

Chairman's Report for Annual General Meeting of Waitara Alive, April 26, 2017, 6pm Waitara Alive office.

Welcome.

This report pertains to our 2016 year of operations and is somewhat overdue; I apologise for the delay.

2016 was a busy year for the Waitara Alive project. Our Community Development Advisor, and sole full time employee, Vicki Dombroski, will report on the projects and undertakings she has been involved in during the 2016 year.

The challenges have been many; however it is my firm belief that Waitara Alive has played a huge part in lifting the positive profile of Waitara among our own citizens and to the wider audience.

I believe the statistics reported by Vicki regarding positive media versus negative reports are an indication of Waitara taking pride in itself and moving forward. I hope it continues; certainly the signs are positive - for example the Clifton Park project.

2016 saw change in the Board of Waitara Alive; our founding Chairperson Craig MacFarlane resigned from the position mid-year and I became Chair. I want to record our thanks to Craig; he was instrumental in the formation of Waitara Alive and absolutely dedicated to the betterment of Waitara. All will be aware that Craig has suffered a health set-back recently and we extend our best wishes to him and his family for his recovery.

Our Board has been stable, however it has sometimes been a struggle to coordinate everyone's schedule for meetings and so we have recently changed the frequency of meetings to alternate monthly and appointed a small group to meet with our CDA in between in a consultative support role.

Two of our Board members retire by rotation as of today and were eligible for re-election. Anaru Marshall and Harry Cast have decided not to re-stand

Anaru and Harry have been valued contributors to Waitara Alive, in Anaru's case since the very beginning and for Harry for several years. It is with regret that I thank them both for their service and especially for their belief in Waitara.

We now have a number of vacancies for board positions and I look forward to others stepping up and doing their bit to enhance the Waitara and districts community.

Waitara Alive is utterly dependent on community funding for our operations. We (and our community) have relied on the Taranaki Electricity Trust for a number of years. Our CDA and I have met with our local North Taranaki ward TET Trustees Ken Bedford, Karen Schumacher, and Mike Davey during the year and keep them abreast with our various projects. The TET contributions fund our administration operations – basically salary, rent, transport. Any extra projects require their own funding sources and involve a lot of our CDA's time and effort – which is a risk to delivery of our purpose given our limited staffing levels.

We are investigating further options for projects and funding in line with our stated objective of positively “Growing our Community”. Our challenge is to grow delivery hand in hand with funding, whether it is from a degree of commercializing some of our activities (whilst maintaining our charitable status) or specific projects funded project by project. It is a real challenge for us.

In closing I acknowledge my fellow Board members for their contributions over the year and ongoing.

I acknowledge the Taranaki Electricity Trust for their ongoing support and particularly our local trustees.

I also most want to acknowledge and thank Vicki Dombroski for her service and delivery as our sole full time employee. The role of Community Development Advisor It is not an easy position – it is sometimes isolated and the needs of our community are many, as are the opportunities.

But they all require time, funding, commitment and capability. In Vicki we have 2 of those requirements in abundance. Funding and time are a challenge so focus on best outcomes and “bang for buck” is a constant.

Thank you.

Blue Read, Chair, Waitara Alive 26/4/17