Newsletter No 3 December 2018

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| Hi all,the end of another year is looming and I want to thank all of you who have supported us through 2018.  There are now more of us to achieve the results that will allow us to be a strong and supportive community together. Last month I outlined the highlights from the past year (these are archived on the Community website) this month is all about the year ahead. **Here's the link to read the** [past newsletters](https://matakanacommunitygroup.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eda9839458a6782ccc4f03b86&id=8888c40c58&e=aea95cadbc) From myself and all of the community group volunteers, have a happy and safe holiday, and we look forward to working and / or connecting with you in 2019. Simon  |

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| **Progress**   ***Men's Shed*** (part of the Mahurangi Wastebusters strategy to cut waste to landfill) The Men's Shed is on it's way thanks to Trish Allen and other's hard work. The first meeting of Men's Shed enthusiasts to set it all up was held on Thursday 15 November 2018 at 10 am at the Summerset Falls cafe, Summerset Village, 31 Mansell Drive, Warkworth.   Mahurangi Matters reported that: 'Once up and running, it’s anticipated the shed will be a boon for men’s mental health, and at the same time help repair and recycle discarded items that might otherwise have been dumped.  Men’s Shed enthusiast Barry Thompson says a Men’s Shed is a place with a range of woodworking, engineering and other tools.     “In a nutshell, a shed brings men together in one community space to share their skills, have a laugh, and work on practical tasks,” he says.  Men might choose to work on personal projects or work alongside others on projects that benefit the community.   Examples could include building playgrounds for preschool centres, repairing toy library stock, fixing bikes for disadvantaged children or building planter boxes to brighten up the central business district.'  Trish understands that the Men's shed blokes are busy fitting out their shed and doing maintenance on their tools now and they have enough volunteers now but If you want to be involved, contact Barry on 09 425 5613 or barrythompson487@gmail.com. ***Storm Water diversion from Matakana Valley Rd*** A plan has been released by Healthy Waters for the planned redirection of storm water that will allow the Matakana Valley road to be upgraded (filling in the ditches etc). The underground pipes will start around the Pharmacy then under Torea Rd to be connected to the river. Layton Gillespie (Healthy Waters) will be coming to the MCG February meeting to answer questions if you are interested. The upgrade will then start next year. ***Community Garden*** There has been much progress this year with workshops for the community, new volunteers working on the garden every Monday and $121 has been raised through the Koha box to support Homebuilders. Those who have been here for years will know Home builders well, but for those of you who are new to the area, you might be int erested to learn that Homebuilders is an organisation working in North Rodney dedicated to helping local families by walking them through hard times. See their website here: [Homebuilders.](https://matakanacommunitygroup.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eda9839458a6782ccc4f03b86&id=d65b3a72ff&e=aea95cadbc)  |

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| **People** ***Lunch for one of our local heroes*** Apart from all the thanks for work in the past year mentioned in the previous newsletter, this month I would like to thank David O'Sullivan for setting up a lunch for Des Sharp who is a local tennis hero. He was in the Regional Champion Team five times.***Carpark Maintenance***Once again, thanks to Rob Gibson of ITM who came to the car park rescue donating his time and materials ***Volunteers needed!***Anne Dixon has taken over Civil Defence Warkworth. She is looking for volunteers to cover Matakana. If you are concerned about or trained in safety during natural disasters she would welcome your support! Pleas contact me to show your interest.    |

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| **Points ahead and information** ***Matakana Link Rd and Hill street*** The future growth of our area depends on good infrastructure - especially roads. Last month there was a flurry of meetings and consultations around Hill street and the new Matakana Link road. Consultation for this year is over for this year and we hope you were able to express your views. Thank you to all of you who attended meetings and put views forward in the consultations.The more people stand up, the more council and it's bodies will listen! We will keep you informed of any new developments.  ***Safety around the village***Simon met with Alana McClintock our representative for health and Safety in the area. He passed on all of your concerns - and especially highlighted those concerning children. There is a new Rodney Project Manager who will overview any proposals and Alana is trying to get him to the February meeting to talk about it. ***School Car park maintenance*** We will need ongoing fundraising to help with the maintenance of the car park. All ideas welcome. ***Jubilee Park*** The first phase of consultation is finished and was really not very constructive. The MCG will now work with the Pony club and others to make sure that a “win win” is achieved for everyone. An interesting development has been the sale of The Country Park (RD6). The new owners (the Coghlans) are keen equestrians and also want to work with the Pony club and work with the community and John Baker’s vision. ***The Country Park has new owners***We are happy to report that the Country Park (sometimes also known as the Farm Park or RD6) has sold as one unit. This was always tricky as the previous owner had created multiple titles and there was a risk of the amenity being divided and developers spoiling this community potential.  |

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| **Possibilities for the Future** **MCG funds**You may remember from last month  that the funds were in a healthy state and so we asked for nominations for projects. We had three applications:***1 Tennis Club Astro-turfing (David O'Sullivan, President)***The tennis club has been one of the community success stories of 2018. It has grown it's membership including young people (as reported in last month's newsletter). They want to upgrade the courts to have better all weather playing surfaces and have already raised $28,000 themselves, some of which has been used to buy wind breaks. David proposes to put the rest of the money into the MCG account and asked the community to pay the extra shortfall of $42,000 so that it gets a GST refund - saving about $9000. The total cost to the community would be about $33,000 and it would provide a fantastic local resource for old and young. This was accepted and passed for support.***2 Extended and safer footpath by the Wharf (Ivan Wagstaff)***Ivan and his team asked for $800 to work on the path which would be a safer and better walk fro families and visitors to use. He had costed the use of a digger and driver but David offered to call the digger driver who supported the tennis club to see if this could be done for no cost. This proposal was supported and it may not cost the full $800.***3 Historic Walkway Plaques in Matakana (Neville and Liz)***This is an exciting development based on making the many historic sites we have in the area visible to visitors. This was first proposed by David Grant who wrote our iconic book "We Gathered Here - a History of Matakana". This is to start with 9 locations initially (although there are many more). and involves creating and placing plaques with descriptions and a QR code linking to the website on them. The proposal is the use the rest of the Auckland Regional Sculpture Trust (ARST) funds from the Walkway/Cycle grant. around $2,800. There is ongoing research into the best way to manufacture the plaques and costs. Bronze  and ceramics are being considered. ***Conservation Grant*** There is a new opportunity to support community-led conservation through a Grant Programme from Auckland Council. This grant will support community-led Pest Free Auckland and regional biodiversity outcomes. The grant is funded through the natural environment targeted rate and we encourage you to apply if your community group/organisation, iwi or school meet the criteria. There are more details about the criteria on our website  [here](https://matakanacommunitygroup.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eda9839458a6782ccc4f03b86&id=7f128172c7&e=aea95cadbc). Grant applications are open now until the 15th February. Please respond if you have ideas, this is a great opportunity for us all. |

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| https://gallery.mailchimp.com/eda9839458a6782ccc4f03b86/images/b9930e98-8a12-4985-b117-b93264f94884.jpg |

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