

In this edition:

Message from our President

Committee

AGM

New Toilet proposal



I hope this letter find all members fit and well.

The past 12 months have been steady as it goes with regards to events at the Waikawau boat ramp and reserve. We have seen an increased membership due to dropping the membership fees over the last couple of years. The weather has treated us a more kindly, with only the need for our usual annual maintenance dredge last year. We also took the opportunity with better weather and put in some more drainage and sand in our carparks which have turned mud holes into a respectable area for parking once again.

Our financial position is strong with an increase in members (nearly 2,300 members) and with the strong interest rates and fewer outgoings we were able to get our retained earnings back to pre- Covid levels.

As usual our ramp would not run without the help of our fantastic ramp wardens. We had a couple of retirements over the last year...I would like to say put out to stud but at their age it is more like out to pasture. I would like us all to applaud them on serving the boat ramp over the years, no matter the weather. They say they all enjoyed their time as wardens and have lots of warden tales to tell.

We are looking again at an automated system for revenue collection and hope to have this in place as soon as possible.

As you will read further on in this newsletter, the issue of the toilets are on the table again. The reasons why we need to be a major part of the financial answer is also addressed. This will be discussed at the AGM.

Our **AGM this year is on Sunday the 21st July at the Thames Sailing Club at Tararu starting at 10 am sharp**. This is a good time to raise any issues or concerns you have with your committee. If you are unable to attend please contact us via email on [wbrs2000@gmail.com](mailto:wbrs2000@gmail.com) if you have anything you would like discussed in general business. Where possible, we will answer these on the day as well as follow up by return email. The financial statements are already posted on our website.

Again I have been supported by a great committee and would like to take this opportunity to thank them all.

Also a on behalf of all members a big thankyou to our local Iwi Ngati Tamatara, TCDC and Waikato Regional Council for their support and allowing us to run this fantastic facility for our members.

Nga Mihi.

Eric Carter

WBRS President

**Waikawau Boat Ramp Committee**

President: Eric Carter

Vice President: John Sanford

Secretary: Eileen Ward

Treasurer: Matt Juby

Members Secretary: Kirsty Behl

Committee Members: Bruce Bogun, Rowan Christini, Bill Malcolm, Greg Ward & Russell Waterhouse.

If you have any issues or questions, please feel free to drop us an email ([wbrs2000@gmail.com](mailto:wbrs2000@gmail.com)) and hopefully we can answer your queries.

## AGM – Thames Sailing Club, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024 10.00am

### AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Matters arising from minutes

President's Report

Treasurer's Financial Report

Election of Committee and Officers for 2024/25 / Election of Auditor

Confirmation of Honorariums

Confirmation of membership fees

General Business

- Toilets at Waikawau Reserve – see below

*Note – A copy of last years minutes and the 2024 draft financials are already on the home page of our website – [www.waikawauboastrap.co.nz](http://www.waikawauboastrap.co.nz). Please ensure you take the time to familiarise yourself with the minutes and financials prior to the AGM. If you have any questions about them, and are not attending the meeting, please send your questions to [wbrs2000@gmail.com](mailto:wbrs2000@gmail.com)*

### New toilets

The president raised the issue of WBRs financially supporting the replacement of the old toilets 3 years ago. Several members from the floor could not see why we were wanting to support funding as they believed it was, or should be, a Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC) funded project.

Since then, the facility has deteriorated further to the extent they now have gates to stop people using them when the facility fails. The major issue is the current water supply from the bore, as this has failed, and the toilets are using about 8,000 litres per week. The TCDC are having to truck water in at a cost of \$500 per truck load. The toilets need upgrading.

So you may say what has changed? First, the TCDC has secured funding through the Tourism Infrastructure Funding (TIF) and an additional grant to contribute to the replacement of the toilet facility. This funding will disappear if not used and is unlikely to be seen again. TCDC is not in a financial position to fund the balance of the facility. Secondly, our committee believes that our members, as big users of the facility, need to step up and help the TCDC to improve the facilities at Waikawau Reserve. Our contribution to the project is likely to use 30-40% of our current reserves, but we are proposing to keep the membership fee at the same levels.

We recently analysed our membership database to see where our members came from and below is a summary of this information. The origin of day pass users (based on our surveys) revealed similar results. For any funding of projects like these toilets, the costs are passed onto the local ward ratepayers. Only 14% of our members come from the entire TCDC rateable area and 13% from the Thames Ward. We think it is unreasonable to expect the Thames ward to fund a revamped facility that largely services out of district users.

District	Members
Waikato - TCDC	14.1%
Waikato - Hauraki	10.7%
Waikato - Matamata/Piako	19.3%
Waikato - Other	40.7%
Auckland	4.3%
Bay of Plenty	9.2%
Other	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
TCDC - Thames Ward only	13.0%

We have a licence to occupy with TCDC which only costs \$350 per year. This licence to occupy only encompasses the grass area between the access road to the ramp and State Highway 25 – probably parking for 70 or so boat trailers. We have been fortunate to be able to have use of additional reserve space which allows us up to about 280-300 parking spaces.

Once the land is transferred to Iwi ownership, we are unsure of our future but the settlement documents show that an operable boat ramp will be supplied for perpetuity for the public. We have a very good relationship with Iwi and we see no reason this will not continue.

We are hoping a key person from council will attend our AGM to answer any questions and present the council costings etc.