

Karekare Ratepayers and Residents Trust



Minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 28th May 2023 at the Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club, Karekare

Present:

Rob Taylor (Chair), Jenny Taylor, Angela Turbott, John Greenway, Caroline Grove, Ted Scott, Ken Turner, Mike Gill, Susie Munro, David Munro, Mel Blank, Liz McKay, Cameron McKay, Claire Inwood, Kim Conway, Karel & Caroline Witten-Hannah, Paul Dudfield, David Paterson, Toby Hyman, Rita Rosenberg-Smith, Estelle Clarke, Charles Lawson, Sandra Coney, Kerrie Littlewood, Olivia Sheehan, Sarah & Eyan Cannon, Chrissie & David Sidwell, James Hutchison, Natasha Denyer, Carlene Armitage, Sue Gee, Fran Williams, Amber Rhodes, Jenny Ross, Stuart Roscoe, Rachel Burrowes and Garth Cunningham

Meeting commenced at 2.10pm

1. Welcome

On behalf of the Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club, David Munro, President of the Karekare Surf Club welcomed everyone to the new clubhouse. Rob Taylor took the Chair.

Apologies

Liz Manley, Greg Presland, Bob Harvey, Paul Buchanan, Shalema Witten-Hannay, Mandy Patmore, Carole Roscoe, Donald Cheeseman, Sarah Elsby, Hugh Geddes and Chris Turbott.

Moved: that the Apologies be accepted. *Karel Witten-Hannah / Jenny Taylor, carried*

2. AGM 2021 Minutes

Moved: that the 2021 minutes be accepted as a true and correct record.

Chrissie Sidwell / Amber Rhodes, carried

3. Committee Report

Rob Taylor read out the Committee Report:-

In the absence of an elected Chair (Amber Rhodes resigned 24 July 2022), I am pleased to present the 2022-2023 Committee Report for the Karekare Ratepayers and Residents Trust.

The Trust was incorporated in 1982. Over the years it has successfully advocated to keep the environment of Karekare as natural as possible, through supporting such initiatives as the Karekare Management Plan, the Shellfish Rahui, our Landcare Group, pest control programs, and the commitment and passion of the people who live here.

KKRRT's 2022 submission on Council's new Freedom Camping Bylaw was successful in that, once the roads are reopened, self-contained campervans will be prohibited from overnight stays in the Beach carpark. Our submission on the Draft Regional Parks Management Plan was partially successful, in that many of the changes we opposed did not appear in the final Plan, but that document is short on details of policies and programmes.

The local body elections in October 2022 brought in a new Auckland Mayor with a crusading zeal to cut Council's costs and reset its priorities. Arts and cultural activities seemed to be an early target, as was expenditure on stormwater. Such concerns, however, were rendered

moot in the summer and autumn of 2023, when an unusually warm Pacific Ocean brought unprecedented rainstorms to the North Island, causing loss of life and extensive damage to homes, land and roads.

Despite the shocking slips during Cyclone Gabrielle, we were fortunate that no lives were lost here. This was largely due to luck, and to lessons learned from earlier storms; in turn, new lessons were learned from Gabrielle. Rather than thank all who stepped up to help their neighbours and their community during and after the disaster, I'll just quote from the report of the chair of the Waitakere Ranges Local Board:

"Karekare has been particularly hard hit and even now its road access is tenuous and limited. In my view that community provides us with an example of the best of community responses. The locals had previously planned for potential disasters and this planning proved to be invaluable... I believe there is an urgent need for these sorts of plans to be completed in all our rural areas."

Whilst the roads are now much safer for local traffic, and Council contractors are removing slip debris, many residents have been left in limbo, waiting for Cabinet to decide a national policy on rebuilding versus managed retreat / compensation.

We are fortunate that our local MP, Dr. Deborah Russell, is the Minister in charge of the EQC, so has kept us well informed.

More good news is that the beach toilets, which were a casualty of an earlier flood and were upgraded with larger tanks and cutting-edge waste processing systems, required only standard servicing after the downpours. The major road repairs over recent years also held up well, as did the cell phone service.

Massive sand accretion on the beach continues as part of a natural cycle which has now formed a new beach at the Piha Blowhole; eventually, it may be possible to walk from Karekare Beach to Piha.

The effect of the floods and slips on the spread of kauri dieback is unknown, but likely disastrous. The Waitakere Ranges were already the most heavily-infected area in New Zealand, and most tracks are closed, as is the Arataki Visitor Centre.

The danger of the dead pines above the road and power lines at the northern end of Karekare Rd must be addressed soon, before the inevitable windfalls occur in another storm.

Recently, the committee approved a grant of \$2,600 for professional advice on replanting the slips and banks along Lone Kauri and Karekare roads.

The Karekare Billboard has emailed out 11 newsletters and community notices to our database of 290 subscribers since the last AGM. I'd like to thank all who contributed their articles, notices, photos and artwork.

I want to thank the outgoing committee for their contributions over the past year, especially our long-term secretary, Jenny Taylor, and treasurer Angela Turbott, both of whom are standing down from those positions. The other committee members were Amber Rhodes, Ted Scott, Mandy Patmore, John Greenway, Garth Cunningham, David Munro and myself.

On behalf of the Karekare Ratepayers and Residents Trust, I wish to thank all of our members and friends for their support over the past year, and the Karekare surf club for hosting us today.

Moved: that the Committee Report be accepted Rob Taylor / John Greenway, carried

No Matters Arising

4. **Treasurer's Reports for year ending 31st December 2022**

Angela Turbott presented the Treasurer's Report for 31st December 2022:-

The Karekare Ratepayers and Residents Trust (KRRPT) which also includes Karekare Landcare had a total membership of 19 households for 2022 which was a decrease from 24 in 2021. KRRPT had income in 2022 from subscriptions of \$250.00 and interest from a term deposit of \$96.82.

Landcare had income in 2022 from interest from saving accounts of \$62.15 and an Auckland Council Landcare Coordinator 2021-22 Grant of \$12,012.00. This grant is to provide funding to employ a person to coordinate Landcare activities throughout the 2022-23 period. Karekare Landcare successfully applied for a Regional Environment and Natural Heritage (RENH) Grant which amounted to \$15,686.00. This grant is being used to support the community in helping to control pests and weeds in the environment. A generous donation of \$500.00 was also made from a member of the community to help in the local wasp eradication programme.

The total Income to the Trust for 2022 was \$28,606.97.

KRRPT had total expenses in 2022 of \$234.97 for website development and support (Karekare.org).

Landcare had total expenses in 2022 of \$23,347.79. This comprised of Landcare website costs of \$367.65, weed control \$387.55, water quality \$24.22, wasp control programme \$2,997.71, trail cameras \$458.25 and purchase and maintenance of existing traps of \$4,757.41. Payment to the Landcare coordinator was \$14,355.00.

As at the 31st of December 2022, KRRPT had total funds of \$6,671.58 and Landcare \$16,766.76 which gives an overall balance of \$23,438.34 within the Trust.

Moved: that the AGM Financial Report for the year ending 31st December 2022 be accepted.
Angela Turbott / David Sidwell, carried

Matters Arising:

- It was noted that in the 2022 financials, the expense of \$234.97 was for hosting the website - Garth Cunningham does the website development for free.

5. **Election of Officers**

Nominations had been received for the Committee and Chair – everyone introduced themselves.

Jenny Taylor took the Chair.

Moved: that Rob Taylor be elected as Chairperson.

Jenny Taylor / Karel Witten-Hannah, carried

Rob resumed the Chair and read nominations for the committee as follows:-

David Munro, Angela Turbott, John Greenway, Garth Cunningham, Mel Blank, Jen Ross, Caroline Grove, Sarah Cannon and Charles Lawson.

Moved: that the above nominations be accepted unopposed.

Rob Taylor / Rachel Burrowes, carried

6. Community Reports

Lone Kauri School

James Hutchison read the Lone Kauri School report on behalf of Jessica James, LKS Chairperson:-

Land & Premises

Firstly the school would like to acknowledge Paula and Arthur Grimes, who own the land where the school is. It is through their generosity that we are able to have this special school. Last year The Lone Kauri School Trust signed an additional 7 year lease with the Grime's so it's great to have that security of our premises for this extra period.

Teaching staff

Jo Kingston continues to be a wonderful head teacher at the school and she is supported by Alice Molloy and Carlene Armitage who are teacher aides and Carlene also does an incredible job overseeing the school grounds and gardens.

Jo has such love, sensitivity, genuine care and personal attention for each and every one of the Lone Kauri Kids. We appreciate her willingness to embrace every child's uniqueness and the kind way she approaches teaching. She is such an asset to the school and our community.

Post Cyclone Jo did a phenomenal job of opening the school with the support of the local parents and Esther Alcock (an assistant school principal who was unable to attend her school due to the road closures). Jo's dedication to the school and her pupils ensured consistency for our local children post cyclone and has fostered an incredible connectivity and school spirit amongst the children, parents and teachers alike.

We have started a school WhatsApp group which has streamlined our communication and proved a wonderful tool for the school community.

School roll

There are 19 students currently

4 x Year Ones

5 x Year Twos

1 x Year Threes

3 x Year Fours

5 x Year Fives

1 x Year Six

There is a new Year 3 student starting next term.

Oratia Primary

The relationship between Lone Kauri School and Oratia is going really well with the extreme weather events and road closures demonstrating strongly how important the need for a local education facility is for our children. Oratia let the emergency hay supply be choppered from their school field with the Oratia kids excitedly watching it get loaded and flown away and then the Lone Kauri kids meeting it on the other side and loading it into the sheds. This was a wonderful example of the collaboration we have with them.

The Trust would like to acknowledge the support of the whole team at Oratia who enable our school to run as a satellite classroom. We are very lucky that they continue to see the value of this facility to support the learning of our Karekare tamariki.

During the weeks post cyclone where the roads were closed a reciprocal arrangement was made where a couple of Lone Kauri students attended Oratia and an Oratia child attended Lone Kauri.

The School Community

This year the school held a very successful cross country day, Sam Beere and Gareth Abraham made an incredible hangi, Kate Nicholls and Paul Buchanan have been hosting the kids after school for weekly soccer games on their lawn and the year 5 and 6s had a successful school camp (with Toby Hyman attending as parent help)

The school has been featured twice by Kea Kids. The first with Zara Stuart as the interviewer talking to the kids about their experience post cyclone. And the most recent one featuring Moana Grundy as an interviewer reporting on the incredible Soap Box Derby Day.

Fundraising

Slightly strange (as James will be reading this on my behalf)... but an epic thank you to James and Jenny who created the Soap Box Derby fundraiser for the school. Such a wonderful afternoon, community event and raised \$1200! The tees have basically become a bit of a school uniform.

Kia Kaha Karekare this week put in a submission to the Red Cross appeal on behalf of the Karekare community and some funds for the school (e.g. Generator) were included in this submission.

Thank you to Alice who successfully secured a \$5k grant last year to fund the sliding windows in the library. A massive achievement. There is a pretty hefty list of maintenance and improvements that are required to the school and grounds and, as life is returning to a bit more normality post cyclone, we will work to prioritise and implement these. The most urgent requirement (other than securing a permanent generator) is to fix and maintain the driveway and Lone Kauri Construction have been appointed to carry out this work.

This school was founded by passionate community minded parents and it is such an honour to be part of the cohort that continues this tradition today. All in all, in a year quite like no other, Lone Kauri School has proven itself to be a resilient and essential part of our community.

Karekare Volunteer Fire Brigade

Toby Hyman, Chief Fire Officer, gave the Karekare Volunteer Fire Brigade report

Department Overview:

Our brigade now comprises 13, who have been diligently serving our community. This figure includes 8 firefighters, 3 officers, and 2 Recruits. We have 4 prospecting recruits attending regular trainings.

Training & Development:

Over the past quarter, we have focused on enhancing the knowledge and skills of our team members. All crew members completed their mandatory yearly training modules, including Co responder, In addition, we have introduced OSM training modules in that we are working through as a brigade, these have been attended well by our personnel so far. Progression courses have been fairly well attended this quarter.

Fire Response & Emergency Calls:

From 1 January to 22nd May, we responded to 14 incidents, an increase from the same period last year. These included 0 fires, 1 MVC, 1 medical call, 2 aircraft standby, 6 special

service calls, 1 assist public natural disaster, 1 false alarm good intent, one minor hazardous substance incident.

Fire Prevention and Community Engagement:

We have been actively engaging with our community to promote fire safety and discuss the cyclone event. Our fire prevention team conducted multiple public presentations on social media, 1 school visit. We also hosted an open house for Karekare children directly after the cyclone event, and offered a place to shower and charge phones for a period after the event.

Health & Safety:

The health and safety of our members remain our top priority. We recorded 0 injuries among our crew members in the past quarter.

Equipment & Infrastructure:

We recently received delivery of a satellite phone, enhancing our communication capacity. Additionally, we still are in possession of an auxiliary FENZ ute and trailer that has been on loan to us while we had no road access for our appliance.

Budget and Financial Update:

We are currently operating within our approved budget for this fiscal year. We are fundraising for our own support vehicle currently via a givealittle page. We intend to complete the canteen renovation this year and hold an opening night fundraiser. Details to be announced.

Challenges & Future Outlook:

While we have made significant strides, challenges remain. Our aging fleet requires replacement. 7371 is still a capable appliance, but very out of date compared to what is available in fleet. FENZ has still not given us a guarantee of replacement however, we are formulating strategies to address these issues.

Process and Command Structure of FENZ.

Typically a caller will dial 111 and that will go through to FENZ Communication centre in Auckland City, who will determine the appropriate resources to dispatch to an incident. Volunteers will be alerted via pagers and smart phone application (AMS) this will include basic details of the call out, an address - type of call. Volunteers can then decide if they are available to turn out or not.

If a full crew is available, volunteers will don the necessary PPE required for specific call and add additional gear to truck as required then respond. An officer or senior FF will relay information back to FENZ Comms Centre via the truck radio or cell phone. Including any requests of additional resources. Comms Centre makes the decision on dispatching additional resources.

During an event there will always be an Incident Controller. That will be a member of the brigade that has completed the necessary training to manage an incident. This could be Chief, Deputy, Station officer or a senior FF with Crew Leader qualifications. The Incident Controller are responsible for managing the incident ground and crew.

It is important to note that this is a simplified description of the process and command structure of FENZ. The command structure can be expanded to a much larger and more detailed system for larger incidents, based on the co-ordinated incident management system (CIMS) used in New Zealand.

It is important to understand these processes and command structures, as they insure on-the-ground risk assessment, decision making and resource allocation, while having an

overview from the FENZ Communication Centre, allowing us to adapt to an evolving situation.

Our members come from the Karekare community and volunteer a lot of their time to serve the community. We are human, and always try to do our best. Sometimes that might not be enough, but it will always be our best.

The upcoming year will see us continue to strive for excellence in service and safety. We aim to strengthen our engagement with the community, enhance our capabilities, and ensure the well-being of our personnel.

Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club

David Munro, President of the Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club gave his report:-

I attach to this report the piece that I wrote for Billboard a fortnight after the Cyclone Gabrielle disaster. Whilst that piece to some extent anticipated a long, slow recovery, I must confess that the exceptional slowness of the progress of recovery is daunting. In the Billboard piece I suggested that it was unlikely that we would resume patrolling before the 23/24 season commences in October this year, Now, three-and-a-half months following the cyclone and with barely five months to the beginning of the season, I worry about even being able to commence patrols again then. Who would have thought that by the time of this AGM we'd still have round -the-clock security permitting only residents and essential vehicles into Karekare? ... and that there'd be very little progress on resolving issues for home-owners and residents impacted by the event. But there we are.

I have also looked back at my remarks at last years' AGM and note that I began by saying that it 'gave me so much pleasure' to welcome people to the new clubhouse. Whilst it is good to see people here again today, it goes without saying that the atmosphere for all of us in our community is much different this year; robust, but subdued.

Now for the positive stuff:

- We qualified a swathe of new lifeguards and boat drivers this season regardless.
- Our patrolling stats were strong as always. (I will supply stats to the incoming secretary re patrol hours and new guard qualifications).
- Club Day went ahead this year and was very successful (two days before Gabrielle!)
- Prior to Gabrielle corporate and event rental of the club was going gangbusters; exceeding expectations and income necessary to maintain the facility, and not compromising the ability of clubbies to enjoy the clubhouse they have worked so hard to achieve.
- In the last fortnight we have been successful in receiving a \$30,000.00 grant from the Red Cross to purchase and install an electricity generator to keep the club functioning during power cuts.
- Work is on foot to ensure that the bridge to the club accessway will be repaired to a permanent standard such that it can withstand flood and not impede stream flow. We have the funding to achieve this and the restoration of the water tanks and repair of the septic tank dripper field.
- Initiatives are being explored to see the Trusts Karekare Surf Club become a west coast hub for surf lifesaving training if we remain unable to patrol next season.

As always, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the staunch volunteers in our club who keep the flame alive as we head towards 90-years of life-saving service. Too many to mention individually, so I'd like to highlight the roles that they fill, and which are required to run a surf club:

- Patrols on the beach which includes a Patrol Captain, deputy patrol captain, at least two qualified boat drivers on every patrol, and at least one level three qualified first aider.
- Powercraft Director (shortly to include a jetski)
- Gear steward and team who maintain our equipment.
- Clubhouse Director who ensures the maintenance and functioning of the clubhouse.
- Qualified Instructors at all levels of lifesaving:
 - IRB training, driving and crewpersons
 - First Aid
 - Lifesaving
 - Rookies
 - Junior Surf
- First Aid inventory and maintenance
- So many additional administrative and organisational roles.

Finally, we are always thrilled to have new members from the community joining up to train as lifeguards or lifeguard supporters, and as associate members. Anyone who supports the Trusts Karekare Surf Club – ‘In it for life’ – is very welcome to join us in whatever capacity. Please contact Teresa Harvey the Club secretary on secretary@karekaresurfclub.org.nz for further information. We look forward to continuing the great relationship we have as part of this special community.

Piece below from Billboard – February 2023

Following Cyclone Gabrielle, weekend surf patrols have been indefinitely suspended for this season. With the state of the roads, and Easter weekend being the scheduled end of the season in any event, it is unlikely that there will be patrols again before next summer. On its own, that is very sad for a club that has patrolled continuously since 1935, previously only broken by WWII.

But, it is a minor sadness compared to what has happened to so many friends and neighbours in our small tight-knit community. On behalf of the club we extend our sympathy and best wishes to everyone who has suffered setback due to the Cyclone, and who are now working piece-by-piece to put shattered lives and properties back together again. Kia kaha.

It is also important to acknowledge the contribution of so many Surf Club members in responding to the chaos and mayhem wrought by the Cyclone. For so many the event was simply horrific. Thank you to everyone for pitching in to the extent of their capacity on that fateful Valentine’s Day.

The Karekare Surf Clubhouse has fared better than many other buildings at Karekare. This vindicates the foresight of the planners and designers in lifting the building more than a metre, and the skill of the engineers who designed the anchoring of the building into the Watchman such that it can withstand piles of sand slipping down behind it. But, it sure was a fair pile of sand that descended on the club! Whilst the building itself withstood the onslaught, the western stairway suffered slumping from the weight of sand, and the piles beneath the water tanks were severely undermined. As previously noted though, a relatively minor insurance job compared to so many others in the community.

It's not easy to dredge up optimism with only three weeks having passed since the disaster. But, thankfully, no-one lost their life, and Karekare will revive. The place is too beautiful, and the community too indomitable, for anything else to be possible.

Best wishes to everyone at this difficult time, and thank you all for your ongoing support of the Surf Club.

Karekare Landcare

Caroline Grove gave the Karekare Landcare Report as follows:

Karekare Landcare is a group who would like to involve the whole community in environmental projects - removing invasive plant and animal pests and educating people about our local natural environment. Our aim is to enable the amazing regeneration of native forest that is happening, or trying to happen, all around us and to allow the birds and all other native fauna to survive and breed successfully. We are grateful to KKRRT for their support, and taking us under their umbrella. (and for looking after our money - thanks Angela!) To explain - we are an independent group but have officially become a sub-committee of KKRRT so we can use their status as a charitable trust when making funding applications. This seems to me quite appropriate since the KKRRT trust document specifies some good environmental objectives.

We have a steering committee which discusses and sets objectives for our group. Thanks to Peter King, Kevin Ferguson, Angela and Chris Turbott, Hugo Geddes and Claire Inwood for giving up their time for this. And a big thanks to all of you who are setting rat traps, filling bait stations and doing other great pest control work out there.

As you are probably all aware we have a paid coordinator, Estelle Clark, who does a great job, she reports on what has been achieved over the last year...

Trapping - mainly rats, also possums and stoats - she has given out over 50 traps, trained people to use TrapNZ, and given trap maintenance sessions. Pest control Education workshop given by Peter King at Lone Kauri School. The children have been given D-rat traps which are very safe to use.

Some baiting on parkland has been done by 5 volunteers. Baiting on private properties on 17 bait lines. Angela has given out a number of Pied Piper bait stations in the valley.

Vespex wasp campaign cancelled this year as the rain drowned most wasp nests.

We organised 4 Weeding Bees this year tackling Ginger, climbing asparagus and tradescantia. Auckland Council has approached and contracted us to coordinate a 2023 Buffer Program with the assistance of Naturescapes. The program may be followed by weeding bees on selected private properties to support landowners.

A Stream Monitoring project has been put in place with Wai Care, to monitor the health of our streams. James Hutchinson is now leading this for Karekare with 2 other volunteers.

We asked Auckland Council to reinstall Dotterel / sea birds signs at the beach (opposite the surf club and next to the rocks at the end of the pohutukawa glade track before the Whatipu Scientific Reserve starts). This is to remind dog owners and others to respect birds who nest on the beach.

Penguin nesting boxes project : This is a project led and supported by Auckland Council. There are still definitely a very few penguins hanging on at our beach. The kids at Lone Kauri School decorated 20 boxes and did an educational workshop about the Little Blue Penguins and how we can help protect them. The nesting boxes have been installed. We have some traps and bait stations at the back of the beach to protect the penguin area.

Our Kauri Dieback Management Plan has been submitted to Auckland Council .

Six of our volunteers attended a workshop/training day recently organised by Council.

The Council RENH grant of \$15686 obtained for 2021-22 has been spent on equipment including traps, bait, monitoring cameras, GPS devices and personal locator beacons. An EcoMatters \$500 grant was used for bait for Metallic Greenhead Ants in Karekare Valley. Caroline has secured a grant from TTCF - The Trusts to fill the gap left when Council temporarily stopped the grant for coordinator funding. The Council CCF grant is resuming in 2023 so we have applied for another grant.

2023/2024 Plans:

- If successful this year we will hope to continue to be funded next year for the Buffer programme.
- We will continue to encourage all residents to do further pest control on private land.
- Once Kauri Dieback Standard Operating Procedure is approved by Auckland Council, we will be able to continue the trapping and baiting in parkland.
- We need to work on extending our monitoring efforts and use of TrapNZ to better capture the success of our operations and offer better accountability for grants requested.
- Coming to your inbox soon - There will be a rat trapping Competition starting in June 2023

Karekare House Charitable Trust

Jenny Taylor read the Karekare House Charitable Trust report on behalf of Sarah Elsby:-

2022 was the fifth year that the Karekare House Charitable Trust, in partnership with The Eden Arts Trust, awarded residencies to artists staying from between 3 weeks and 3 months.

At the start of 2022 there were still some restrictions and constraints because of the pandemic. We had a small welcome event for our first Artist in Residence, Kalisolaite 'Uhila and his family. They were invited on to the grounds and onto the property of Karekare House. Many thanks to Sir Bob and Lady Harvey who led the welcome.

Other artists who took up residencies during 2022 were:

Claudia Kogachi, Josephine Jelich, Alexis Neale, Brendon Leung and returning artists Judy Darragh and Tira Walsh.

On behalf of The Karekare House Trust I am very grateful for the support of the Karekare community who have been so welcoming and neighbourly to all the artists in residence. This has made it easier for the residents to quickly feel at home and start their creative projects. I would like to thank Chrissie and David Sidwell who have been particularly warm and helpful to all the residents. Chrissie joined a group from Lone Kauri School and helped facilitate a very enjoyable and informative talk from Claudia and Josephine who showed and talked about their work with some of the students.

Alexis Neale, a weaver, visited Lone Kauri School to demonstrate her art during her residency. Thank you Jo Kingston and everyone at the school for warmly welcoming me and Alexis.

Many thanks to local supporters who always contribute to the refreshments and roll up their sleeves and help with the smooth running of the events. We have had several of these at Karekare House this past year including; welcome events, two artists talks - one in July and one in November, and a dawn performance work by Kalisolaite 'Uhila on the beach.

Special thanks to Mark and Michele who will be making a move to Piha as soon as their new house is ready. We have been very lucky to have them ! They have provided much support to me and Donald and the residency programme; helping practically and pastorally. I'm sure the Karekare community would join me in wishing them well in their new home and hope that we will still see them often.

A past Artist in Residence, Nicholas Pound and his young family are keen to take over the role left by Michele and Mark and we have brought them back to Karekare for the day to see how everything is recovering. If all goes to plan they will move into Karekare House in early July.

After Cyclone Gabrielle we have postponed the residency programme until further notice. The local community, and health and safety issues are very important to us, and we want to make sure that the residency programme recommences only when optimal for all concerned.

We were very pleased that the property was utilised during the immediate aftermath of the cyclone; for safe refuge; storage of provisions, helicopter landing spot and use of starlink. Like everyone we are thinking about getting a generator! Thank you all for taking good care of the place.

We would be very interested in discussing having any community events at Karekare House, especially those with an arts component.

First Response

Karel Witten-Hannah gave the First Response report:

The group has 13 members. Dr Billie Haresnape is our team leader. Our training is fortnightly.

We respond to all 111 ambulance calls and to Life-Link alarm activations in the Piha, Karekare and Anawhata areas. Please note that you must call St John on 111, do not call First Response members directly. Our job is to look after patients until an ambulance (or helicopter) arrives. We do not transport patients.

The group has a base in a purpose-built garage at the entrance to the Piha Campground. This houses our First Response Toyota Hilux. It is where we do our training.

I also have a First Response kit and defibrillator in my vehicle so that I can respond more rapidly to callouts in Karekare. I respond to all Karekare callouts (when in the area) and I also respond to some callouts in the wider coverage area. Usually, other members from Piha also respond. Dr Dean Bunbury who has a holiday bach at Karekare may respond to any serious callouts if he is in the area.

We attended over 100 callouts a year. The last year has been challenging firstly because of COVID and of greater significance, the period following Cyclone Gabrielle, when the roads were closed. This has meant that we have had a larger than usual number of Westpac helicopter medivacs in Karekare as ambulances are not driving the Karekare and Lone Kauri Roads. (Thanks to Karekare Fire Brigade for their assistance with landing zones.) The Piha First Response vehicle is now allowed to respond in the Karekare area again now that the roads have improved. In other cases, I drove patients to the Piha Road in my vehicle to meet an ambulance. Wait times before an ambulance arrives have sometimes been quite long.

Callouts vary from medical (like COVID, breathing difficulties, seizures, heart problems and sickness) to trauma (like car accidents, falls, drowning and other surf related incidents).

Karel is the only First Responder in Karekare. If anyone would like to join First Response they should apply to St Johns, be pre-approved and then sdo the training.

Resilient Karekare

Jenny Taylor gave the Resilient Karekare Report on behalf of Shalema Wanden-Hannay:-

It has been quite a year for our Resilient Karekare Teams - hillsides and houses falling like they did, was not something we had anticipated or prepared for psychologically. Landslides weren't in our Plan and weren't one of the risks identified for Karekare by the Council. Cyclone Gabrielle was also very testing in terms of communication: physical separation between parts of the community, no cell phone for some of the time, limited at other times, and no power, which impacted on cell phone charging.

In November and December of 2022 the Resilient Karekare Coordination Team did a body of work focused on preparation for flooding. A flooding self-assessment form and a laminated sheet with flooding risks on one side and '*what to do before, during and after flooding*' was taken to houses in the Valley.

This information was presented to help emergency responders and checkers to prioritise which households to visit first in a flooding emergency. The self-assessment form included a request for landowner permission for access to conduct an area familiarisation of properties in flood prone parts of the valley. This familiarisation was planned for the first quarter of 2023.

The initial flooding scenario exercise planned for Jan and postponed, was a dummy run for wider scenario 'pot luck dinner' scenario training sessions involving a range of disasters for all those with roles in the wider network, with an invitation to be extended to emergency response agencies.

In the days and hours leading up to the Cyclone the Resilient Karekare Emergency Coordination Team preparation involved:

- A team meeting,
- Creating of What's App groups for the Network,
- Identifying properties for people to evacuate to,
- Offering accommodation to properties at risk of flooding,
- Asking visitors to leave the area, and
- Tracking down the owner of a campervan in the car park.

During the Cyclone itself the Emergency Coordination Team was in close contact with each other, logging and mapping slips, passing this information on to authorities, and collecting information on where evacuated people had been rehoused.

Some members of the Team were involved in a personal capacity out in the Cyclone on Monday night and Tuesday morning, needing to evacuate themselves, encouraging others to evacuate, making SiteReps, and encouraging people to follow Emergency Services advice.

For the next couple of months, and ongoing, the Resilient Karekare Emergency Coordination Team, which expanded greatly during the Cyclone Response, was extremely busy and clocked up a phenomenal amount of hours serving in and leading in the Community.

Some of the elements of Resilient Karekare Teams' post cyclone response that were delivered in partnership with volunteers from the Surf Club, FENZ, and other groups and individuals in the Community included:

- Information gathering, planning meetings, action planning, situation reports, and communication with AEM and other agencies,

- Rehousing of displaced people and mass evacuations by foot and by helo,
- Hazard taping areas off, finding and fortifying tracks, marking routes, and establishing a forward staging evacuation post,
- Supporting the retrieval of items from damaged homes,
- Welfare checks, needs assessment, and supply delivery to people's houses,
- Setting up of Community Hubs,
- Receiving, storing, and making available supplies for people and animals,
- Developing systems for mail, rubbish, access passes, and prescriptions,
- Hosting and facilitating the work of AEM, Council intelligence gathering response teams, Selwyn Team, stickering teams, Red Cross Welfare, MSD, a Nurse Practitioner, AIG Insurance, Census collectors, Local Board Members, Local MP, Mayor, experts, welfare support agencies, and more)
- Hosting community meetings (on-line and in person), community BBQ, book share, gatherings, a working bee,
- Information whiteboards, suggestion boxes, runners and information posters, What's App Groups, Facebook Posts, signs,
- Recovery and school bus advocacy, logging of jobs, damage intelligence gathering and reporting, and
- A community post-cyclone survey.

What was achieved by the Emergency Coordination Team and by other members of the Network, in collaboration with local lifeguards, FENZ, the Road Crew, Lone Kauri School, individuals in the community who pitched in, AEM, the Local Board, and others is simply awesome and is something we should all feel very proud of and grateful for. Particularly, in the context of the immense challenges facing the community at Karekare and households personally.

It must be acknowledged that the incredible dedication of those who served the community, for weeks on end, not just part of the Resilience Teams, but the Road Crew and others, didn't come without considerable costs to those individuals and their families. While others were focused on their household and family's needs and finding their new normal, many leading and working in the community were focused almost entirely on their work to support the community. Without the support of their families much of the work in our community simply would not have happened. So a huge, heartfelt thanks to families for their support and sacrifices.

Sending love and gratitude also to those of you in the community, who in so many different ways, acknowledged, supported, and facilitated the work of those who led and served in our community. The support from you in the form of hugs, kind words, appreciation, offers to help, and acts of kindness were incredibly essential to morale and really helped leaders and worker bees to keep serving our community day after day, in a disaster that seemed to go on and on and on.

Our deep-felt thanks also to the men and women from external groups, organisations, and agencies who served us, cared for us, and did their very best for us, in what were difficult and unprecedented situations for many of them.

The diagram circulating from the *Australia Institute of Disaster Resilience* seems to fit well with where our community is tracking. We've experienced the '*high heroic*' and '*honeymoon*' phases where there was a shared sense of survival and extremely strong community spirit. You couldn't walk very far without hugging someone and stopping for a chat.

Now, it feels like we are down in the big trough on the diagram where there is disappointment, anger, blame, PTSD, frustration, disputes, loss of support, red tape, delays,

burn-out, exhaustion, groups fragmenting and weakening, and delays, and obstacles. Some sources put the time frame for this trough at 1-3 years, while the Red Cross talks about this phase taking as long as 10 -11 years.

Can we dig really deep within ourselves as individuals and as a community and find the self-awareness, community awareness, and love for one another and this community to make this trough less deep and move ourselves and our community through to reconstruction and community cohesion more quickly?

AEM, the Local Board, and many others are full of praise for what was achieved in Karekare during the disaster and the Resilient Karekare Planning that went before. The Karekare Resilience Network and Plan is being used as a model for other communities around the Motu. We should perhaps stand and look back with a little distance and feel proud of what we have achieved as a community and celebrate our achievements.

Karekare Connect Report

James Hutchinson gave the Karekare Connect report:-

KK Connect & Karekare R&R, along with passionate individuals volunteering their time alongside other community groups, have been in conversation with Spark's engagement team and tech folks since mid-2022.

After a meeting with Chorus at the surf club, we had a good catch up in October 2022 (Karel, Garth, James, Anissa, Rob Taylor and Rachel) and talked about this work of ensuring Karekare and Piha's connectivity is future-proofed.

Current actions involve:

- Talking with Chorus and Spark about a long-term plan on working with communities like Karekare.
- Battery life at current tower. The upgrade to the cell-tower battery was excellent, but it needs to be extended beyond the 8-10 hours.

During the cyclone Chorus had 150 sites down, Karekare was very lucky to get a speedy response, thanks to Anissa for pushing for a generator, and assuring them that access was available to get it to the tower.

What are the long term generator plans post cyclone:

- Data caps & concerns about the community being at max usage.
- Finding the criteria for households in proximity of internet-connected schools to connect into fibre
- Draft a case study, organisations, policies and pathways a resource to share with other communities.
- A policy letter to Min Clark.
- Discussions with Crown Infrastructure about the timeline for the planned upgrade roadside cabinets to VDSL broadband.

The new STRATNET tower which appeared on La Trobe road has been constructed as part of a Crown Infrastructure project to improve internet and communications in rural communities . At this stage power is yet to be connected and backhaul from Jonkers Road has line-of-sight issues.

it seems this would serve a small amount of service to a few houses at the end of La Trobe road currently, but it does have line of sight to farm road. They didn't engage the community locally due to deadlines with Crown for completion.

7. General Business

Karekare Website – www.karekare.org.nz

Garth Cunningham is a member of KKRRT and is the volunteer webmaster for the Karekare website. The website hosting is funded by KKRRT.

The Home page on the Karekare website has a notice saying “Karekare has been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. The roads have been severely compromised. Essential travel only. Sightseers, daytrippers are discouraged from coming to the area at the current time.” The public part of the website also gives information Karekare - a map, weather, information on the Karekare volcano, surf report, Whatipu Scenic Reserve and shellfish rahui. It also had drop down keys on a summary of KKRRT, local businesses, Karekare resilience and the Landcare Newsletter. There is a link to the website of other community groups i.e. Karekare Surf Club, Landcare, Lone Kauri School, Karekare House Artist Residency and Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Residents and ratepayers can log in to the “member only” section on the website. Easy process to sign in and identify yourself – once permission is given you have access to the KKRRT AGM reports, minutes from KKRRT meetings, Billboard, community notifications. There is also a Blog.

Voices of Karekare – Oral History Project

Sue Gee gave the Voices of Karekare report:

The *Voices of Karekare* initiative received a grant for a community oral history project from Manatū Taonga, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage last December. This project aimed to record the history of the 1993 beach rahui, a unique ban to protect marine life. Just as it was about to begin, Cyclone Gabrielle struck.

The project was temporarily put on hold. Organisers, Sue Gee and Kim Conway realised there was an opportunity to expand the enquiry to include contemporary response recording about Cyclone Gabrielle experiences. This expansion has received the go-ahead from MCH.

A training workshop was held on the 13th May at the home of Caroline Grove who, along with Mel Blank, has been co-opted to the planning committee. Over a dozen Karekare people keen to learn about oral history, recording and interviewing skills, and ethical responsibilities attended the workshop.

A follow-up planning hui will address project design, a time-line and seek to identify a diverse range of potential interviewees. Later, there will be an open day when anyone in the Karekare community can come to record their stories of the Rāhui, Cyclone Gabrielle and the aftermath.

Public access to the recordings will be at Auckland Libraries, West Research. A rahui /cyclone resilience page will be created on the Karekare community website where sound excerpts, written material and photographs may be embedded. The recorded oral histories will be archived in the public domain, thus available for other projects such as a documentary, exhibition or podcast.

We would like to attract a wide range of supporters. The project seeks to identify community resource people who may like to provide support in some way. For example, assistance will be required with transcriptions, for backing up WAV files and to source funding to purchase recording equipment for the expanded project.

The Voices of Karekare oral history project is important for the information it will contain and the gift of history it will give back to the community. If you can help or would like to be involved, please get in touch with Sue, Kim or Mel.

Septic tank pump-outs at Karekare

Auckland Council have advised that our septic tanks will continue to be pumped out every three years by a Council contractor who will also provide a maintenance report. Whilst this will still be paid out our rates, Council will now require us to pay for an additional certificate of fitness from a third party.

Community Survey Report

Kim Conway advised that a community survey had been sent to Karekare residents on the Cyclone Gabrielle response. Positive response and received some good ideas going forward. Important that the community work together and continue to be prepared. The results will be available shortly.

Karekare Hub

Sarah Cannon advised that a permanent hub had been set up on their property on Karekare Road and was ready for visitors.

Thank you: Rob Taylor thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

Meeting ended 4.00pm