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| Newsletter # 2 November 18

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| Hi all,I addressed the AGM at the beginning of this month and for those of you who were unable to attend, you might be interested in my summary of the past year, which has been a year of great achievement.First, just to remind you of the reason our group exists. The MCG committee is a group of volunteers who work hard to facilitate a community group. We all believe that  it is very important for us all to work together as a community to protect our village and improve the infrastructure and services. We will have much greater success with this if we manage to speak with a co-ordinated voice and get our messages heard through the same bureaucratic channels. In order to inform and involve the greatest number of people we: 1. Meet on a regular basis to discuss the needs and problems of our village and the surrounding areas
2. To support all members of the community who wish to undertake projects
3. To get a greater dissemination of information into the community and feedback from the community
4. To co-ordinate projects
5. To fundraise

 **The highlights during the last year for the MCG have been:**  1. The increased participation by the community in the MCG events, enabling many more people to have their say and to give us direction for the future:  The various community events that have taken place during the year and which have drawn the community together; the “Town Hall” evening in August where the community came together to formulate  the projects that they wanted to champion; the formation of the communication sub-committee to enable a better database and circulation and co-ordination of information
2. The completion of the Tamahunga Bridge The completion of the car park and planting along its edge
3. Agreement that the upgrade of Matakana valley Road with the elimination of the drains will be completed by next June
4. Seeing the tennis courts in action and the reality of how much use a facility in Jubilee Park gets from a large number of people, especially children, in the community
5. Discussions with Richard Didsbury culminating in his agreement to allow a pathway through his development to complete the inner village cycle loop once the drains have been finished.

**Here's the link to read the MCG AGM Minutes.**<http://www.matakanacommunitygroup.org/mcg-matters.html>In the future, the Agendas, Financial Statements and Minutes will be all  posted up on the Website.The Website is being developed to be a repository of information about what's happening in this area and what input you can have to shape its future. A link and reminder for those who couldn't attend meetings will be in this newsletter each month. Now a quick update on other issues and projectsSimon |

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| **Progress** ***Waste Management***Trish reported that Council is currently trying to work out how a waste service can be continued for the community after 30 June 2019 when remediation work is due to commence on the two local transfer station sites (Lawries Rd and Rustybrook Rd) to clean up contamination.  These sites are old landfills which were closed 24 years ago, and have been operating as transfer stations ever since.  Mahurangi Wastebusters is keen to be part of the solution. Trish is already asking for volunteers to work on a men's shed to be based at the Warkworth Showgrounds. For more information please go the MCG website [here](http://www.matakanacommunitygroup.org/mahurangi-waste-busters-trust-and-transfer-station.html)***Mahurangi River Dredging***Dredging continues in the Warkworth Town Basin. Pub charities have donated another $30,000 to dredge under the Jane Gifford. Shane Jones has been approached to help with funding.***Tennis Courts***The tennis club had a fantastic response from adults and children this year. 60 children are turning up to the open sessions and the social tour had about 35 participants and 50 supporters! There are on going fundraising events for the astro turf surface, windbreaks and future toilets.$30,000 has been raised so far with another $30,000 to complete the project. This is a really good example of the community working together to create a better lifestyle for us all. |

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| **People** 2018 has been an outstanding year for the community and a great deal has been accomplished with a lot of hard work by many people. I feel that it is a very special thing to live in such a close knit community and I count myself very lucky to be a part of it. This feeling was reinforced when I read the new cookbook produced by the community to help the school’s fund raising and I would imagine that if you didn’t want to live here before you would after you read it. ***Hard work in the past year***I would like to thank all the other members of the committee, especially Liz, Fiona, Jenni, Neville, Janis, Ivan and Rachel plus all those who have contributed their time during the year.***Generosity***Thanks to Clyde and Farida from Plume for supplying the Runner Duck wine for our AGM and other community events. Thanks also Kirsty and Mike from the Brewery for beer!***Political support***Thanks for the continued huge support from Beth Houlbroke, Allison Roe and their RLB colleagues plus Greg Sayers our counsellor.  |

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| **Points ahead and information*****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. A meeting was held in Warkworth on 13th November. There was an impressive turnout to hear and discuss the implications of the revised scope of the road from 4 lanes down to 2. Cynthia Gillespie, Executive GM of Auckland Transport, fronted some curly questions which she answered frankly.To sum up the meeting, there was strong community support to remove the gold plating on the plans for this road, find a design and construction method that will fit within the reduced budget, and still provide 4 lanes for critical sections of the road from the outset. There was also a strong call to find a way to use local contractors who would provide better value for money.We have the support of our local board and councillor. Everyone should make a submission to support them on the Notice of Requirement Application, \*supporting\* the Matakana Link Road but adding a comment in favour of 4 lanes. Link [here](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/have-your-say-notified-resource-consent/notified-resource-consent-applications-open-submissions/Pages/ResourceConsentApplication.aspx?itemId=258&applNum=BUN60328269&fbclid=IwAR2m7I0Pgz9fkFHOJ3Xvz-3EtTeIfezRhc4LaYB3hBr1R8QFpZ94CwTe71w) ***Community Garden***For anyone who doesn't know, there is a community garden next to the Hall where you can join a group of people on Monday mornings. Learn about growing and take home some produce. Spare fruit and veg from the Community Garden over summer are available from the vege stand by the hall in exchange for a donation. The money received goes to Homebuilders. Anyone with extra fruit and veg is welcome to leave it there -it goes to a good cause! The garden is one of our iconic community activities!***Signage by the Tamahunga Bridge***This is a designated Community Signage area. Commercial signs can be removed by reporting to Auckland Council or Auckland Transport. ***Tennis Courts***The tennis club had a fantastic response from adults and children this year. 60 children are turning up to the open sessions and the social tour had about 35 participants and 50 supporters! There are on going fundraising events for the astro turf surface, windbreaks and future toilets.$30,000 has been raised so far with another $30,000 to complete the project. This is a really good example of the community working together to create a better lifestyle for us all.***Road Safety***This was one of the issues that had priority at the August Town Hall meeting. Simon met with Alana McClintock of Worksafe NZ who is helping us with a number of concerns: * The incomplete 2nd carpark exit from the new School Carpark that needs to be formed and appropriate roadmarkings put in place. The MCG will pay for the footpath work to be done but the consent from AT is being waited on. AT will be responsible for carrying out the road markings.
* Lack of traffic lights on Matakana Road to allow children to cross the road safely.
* The Temporary Bus Stop outside the School is hazardous for pupils as there is no kerbside access and the bus takes up much of one lane of the road forcing traffic  to overtake the stationary buses. This is particularly hazardous with the trucks using the road.
* The number and speed of quarry  trucks on MVRd going through the village are a particular source of concern.
* The use of Laly Haddon by construction trucks for the new sub-division.
* The entries to and from the side roads off Matakana Road, especially Tongue Farm Rd, Greens Rd, Tamahunga Drive and Wrights Rd.
* Disregard of the speed limits through the village.
* The potential asbestos exposure after the demolition of the fire damaged Matakana Motors building and the abattoir  behind the butchers. Were Compliance Plans in place?
* The complete lack of traffic planning for Matakana as Warkworth gets developed.
* The possibility of doing a wheel chair accessibility assessment around the village is a future area of discussion.

If anyone has any other concerns - please let me know.***School Car park maintenance*** It is going to cost around $6,000/year to keep the carpark maintained. Hot-mix has been spread and GAP 20 will be spread over this to create a more durable surface. A Donation Station could be set up at weekends for visitors to contribute. Logan Campbell needs to be approached to make sure he is happy with this way of raising money. The 2nd access/exit still needs to be formed but this needs to go through Auckland Transport.  ***New buses and stops***The new bus service has been well used and the stop outside the school is still temporary. Beth supports a permanent one at the end of Wharf road where there is a better turn around. The service will be reviewd in a few months...feedback is being gathered on the current service, timetable and buses. If you have any please phone 0800 103080.***Jubilee Park***This is still under discussion and is complex. It continues top be a shared space for now. |

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| **Possibilities for the Future*****Riverside path and plantings around the village***Planting during the year have enhanced the appearance of our village and discussions about the river walkway are underway.***Historic Walking Trail***David Grant (History of Matakana Book) is working with Amanda Stewart to develop plaques to place around the village creating a historical walk.**Freedom Camping** Despite some concern expressed in the community, there have been no changes to the by-law recently. What is happening is that a list of possible freedom camping sites are coming out for public consultation. Those that were previously prohibited will not change.  The review gives the community an opportunity to comment whether any of the other proposed sites should have restrictions or prohibitions placed on them.  The draft proposal will be out before Christmas and public feedback open until February 2019 some time. Beth will forward all relevant information for distribution as soon as it is available.***MCG funds***The funds are in a healthy state. If anyone has a community project that would benefit some funding, put together a proposal to be put to the committee |

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