will be the removal of wallabies and possums which gives them more time to look at rat eradication.</p> <p>The second point is the need for a community voice. There is a proposed process with a structured diagram which will be shared with all landowners.</p> <p>There are three layers. In the first stream there is the operational group (DOC, Ngaiti Manuhiri, AC and members of the community). The second stream is the steering group (chairs of KIRRA, Pohutakawa Trust and an environmental group). The third stream has been confused as the governance group. It's an interagency group bringing together partners who have statutory financial and risk responsibilities i.e. DOC (conservation), AC (bio-diversity) and all have obligations under Health & Safety. There will be an open invitation to any meeting. Will provide transparency and inter-agency opportunities. Finally there will be a Community Advisory Group representing diverse interests on KI which is community led but supported by AC.</p> <p>Questions and answers, plus discussion followed:</p> <p>Funding? AC responded that not all of the funding has been secured for all the phases. For phase one (wallabies & possums) a good proportion of the funding has been secured. AC 30%, Pest Free 2050 25%, pledges from local landowners \$800,000 for pest eradication in 2024 and conditional on other funding. Also there is the NZ Nature Fund and AC's Natural Environment Targeted Rate Fund.</p> <p>Pohutakawa Trust? Will be either leading or be co-delivering.</p> <p>Toxins? Brodifacoum has already been in use widely on Kawau for the past 30 years. They will be used in a very limited way without impact on</p>	

			<p>humans.</p> <p>Peer reviews? All done independently.</p> <p>Further discussion:</p> <p>Concerns voiced – peer review of the feasibility study, wallaby are part of the island’s heritage, poisons and run-off, have a wallaby enclosure, keep Kawau as it is.</p> <p>Support shared – thanks to IC, it’s been a clear process, David Kingston coordinating funding from landowners, “got to get on top of it and do it now”.</p>	
11.	Kawau Community Conservation Trust	Caroline Boot & Greg Tabron	<p>Caroline shared the background of the establishment of this group. She spoke about community spirit, diverse views, a shared passion etc. The original proposal has been scaled back. A trust has been established with 6 trustees, a basic website and email account. It’s registered with TrapNZ. Caroline will provide liaison. Pippa Tabron is the Coordinator and Island Manager. Greg Tabron and Sue-Ellen Craig are on the communication team. Team leaders are Lisa Lidgard, Sharon Harper, Shelley Fitcher, John Milais and Seve Hoyle all from different parts of the island.</p> <p>The aims are to bring our community together, communicate lead rat control methods, is a non-political organisation, will not dictate or tell you what to do on your own properties.</p> <p>Pamphlets were handed out. If you would like to become a leader in an area not yet covered, please contact them by email info@kawauconservation.co.nz.</p>	
12.	Pohutakawa Trust	Carl Weaver	<p>Last year he and Mandy visited Waterfall Springs Sanctuary in Australia. They expressed gratitude to Kawau for sending wallaby there. As a result this breed of wallaby is no longer endangered.</p> <p>Carl reported that all their funding received has gone into the removal of pests. We are seeing increased numbers of kaka and are hearing more kiwi.</p>	
13.	Proposed new subcommittees for 2024	Kate Wheatcroft	<p>In summary:</p> <p>It was decided to form subcommittees to streamline and focus the work undertaken by the Executive and to allow broader community memberst to become involved in areas that interest them.</p> <p>The established and possible subcommittees we would seek to establish are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Communications (existing/growing) 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiaki ō Kawau (establishing) • Community Advocacy • Social and fundraising • Community Initiatives • Constitution and Vision <p>The full report is available online – see below.</p>	
14.	KIRRA Subcommittee Communications – Kookaburra and Digital	Kate Wheatcroft and Jackie Shaw	<p>In summary:</p> <p>The communications subcommittee now have an enthusiastic group in Jackie Shaw, Kate, Lauren Woolf and Katherine Truman who manage the Kawau Comm’s ecosystem with the exception of Facebook, which is community led and moderated by Simon Archer. Our collective efforts include the Kookaburra, the Kawau Island website, the new community email newsletter and the Kawau Island Instagram account.</p> <p>Achievements in 2023 were shared and what we hope to achieve in 2024.</p> <p>The full report is available online – see below.</p>	
14.	KIRRA Subcommittee Tiaki ō Kawau	Michael Wheatcroft	<p>Michael shared the group’s development and tactical plan for 2024-25:</p> <p>This is an island inclusive environmental group who supports interested Kawau islanders to protect and restore the natural environment to the island’s full potential.</p> <p>Nominated initiative leaders are Michael Wheatcroft (Project Coordination and liaison), Lyn Hume (bird protection), Jill Hetherington (revegetation & restoration), Mandy Weaver (seeds & weeds), Megan Lithgow (composting), Nikki Porteous (nursery, seeds & weeds), Matt Wheeler (comms & engagement).</p> <p>A tactical plan for 2024 and 2025 was shared.</p> <p>The full report is available online – see below.</p>	
15.	Inorganic Waste Collection	Robert Heiningen	<p>Robert wanted to join the committee as he wanted to be involved in the community. He had just taken rubbish off his own property so had some recent experience. 49-50 bags were collected over 6-8 weeks. It will probably be run on an annual or bi-annual basis. A survey will be run. Thanks to Lyn Hume for managing the spreadsheet and others who helped.</p>	
16.	Marine Protection Areas	Megan Lithgow	<p>There will be hearings for the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill in February and March. KIRRA made a submission on the Bill and is yet to receive confirmation if we are to present at the</p>	

			hearings. Other Kawau Island submitters are also still to be notified. We will provide an update once the Bill has been reported back to parliament.	
17.	Auckland Waste Management Plan	Nikki Porteous	Auckland Council are developing a new Waste Management Plan for the next 6 years 2024-2030. Representatives consulted with KIRRA last year. The draft plan is waiting to be approved with late February as the deadline. The goals for Kawau are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a long-term solution for refuse and recycling services • Identify an approach to charging for refuse and recycling • Support community-led composting, waste minimization and community/visitor education • See everyone managing their inorganic waste. 	
18.	Hauraki Gulf Connections	Megan Lithgow	The Waiheke Resources Trust contacted us with the aim of creating a network to share and learn from one another and build relationships with other Hauraki Gulf Islands. Communications are ongoing to organize visits or meetings in person or online. The initial focus will be exploring how we are managing waste and learning about restoration projects.	
19.	Election of Officers	Nikki Porteous	Michael Wheatcroft was nominated on as Chair (he's been Acting Chair) We had four resignations – see the Chair's report The executive committee members (12 including the chair) were renominated back on: Carl Weaver, Colin Bright, Jackie Shaw, Kate Backler, Nikki Porteous, Mandy Weaver, Megan Lithgow, Pam Dallow, Peter Buckton, Robert Van Heinengen and Sally Ostick. There were no new nominations.	

NEXT AGM to be held Saturday 22 February 2025

MEETING CLOSED at 3.30 pm

Reports available on our Kawau Island Website/Our Community/Updates/AGM/Supporting papers

(Chair's report, ACCOUNTS, FENZ, Coastguard, Subcommittees, Communications, Tiaki ō Kawau)

Or click on this link [Notice of KIRRA AGM - 18 March 2023 – Island Updates: Kawau Island](#)

Ki mua Actions

Item	Action	Who	When	Closed
1.	Update Maori content on our website	Kate and Delma from NMST	Ongoing	
2.	NMST's newsletter to be shared with KIRRA	Delma and Nikki	Ongoing	
3.	Agenda the cost of ferries and transport between Sandspit and Warkworth	KIRRA committee	Next meeting	