

Report prepared for Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Meeting 7th December 2018

For a small Community the Armistice Day Ceremony at Kohukohu was a fine example of how well to do special commemorative functions such as this. Guest Speakers were Commander Quentin Randall Commanding Officer, HMNZS PHILOMEL & The Hon Kelvin Davis, MP for Te Taikerāu. The Memorial Arch was truly an appropriate place for such significant occasion. The

It appears that the Mural Project touted with such enthusiasm a few years ago and finally didn't happen is at last going to fly. Under the guidance of Adrienne Tari one day we will be able to take great pride in a town justly proud of its history artistically and graphically displayed for all to see. It is imperative that the first mural painted has to have a real "wow" factor to ensure the success of the project.

I have included a copy of an article written by John Tamihere in last Friday's NZ Herald. It highlights the threat to our way of life from the power and influence of the Corporates and slipping away of the control by democratically elected community representatives. It makes for compulsory reading. Our community is no less under threat as is any other. Just consider the fate of the Northern News. Once there were 36 people working out of the Kaikohe office and shortly there will not even be the two working out of the Kerikeri office. How can Community Newspapers survive without local input?

The amazing success of the Halloween Night at the Pioneer Village was a real cause for celebration. That an event such as this could provide such an attraction to bring a whole community together is, in itself, a good cause for celebration. There must have been nearly 1000 children there that night and together with their parents, enjoyed a great family outing. Congratulations to the organisers. A great opportunity to showcase the Pioneer Village as a destination or an event venue.

Recently, a local family had a family outing with a difference. A difference that indubitably benefits a community, has a lasting effect and sets an example others could follow. The Rakena family set out on a mission, to clean up the roadside, in this case Thorpe and Rangihamama roads. These two roads are seemingly the unofficial rubbish dumps for many too lazy to use recognised receptacles. Most of the trash are used drink containers. Can we emulate the Singaporean example and institute heavy fines for littering. Some of the children's remarks were an interesting comment on today's society. Thank you, the Rakena family, young and old, you are an inspiration to all.

I attended the launch of the Tai Tokerau Mahuru remand service at the Kohewhata Marae. It is hoped that this new initiative will result in a significant reduction in young people reoffending and quite possibly, new offending. Anything that will instil pride and wellbeing in our youth is an objective well worth pursuing and as it is driven by the community, deserves to succeed. Coupled with the Matariki Court system, there is a good foundation to believe in real reduction in youth offending. This latter initiative was very well explained at a recent Rotary Club Meeting by Mae Maihi.

Mr de Angulo continues to raise water quality issues, with a degree of authority and authenticity. His quite unique style of drawing attention to the issue, while somewhat contentious, is nevertheless still worthy of recognition. The question is, how can this initiative be capitalised on? There would be some real value if it were possible to resolve upon a course of action to ensure that at least of the four streams rising in Kaikohe were leaving town clean. Papahawaiiki Stream is probably the worst affected and could attract the greatest cost but also the most straightforward mission to achieve. It would make for a good start and set a good example.

Regular street sweeping would be a good start. The best example is the vicinity around Mc Donald's Restaurant, this is washed down or swept every day. Compare this with the rest of the carpark, it on occasion, makes one ashamed of one's community. Under the Kaikohe Borough Council, Broadway street gutters were swept every morning before anybody came to work. Today, debris seems to hang around for an exceptionally long time.

I attended the Meeting in Kaikohe on the 14th October called for the purpose of establishing a northern group and assessing support for possible alignment with a National ratepayer group with

mutual and/or common local issues. The 30 attendees were representative of the wider Northland area.

While nothing concrete was resolved it would seem that Ratepayers concerns may very well be best served with a strong united voice. Nobody wants to see another Mangawhai situation.

Reference the "Report" from Brett Morris of the Hockey Association, it would appear that despite all assurances, all is not well with Lindvaart Park Management. These issues have to be resolved, and quickly. A divided community is in nobody's best interests.

After sitting through the Dog Control Bylaw Submissions, it is very clear that this is an issue that will need the wisdom of Solomon to resolve. It is accepted that an appropriate exercise area is needed in our various communities and this was emphasised strongly and particularly so by those who reside or can commute easily to seaside areas.

A submission was made extend the areas controlled by the Alcohol Prohibition Area. Reference the 2 acres currently owned by G Philips (to be added to Lindvaart Park) Cycle Trail from Carey Road to SH12, Lower Station Road through to Thorpe Road, Rangihamama Road, Rowsell Heights and the car parking area on Monument Hill. The objective is to reduce the availability of easy access to alcohol.

S K Reilly
15th November 2018