

**Waikawau Boat Ramp Society AGM Minutes,
Thames Sailing Club, 25.07.2021 at 10am**



Present: 42 members assembled for our 2021 AGM with Apologies from Terry Hawkeswood, Bruce Bogan, Dave Nichols, Malcolm McGeorge, Kristopher West, David Prowse and Trevor Disher. *Moved Allan Gamble and seconded by Bev Walker, Passed*

The Minutes of our last AGM which were posted on line and distributed before the meeting for our members to consider. Several points like our current fees and our condensed reporting to Councils were noted and will be commented on later in our other reports. The minutes were moved as a true and correct record by *Mike Lander and seconded by Rowan Christini, Carried.*

President's Report: Eric Carter thanked everyone for coming and tabled whilst speaking to his report which praised the committee for working so well together during our covid lockdowns and changing alert levels to once again post a very sound balance sheet for the society, helped massively by our willing band of volunteer wardens who do not hesitate to respond when called upon. Eric also complimented our boaties who seem to have managed the delays on our very busy days very well. Eric also commented that our relationship with our future landlords, Ngati Tamatera, remains strong and that they like us, are extremely frustrated over the delays in having the land finally being signed over to them.

Eric reported that our regular newsletters have generally been well received as has our etiquette brochure, highlighting and reaffirming our ramp rules. We have been given the go ahead to repair the top of the ramp and the pot holes. Dredging in this past year have been limited to just two although the second one was a big one.

We are proceeding with our bid to become registered with Charitable Services thanks to the efforts of John Sandford. We continue to be frustrated by TCDC re getting the reserve's toilets replaced as they wanted us to proceed through the Tourism Fund but in the end refused to have our application signed off.

If elected again Eric promised to focus again on our maintenance issues and continue to promote good stewardship with our landlords and partners. *Moved Eric and seconded by Mike Lander Carried*

Finances: Matt Juby distributed copies of the Financial Statements to the members and published them also on our web page. Our membership was up by 100 on last year totalling 1,221 members with 30 registering two or more boats. (Already this year we have 724 financial members). Our Honesty Box netted \$41,716 up from \$37,332 last year and the Day Passes were also up from \$74,758 to \$84,979 this year.

Matt reported that we have changed our accountancy system to Xero which is proving to be better than the spreadsheet system we previously used. This past year we needed only two dredgings at a total cost of just over \$44K compared to four dredgings at \$65k last year.

Our Honorariums are unchanged from last year totalling \$7,000 and our ramp custodian travel reimbursements also remain the same at \$40 per day amounting to \$6,680. Our Advertising included the printing of our stickers and amounted to \$4,847, Our Consultancy Fees came to \$16,606 and our Council fees to TCDC and Waikato Region totalled \$11,341 but with a surplus of just over \$100,000, even though interest rates were under 1% we still had a very sound year financially.

When the water tank above the toilets at Waikawau Reserve was stolen and TCDC pleaded poverty, we helped out by purchasing and installing a new one costing just over \$2,000 which we can use again if the Toilet situation changes. Our Auditors raised the point that in using an Honesty Box System we are relying heavily on the honesty of our ramp users and the wardens who do the collection but also acknowledged that this is in the very nature of having an arrangement like this.

Matt moved that his report be accepted and that our auditors remain Absolute Auditing Ltd even though their costs will increase next year. *Seconded Peter Hudson, Carried.*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The meeting called for nominations for:

President: Matt Juby and John Sanford nominated Eric Carter. No other nominations were received.

Eric Carter was duly elected.

Vice President: Only one nominated- John Sanford by Allan Gamble and Peter Hudson. Carried

Secretary: Only one nomination-Mike Lander by Eric Carter and Peter Hudson. Carried

Treasurer: Only one nomination- Matt Juby by John Sanford and Eric Carter. Carried

A discussion arose that according to our constitution we are to have eight committee members but that even though we could change the constitution at an AGM, provision was there to be able to co opt members for a particular task over a particular period of time. We decided to co opt if necessary.

Members Secretary: Bev Walker- nominated by Peter Hudson and Matt Juby

Committee Members: Rowan Christini- nominated by John Sanford and Eric Carter

Peter Hudson- nominated by Eric Carter and Mike Lander

Greg Ward-nominated by Eric Carter and Allan Gamble

Co opted members: Bruce Bogan because he is the spokesperson for the Tram Committee. Other co options will be decided at our next meeting in August.

John Sanford was asked to update us on the progress re applying to Charity Services and he spoke about the very valuable, voluntary support he was getting from Charles Verry. Currently we pay GST but do not pay income tax. The Society Act is way out of date and is under review and hopefully we will have our application in by later next month.

The Sports Fishing Council and LegaSea, were then asked to address our meeting about their work and to outline the issues facing amateur fishermen especially here in the Hauraki Gulf. Warren Maher spoke first introducing Steven Stanford from the Sports Fishing Council and Bob Gutsell from LegaSea.

Their concern was representing and giving Recreational Fishing a voice at the various Government hearings to do with proposed changes to the Fishing Quota System and the Proposed No Fishing Zones. Steve talked about the four main battles currently at play,

1. The Overall Fisheries Management System and making submissions to MPI;
2. The Waikato Regional Coastal Management Plan trying to ban Trawling, Dredging and Seine Netting as their current strategy needs working on;
3. The Hauraki Gulf Management Plan where corporates are pushing for Trawling corridors (The Walls Of Death) and
4. The Resource Management Act.

They are asking for members to individually join up with LegaSea and if they belong to a fishing club to join up with NZ Sports Fishing Council thereby supporting the fight for a voice.

Members asked questions and commented on the current fishing zones as being too impractical and suggested ways in which we could individually help. Eric thanked them for their presentation with Stan Lowe moving that our society donate \$5,000 to LegaSea as a one off gesture. Seconded by Lloyd Downing. The meeting supported this call with just one voting against it. Carried

General Business: Eric shared with everyone the Toilet Block issue and how we had tried to gain funding from the Tourism Fund only for it to be vetoed at the last minute by TCDC. Currently we are considering a Vaulted Toilets which do not require water as they can be sucked dry on a regular basis and a sanitiser takes care of hand cleaning. Council have agreed to take care of the daily maintenance but are looking to us to fund the building. The public use these facilities maybe up to 40% with our members the rest so the council should be heavily involved. This is still under discussion but our current set up is a Health and Safety issue. Perhaps we need to highlight the problem via the local newspapers. Certainly it should be a feature in our next newsletter. The meeting decided not to support spending money on new toilets at this stage.

Discussion then turned to the state of our parking area needing more fill, even matting underneath and smoothing out but this can only be done on the area that we currently have a license to occupy.

Matt talked about our current ramp fees and after some discussion it was decided to leave them as they are for this next year. Matt then moved that the honorariums for our executive members also remain the same (up to \$8,000), seconded by Eric Carter. Passed

Laurie Eagle passed a vote of thanks to the committee for all their hard work and Eric thanked everyone again for their attendance and input. The meeting closed at 12.10pm followed by refreshments and a catch up time.

Mike Lander, WBRS Secretary