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| **Newsletter #1 October 18**

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| Hi all,A great deal has been happening while I have been away on holiday and we have the AGM coming up on November 1st. I would encourage you all to come and celebrate our successes over the past year, while we socialise with others in our community and to vote in the elections for officers. Everyone is welcome. You will note from the agenda that whilst nominations have been received and seconded any other or alternative nominations are welcome. Please send to sharek@xtra.co.nzIn future, this newsletter will follow a standard format of four headings:  Progress on projects, People news, Points ahead and information and Possibilities that may come to fruition over the next few months or years. Enjoy and see you at the AGM!Simon |

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|  **Progress** ***Waste Management***Last month, the sudden shock of council proposing to close both local transfer stations was hard to swallow by the local board as well as the community.  Beth and Greg did an excellent job of getting the lease temporarily extended so that the transfer stations at Lawrie Rd and Rusty Brooke will now stay open until the end of June next year.Both sites were badly contaminated when they were used for landfill and now need to be fixed before they can be used as transfer stations again. Note that there is a difference between a transfer station where rubbish is collected and sorted and a landfill where the non-recyclable items are buried. Landfills are not accessed by the public but by contractors. The application for a landfill in the Dome Valley is not directly connected to this issue!As the present stations will need to be completely closed down next June, Northland Waste has applied for resource consent to operate out of land they own on Sandspit Rd near Wyatt’s. In the meantime, Mahurangi Wastebusters strongly supports the closure for safety reasons but we feel that there must be a way to continue to provide some services from the existing sites rather than close them totally. ***Mahurangi River Dredging***Dredging is underway with an initial $250,000. The final result should be a navigable and swimmable river with the potential for boats to come up from Auckland. This could attract tourists or even enable a ferry service into the city. Resource consent has been granted but the final cost is likely to be close to $4million which will require an application to central government for funding.***Matakana Valley Road***The filling in of those ditches and widening the pathways is finally going to happen! We were promised before Christmas – but alas that will not happen although it will have to be finished within this financial year because Beth has the funds tagged from council’s budget. It will also cover less area than we wanted with the swales culverted and paved between the market and Jin Jin’s on the Market side. On the other side the swales will be grasses and edged.  Working with Healthy Waters, Auckland Transport and Auckland council (who are only concerned with the concreting/cobbling of the paved areas) has been a mammoth job and when it is completed, will be a cause for great celebration after years of lobbying by a few stalwart community members alongside the Local board.***Communication***MCG now has an integrated communication and involvement plan.  This is part of our drive to widen MCG’s membership and to keep more people in the community informed and involved. Membership has already grown considerably since our Vision Matakana event in August and both the Around Matakana newsletter and the Community Facebook page have increased their subscribers. |

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| **People*****Comings and goings*** Murray Wallace and Paul Roberts have both left Matakana in the past month. Murray was one of those knowledgeable old campaigners who fought for us through the council morass. He will be sadly missed here although his life will be less stressful up in Kerikeri!Paul was new to Matakana, living in the Matakana Green development. He immediately offered his services very generously and managed a group of locals who updated the original Sustainable Development plan for Matakana from 2006. His legacy was a new strategy – the 2018 Future Matakana Plan from which the Vision Matakana event and this review of our Community Group priorities arose. He is now enjoying apartment living at Kensington Park in Orewa!On the other hand, we are pleased to welcome Rachel Demler who has joined the community communication team and taken on the role of website manager. There are some existing connections - her mother-in-law is already a well-known member of the Matakantata choir! ***Cookbook success***Congratulations to everyone who crafted, marketed and took part in the new ‘Village Table’ cookbook.  This initiative from some energetic mothers at the local school turned into a product that will not only fundraise for the school, but also be something that we can all feel proud of in Matakana. Thanks to the hard work of the cookbook team Peter Young, Lori Satterthwaite, Christine Sheehy, Kate Arbuthnot, Monique Thomas, Emily Parker, Laurette Macky, Amanda Garthwaite, Sally Jack, Anneliese Parker and Katherine Norman. Thanks also to Danvers from Matakana Botanicals who has been extremely supportive - providing gift baskets as prizes and he also provided us with quite a few bottles of handwash to give away with bulk purchases of 10 or more books. The book is selling really well and the feedback from customers has been extremely positive. Not only are locals buying it but it’s been popular with visitors to the area as it makes a wonderful keepsake.***Cherry tree planting***Last month we reported on the Cherry tree planting by Neville and others along the roadside of the school car park. What we didn’t do was to say thank you to the community garden who paid for it and Angelica Garcia Pedersen who managed the process. It’s looking lovely- thank you!   |

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| **Points ahead and information** ***AGM on 1st Nov***Please join us to celebrate together and meet! 7-35pm in the main Matakana Hall on Thursday 1st November.***Matakana Link Rd***The community strongly supports the original four lane Matakana link Rd. The link road is planned to open along with the new motorway in 2021. The budget for this has been reduced to two lanes, Greg will be asking for an explanation from council about this.***Tamahunga Bridge Opening***The community is hoping to arrange this to coincide with the school Christmas celebrations on 23rd November if all parties are in agreement.***Bus stops***Temporary bus stops have been placed outside the school car park and on the opposite side of the road.***Election signage***There is an area along the roadside beyond the Tamahunga bridge by Tumbleweed that is designated for community notices. It is one of only a few in the area where election signs can be erected. Beth would like to know if the community wants to keep this site available. Come and discuss this at the AGM if you have a view. ***Jubilee Park***People have been asking about the future of Jubilee Park…the future direction for this will be decided after the draft plan has been presented at the Local Rodney Board business meeting in November. No leases can be signed until then. ***Montessori***This topic was raised as an issue at the Vision Matakana event. There is a focussed group led by Dan Payne, and they will report back to the MCG re future plans after Xmas. ***Portaloos for Labour week end***To prevent the chaos we had over the last holiday weekend, we are going to take the initiative and order four portaloos for this long weekend and order extra cleaning/ maintenance for the toilets.***Car park maintenance***There will need to be some immediate maintenance done and the plans for this are underway. We will need to make plans to help cover the ongoing expenses related to maintaining the car park in the future. |

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|   **Possibilities for the Future** ***Matakana Coast Trail Trust***A document is being prepared to be used as a support document for resource consent of future trails. It will include stories about people, land and strategies. The most advanced route is Snell’s Beach to Warkworth – they are just waiting for the acquisition of the last length of the trail.***Riverside path from Market to King George***There is considerable support for a riverside path from the market to the King George Memorial. In future this could also continue from the back of the village along to Matakana Green. There are keen community members working on this - watch this space! |

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