



Kia ora koutou katoa,

Warm greetings from your Executive Committee.

Summer is on the wane after the one of what seemed like one of the busiest holiday seasons in many years.

With Easter now just a few days away, some of us are looking forward to the slower pace of life once our city-dwelling neighbours and visitors settle back into their off-season routines.

- **Whangarei District Council Long-Term Plan**

It was great to see a good turn-out at the WDC consultation meeting at the Ngunguru Hall on the 3 March. WDC CEO, Rob Forlong, was joined by the Mayor, our local councillors and council officials. He addressed the 40 – 50 people who turned out to hear about the council's Long Term Plan. You can review the plan at: ([District Plan 2021 - 2031](#)).

It was also good to see people raising matters of concern to them. Attendees were encouraged by Rob to make submissions on their specific concerns. He assured everyone that all submissions are legally required to be read. They will be assessed and presented to Councillors for consideration.

One of the themes from the meeting was that the community could be kept better informed. While Council do endeavour to keep people informed via Facebook ([@WhangareiDC](#)), and their website (<https://www.wdc.govt.nz/News-and-events/Have-your-say/LTP-consultation-2021-2031>), some people felt communication could be better. Those of us who still rely on the postal service are unfortunately no longer in the loop – a sign of the times perhaps.

- **Join Us**

What came across clearly to your Executive Committee at the WDC meeting is how important it is that we represent all demographic groups in our society. One of the best ways for us to get to know you is for you to join TCR&RA. Our membership fee is just \$5-00 per year.

Knowing you and your views on important issues is essential for us as a representative organisation.

We've attached our contact card to this Newsletter. If you fill it in and mail it to us, you'll be on our contact list and we'll keep you informed as we are able, as to what is going on at Council and in the neighbourhood. If you include \$5.00 you will be a full member, and this will also give you the right to vote on matters concerning the Association. Payment can be made in cash or by direct credit on-line to the account nominated in the invoice included with the Newsletter.

Please don't send cheques - the banks will no longer be honouring them from May 1, 2021.

- **MahingaKai/Community Garden**

Our Ngunguru Mahinga Kai/Community Garden is growing! We had an inaugural plant last month during the first spell of rain, so our seedlings got a great start. We were gifted some sub-tropical edibles from Twin Falls Nursery that were gratefully received and quickly planted. We also have a team from Bunnings coming this week to build us a few raised garden beds, plant some more fruit trees and help us clear some noxious weeds from the neighbouring bush.

There is now a committee up and running but we would welcome a few more members if anyone were interested. Our secretary is Janet Sturgess and you can contact her/us at ngungurumahingakai@gmail.com if you would like more information.

- **Community Survey**

Another way for the Association to understand our community is by asking you. We have recently been granted funding through the Ministry of Social Development's Community Capability and Resilience Fund to undertake a community survey.

We are in the process of contracting independent researchers to support us in this endeavour and will soon be able to invite the community to participate.

We're not aware of a survey of this scope having been undertaken before on the Coast. We hope that it will give us a current and comprehensive view of what matters to the residents and ratepayers of the Tutukaka Coast.

Survey findings will be used to inform activities of the Association, and others who have a desire to support our community.

- **Our New Look**

We are in the process of developing our new website. It will be launched as soon as practicable and will be a key tool for us to communicate with you and the wider community. Our new logo is featured in this newsletter.

- **Freedom Camping Bylaw**

The amended Whangarei District Council Public Places Bylaw has recently been released.

The Executive Committee made a short submission generally in support of the proposed continuation or increased restrictions on camping in public places on the Coast. We are pleased to see that by and large, the proposed restrictions have been adopted, and will come into effect from October 2021.

The following are the places on the Coast where camping is prohibited or restricted.

Prohibited Areas on the Tutukaka Coast:

- Morrison Road Carpark – Matapouri
- McAuslin Road – Sandy Bay
- Ngunguru School
- Tutukaka Marina Reserve (The Village Green)
- Western Reserve – Whangaumu Bay (22 Whangaumu Street)

Restricted Areas on the Tutukaka Coast (Self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles):

- Kowharewa Bay – Designated site only; Prohibited between 18 December and 8 February each summer.
- Wehiwehi Road Carpark – Matapouri; Designated site only; Prohibited between 18 December and 8 February each summer.
- Ngunguru Library – Designated Site only (year-round)

- Whangaumu Reserve (Main reserve, Eastern end of beach) – Designated site only; Prohibited between 18 December and 8 February each summer.

Restricted Areas on the Tutukaka Coast (All Camping):

- Sandy Bay – Toilet Block Carpark/Grassed Area; Designated site only; Prohibited between 18 December and 8 February each summer.
- Wooley’s Bay - Designated site only; Prohibited between 18 December and 8 February each summer.

The summer season will run from 18 December through 8 February each summer. Some compensatory camping sites have been added in other areas so that visitors will still be able to camp overnight without incurring charges, just not in areas with high day-traffic volumes and extremely limited parking facilities.

For the complete by-law and amended schedules, please see: [Camping-in-public-places-by-law-2017](#)

- **Ngunguru Seawall**

Whangarei District Council has been revising the design of plans for the Ngunguru seawall prior to being re-submitting them to the Northland Regional Council for resource consent. We understand that the revised design will be consulted on prior to implementation. However, we don’t expect implementation to commence before September 2021 at the earliest.

- **Neighbourhood Support**

The Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) street group wanting to install surveillance cameras at points along Whangaumu Street and Whangaumu Bay beach have bought the required equipment and are presently clarifying technical issues with the equipment installer. One delaying factor is the WDC’s reluctance to allow one of the cameras to be mounted on a power pole at the eastern end of the beach, but it is expected that the cameras will be operating within the next few weeks.

The Association remains interested to hear from residents and especially from members, whether joining NSNZ with the objective of setting up local “street groups” would be seen as a positive development for TCR&RA and for the community. For more information visit (<https://www.neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz/>)

Just a reminder that if you have any concerns (non-urgent) about vandalism or community safety your first port of call is the Whangarei District Council (Phone: 09 430 4200 - 0800 932 463 or email: mailroom@wdc.govt.nz).

If you see people breaking the law, call either 111 in a critical emergency, or the police non-emergency reporting line 105. Remember, a photograph is worth a thousand words, but don’t put yourself at risk in order to get one.

- **Puke Kopipi.**

Robyn Skerten advises, although quite a bit of restoration work has been done following last year’s heavy rains, much remains to be done.

Working Bees have been arranged for Saturday’s 2 – 5 pm on March 27, April 10, May 15 and June 12.

Volunteers are always welcome. Please let Robyn know ([Puke Kopipi Facebook..](#))if you’re planning to help so that she can organise efficient use of your time.

- **Ngunguru Sandspit Protection Society.**

Over the last 12 months groups of volunteers have gone across to the sandspit to try and control and eradicate a variety of invasive weeds and plants. There is a significant “jungle” of privet that has been poisoned and some already cut down and literally thousands of seedlings pulled by hand. In addition, thousands of seed heads from the Formosa Lily have been gathered before they spread their seeds even further. The contract to try and rid the area of sharp rush and pampas grass has progressed slowly at this stage.

One of the main targets is to acquire the remaining four titles at the southern end of the spit on Whakariora Mountain and negotiations continue with the owners. Since the AGM in August 2020, there have been some particularly good additions to the committee and there is growing optimism for the years ahead. Anybody wishing to become a member or help the S.W.A.T. (Specialist Weed Assistance Team) deal to the nasties on the spit, just give Ron Ford a call (0212156343), or look up their website (s.w.a.tutukaka@gmail.com) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=swat%20tutukaka>).

You won't be disappointed as the involvement is rewarding and there is good camaraderie.

- **Tutukaka Marina**

The Tutukaka Marina Management Trust (TMMT) held its AGM on 1 March 2021. This is the meeting at which the annual accounts are presented to the trustees, scrutinised by them and approved (or not). It is also the meeting at which the Chair is elected each year. This year, the only nomination received was on behalf of the retiring Chair, John Healy, who was therefore re-elected unopposed.

The TMMT trustees are John Healy (Chairman), John Kallu, Mike Hodson, Pete Saul, Ron Lansdowne, Syd Poffley, Terry Harris, Cr. Greg Martin (Ex officio – appointed by WDC), and Lester Sherman (Ex Officio– appointed by TCR&RA).

If you have any queries or concerns regarding TMMT's activities, please communicate them, in the first instance to Dylan Lease at dylan@tutukaka.co.nz, or to Lester Sherman at lester.r.sherman@gmail.com.

- **Update from Cr Amy McDonald - Northland Regional Council**

Kia ora Koutou!

After the dramatic March 5th Tsunami evacuation, what did you learn for next time? It was a good reminder of our personal responsibility to be well prepared, and our community responsibility to support others. There are many stories of locals helping each other to evacuate, and hill-top residents opening their homes and providing food and water. That strong community spirit is gold during emergencies, keep up the good work!

Have your say on our draft Long-Term Plan: The draft NRC Long-Term Plan (10yr plan) shows you how we propose to spend your regional rates for the next decade. This draft plan tackles current environmental challenges like freshwater quality and protecting biodiversity, and also prepares us for growing issues like climate change. The plan should reflect what is important to the people of Northland, so please check it out and let us know what you think.

The draft plan documents and the options for online and email feedback are all on the NRC website www.nrc.govt.nz. There are also 'Have Your Say' events in Whangarei at NRC, 36 Water Street, on 23rd March at 4.30pm – 6.30pm and on 24th March at 9am – 11am. I will be there to listen so come along and share your thoughts.

The annual NRC Whakamanawa a Taiao Environmental Awards are coming up – a great way to celebrate our hard-working environmental volunteers. We are seeking 2021 nominations now, closing in early April. If you know of a community group that is working hard caring for our natural environment here in Northland, please

put them forward. We have lots of dedicated volunteers out there doing the environmental mahi, so let's get them nominated!

Jobs at NRC: If helping protect our environment sounds like a good job for you, then keep an eye on the NRC website for job vacancies – there are new opportunities coming up regularly.

As always, I'm happy to hear from you if you have questions or issues you'd like to raise. Any community groups who would like me to attend a meeting as your NRC representative, just get in touch and we can book it in. Email to amym@nrc.govt.nz, or find me on facebook: [Amy Macdonald](#) –

Nga mihi

Councillor Amy Macdonald (NRC)

Disclaimer – this is my personal opinion and not that of the Northland Regional Council

- **Update from Cr Anna Murphy – Whangarei District Council**

Hi everyone,

Tena koutou katoa

Council is always working simultaneously on a multitude of projects, plan and bylaw reviews, response to government reforms, plus managing normal council business, never a dull day at council.

I do want to focus on one issue on which I strongly believe council needs to be doing more - Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

We are proposing in the Long-Term Plan to allocate \$3.7 million (\$370,000 per year over 10 years) to fund climate adaptation work. However, we will need more funding to take action on projects that have been identified in our Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Strategy. If you think we need to take more action on climate change, please make a submission supporting council to do more and allocate \$7.4 million (\$740,000 per year over 10 years). As a comparison council is also proposing a \$47 million dollar increase in budget for road sealing and \$23 million for a new conference centre. What should our priorities be?

The increase in frequency and intensity of droughts in a changing climate is of deep concern for New Zealand society and economy, not least for stakeholders in the primary sector. Drought intensity is affected by increasing temperature, which in turn increases moisture loss through higher evapotranspiration rates and, also, by the lack of moderate intensity precipitation to recharge aquifers and replenish soil moisture. We are already seeing this year on year.

Also, in this space, the Climate Commission are consulting with the public from 1 February - 28 March 2021 on a draft of their first package of advice to Government on the actions it must take to reach net-zero by 2050, and ensure a transition to a low-emissions, climate resilient and thriving Aotearoa.

The key point is that is that there are several different possible future climate change scenarios, and they all depend on the changes that we make in our everyday lives, now! Get engaged, be passionate, have faith that small actions add up to make a big difference. Plant a tree, walk to the shop, hang your washing on the line, turn off the light, buy second hand, put your food scraps in the compost! and thanks to all of you out there who are doing amazing things to help.

Cr Anna Murphy (WDC)

- **Ngunguru Pedestrian Crossings.**

We have learned that last year's petition to council, requesting zebra crossings outside Salt Air Café, near the Ngunguru shops, and near the Shoebridge Crescent/Ngunguru Road intersection has resulted in council approving a zebra crossing near the shops and approving, in principle, a KEA crossing in Ngunguru Road near the school. As the community has not been consulted on specific issues such as parking (likely, several spaces will be lost), we suggest that those who will be affected by this, contact council, or make submissions, to have your input into the zebra crossing design. Council will work with the school and community to see whether a KEA crossing could be a solution for that area. Staff recommended to Council that the crossings should be built at the same time as the speed limit review for the Tutukaka Coast catchment is undertaken which would be later in 2021 or perhaps not until 2022. So, there is still time to be heard.

- **Calling All Volunteers!**

For those of you with time on your hands, or who feel they want to do something for the community but don't know what, or if you just need more contact with people than you currently enjoy, the Association is looking for:

- A Web Master
- A planning buff, to review council's plans for projects that will affect our region.
- A writer, or writers, for our newsletter, but also for writing and organising contributions to our new website.

- **Your committee members:**

Jonathan Rishworth, our former Chairman, resigned at our February 2021 meeting due to his professional work commitments detracting from the time he could allocate to us. We thank him for his contribution since September 2019. Our revised officer list follows.

Aussie Malcolm (Co-Chair Governance - 021 922 679) Ron Ford (Co-Chair Communications - 021 215 6343)

Rebecca Williams (Secretary - 021 862 250) Lester Sherman (Treasurer - 027 233 5835)

Rose Wellington-Tana (021 115 3499) Melissa Gilbert-Smith (Mahinga Kai-021 361 124)

Mark Pivac (mark@fourwindsfoundation.org.nz)

How to contact and engage with us:

Email tutukakaratepayers@hotmail.com or by phone on any of the numbers listed above.

Association meetings – These are held at 7.00pm every second Monday of the month at the Tutukaka Marina Office. The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th April.

If you wish to attend meetings and/or raise an issue with the Executive Committee, please contact the secretary in the first instance.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with others who you feel might be interested.

Until next time we wish you well. We are keen to serve this community's best interests, so are happy to receive any feedback you have.

Ngā mihi nui

Executive Committee