

Ngakuta Bay Community Association

AGM 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Chair's Report

This year has been challenging, we usually hold our AGM around New Year when most people are in the Bay. But this year we had a number of people away for various reasons and we opted for Waitangi weekend. Then came COVID mark 3 and a weather bomb! We are trying to make this brief, hold it outdoors with social distancing and as dry as we can!

As Chair my job has been made easy by our committee who all have given a lot of their time and energy. Anne Maslen (treasurer) and Ngaire Sigmund (secretary) have taken up roles they may not have intended but did it anyway. Norm Gourdie has been our contact with DOC, MDC and Marlborough Roads. Dave Poswillo has been active in our community in various formats for some years, while he is stepping down I'm sure Dave will continue with his involvement. Dave Hosie has had limited opportunity to attend meetings but always makes valuable contributions. *July Mann also mentioned.*

Our Biodiversity sub-group has focussed on leading revegetation and predator control with help with grants from Pub Charity and MDC. This is covered in their reports but I'd like to highlight the conservation gains – banded rail have taken up home in the wetland (!) and huge numbers of predators trapped with noticeable improvements in bird life in the Bay. It is pleasing that more home owners are helping with traps on their properties (we do need more). Recent research is showing that while predator control is important, native bush is essential in making even bigger gains – preserve what's there and plant more bird-friendly species. Our environment is recovering but is fragile, so we ask adults to discourage children from trapping eels and taking freshwater fish for bait.

We welcome Councillor Barbara Faulls and the opportunity to hear more on developments at MDC. Thanks for your support.

Andrew John

Chair