

Chair's Report 2024-2025

Kia ora koutou, welcome everyone

What a difference 6 months makes. With the re-opening of access tracks to Mautohe Cathedral Cove and an extended period of great weather there has seen the return of tourists in numbers and a real positive/ supportive vibe in the community. We all benefit from the business operators doing well – brilliant effort, thank you.

Mautohe Cathedral Cove

As a result of the significant drive and commitment by a number of people in our community and the support of the minister, Tama Potaka, the access track to the cove was re-opened on 2 December 2025 – thank you DoC.

We now wait for DoC to provide an update and consult with us on the re-opening of the track from Hahei Beach and the tracks to Gemstone and Stingray bays; any proposal for a 'more robust' access track to the cove; and for the long-term visitor management plan. DoC advised late last year that the way-forward / recommendations on all these issues would be finalized by the end of June 2025. DoC has advised (3/4/25) that they will be consulting with all interested parties (including the Hahei community) in the next 6 to 8 weeks prior to developing any plan / recommendations

DoC has further advised that they have agreed with the shuttle bus operator that the shuttle bus from the main visitor carpark to the access track will continue through this winter.

Hahei Ambassadors

The initial Hahei ambassadors programme, which ran for 3 weeks over the peak holiday period, was acknowledged by all to be a successful campaign. It met the targeted goals of welcoming and informing visitors of the various options to access the cove and promoted the other attractions, activities and facilities available within the Hahei and its surrounds. It has proved the need for and the opportunity of this service. Our businesses all gained some benefit as a result of this service

The ambassadors (22 volunteers) are to be celebrated for the work they did and the way they did it. Every single day and shift of the campaign we saw and heard ample good reason to be proud of our people.

Like all good experiments the experience has taught us where we and our collaborators can improve the process and outcomes further. HRRRA is committed to repeating the campaign

Well done and thank you in particular to David Pearce who developed and managed this initiative and all the volunteers who so generously gave of their time.

TCDC Annual Plan

Consultation on the TCDC annual plan (July 2025- June 2026) is imminent.

HRRA has been focusing and will submit on three issues

- traffic / pedestrian improvements between the fire station and Grange Road and at the beach end of Hahei Beach Road both providing safer pedestrian amenity. The proposed improvements at the beach end of Hahei Beach Road (the 'front door' to the beach for most visitors) will also open up the significant scenic view point approaching the beach (refer attached email of our discussions with Council's traffic engineer)
- waste water. TCDC are currently finalising a report on the way-forward for utilizing the spare capacity of the existing waste water treatment plant to connect the properties along Wigmore Stream and a small number of properties in Robyn Crescent that back onto a tributary of this stream. There is a further funding requirement for a study into the expansion of the existing treatment plant to service all properties zoned as residential in Hahei (including allowance for growth) together with addressing the issue of the current consent to discharge into Wigmore Stream expiring in 2030.
- water. Funding for updating the report for TCDC to take over responsibility for and upgrading the Hahei Water Association water system noting that TCDC will be supplying water to this system via the new water treatment plant when it comes online mid-2025

Local Waters Done Well

Council is mandated in accordance with recent legislation to deliver water services (3 waters) separate from other Council business

The new legislation requires councils to identify at least two options (status quo and joint water services delivery) for water services delivery to take to public consultation. Thereafter every council across the country is to develop and submit Water Service Delivery Plans (WSDPs) by September 2025 based on their preferred option. The WSDP requires councils to design the structure, delivery method and funding and financial arrangements for their future water services delivery

TCDC has narrowed down the following two options for future water services delivery for our community (Thames Coromandel District) to

- an internal business unit or division within TCDC, and
- a regional/ sub-regional asset-owning water organization

Council is scheduled to consult with the local communities between 17 April and 15 May 2025

Hahei Future Development – Spatial Plan

Under the Govt's proposed to replace the Resource Management Act with new legislation that is intended to simplify and speed up the planning processes each region will be required to have a spatial plan focused on identifying future land use areas, existing and future infrastructure (water, wastewater, transport corridors, recreational facilities etc), development areas prioritized for public investment and measures to protect the environment which in turn will be central to helping align local and national priorities.

Each local authority (TCDC in our case) will be required to develop its own spatial plan which will be incorporated into a regional plan (Waikato)

Representatives of HRRA and some large owners (including DoC) have recently met with the Mayor and our local councilors to discuss the long-term development of Hahei - what Hahei may look like in the future (next 20-50 years). Hahei has grown exponentially in the last period and we all need to understand and have input into how it should (or should not) develop. As an outcome of that meeting Council has recommended that we, as a community, develop a 'wish list' that can be considered by TCDC when developing its spatial plan when the legislation is finalized / passed – front foot it.

A committee of representatives of HRRA, Hahei Business Association and the large landowners is being formed to 'champion' the consultation with the community and liaise with TCDC and DoC in developing this 'wish list'

Coromandel Alliance Association

The Coromandel Alliance Association (CAA) is an alliance of some (10) residents and ratepayer associations across the Thames-Coromandel district – HRRA is one of the members. It was formed last year with an agreed a mandate to lobby Council on:

- rates - amount, what spent on, distribution of spend across the district. Note the proposed rating review does not address this
- Council to return to managing the core services of roading, water, waste water, stormwater and solid waste. Other services / nice-to-have projects (eg. Thames swimming pool) should be funded via a targeted rate to the benefitting communities
- empowerment of the Community Boards. Community Boards need to be directly involved in all decision making with appropriate delegated authority (none under the current protocols) and
- genuine and pro-active/ improved consultation with more transparency and openness in all decision making and financial matters

CAA member representatives met with Council in early November and have subsequently attended Council meetings with no progress. Note these issues will be something all need to consider when voting in the local body elections later this year

Community Resilience Plan

The generator (which will provide lighting and general power in the community hall in the event of an emergency) has now been installed and commissioned and a community resilience plan (including a community resilience group) has been finalized (covers Hahei and Hot water Beach).

The Resilience Group (under the leadership of Ray van Beynen and Maggie Beattie) focuses on ensuring the community and its members receive non-emergency care during such events. In an emergency situation this group reports to the local civil defence group (Whitianga or Thames). Note this is separate from the functions of Fire & Emergency and St John's but is linked.

The next step is for a for the group to undertake a training exercise (to be coordinated by Pam Bolt (TCDC community resilience coordinator)).

Again, thank you to those who have generously donated to the generator installation etc

Anzac Memorial

The permanent memorial and flag pole within the Kotare Reserve memorial garden will be completed in time for this year's ANZAC Day service. The memorial recognises not only those from this district that served in both World War 1 and 2 but the contribution of all who have and continue to contribute to our war and peace-keeping efforts

Thank you to the Kotare Reserve Memorial Garden Trust for their leadership and significant contribution to this memorial and to all those in the community who have donated. It is something the community should be very proud of.

Note the service this year is to be held 10.30am Friday 25 April in the Kotare Reserve

Constitution

Following comments at the last AGM the committee has again reviewed the constitution with the proposed changes either to provide better definition to existing clauses, deleting requirements no longer relevant and adding clauses (eg clause 4 g) to better protect members interests. The proposed changes have been circulated (and copy is attached) with the AGM notice. The confirmation of these changes is required to be approved by the AGM before submitting to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies for 'certification'.

Communication Channels

A particular focus in the last few months has been on membership growth (providing more visibility on what HRRP does for the community and the importance on being a member) To date this calendar year our membership has reached circa 400 members (up from the 2024 membership of 167 and the previous high of circa 250 members) simply by more consistent 'direct marketing' and putting it out there what we do. The challenge is to continue to build on and maintain that membership

We have kept our community informed about Council and DoC initiatives, policy changes, local issues and various community events via our many ratepayer newsletter and social media platforms, including our Ratepayer Facebook page and the Hello Hāhei page. The community web site is currently being updated and simplified to make it easier for all to access and to maintain (work-in-progress). If you're not already subscribed to these channels, I strongly recommend you do so to stay updated.

Thank you to Penne for your great work

Proposed subdivision 94 Hahei Beach Road

The landowner submitted an application for consent to subdivide this land in December 2024 and the application was provided to all HRRRA membership via our newsletter distributed in early February 2025 asking for your views.

Following meetings with Council the developer has advised, that due to Council being unable to commit to a timeframe to resolve the current waste water treatment plant capacity, they intend to modify the proposal to change all residential lots to rural residential lots with a minimum size of 1,500m². Note that under the approved structure plan for this land residential lots have to be connected to the existing Hahei treatment plant or to an approved treatment facility (on-site). The proposed modified scheme provides for all proposed lots to have on-site wastewater treatment systems and with potable water provided via rain water tanks with no reticulation system.

The total number of proposed lots is now 49 including the 15 bush lots which are unchanged from the original application (note the original proposal had a total 87 residential and rural residential lots). The 'reserve' lots remain as per the original application.

HRRRA provided the proposed revised plans to our members via a newsletter issued on 26 March 25 and requested any comments / feedback by 6 April 2025

The developer has subsequently advised that when consented they propose only to proceed with a small part of the revised proposal and will continue to agitate for an expanded wastewater treatment system for all of Hahei which will enable them to apply for a more intensive development (as per the original proposal) in the future

Donations

In the last 6 months HRRRA has donated to the community resilience plan (generator etc) and the permanent ANZAC memorial – both \$3,000.

HRRA Committee

This year committee meetings were held bi-monthly in-person

I want to acknowledge and thank all committee members for their inputs / contribution – it is a significant commitment. I record that Maarten Bangma is not standing again this year due to business commitments – thank you Maarten for contribution over the last 3 years – I know you will support our on-going initiatives

The nominations for the 2025/2026 committee (to be confirmed at the meeting) are

John Jonassen* - chair

Brett Harries* – deputy chair

Robyn Dalzell* - secretary

Penne Clayton* – treasurer

David Pearce*, Maggie Beattie*, Ray van Beynen* and Tyrell Browne*.

*current committee members

From time-to-time we need to address specific issues that do need expertise beyond what is within the current committee and will reach out to and co-opt persons with that can add value. Being part of this committee or as a co-opted member is a commitment but is rewarding.

Thank you all for your inputs, support and passion for our community. The number and variety of groups that contribute to our community continues to amaze me - mind blowing - and is what makes Hahei what it is and such a great community.

John Jonassen

15 April 2025

