



Kia ora koutou katoa,

And Happy New Year from your Executive Committee.

Last year presented numerous challenges. 2021 is a year many will be glad is behind us. However we were able to make some progress on behalf of our Association.

As well as our regular ongoing activities, we have launched our new website with our fresh new logo. We also completed our community research project, and after a few Covid related delays were able to host two feedback sessions to share the findings of this. Our website and the findings of the community survey are key tools towards delivering on our future work. More on this later....

2022 has certainly started with fresh challenges. Cyclone Cody has been threatening our coast, and our Marina has been hammered by the recent Tsunami. Our hearts go out to those who experienced damage and hope that this can be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. And Omicron has made its way into numerous communities already.

Despite this, we have proven that we are a resilient community, and we'll work together and support each other through whatever 2022 throws at us.

- **Our new website - www.tutukakacoast.org**

We encourage you to check out our new website. As well as the usual news and information about us and others on the coast, it includes a Community Directory page.

This page provides an opportunity for local groups and businesses to create a listing to share. If you, or a group you are involved with, would like to promote yourselves, simply fill in a listing form via the website.

The Community Directory also includes an events calendar. Again, if you or someone you know has an event coming up that you wish to list, or you wish to check out the calendar of events simply visit the site.

As the website is new, we are still building its content so if you have any feedback or information to share, please contact us.

- **Community research project**

We were thrilled with the response to our community research project. We have been able to gather a wealth of information about what is important to our community, insights into people's experiences of COVID-19 lockdowns, and emergency evacuations. Respondents shared lots of ideas for making life better on the Tutukaka Coast.

This is really exciting, and we are now focussed on responding to these findings.

At our two feedback sessions we gained positive feedback for undertaking the research and support for a number of priorities and couple of key initiatives. These are;

- **Focus Groups** – We are now inviting people to join us in forming the first of our focus groups. We are calling for volunteers to form groups to develop and co-ordinate initiatives that will respond to the priorities areas identified through our community research. Based on the survey findings, it is likely these groups will focus on road safety, community safety and well-being, and the environment.

Please register your interest with us (secretary.tutukakacoast@gmail.com) if you would like to give some time, knowledge and skills to our community.

We plan to bring our initial group of volunteers together sometime during February/March to work through our priorities and start planning our first projects/initiatives.

- **Community Forums** – We have now established a regular opportunity for members of the community to come to speak with us to share their community concerns or ideas.

The Community Forum allows for up to two 15 minutes presentation/discussion slots every third or fourth month at our Executive Committee meeting. On these occasions we start our Executive Committee meetings up to half an hour earlier (from 6.30pm) to enable members of the community to come and talk with us.

If you or someone you know wishes to engage with us through these forums, please contact the secretary to book in a time and identify any requirements.

At our first Community Forum in December 2021 we heard from Nora Shayeb who spoke to us about the impact of the use of pesticides on people and the environment.

Following Nora's presentation and discussion, the Executive Committee agreed that we would endeavour to facilitate a meeting with the local council's and representatives of the Northland Toxic Awareness Group.

- **Annual General Meeting**

Despite COVID-19 threatening to derail us again, we finally held our AGM on Saturday 6th November 2021 at the Ngunguru Hall. Thanks to all of you who were able to attend. It is important to us to see you and get your feedback on our activities and progress.

A warm welcome to our new Executive Committee members – Linda Donaldson and Jenny Hammond – who were elected to join the committee.

Message from the Chair:

The diversity of our current executive committee is a definite strength, and the relationships that we have collectively developed is a good reflection of this. We currently have strong relationships with both the Whangarei District Council (primarily through Councillor Anna Murphy) and also the Northland Regional Council (through Councillor Amy McDonald), and there are several examples recently which demonstrate this.

As has been described in the newsletter, we also have connections with the Marina, Civil Defence, Mahinga Kai (check it out as it really is showing great progress and has a bright future), Ngunguru Sandspit Society (NSaPs), the Ngunguru Sports Society, plus several other prominent groups. And as the move towards the establishment of the Focus Groups gathers momentum, this can only gain traction towards one of our main goals, which is to enhance and help develop a better and safer community.

We are a growing community and having established the priorities from our community research project, which exceeded our wildest expectations, the basis is there to make significant gains in this goal. That said, it will only actually happen if the community does step up with us and the sharing of this latest TCR&RA newsletter with friends and neighbours who may not yet be members, will further our cause. A simple “forward” and click and you’ve done the community a favour.

As with all community groups, be they sporting, service or social, there is always the awareness of retaining executive membership, and we are very lucky to have replaced resignations in the last two years with our most recent three committee members. As meetings only last 1 ½ hours - on the second Monday of every month at 7.00 p.m. in the Marina Office (above Pizzeria at the Marina), you’d always be welcome to come along and get a feel for the way we operate and maybe see yourself as being able to contribute. Give it some thought.

Ron Ford – (co-Chair).

- **Ngunguru Seawall**

The repair of the Ngunguru Seawall is on the calendar this year. Some members of the Executive Committee and local hapu recently met with representatives from Whangarei District Council to do a walk-through of the current plans.

Essentially, consents have been granted for the repair/rebuild of the seawall from the boat ramp at the Kakariki Road end through to its end just short of the one lane bridge near Waiotoi Rd.

- There will be some rationalisation of the steps/ramps. Damaged ones will be removed, some will be replaced and others will be re-positioned with wider steps.
- Work will be needed around the roots of some of the established trees along the wall. Further consents will be needed for this, to ensure the appropriate care and treatments. Some exotic plants will be removed.
- Some of the seats will need to be temporarily removed during the work, however these will be restored.
- Other developments of the foreshore will not be undertaken.

Once the plans and timetable are further advanced, WDC and we will be able to share more information with you and the wider community.

- **Mahinga Kai/Community Garden**

In September 2020, a vision of a community garden in Ngunguru became a reality.

The Ngunguru Mahinga Kai Community Gardens, behind the church in Waiotoi Road, is now well established and producing fruit and vegetables for our local community.

It was initially made possible with funding from the Kia Ora Fund at Mahi Tahi Hauora, who support community projects that address food security, and the Community Capability and Resilience Fund from the Ministry of Social Development.

These funds enabled the purchase of garden tools, compost bins, raised seed beds and a water tank.

The progress of the garden would not have been possible without the support of the Tutukaka Coast Play Centre, whose water we have been using, and the Tutukaka Coast Community Church who have allowed us to divert their storm water to the new water tank.

Support from local business is greatly appreciated. In particular, the Mahinga Kai group acknowledge the generosity of Fonterra for their donation of compost and Wal's Water and Colin Gibson Plumbing, in installing the new water tank.

Volunteers meet at the garden every Monday and Friday at 10am, and anyone wanting to join is more than welcome to come along and see what's going on.

If you would like to keep up to date with activities at the gardens, visit their Facebook page Ngunguru Mahinga Kai Community Gardens. Click on the link below to see some of the mahi and progress.

<https://vimeo.com/655998798/18c1e4e1df>

Any queries please contact Jenny at ngungurumahingakai@gmail.com

- **Puke Kopipi.**

Happy New Year from Puke Kopipi!

From the top of Puke Kopipi there are awesome views. To the east, the estuary, Pii Manu the Sandspit, and Ngunguru Bay. Taking shape to the west, there's our Planting Zone for the 2022 Winter.

Thank you to all those who appreciate Puke Kopipi, the hill we are planting behind the Sports Complex.

Over Summer, as you wander up, we would like you to act as Kaitiaki, encouraging young people to keep to the main track, respect our plantings, refrain from alcohol and smoking debris, and be mindful of fire danger for Puke Kopipi.

Please see <https://www.facebook.com/RestorePukeKopipi/> for information on the restoration of our local landmark.

Nga mihi nui, noho ora mai

Robyn Skerten

- **Ngunguru Skatepark**

Plans to provide seating and picnic tables at the Ngunguru skate park had to be re-designed to accommodate the Women's Rugby World Cup, during which the Ngunguru sports complex field will be used as a training pitch. The picnic tables that have been in use over the summer will have to be removed when the field is in use.



A new site for the facilities has been identified but this required additional funds to be sourced for a deck upon which the seating and picnic tables could be mounted. The funding for this project has been sourced, and construction will commence early in February 2022.

A separate project to provide a shade-sail is presently in the funding process and will hopefully be completed well in time for next summer.

The Ngunguru Skatepark Management Group acknowledges support from the Oxford Sports Trust, the Whangarei District Council, Lions Tutukaka, Sunrise Rotary Club of Whangarei and our Association which has acted as the funding conduit for the project.

Please see <https://www.facebook.com/Ngunguru-Skatepark-354778722236488/> for upcoming events.

- **Tutukaka Marina**

The Marina suffered extensive damage as a result of the tsunami-like tidal surge that occurred on Saturday 16 January 2022, particularly the fuel jetty, the end of Pier D and Pier L, with a number of vessels sinking and several more damaged.

At the time of writing, all of the sunken vessels have been re-floated or removed from the water for transport to repair facilities by road and debris has been removed from the channel and between the piers. Normal vessel movements were allowed to resume from Tuesday 25 January 2022.

Diesel is now available from the Fuel Jetty. Petrol will not be available for several weeks still. A number of vessels whose berths were destroyed have been relocated to berths owned by the Marina; other vessel owners have made private arrangements to berth or moor at other locations while the Marina is under repair.

The public boat ramp was re-opened on Saturday January 29, 2022.

The Marina parking area between the Fishing Club and the beach (including beach access) has been designated as a construction site until further notice and access is restricted to marina staff, contractors and vessel owners until further notice.

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! Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and a relaxing start to 2022, and that you're feeling calm and prepared as we face the emerging Omicron outbreak. I'm feeling reassured after planning with my neighbours and a few close friends for how we will keep in touch and support each other when we need to isolate.

On the 10th January I joined the fundraising cruise from Tutukaka to Ngunguru sandspit to view Whakairiora maunga and the base of the sandspit – the areas that the Ngunguru Sandspit Protection Society is seeking to purchase and protect. It was an awesome evening; we had some spectacular dolphin viewing and I enjoyed many good conversations with keen conservationists in the community.

Speaking of conservation, I encourage you to get involved in the current Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) review of the Northland scallop fishery management. In 2021 I had a lot of people contact me with their concerns about the depleted state of their local scallop beds, and recent reports from NIWA and MPI have confirmed the issues. Right now MPI are consulting on three options for sustainability measures for the Northland scallop fishery – you can view everything on the MPI website:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-sustainability-measures-2022-april-round/> (see Scallop SCA 1). If we better protect the populations and their habitat now, we can ensure our kids and grandkids can experience healthy scallop beds in the future. So please do go online and make a submission by 8th February.

I'm aware that the civil defence and NEMA warning systems and responsiveness for the Tsunami event on the 15th January are of great concern to the community. I'll be following-up with our NRC Civil Defence and Emergency Management team to discuss the complexity of that specific event, and to understand how we can make improvements for the future.

As we look ahead into February and March we all need to prioritise looking after each other, taking it easy on ourselves, and keeping safe. If anyone reading this is feeling isolated and in need of support I'm very happy for you to make contact by email– amym@nrc.govt.nz.

As always, I'm happy to hear from you about environmental issues.

Ngā mihi nui,

Councillor Amy Macdonald
Northland Regional Council

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

amym@nrc.govt.nz

<https://www.nrc.govt.nz/>

To report pollution and environmental incidents call the 24/7 environmental hotline: 0800 504 639

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

Hi everyone, Tena koutou katoa.

Thank you so much to the TCRR committee for putting out these newsletters, it's such a great opportunity to reach out to you all and say a big hello! Kia ora!

We are back into work at council, considering submissions made to our Animal Bylaw and preparing our annual plan for the 2021-2022 year. It's great to be back into the mahi.

On a local note, thank you to Ces Burke (Sports complex) and Lester Sherman (TCRR) and the skatepark group for their successful application to the WDC community fund for a deck and shade sail at the Ngunguru skatepark. It will be a fantastic addition and add some great amenity for our families.

Excellent also to see the new roof going on the Ngunguru Hall! Cheers Larry and team, you do an absolutely brilliant job of looking after this valued community asset.

I also want to make a special acknowledgement to the Tutukaka Marina management team Dylan Lease and Roger Stephenson and all of you who have been working so hard to get everything repaired and operational again at the marina, a huge thank you on behalf of WDC and our community. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou.

Excitingly we are about to get Waiotoi Rd sealed from the start of the gravel up to the Pukenui/Waiotoi split. This is a big deal as we only seal a very limited amount of Kms every year and the waiting list of requests from across the district is very long. Hurrah!!

Another project I know nearly all of you are concerned with is the speed management and pedestrian safety in our coastal villages. There are three different projects involved:

- 1) Speed limit review Tutukaka Coast, council project 2022-2023. (Whangarei Heads Catchment is currently being worked on)
- 2) Ngunguru Pedestrian Crossing (shops) Council project 2021-2022 (project is currently underway)
- 3) Ngunguru school zone electronic signs council project 2021-2022.

I just wanted to highlight a couple of very important new roles at WDC that we created last year which have now been filled. One for a waste minimisation officer and the other is a sustainability officer, moving our council in a very exciting direction and working towards minimising our carbon footprint. We are also currently interviewing for a climate adaptation expert. This is in response to the communities' request for more action in these areas. I'm also excited about our Housing Strategy which is the first co-governance project partnership between council and hapu. Ka mau te wehi! We will have made a solid start and perhaps even completed it by the end of this year.

Election Year! Council is waiting for the Electoral Commissions decision on whether we will keep the ward system for council elections or change to a district wide system later this year...the decision should be made later in February! We also wait to see how government will proceed with the Three waters reform and other planning reforms. A big year ahead.

Thanks everyone for being such a wonderful community.
Be well, and make the most of living in paradise!

- **Your committee members:**

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) Jenny Hammond (Mahinga Kai – 022 109 1640)
James Walsh (027 3636041) Linda Donaldson (021 562 510)

How to contact and engage with us:

Email *secretary.tutukakacoast@gmail.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 14th February 2022.

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