

This was followed by Q&A with candidates, with a focus on local issues.

We extend a big thanks to all who attended and to those who assisted in making sure the event ran smoothly on the night.

Now of course voting is now over and we have a new Mayor in Vince Cocurullo (WDC). Our local WDC councillors are Scott McKenzie and Gavin Benney. Amy McDonald was returned as our representative on NRC. Deb Harding and Phoenix Ruka were the successful Maori ward candidates. Congratulations to all.

We also thank departing councillors Greg Martin and Anna Murphy for their service and commitment to the Tutukaka Coast.

Input from our local councillors has been a regular and valued part of our Executive Committee meetings and we hope this continues.

Our new Mayor Vince Cocurullo attended our Executive Meeting on Monday 14th November 2022. Our local representatives Cr Scott McKenzie and Cr Gavin Benney, and Northland Regional Council representative Cr Amy McDonald were also in attendance.

We heard how the new Council teams were settling in, and had a productive discussion on how we can work together to find solutions to the issues impacting the Coast.

- **Women's Rugby World Cup**

It was a really special experience for the Coast to host a number of teams over the course of the Women's Rugby World Cup event. From all reports it all went extremely smoothly for the teams and all those involved.

Local youngsters (and the not so young) were all smiles as they were able to engage with the players and coaches. The facilities at the Ngunguru Sports Complex were perfect.

The Executive Committee would like to acknowledge and congratulate Pete Mullenger, all the team and volunteers at the Ngunguru Sports Complex for bringing a slice of the event to the Coast and providing incredible memory making opportunities for our local community.

AND of course CONGRATULATIONS to the Black Ferns – World Champions!!

- **Ngunguru Seawall Restoration**

Thank you to those of you who provided feedback to WDC on their plans for the seawall restoration. We know many of you did either directly or through the community feedback sessions in August/September.

WDC have been refining the plans with local feedback in mind, and we have advised that the detailed design is nearing completion with good outcomes on the steps working with the local supplier.

There is some further work being done on the transition area between the grass and the top of the rocks.

WDC planners are now finalising the consent work for construction around trees and confirming whether any further work is required around archaeology and working with the local Hapu.

The aim is to get the work out to tender as soon as the consents are in place and the design is finalised. Work will get underway at the New Year after the school holidays.

- **Mahinga Kai/Community Garden**

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed Mondays and Fridays 10.30am – 12noon. The garden is situation behind the Church on Waiatoi Road, Ngunguru.

If you'd like to learn more about the Community Garden/ Mahinga Kai and the Community Compost Hub, you can check them out via their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/323618338925167/> or by contacting Jenny: jennyhammond995@gmail.com

- **Ngunguru Skatepark**

The Ngunguru Skatepark “pavilion” was completed in September with the fixing of the last 28 “skateboards” to the safety barrier. Skateboarders and scooter riders were encouraged to paint their own designs and volunteers then attached these unique designs onto the fence.

Congratulations to those involved, especially to Vicki Graham (better known as the lady who paints the Ngunguru Notice Board). She’s also been inspirational in encouraging the painting of the tables and has helped create a very attractive environment. Well done everybody – a large number of volunteers have put in a huge amount of work completing the staging, sheltered area and the fencing. The new facilities and look of the skatepark is a great credit to the Ngunguru Skatepark Management Group, who manage this asset with support from the Ngunguru Sports Complex and our Association.



New developments at the Ngunguru Skatepark

The next phase of the skatepark development is a pump track that will run from the village end of the soccer field towards the golf course along the edge of the current facility. Funds were raised from the Skatepark Day held on Saturday 5th November. These are sufficient to commence the preliminary planning and engineering required to develop a detailed design, project plan and budget as the basis for raising the several hundred thousand dollars that it will cost to build.

- **Messages from our new Whangarei District Councillors**

Councillor Gavin Benney

Thank you to all those for your support in the recent election. I look forward to working with Scott in the next 3 years to advance the Tutukaka coast area. It's time money was spent outside of Whangarei city.

What I will be seeking is a priority list of issues and projects that we can put into WDC's long term plan for early funding.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts

Cr Gavin Benney

Councillor Scott McKenzie

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I'm Scott McKenzie your newly elected Councillor for the Hikurangi Coastal ward of the Whangārei District Council. Cr. Gavin Benney was the other successful candidate from our ward; we have already developed an excellent working relationship and will share responsibilities in serving the community in a ward that spans over 1000km². I'm very grateful to have received such support in the campaign and will do my utmost to be a responsive councillor with open ears to the issues and aspirations of the community. A huge thank you to my predecessor Anna Murphy for her help and the contribution she has made over the six years of service.

The elected councillors are currently going through an intensive induction process to get us all up to speed on current issues, how local government operates and to get to know each other better. I am heartened to see three young elected members (under 40 at the election), two Māori ward councillors, a diverse range of backgrounds and a balance of experience and youth at the table. I acknowledge that there are fewer women on this council than the previous term so that is an area to work on as a district, however I feel very strongly that this group will work well as a team in the best interests of the community and make robust, considered decisions for district's future.

I am excited to have been appointed WDC's representative on the regional Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee, the Deputy Chair of the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee with a focus on RMA reform. I am also on the Infrastructure, Community Development, Exemptions and Objections, and Civic Honours Selection committees. The Te Kārearea committee and representatives is still being established.

The Mayor has indicated I will be appointed to the Tutukaka Marina Trust and the Ngunguru Retirement Village Trust, which I look forward - to being a local. I will also attend TCR&RA meetings and share attendance at the Hikurangi Business Association and Hikurangi Friendship House meetings with Cr. Benny. I am also available to meet with other community groups or chat with anyone, my email is cr.mckenzie@wdc.govt.nz, feel free to get in touch. If you need to report an issue, the most efficient way is to do it on the council website here: <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Council/Contact-us/Report-it>, and that way you can then track the progress of the issue online.

Ngāmihiuia koutou katoa.

Cr Scott McKenzie

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

Kia ora Koutou,

It's great to be re-elected, thank you very much for your support. We are currently in a busy phase of reorganisation and induction as our new council gets established. I'm enjoying getting to know my newly elected colleagues both on the NRC and also on the WDC, and although it's my second term I'm still learning a lot as we move through these early weeks.

The recent storms and associated flooding and damage to roads have been a stark reminder of the work we have ahead – particularly in the space of climate change adaptation and mitigation. I'm looking forward to continuing my work leading the climate change portfolio for NRC and working closely with the district councils to get more priority actions funded and underway. We've seen how vulnerable our roads are under extreme rainfall events, disrupting daily life and creating a huge backlog of expensive repair work - so preparing our communities and infrastructure for a future with more frequent storms is a crucial role for local councils this term.

When the rain pours down we also see the brown sediment plumes heading down the rivers and into the sea, highlighting the importance of the catchment restoration work we need to do here in Northland. As part of the government's commitment to water quality improvement NRC is working on a Freshwater Plan change, updating rules and policies to halt degradation and start fixing our waterways. This is a massive undertaking, with big implications for our landscape. NRC will require input from tangata whenua, landowners, and all communities, to find balance and get the right policies in place for our region. Over the coming months I'll keep you informed about what's happening and how you can participate. The NRC website has up-to-date information and links to read the reports and join the conversation about water quality.

I'm committed to meeting with local groups to keep in touch and hear your concerns and ideas. I will attend the Tutukaka Coast Ratepayers and Resident Association meetings regularly, and welcome invites from other community groups. As always I'm happy to hear from you, please just get in touch - amym@nrc.govt.nz, or find me on facebook: [Amy Macdonald – NRC Councillor](#).

Ngā mihi nui,
Councillor Amy Macdonald
Northland Regional Council

Northland Regional Councillor Amy Macdonald

amym@nrc.govt.nz

www.nrc.govt.nz

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

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

- **Local project to restore kelp forests of the Tutukaka Harbour**

Ocean Spirit – Te Wairua o te Moananui are leading a collaborative project to regenerate the kelp forests of the Tutukaka Harbour.

The project aims to set up a community-based marine laboratory/education facility in Church Bay for the propagation of the kelp seedlings and other marine focussed regeneration activities.

To learn more you can attend a public presentation at **7pm Sunday 11th December 2022 at the Tutukaka Marina office**. Or visit <https://oceanspirit.org/kelp-regeneration.project/>

Weather permitting the first batch of “kelplings” will be place at selected sites around Philip Island on 12th December 2022.

- **Reporting issues to local Councils**

It is really easy to report issues to our local councils and we encourage you to do this if you have a concern or notice something that needs attention.

Whangarei District Council – visit their website <https://www.wdc.govt.nz> and you will find “Report It” option on their home page. Alternatively you can phone on 09 430 4200 or 0800 932 463

Northland Regional Council – visit their website <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/> or phone on 09 470 1200 or 0800 002 004 (General Enquiries) or 0800 504 639 (Environmental Hotline).

You can always let us know if an issue is not resolved or you would like some help reporting issues.

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

We encourage you to visit our website if you haven’t already. It provides information about the Association, and news and information about us and others on the Coast.

We’d particularly like to encourage the use of our Community Directory page.

You can add a listing for your local group or business. It also features an events calendar. 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.

- **Your committee members:**

Ron Ford (Chair - 021 215 6343)

Rebecca Williams (Secretary - 021 862 250)

Lester Sherman (Acting Treasurer - 027 233 5835)

Rose Wellington-Tana (021 115 3499)

Jenny Hammond (Mahinga Kai – 022 109 1640)

Linda Donaldson (021 562 510)

Mark Murray (021 516 391)

Rodger Murphy (tba)

How to contact and engage with us:

Email secretary@tutukakacoast.org 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 meetings will be held on Monday 12th December 2022 and Monday 13th February 2023.

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.



We wish you all Meri Kirihimete me te Hape Nū Ia/Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best wishes

Your Executive Committee