

2020 AGM - Presidents Report

Piha Ratepayers & Residents Assn.

Welcome to Annual General Meeting of the Piha Ratepayers and Residents Association. The Piha R&R was formed in 1938 and so this AGM ends the 80th year of this Association.

Particularly welcome tonight are our special guests from Auckland Council and the Waitakere Ranges Local Board. The mutually cooperative association that the Piha R&R hold with these people is essential, and we are grateful for the good relationships that we enjoy with them and their support for what we are trying to achieve for the Piha community.

We also warmly welcome all of our members here today and especially acknowledge the members of the R&R committee past and present. Their largely unseen efforts, and the knowledge, experience, time they bring is for the benefit of the Piha community and this is a huge and invaluable asset.

General.

Our membership remains strong with 167 members, but we would like to see an increase in membership to strengthen our support.

Throughout the year the Piha R&R committee undertake a seemingly endless list of tasks, advocating on behalf of the community. During the past year we have addressed: Sewage pump-out protocols; Kitekite Falls Selfie bridge proposals; Piha Stream and Glen Esk Valley flooding issues; parking and trading complaints; Piha resilience plan; Piha Road repairs and rebuilding; Storm water issues related to Piha Road; Seaview Road maintenance. Kauri Dieback related issues including the rights and wrongs of the track closures; proposed Taitamo track and park restoration; beach front signs; Maintenance of the Domain and facilities; roadside maintenance including the huge puddles along the beach front; proposals for a skate park; Claude Abel Park and duck pond; Bus Services to Piha; Piha Pro surfing event; Eel bridge maintenance and speed limits within the Piha community; freedom camping and more. We are in contact with Council and the Local Board on these issues and continually strive for beneficial outcomes for the Piha community.

Piha Lagoon: The flooding that occurred in 2018, along with a commitment by Council toward clean, swimmable waters, has brought a focus by the Auckland Council Healthy Waters team on the pollution of the Piha Stream Lagoon. At a productive meeting with Healthy Waters and the Local Board at the beginning of the year a commitment was made to give positive and cooperative consideration to a Piha R&R proposal to assist the tide to flush the lagoon at times that the flushing is not occurring naturally. Receipt of the R&R proposal was to be contingent on obtaining positive consensus from the Piha community. Approval or tacit consent has now been received from all the appropriate Piha organisations and only acceptance by the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society is now required. It is planned to present the proposal early this year. Graeme Carrie has been spearheading this work and we acknowledge his persistent efforts.

Library Building: It is pleasing to report that we are enjoying a good working relationship with the Piha Community Library Trust in respect of the community building occupied by the Library and owned by the Piha R&R. During the year we repaired and replaced the aluminium window hardware and resurfaced the flat section of the roof that has not been addressed since it's installation in 1998. We thank Maureen Thompson, Library Manager and past Trustee for her cooperation.

Post Office: The Post Office, owned and operated by the R&R, continues to be an important asset to the Piha community and we are proud to have been operating the Post Office now for more than 30 years. PO Box rentals provide the base income, combined with sales of stamps, etc., that allows this important community facility to operate. Boxes that become available are generally re-rented quite quickly and we thank our long standing Post Mistress Chris Warman and standby, Marit Larson for their diligence and friendly service.

Piha Wetland Trust: As you have heard in the earlier presentation, the Piha R&R are pleased to have been a party to the management plan that allowed Auckland Council to acquire the old School House and the wetland area on which it sits, from the Dept. of Education. The Piha Wetland Trust has now been formed and we look forward to working with that body to further enhance the unique diversity of the Piha community that we all enjoy. Particular thanks to Haneke Bouchier for her efforts and appointment as the Piha R&R representative on the Trust.

Membership. The strength of the R&R is dependent on strong community input and support. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to become members of the R&R. Many of the existing committee have been serving for some years and an injection of new minds and ideas are critical to keeping the Association fresh and relevant to the community. The more members we have and the more active those members are, the better the R&R can represent the community and the better the community can become.

Thank you again for your attendance. We look forward to continuing our efforts, with your support, in the coming year.

Ken Cowan
President