Matakana Community Group – Minutes

Date: **Monday 6 October 2025**
Time: **7.00pm**
Location: **Matakana Community Hall, Meeting Room**

Present

Simon Barclay (chair), Meg Eriksen (secretary) Mark Atkinson, Trish Allen, Robin Barclay, Steve Elliston, Bev Weinzlick, Paul McGill, Andrew Clearwater, Mark Jackson, Karen Richardson, Naomi Marshall, Jackie Russell, Katherine Norman, Jan Halliday, Mike Austin, Kirsty McKay

Apologies

Liz Sharek, Fiona Stathern

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Previous minutes were reviewed and accepted as a true and accurate record. Moved, Simon, Seconded, Robyn. All in favour.

Financials

The group's financial position remains stable with no outgoing expenses for the pump track to date. Discussions are underway with Dave Parker regarding suitable plaques for the planned heritage trail.

A heritage trail around Matakana Village is being developed, based on the 'We Gathered Here' book concept. Plaques with QR codes will link to web pages providing historical information about key sites such as the butcher, school etc. Eleven sites have been identified, with completion targeted by the end of the year. There is a budget of around $8k.

Total of $20,000 has been allocated to the community garden, with the majority of remaining funds directed to the pump track project.

Auckland Transport Update – School Parking and Exit

A meeting was held with Auckland Transport regarding widening the entrance to the school carpark and adding a second exit closer to the school. AT deemed the additional exit unsafe. A resource consent would be required to widen the existing gate, with significant associated fees.

Logan Campbell's son, Glen, assisted with smoothing out the carpark surface. It was noted that the carpark cannot be used as a fundraiser.

The Council have removed the remaining trees opposite the school and plan to replant liquid ambers next season. The planting contractors will maintain the trees for three years to ensure establishment, with planting scheduled for June 2026.

Jubilee Park Pump Track Update

Drainage works are scheduled to commence on 20 October, with construction to follow from 27 October. Estimated completion is late November 2025. Bevan Morrison (Dobbyn Builders) is overseeing project management. Free accommodation has kindly been offered for workers by Finn Hurst.

Council initially recommended installation of a fence separating the pump track from the Pony Club area. Dobbyn Builders are supportive of completing this at the same time as removal of the permanent Pony Club jumps and tree stumps near the tennis courts. Further confirmation is required from the Rodney Local Board.

A pedestrian crossing is planned for Awanui Crescent, with a raised island and footpath upgrades. Bevan Morrison confirmed that the design takes the Pony Club's needs into account. Mark noted that reducing speed limits electronic sign on Matakana Road may also be beneficial. Simon advised contacting the newly elected Rodney Local Board members, Ivan and Tim Holgate, to advocate for improvements to the Matakana Valley Road footpath.

FOAM Update (Jackie)

A Wetland Workshop will be held on Friday 31 October at Green with Envy, featuring speakers and site visits to three properties in the region. Under the Restore Rodney East programme, water testing training is being undertaken at the Sail GP site, which includes an incubator for E. coli testing.

Community engagement will begin early next year to develop an Integrated Catchment Management Plan focusing on the impact of water flow through Matakana Village, the effects on marine life, and future freshwater sustainability. Community participation is encouraged.

Civil Defence Update (Andrew Clearwater)

Rainbows End residents recently developed a local emergency plan in response to flood isolation risks and inquired about Matakana's preparedness which has lead to this inquiry. Discussions are ongoing about using either the Matakana Hall or the School as potential emergency centres. Backup power remains the key challenge for both sites.

A meeting will be held on Friday at 10.30am in the Cinema foyer with Kim Bourke (Rodney Local Board), Ben Gordon (Auckland Council Emergency Management), and Andrew Clearwater to explore resources and community expertise for a formal emergency plan.

Community Group Discussion

Discussed the need for improved communication and information sharing between community groups. Meg Eriksen and Nic Payne to further explore.

Zero Waste Update

The Zero Waste Hub continues to be active, providing waste education and hosting school events. Members were encouraged to visit the shop and support the initiative and a 20% off shopping night coming up.

Community Garden (Trish)

Spring planting is underway. Regular sessions are held on Monday mornings from 9am, followed by coffee. All are welcome to join.

Any Other Business

Efforts to raise funds are ongoing. Sponsorship signs ($500/year) on the fence was discussed.

A new track into Jubilee Park, developed by Richard Didsbury, is scheduled for completion around December/January. The proposed bridge from Moya Drive/Penney Rise into the wetlands and over to Jubilee Park is still under review by Council.

Scott noted that Skip and Jill Whitmore may wish to be acknowledged on the new MCTT / The Coastal Trail signage. Meg Eriksen to follow up with MCTT.

Council has supplied 1,000 native plants for the wetlands area as part of pest and weed control efforts which have been planted.

Naomi Marshall raised concerns regarding increased use of Jubilee Park and suggested implementing security measures. It was agreed that Council should take a more active role in supporting the park, starting with public toilet upgrades. Unified community advocacy will strengthen the case for further support.

Jan questioned the process for joining the MCG, noting that the constitution does not define membership criteria. It was agreed that greater clarity around group function and formalisation would be beneficial moving forward.

Next Meeting

Monday 2 February 2026, 7.00pm – Matakana Hall Meeting Room.