

Rakino Ratepayers Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday 07-Aug-2018 at 18:00

Location: OBC Clubroom, Whakatakataka Bay/Tamaki Drive, Orakei

Present:

Steve McCrone (SMcC)
Rob Everall (RE)
Barry Bridgwater (BB)
Jude MacLachlan (JM)

Apologies:

Rod Inglis (RI)
Stephen Thomas (ST)
Michael van Druten (MvD)
Adrian Townsend

1. Welcome / Apologies / confirm Quorum

Apologies were recorded from RI, ST and MvD.
Quorum confirmed.

2. Past Minutes

(a) Minutes from the previous Committee Meeting (16-May-2018) were circulated prior to this meeting.

Motion: the Minutes should be adopted

Moved by SMcC Seconded JM.

Motion carried and Minutes will be posted to the RRA website.

3. Finances

a) **Financial Report** – there was no Treasurer report as ST was overseas.

RE confirmed that the Xero account had been established for RRA accounting by ST (supported by a bank payment mandate for monthly payments of \$13.34 (to Crowe Horwath) Bank Accounts had now been rationalised as previously agreed on 16-May to simplify arrangements.

Balances Summary:

Savings On Call	\$ 3,826.27
Savings Plus	\$ 48,359.98
Accelerator	\$ NIL – balance transferred
FastSaver	\$ NIL – balance transferred

Total	\$52,186.25 (Excludes all monies on deposit in Trust – JM is a trustee)
--------------	--

JM proposed to liaise further with Trustee, John Vague, regarding the monies held in Trust and her involvement as a new Trustee.

b) RE confirmed **64** paid-up member households which included several new registrations. It was agreed that RE should email all those households who had been members within the last two years but not yet renewed their subscription with a 'soft' reminder that now would be a great time to do so.

ACTION: RE to issue reminder

c) **Payments and Reimbursements –**

DOC Management Fee for Rakino Festival and Picnic events licence – renewal (Apr 2018 – Mar 2019)	Had been invoiced via Chris Clews, was escalated by DoC to RE as being overdue.
\$250 plus GST = \$287.50	RE consulted with ST and past precedent was to have paid the sum, so a cheque was raised and signed by RE and BB and posted to Doc.

Rakino Ratepayers Association

In discussion, it was felt that payment might not have been the best response.

ACTION: JM was to discuss with Chris Clews about post-March 2019, and whether it merited continuing with the licence or not.

(Post meeting note – John Mackenzie contacted RE later the same week to advise that he had been talking to DoC and they felt that there was a valid basis not to levy this charge at all because of the extensive volunteer efforts on the island on DoC land. John intended to follow up to see if a refund of this latest payment might be secured).

4. Correspondence:

See the summary, in Appendix 1 below.

Actions agreed or carried forward:

See highlighting in the Appendix for specific actions agreed.

Also summarised in Action Summary below according to owner.

5. Community Hall

See Correspondence in Appendix 1 and agreed actions.

6. Strategy Development

SMcC has this in hand.

7. Review of Action Summary and Work in Progress:

See Action Summary following (Appendix 2), with individual actions assigned, to be reported as indicated.

8. New Business:

- Labour Weekend – SMcC to call AT regarding the Social Calendar and arrangements for Labour Weekend.
- AGM to be convened with annual reporting falling due (financial and summary).
- Rhamnus poison supplies are nearly exhausted and need replenishment
- Check on operational status of Firelords with Hank, any work required?

9. Next Meeting Dates:

Wednesday 19-Sep-2018 at 18:00 (Outboard Boating Club, Tamaki Drive, Orakei)

Wednesday 17-Oct-2018 at 18:00 (Outboard Boating Club, Tamaki Drive, Orakei)

AGM: Sunday 21-Oct-2018, time to be confirmed

Wednesday 21-Nov-2018 at 18:00 (Outboard Boating Club, Tamaki Drive, Orakei)

The meeting closed at 19:30.

NB: Future Committee absences and apologies already notified:

- ST will be overseas in and August and September.

Meetings default to the third Wednesday each month, unless by prior change, starting promptly at 6:00 pm – please diarise.

Rakino Ratepayers Association

Appendix 1: Correspondence to Secretary - Summary since last meeting (key items only)

18-May-2018 : Kevin Wragge in response to Steve McCrone call in reply to previous challenge

Apologies for not responding directly Steve and for not including all members in this response, details of whom are not in my data base.

My cell phone is challenging my PC!!!!!!!.

I have asked for my note to be included as an agenda item with a formal response from the Association.

That still applies.

I nevertheless thank you for your views.

Perhaps I should include yet another query.

What has the Association achieved under your Chair and what have individual committee members brought to the table in that time?

I have always made a distinction between political office and individuals.

I am entitled to challenge the Association which represents my interests.

Provocation is intended to promote self-analysis and performance.

I assure you that you would find my strongly held views challenging.

I would be delighted to join you for a coffee but don't want to talk shop.

I am more than comfortable with my contribution to Rakino; my part in the majority of recent initiatives and my expectation of an improved performance from the Association. If individuals don't have the time to make a worthwhile contribution once a month, they should resign.

As far as I can observe, Rob alone makes a worthwhile contribution once a month.

In response to your comments:

1. The Association is coming up with a discussion paper as regards its vision for Rakino. I'm not aware that the views of the community have been sought and wonder why I alone have been asked for my contribution at this late stage .
The reality is that any "vision" will be words on paper and any number of precedents are available.
The pressing issue is what is the Association doing now?
2. Rod Inglis is to be championed for his cause. The point being made is, what has inspired other committee members to make a difference. Perhaps that too should be included in my question to the committee.
3. If reports have been received where is that mentioned in minutes and discussion. Another question for inclusion?
4. As regards the hall I think you will find "others" identified title issues and initiated fruitful discussion on resolution and secured funding. I don't doubt Chris Clews' good intent but with respect I've heard "it all" for the past decade or more. There are better options than the rumours would suggest is happening. I find it intriguing that a significant proportion of committee members would prefer a more visionary solution but remain silent. Stephen Thomas could make a real difference if he were involved in the process which seems to be following the conservative vision of individuals rather than the collective. Perhaps my question should be "why isn't Stephen Thomas taking a greater role in this critical process and why did he resign from this committee?"
5. You may have come across this;

The Committee – by Phong Ngo

Oh, give me a pity, I'm on a committee

Which means that from morning to nightor better said.....once a month with the clock set for an hour.

We attend and amend and contend and defend

Without a conclusion in sight.

Rakino Ratepayers Association

*We confer and concur, we defer and demur
And re-iterate all of our thoughts
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda
And consider a load of reports.
We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose
And the points of procedure are fun!
But though various notions are brought up as motions
There's terribly little gets done.
We resolve and absolve, but never dissolve
Since it's out of the question for us.
What a shattering pity to end our committee
Where else could we make such a fuss?*

I lasted two meeting before I decided that I was wasting my time. I nevertheless believe my attendance at those two meetings challenged process and attitudes for the better.

Put bluntly I don't believe the Association is providing the leadership that Rakino deserves. You are mistaken when you state the Association has led conservation initiatives. You are wrong when you say the Association promotes community events. I agree that problems arise when individuals champion personal causes as highlighted in Colin's magazine.

I challenge the committee members with whom I chew the fat to walk the talk.

I am more than happy to attend any meeting if that were to be constructive.

Otherwise I will continue to operate on the fringes and actually achieve something without fear or favour.

Go well.

Kevin Wragge

ACTION: SM to contact Kevin Wragge

21-May-2018: Kevin Wragge

KW wrote to John Mackenzie, RE, Kevin Hester and Rod Inglis to suggest that John Mackenzie's involvement in Gulf island ecological initiatives as a warden be published in the Gulf News. John politely declined the publicity.

ACTION: none

Around 21-May-2018: Stephen Thomas - consolidation of RRA bank Accounts:

After discussion with the bank, ST proposed:

'... I will put forward a motion at next RRA meeting to put the bulk on term deposit so we can get over 3% interest for a fixed term, a much better rate!

Rob, maybe we should enquire as to the rate earned on the 20k in the Trust?'

RE replied, Jude to be consulted regarding Trust monies. ST responded:

'Great idea

If we could say get 60/65k on deposit at 3 + % it would be a couple of grand a year we are presently not earning??

I realise it will be locked in but with the timeframes for the hall repairs we should get plenty of notice'

Rakino Ratepayers Association

ACTION: tabled, hold pending ST return, and also JM's catch up with John Vague of the Trust.

22-May-2018: Action from prior meeting – RE wrote to Hazel Durkin:

'Hi Hazel – hope this finds you well?

At the last RRA Committee meeting we discussed your concerns about the mix of unacceptable waste included in the Rakino organic collection.

From what was observed on the island, *most* people appeared to have abided by the guidelines which we circulated on your behalf as well as the posters, and as is always the case, a lot of stuff put out got repurposed by a new owner so never made its way down the hill at all.

Clearly some building materials got through which should not have done, but that may have been down to just one or two people.

Ultimately, Alistair can refuse to carry anything that does not meet your guidelines; he may be able to undertake non-compliant rubbish removal as a private paid service at any time of the year, as long as he had an appropriate contractor available at the other end to remove the material from Westhaven, which might indeed be a 'paid for' Waste management type service using plastic flexibins or flexiskips.

People could collaborate to share a load and the costs arising.

We're mindful that if they were on the mainland, residents could load up a vehicle and take it to the local waste centre at their own cost, or organise a skip collection at their address, so I'm thinking laterally to come up with some means to take the strain off the inorganics. We might also liaise with Waste Management to see if a Flexiskip collection vehicle (with a Hiab lift) or indeed a skip truck could make a scheduled trip over on the Sealink ferry, maybe half yearly?

Is this something which merits closer investigation, and would you be agreeable to RRA undertaking this investigation, as such collections would not be a public/subsidised council service?

We don't wish to confuse the service boundaries!!

Thanks for your thoughts. RRA is ready to stand behind any improvements you wish to make to inorganic collection arrangements and we are reliant on your support to maintain services, which are much appreciated.

All the best.'

25-May-2018: Hazel replied:

'Hi Rob,

I'm good thanks. I hope you are too?

Thanks for your email. Really appreciate you taking the lead on this.

I have spoken to Alistair about different collection methods using fadge bags (which are like flexi bins) in the past. It's definitely worth speaking to him.

Rakino Ratepayers Association

Please let me know how you get along with WMNZ also.

Apologies, I've been really snowed under this week but hope to catch up regarding this soon.

Kind Regards,
Hazel'

ACTION: discussed – RE to approach Alistair about options for chargeable waste removal services.

22-May-2018:

Pukeko cull: Stacey wrote an update:

'Hi Rob

Thanks for the minutes of the AGM.

I have left a couple of messages for Coastal Pest Solutions and are waiting for them to call me back.

Basically once I know how much they charge I will hire them for our property and contact all the land owners with the cost.

I suspect before here is a cost there will only be a few that agree to follow through.

Just wanted to update you.

Hope you're well,

Stacey'

23-May-2018: Pete Watson offered access to a shooting enthusiast, but this was not taken up by Stacey.

28-May-2018: update from Stacey

'Hi Rob

Just got off the phone with Coastal Pest Solutions. I should be getting an email from him and I will circulate with landowners I've contacted.

The good news is there is no shooting.

We have to feed out bread with marg for 3/4 days at same time in same spot and then Mitch comes across and throws out a bait which basically doors them up and they fall down then he goes and pulls their necks and puts them in a sack and takes them away.

There will however be costs associated. So I'm not sure how many people will take that up but I certainly will.

He has been to Rakino before when there was that rat scare. He has also worked for 18 years alongside doc.

Will send email once I have it.

Cheers

Stacey'

ACTION: pending with Stacey overseas

Rakino Ratepayers Association

26-May-2018:

Note to full RRA circulation on behalf of Kevin Hester to publicise Open Day at the Nursery on 2nd June.

ACTION: Done

29-May-2018:

RE submitted project completion report on the Bokashi Project to Waste Minimisation Fund, which was acknowledged.

ACTION: none

05-Jun-2018:

Lisa West wrote:

'Hi.

Sunday 3rd of June in a significant rainstorm we had a massive deluge of rain onto our property at 9 Woody Bay Rd. through an existing culvert, as well as a swathe of gravel pouring down from the road which formed a useful path, but probably is irritating for the council. It may be that a culvert further up the road towards South Pacific Rd. is blocked. I've directly contacted Mike Lee about the woefully poor maintenance and impact on our property, but would be grateful on any advice regarding proceeding with how to deal with Auckland Council. My usual method for dealing with incompetence is to go straight to the CEO... We are resigned to digging a trench through our property to cope with the occasional deluge, but we are not prepared to have Woody Bay Rd. landing on top of us.

Cheers,

Lisa'

ACTION: RE acknowledged, and referred to Jodee McKay (AT) and in turn Annette Charnley (AT) for logging and action. **To be incorporated into future dialogue with AT (RE and SM).**

15-May-2018: Kevin Wragge wrote prompting potential attendance at the next Gulf Islands Trust meeting on 25-July. This was subsequently recirculated in June to check for availability.

Item circulated, Committee attendance planned from Jude and (hopefully) Rob.

ACTION: attend GIT meeting 25-July, Ponsonby

12-Jun-2018:

RE issued 2018-9 subscription invoice to full member circulation.

Rakino Ratepayers Association

21-Jun-2018: Xero

ST wrote to propose adoption of Xero Cash Book for RRA financial management at a cost of \$12+GST per month.

ACTION: approvals given via email from Committee members and mandate established for \$13.80 per month via ST on 28-Jun-2018. Completed.

26-Jun-2018: Rod Inglis copied email with Derek Lockwood regarding Rakino Strategy

Hi Derek

Thanks for meeting me last week(*personal exchange omitted*)

Re Rakino - great that you are OK to do the perso on an underwrite basis so that it will be good for fund raising discussions with the Far North Trust, DOC, Auckland City etc. and for the island residents and others

I understand the underwrite concept in that you would not expect to be paid for the work until funds became available from potential funders.

I understand that you estimate your fees could get as high as \$10K but you would only charge pro former on a cost incurred basis.

I will check this is good with the Ratepayer Association but I am sure it will be.

Looking forward to working up a cool eye catching presentation.

Best regards

Rod

ACTION: SM has discussed with RI – SM to arrange for this work to be supported *pro bono* through Cornwall Strategic

02-Jul-2018: Note from Adrian T

“Gents - firstly apologies for my absence since Easter. Work has taken over. However, with my social committee hat on, I have been drafting a social events calendar for Rakino. In essence, it will act as a management / communication tool to allow people to see what is coming up on Rakino in the following year. I will forward the draft to all for review. I am currently in Europe on business and won't be back in NZ until the start of August”.

ACTION: AT to circulate draft (not discussed at the meeting in his absence)

(Continued) “Concerning the Marine Reserves work that Rod is heading up, please find attached a

Rakino Ratepayers Association

podcast link from Radio 4 on Marine Reserves. It is half an hour to listen to. Importantly, it provides proven statistics taken since 1998 on the increase in fish numbers both in a marine reserve and adjacent to it. This will be important in dealing with negative comments and could be used in positive propaganda explaining the need for them:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b0pvmz>

(Ends)

10-Jul-2018: Waiheke Local Board

WLB issued an open invitation to a grants workshop:

‘Tēnā Koutou,

Please see attached information regarding a grants workshop the funding team will be running at the **Waiheke Library on Wednesday 1 August from 1pm – 2pm.**

The workshop will cover the following:

- how to register and login to the SmartyGrants system
- how to complete a grants application
- priorities and outcomes of the Waiheke Local Board
- tips and advice for completing your application
- Q&A

ACTION: JM was unable to attend on Waiheke, being unwell, but convened separate meeting on 6th August with Augustina Castro Pons of the Council Grants Committee, which she reported on. A rapport has been established underpinned by an offer of future support for Grant applications. **JM to develop the dialogue.** (See also Minutes note).

17-Jul-2018:

RE received overdue invoice from DoC for annual licence fee (\$250 + GST) to use the reserve above Sandy Bay for public events (e.g. Jazz Festival, possibly New Year’s sports?) 57 days overdue, had been sent to Chris Clews in error.

ACTION: RE organised priority payment on the basis that it is easier to renew than allow to lapse and reapply. Liaised with ST in France.

DONE – paid by cheque, authority under the \$300 limit agreed, but should be endorsed on 07-Aug-2018 by the Committee, RE to submit.

ACTION: JM to chat to Chris Clews about the merits of maintaining this licence. John Mackenzie to investigate if a refund is potentially available, based on strong goodwill and working relationship with DoC.

Rakino Ratepayers Association

20-Jul-2018: Auckland Council Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grant 2018/2019

Details circulated by RE to the Committee. In reply, RI suggested an application could be made to support restorative work to the Hall or to support a marine scientific survey.

Also alerted of the same funding round by Kevin Wragge on 01-August.

ACTION: to be determined, also links in with what JM is examining.

25-Jul-2018: Gulf Islands Trusts Meeting [GIT] (evening)

RE and JMac attended this meeting and JM delivered a brief update on Rakino. Minutes awaited.

Future participation of Rakino recommended and to be firmed up.

ACTION: Meetings are convened in July and November each year, typically at Foundation North premises in Ponsonby. Numerous Rakino people already on normal circulation.

- July meeting minutes pending, to be circulated when available.
- develop Rakino member relationship with GIT and Foundation North, which has additional Environmental Grant funding available (\$50k to The Noises; \$5m fund over 5 years, no set application rounds).

See G.I.F.T. website <https://www.giftofthegulf.org.nz/>

- Seed- / Scale- / System-funding available
- The next Chair of The Gulf Islands Trust forum is Duncan Watson from the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp Ph: 09 849 5656 (office) 021 967 855 (mobile).

Some f.o.c. waterproof outwear was made available and we appropriated two sets (four packages), anticipating their use in the Nursery and/or in planting and Rhamnus work by John Mackenzie

ACTION: RE has delivered waterproofs to the island, left with Kevin Wragge to pass on to John.

25-Jul-2018: Ecological Survey Circulated

RE circulated the ecological survey for general use on the island, accompanied by a reminder about subscriptions for this year.

Also, Mark Lockhart wrote in:

“Thanks Rob,

Great that this has been done. I have always thought that an ecological assessment would be helpful and applied for funding a few years ago but was unsuccessful.

It would be great if this assessment and plant list could be added to over time. I know that there are a couple of plant species that haven't been picked up - *Melicactus novae zelandiae* and the native angelica (identified by a botanist near Sandy Bay a few years ago).

I don't think *Griselinia littoralis* occurs naturally on the island but *Griselinia lucida* does.

There is no discussion regarding the pre-human vegetation - I think kauri gum has been found on the island and I believe the island was once vegetated with a diverse range of forest trees rather than just coastal vegetation.

The other thing that I believe would be helpful is a planting list for a range of sites i.e. coastal exposed, inland

Rakino Ratepayers Association

dry, inland wet etc.

From a fauna perspective, it would also be great to enhance the few wetland/ wet areas on the island as this must create an additional habitat type.

Pass this on to the author if appropriate.

Regards – Mark”

**ACTION: DONE, several subs payments received.
ML feedback referred to Kevin Parker as requested.**

ACTION: it was felt that an “Idiot’s Guide” based on the findings of the Survey might be helpful and make the recommendations more accessible to those for whom this might be new territory. To be referred to John Mackenzie for consideration, RRA support available as requested.

31-Jul-2018: Treescape work on Rakino

Kevin Hester requested assistance with notification of a planned visit by Treescape arborists to attend to trees on DOC land; cars at the wharf need to be moved.

ACTION: RRA circulation ‘round robin’ and posted on Friends of Rakino – DONE

02-Aug-2018 in response to this circulation, John MacCullough wrote:

“Hi Rob

I think it s best when they come out a RRA (or someone island based) meets them and does a daily check on them

The other month when out it rained most of the week on and off (*bad time to spray and work).

They also said a man did 2 days on my site but *cannot see any evidence of any works done* – my letter to the contactors was not replied to sadly.

My personal view is this work needs to be supervised by someone island based to ensure both ACC and RRA get best value here.

I am told by them they are coming out again later in the year for another round

*KR
John”*

ACTION: referred feedback to Kevin Hester who will be involved with the visit as host. He had previously discussed this with JM and was aware of these concerns.

It was noted that there were incursions of gorse and weeds at the wharf and a working bee ought to be convened to deal to these. To be referred to John Mackenzie.

Rakino Ratepayers Association

Member Registrations since last update:

**64 paid-up households (out of 117 potential = 55%) in this subscription year 2018-9.
This includes some first-time registrations.**

**Of the balance as yet unpaid, ~30 people paid last year and so will *probably* pay when reminded,
taking to total to over 90 households potentially.**

Rakino Ratepayers Association

Appendix 2: Overall Action Summary and Work in progress

Review of Rakino Budget data sourced from AKL Council – this also fits with the formation of a Funding/Grant Sub-Committee.	Committee
Determine future engagement with Gulf Islands Trust – many individuals are on the distribution list already, need to formalise a seat going forward.	Committee
Determine potential relationship with Foundation North and the G.I.F.T. grants ongoing.	Committee
Circulate draft social calendar; events for October AGM??	AT
Determine initiatives to increase membership	Committee (ALL)
Review data and progress discussions regarding Community Hall options. Report to RRA Committee.	Community Hall Sub-Committee
Investigate grant options for seating at viewpoints (carried forward) plus replacement of Sandy Bay seating (raised at AGM) Also consider island public tracks in reserves which exist (and are mapped) but are not published and thus unknown to most people, and where work may be necessary to improve access, such as off Askew Avenue. Assemble calendar of annual community funding rounds and points of contact/reference. Consider any projects which might merit funding applications, for further discussion in Committee)	JM / ALL
Discuss DOC licence with Chris Clews – renew next year or not?	JM
Liaise with John Vague over Trusteeship and the current state of Trust Funds invested.	JM
Develop dialogue with Council Grants Committee	JM
Assess if recent Licence payment to DoC might be refunded?	John Mackenzie
Develop overview of Environmental priorities for Rakino, to include Rhamnus strategy (in conjunction with DOC). Update on alternative funding for Pest Monitoring.	John MacKenzie
Potential for weed and gorse intervention at Wharf?	John Mackenzie
Potential to create an “Idiot’s Guide” version of the Ecological Survey for general circulation to encourage take up. John asked to consider this.	John Mackenzie / Committee
Re-provision Rhamnus poison supplies via DoC, including dispenser (defective) and plastic bottles	Refer to John Mackenzie
Verify operational serviceability of the Firelords with Hank P. and check if any new expenditure is required (tarp covers, etc.)?	RE
Issue ‘soft’ subs reminder to all those who have paid in recent years but have to renew for 2018-9.	RE
Liaise with Alistair regarding possible options for ‘user paid’ inorganic waste removal using the Facilitator barge.	RE
Book OBC as meeting venue for Committee meetings, October and onwards	RE
Escalation of roading and drainage issues to Akl Transport, already instigated privately (see correspondence section appended). A fresh complaint lodged in July (Woody Bay Road) and acknowledged by Akl Transport.	SMcC

Rakino Ratepayers Association

Committee to liaise with AKI Transport's Jodee McKay to follow through and improve working dialogue and exchange.	RE and SMcC
Call Adrian regarding Social Calendar and proposals	SMcC / AT
Contact Kevin Wragge to discuss recent inputs to the Committee	SMcC
Development of overall strategic plan (inc. items raised in the AGM) and key strategic threads (e.g. Environmental; conservation; weed eradication; etc.) and major focal areas from Survey. Combined with prev. action to Resolve Rakino community participation in Gulf Islands Trust Forum, which is a key component of any way forward for the island in the context of the Hauraki Gulf.	SMcC / Strategy Sub-Committee
Newsletter pending	SMcC
Investigate to improve participation of RRA in the workings and resources allocated of the Waiheke Local Board. SMcC to discuss initially with Chris Clews on basis of dialogue regarding the Hall to date.	SMcC (CC)
RI and SMcC to liaise over development of presentation on Marine reserve/Eco Hub proposals.	SMcC and RI
Committee to progress formation of Funding/Grant Sub-Committee to underpin RRA Strategy and improve leverage from available funding sources.	ST / Committee
Action the recommendations of the Financial Reviewer for 2015-6 accounts. Effective from January 2017 – ongoing.	ST / Committee
Place proportion of funds on bulk deposit to win interest income	ST

Committee members are reminded to review and print your own copies of all materials circulated prior to the meeting, forwarding amendments / corrections where necessary in advance to the Secretary, in order to optimize the discussion time available in meetings.