

**Minutes of Members General Meeting held on Sunday 01-Apr-2018 at 10:00 a.m.  
Rakino Island Community Hall**

**Present**

**Committee members:** Steve McCrone (SMcC) Chair; Jude MacLachlan (JMac) Vice Chair; Rob Overall (RE) Secretary; Stephen Thomas (ST) Treasurer; Rod Inglis (RI)

Members and non-members who signed in are detailed in a summary table at the end.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Barry Bridgwater, Adrian Townsend; Pat Withers; Michael van Druten; John MacKenzie; Hank Postmaa.

**2. Committee Members** were briefly introduced to members by SMcC. Michael van Druten has expressed an interest in joining the Committee and will be attending future Committee meetings. SMac will include an introduction to Michael in the next RRA Newsletter.

**3. Minutes of Previous General Meeting**

Motion: SMac proposed that the Minutes record of the last Annual General Meeting of 22-Oct-2017 be accepted as a true and fair record.

Moved/ Seconded	Outcome	Action	Carried forward/ resolved
SMac / JMac	Motion passed unanimously by Members	Minutes to be adopted and published to RRA website	Resolved

**4. Activities and Update since Oct 2017**

**Rakino Community Hall:** Chris Clews (Community Hall sub-committee) summarised recent discussions about protecting and preserving the Hall. Contractors have been invited to quote for the creation of a defensive sea wall of boulders to the immediate south of the Hall, also in partial remediation of the existing (but broken) sea wall. A decision is anticipated after the Easter holiday period.

Paul Walden (Chair of Waiheke Local Board) has taken a personal interest in recognising the timely efforts made by islanders to repair the Hall after the summer storm damage, and is championing this initiative; securing approval for the sea wall is a first step.

The next step will be to seek a meeting with the Mayor of Auckland to present a case for the Hall.

**Rats & Pests:** ST read a statement on behalf of John MacKenzie (Environmental Officer) who was unwell and unable to attend the meeting in person.

This is detailed in full on his website (see <https://www.rakinoisland.org/rats> ).

The proposal is to create a volunteer rat/pest monitoring network on the island using simple 'tunnel' monitoring stations baited with peanut butter which will be the first point of alert to a pest incursion and trigger escalation as appropriate to eliminate the pest.

Volunteers are sought and details will be included in the RRA Newsletter, on the 'Friends of Rakino' Facebook page and by direct membership circulation. Volunteers would be encouraged to pair up to ensure that regular monthly monitoring could be maintained across all stations, especially over the quieter winter months.

**Dragon Boats & Easter Egg Hunt:** the postponed boat races were held on Easter Saturday in Sandy Bay and were well attended.

Thanks in particular to Sue Plummer, Les Chapman, John Beasley and Steve McCrone/Adrian Townsend who made it happen.

Special thanks also to Pip Livesay who graciously took on the task of running the Easter Egg hunt which followed the Dragon Boat races.

**Marine Reserve:** Rod Inglis sits on the RRA sub-committee for strategy.

He was approached by an islander to investigate what was involved in creating a marine reserve in the environs of Rakino. Rod talked about the Hauraki Gulf forum, Sea Change and Legasea, organisations with the shared objective of arresting the depletion of sea life in the Gulf whilst improving the sustainability of fish stocks. He has talked to leading figures in the field, such as Raewyn Peart and the Neureuter family (owners of Otata and the Noises) to understand what the implications, impacts and benefits of creating such a reserve could be, identification of all the stakeholders and (vitaly) the critical science that has to underpin any such proposal.

Rakino sits in the middle of a potential chain of protected areas and its involvement would enhance conservation efforts in the Gulf as well as create an enriched local environment on and around parts of Rakino for future generations to enjoy.

Rod confirmed that this is still very early in the process of investigation and discovery, and that once a comprehensive landscape of facts had been assembled a presentation would be made to the Rakino community to report on the options identified, plus potential initiatives and to thus seek local opinion and input before any further action was instigated.

It was opened to questions from those attending:

Martin Plummer asked about the potential loss of the right to fish.

Another concern raised by Bev Postmaa was the imperative to protect what makes Rakino unique within the Gulf and not see it fall victim to commercial exploitation.

It was stressed by SMcC that RRA does not 'own' nor is it championing this potential project, but it is using expertise from within the community to investigate and report back to islanders and share what it finds out so that it may be debated to arrive at a community decision.

**Pukeko Cull:** Stacey Thomas advised that she has been liaising with fellow 10-acre land block owners to organise a pukeko cull in the appropriate hunting season and under licence, and has a good level of support within that group to see pukeko numbers reduced.

She will research the approach taken on Great Barrier Island (Coastal Pest Solutions were the contractor involved, per JMac) and consult with DOC.

Ultimately, this is a matter for private land owners to act as they see fit on their own properties and is not a matter that is open to public consultation, nor does it require public permission, although it is anticipated that there will be some in the island community who would not agree to a cull.

RRA has an obligation to notify and communicate to the community, but has no involvement in any cull activities.

## 5. New / General Business:

SMc thanked everyone who supported the Easter events.

It was suggested that in future Easter Egg Hunts, the rule should be to collect one then drop out to ensure that everyone has a chance to find an egg. A template for running future events will be created.

SMcC observed that more people need to be encouraged to help run the activities, as the task seem to fall on the same shoulders every year, and so it was increasingly difficult to drum up enthusiasm amongst the organisers. It should be remembered that these events are run on a purely voluntary basis and will be enriched by getting a broader spectrum of people involved, especially from within those people who participate so enthusiastically every year.

The kid's fishing competition was held on Sunday morning, but there were some issues about rules not being upheld by some competitors and who were acting against the spirit of the competition, which would not sit well with our generous sponsors, such as Burnsco. SMcC asked for the full support and endorsement of the rules in future events.

Members were reminded that the Hall needed to be left clean and tidy after any event. Chris Clews identified that RRA has no formal authority but that there was the potential to put a management contract in place with the Council (as had existed in the past), whereby RRA might be contracted and paid to care for the Hall, something which happens unofficially and voluntarily at the moment. There was also the question of long-term maintenance being under local control, rather than in the hands of contractors on Waiheke.

Bev Postmaa confirmed that the Hall is seen as a 'lifeline amenity' for the community and it should retain its community focus and not be permitted to become the home of any commercial operation.

It was agreed that a more robust system for bookings was required, but was confirmed that until such a time as the control/management of the Hall migrates to a new basis, requests to book the Hall for an event should be emailed to the RRA Secretary, who will then relay that to Bev Postmaa and Sue Plummer (who voluntarily look after the Hall facility for the community), and the booking will be recorded on the wall planner in the Hall.

**Fire Officer:** Bev Postmaa advised that there was support for future fire training and potential dates were sought for when it would be most appropriate to organise training events. Christmas appeared to be well favoured, although some of the training might be off island, so it was agreed that further information was needed, such that RRA could communicate the options and help to facilitate organisation and involvement.

Chris Clews expressed concerns that the relief water tanker had been taken off the island and not replaced; might one option be to purchase a replacement? The last one had been instrumental in successfully maintaining water supplies whilst fighting a fire.

**Motion:** to investigate the options for a replacement water tanker with the Fire Officer and to report back to members.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 11:20 a.m.

Members present at the meeting (inserted from signing-in sheet):

Steve McCrone	Rob Everall	Bev Postmaa	Jude Maclachlan
John & Chris Denton	Sue & Martin Plummer	Chris Clews	Stacey Thomas
Mark McNeil	Julianne Taylor	Pauline & John Scott	Charles Graves

Present but not signed in:

Stephen Thomas; Stephen Wong; Rod Inglis