**Matakana Community Group AGM**

**November 3rd 2016**

**Matakana Community Hall**

**Present** Simon Barclay (Chairman), Fiona Sowten (Secretary), Rob Anderson (IT/Communications) Lisa Capes, Chelsea de Berry, Bubbles Bourke, Cate Ashwell, Norm, Fiona Longuet-Higgins, Trish Allen, Barbara Souter, John McIntyre, Richard Wintle, Murray Wallace, Gay Smith, Neville Johnson, Victoria Murray, Robyn Barclay, Nelson Morrow, Liz Morrow, Elizabeth McIntyre, Mary Evans, Penny Shelbourne, Maria Steele, Siena Anderson Steele, Amanda Stewart, Bianca Howlett, Anna Didsbury, Geoffrey Craig, Janis Grummitt, Debbie Martin, Paul Mason, Beth Houlbrooke, Rod Cheeseman (Mahurangi Matters), Allison Roe (RLB Matakana Coast Trails Trust)

**Apologies** Eric Henry (Treasurer), Jenni Francis (Secretary), Scott McCallum, Phillip Guy

**Minutes** October meetingaccepted as correct - Simon/Trish

**Chairmans Report** (Simon)

Welcome to all attending the AGM

The aims of Matakana Community Group (MCG) are to address the needs and problems of our village and the surrounding areas, to support all in community undertaking projects, to share information with community and gather feedback from community, to co-ordinate and to raise funds for community projects.

Recent decision has been made to change timetable of meetings to be quarterly – Feb, May, August and November – with smaller meetings to be held in the months in between. The aim is to attract more people to the bigger meetings which will be held in the main Matakana Community Hall. The smaller meetings will be held in the back room of the Matakana Community Hall. All meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month at 730pm. All welcome to attend.

As Matakana has become 'the jewel of Auckland's crown' and a weekend destination for people from all over New Zealand and beyond it is important that we all work together as a community to protect our village and improve the infrastructure and services.

Achievement highlights over the past year include

- a strengthened relationship between MCG and the Rodney Local Board (RLB), the Matakana Coast Trails Trust (MCCT), the chairs of other local community groups including Point Wells and Omaha and with several contacts in council.

Following the local elections we are very pleased that Allison Roe and Beth Houlbrooke will continue to be involved. Our thanks and congratulations go to them both.

- other highlights include the willingness of local contractors and businesses to be involved, when allowed, in community projects

- the completion of the bridge by Plume

- progress with the tennis courts

- further tree planting in Matakana

- the great community feeling and money raised in the last of the Fruitloop fundraisers

- the recent fundraiser evening sponsored by Premium which raised around $3500

In the next year it is hoped that

- the tennis courts will be completed

- the Tamahunga bridge will progress

- the carpark next to the school will get underway

Thanks to all members of the community and committee who have contributed during the year in many different ways. Special thanks to Eric Henry who is retiring as Treasurer and to Fiona Sowten who is stepping down as secretary.

**Financial Report** for year ending 31st of March 2016 was emailed out to all prior to the AGM

Approved – Simon/Neville

Summary of financial situation (Simon)

- we have around $111,000 available of which

- $9,000 is ring fenced for the car park project,

- $12,000 for the tennis courts project (a further $30,000 will be required),

- $30,000 (possibly another $40,000 diverted from another project) for the Tamahunga bridge project,

- $4,000 for the community garden.

**Election of Officers**

Simon Barclay re-elected as Chairman – Fiona/Gay

Neville Johnson re-elected as Deputy Chair – Simon/Trish

Secretary elected – Liz Sharek – Lisa/Simon

Treasurer elected – Fiona Longuet-Higgins – Simon/Barbara

Website/publicity/communications – Jenni Francis and Rob Anderson re-elected – Fiona/Chelsea

Election accepted by all present at AGM

**Jubilee Park**

The contract for the work on the tennis court project has been awarded to Masons

Treescape are planning on felling the Macrocarpa trees beside the courts shortly and Matakana Sawmill have offered to mill the trees and donate the profits back to MCG.

The new courts are planned to be built during February/March and will include movable nets and basketball and netball hoops. There will also need to be replanting done behind the courts.

The council has agreed to fund this project to return the courts to the level they were originally – concrete surface. For the hoped for all weather surface there will be extra costs that will have to be found from the community.

Chelsea talked about plans to build a bike/scooter/skateboard track behind the tennis courts similar to one she saw in Napier. The idea of the track is that it involves continuous movement along the track rather than being a stop and start type activity. There are hopes that safe pathways will be designated around the village so that children can get from the school to the park and around the village without having to contend with heavy traffic. A budget is to be set and there will be requests for donations of locals time and effort to get this idea to fruition. Approval has been given by the council representative for Parks for this plan.

**Tamahunga pedestrian bridge**

Unfortunately the contact we had at Auckland Transport (AT) has resigned and the previously agreed community contribution for this project of $30,000 has increased to $120,000 according to the new contact in this role at AT.

The building consent has been approved (council waived the fee's for this consent)

The Resource consent is in progress.

This bridge will be an integral part of the proposed safe cycleway between the school and Jubilee Park and is therefore crucial to be completed.

Matakana Coast Trails Trust have indicated that they are willing to meet the shortfall of community funds for this pedestrian/cycle bridge. Big thanks from us all!

**School and weekend visitor carpark**

Richard Didsbury (representing the Brick Bay Investment Trust) has signed a direct 13year lease of this land with Logan Campbell (landowner). Our thanks to both.

A fence has been erected to divide the carpark area from the farmland.

It is proposed that cars will enter at the left hand end of the carpark and travel around the perimeter and exit at a point closer to the school. The intention is that parents of children at the school will use the carpark during the week and visitors will be able to use on the weekends. The expectation is that this will provide for around 85 car park spaces.

Due to high expected estimates of costs from council for drainage, surfacing and planting - $250,000 - it is expected that this project will progress as money becomes available to carry out work – possibly not being fully completed for around 5 years

**Drainage** (Murray Wallace)

Murray has had many frustrations trying to work with Auckland Transport (AT) and the Auckland Council around getting together a plan to address the drainage issues in Matakana.

Road maintenance in on Matakana Valley Road is planned for 2017/18 and it was hoped that the work to cover the drains and to utilise the retrieved space for car parking could be completed at the same time. Unfortunately Murray is finding it difficult to get anyone to take responsibility for this work.

He feels that we need to put some political pressure on to get any results and asks us to get behind this project with strength if we want this work done in the foreseeable future.

**Christmas in the Village** (Norm from PTA, Matakana School)

A Christmas celebration is planned by the school, the village businesses and the community to be held on the 9th of December. There will be entertainment from local Kapahaka groups and the school choir. Father Christmas has been invited and is expected to attend.

MMK has offered to provide wine and cheese and Ravish a selection of salads and sweets. Other businesses in the village are expected to want to also be involved.

It is hoped that this event can be linked in with another event celebrating the opening of the new walk/cycleway bridge. An idea put forward was that after school is out and the kids have had time to get organised with bikes or running/walk clothes and shoes they could meet at the bridge for a formal opening, a light afternoon tea, a bike check and then an organised bike ride or walk/run across the bridge, along the walkway onto Tongue Farm Road and down to Morris and James, perhaps around a tree in their carpark and back to the bridge. From here the school and village Christmas celebrations could begin.

**Website**

A common website linking all the various websites in Matakana is planned.

The Matakana Information Centre has offered to incorporate this within their website.

The footage taken from a drone of Matakana from above that was organised by Amanda for the village display will also be linked onto the website.

It is expected that a community diary can be included so local events planned can be shown.

This would not only help people wanting to attend these events but also help those organising to avoid clashes of events.

**Matakana Coast Trails Trust** (Allison Roe)

MCTT's goal is to create cycle and walkways from Puhoi to Pakiri.

They aim to succeed with this by pulling together many of the small community groups working on similar projects into a bigger common group with combined leadership and goals and a strong relationship with ACC, AT and NZTA to get results.

Allison tells us that the current focus needs to be on the Puhoi to Warkworth area as the motorway extension is being planned and a walk/cycleway needs to be included into the planning.

Scott has been invited to join Neville as representatives on the MCTT. Seconded Simon/Bubbles

**Zero waste Matakana** (Anna Didsbury)

The goal for this project is 90% diversion of Matakana's waste away from landfill.

The first stage is to make Matakana Market a zero waste event which is becoming a realistic target with the work that has been done with waste separation bins and making all packaging sold at the market able to be made into compost rather than sent to the landfill.

The next stage will be looking at reducing the waste for the whole commercial area in Matakana.

The group is looking for volunteers to help with sorting out the bins on the weekend and auditing the waste. Results up to now have shown improvements but there is always the need to keep looking at ways to continue improving.

**Premium movie night**

Thanks to Premium Real state for the recent movie night fundraiser that raised $3500 that will go towards the costs of the walk/cycleway bridge.

Thanks also to all the local businesses who donated goods for the silent auction held on the night.

The evening was a big success with many attending.

**MataCARnival** (Barbara Souter)

A carnival weekend is being planned for March 24-26th 2017 to raise funds for the school/visitor carpark. This will be the big fund raiser for 2017 so please all get involved.

It is planned that in the week leading up to the carnival weekend the children at school will work on projects related to cars and road safety. They will design and produce costumes to be worn at a procession at Matakana Country Park on the Sunday.

On the Friday there will be a gala evening held in the cinema foyer involving an auction and a car themed movie. This will be a must attend social event for all in the village.

On the Saturday the market will be themed Caribbean Carnival with music and events to be planned.

On the Sunday the celebrations will be at Country Park with the procession, cars on display, games, entertainment and food. A VIP tent will be set up to raise extra funds.

Money will also be raised through a silent on line auction and all people visiting any of the three events will be asked to buy a licence to attend - $5 for an adult, a gold coin donation for a child.

Clyde and Farida from Plume have very kindly put forward $10, 000 sponsorship money for this event. All our thanks to them for this. A large clap from all at AGM!

Volunteers in the community are asked to come forward to help make this event a huge success.

Please contact Barbara if you are able to help barbarasouter@clear.net.nz

**Community Garden**

The garden is thriving with the attentions for helpers who meet every Monday 0900-1030 to work in the garden. This is a great way to meet people and to also get a share of the produce.

A collection box has been set up for anyone who wants to take produce from the garden at other times – a gold coin donation is all that is asked for.

A Matakana community garden facebook page has also been set up which provides information and gardening tips.

Anyone with surplus goods from their own gardens can leave these for sale at the collection box stand and collect produce from the garden in exchange.

All money made from the collection box will be donated to Homebuilders or a local foodbank.

**Speed sign on Matakana Valley Road**

Ongoing concerns about the speed of traffic along Matakana Valley Road resulted in a large traffic slowing sign to be erected on the entranceway into Matakana several years ago.

This sign has caused problems restricting pedestrian access up this road since it was placed here.

Since the development of the subdivision along this road the problem has worsened and AT had indicated plans to move the sign from its current position to further back up the road away from Matakana village at considerable cost.

A letter was sent from the community group a couple of years back asking that the sign be removed and a smaller sign be placed further up the road so that pedestrians can walk freely up this road and that the costs saved could be used for other projects in Matakana. No response from the letter was received although the footpath has been replaced.

Penny and Neville will look into where to go from here on the issue of the sign and also alternative ways to slow traffic along this road.

Thanks from all again for Clyde and Farida for supplying the nibbles for the AGM from Plume. All delicious.

**Next meeting Thursday 1st of December**

**730pm**

**Matakana Community Hall** **(back room)**