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| **Mercury Bay South Residents and Ratepayers Association** **Meeting Minutes**  |
| **Time / Date:**  | 4:00 pm Sunday, 9,4, 2023 | **Venue:**  | Harcourts Real Estate, Cooks Beach  |
| **Attendees:**  | **Committee Tom Riddle, Kane Jones, Paul Hopkins Cyndy Lomas, Paulette Tainsh, Steve Lloyd , David Baardman, Bob Nicholls, Yolanda Jamieson**Guests Scott Simpson, Sue Costello, Deli Connel, John Grant, Rekha Giri Percival Public of Mercury Bay South  |
| **Apologies:**  | Bruce Philphott, Chris Harris  |
| **Keen Supporters** | Thanks to Paulette and Hendry Tainsh for being so accommodating and providing a providing photocopying. The Association thanks you: |
| **ITEM**  | **DISCUSSION**  | **ACTION**  | **WHO**  |
| **Warm Welcome** **Scott Simpson address****Sue Costello** **Address on Parks and Reserves** **Bruce Nilkin** **Cell Phone Tower****Murray Haycock** **Paul Hopkins** **Emergency Response****Paulette Tainsh****Gold Card** **John Grant** **Purangi Rd** **Bob Nicholls** **Road Safety** **Kane Jones****Security Cameras****Notice Board****Inclusion of ideas****Combined Devpt / Longreach and Rates****Paul Hopkins****Long Term Plan Submission Time** **Lakes**  |  A warm welcome was extended to our guests and public. The geographic area of the Coromandel electorate extends to just before the boundary of Tauranga to Red Fox Tavern, Miranda and Coromandel Peninsular. Each sector has its own issues that pertains to that area whilst they also have the same problems that are felt by the public at large, being law, health and educational portfolios. He described the situation for these areas as woeful. **Questions** **Q If the National Party manages to win the Election will Scott be involved with the Waters and Fisheries sectors.** This is dependent on what Chris Luxon wants him to do but he is more than willing to take up these portfolios.**Q What is his stance on the slips and closure of State Highway 25** There is a profound lack of urgency from the Local Council with regards to this and the Time frame that is being proposed for Easter 2024 is unacceptable. Businesses are hemorrhaging money and this would mean an income that is dependent on the influx of tourists to the area for the summer (80% of annual revenue is taken during this period) suffered the 4th  financial setback that in so many years. The National Party would have addressed the physical barrier of a slip in a similar vein to that of the Kaikoura Earthquakes. Businesses would need a timeframe on wish to allow for a degree of certainty, to plan and prepare for the future. For the interim period why hasn’t the Tapu Coroglen Rd been repaired as an alternative route. The repair for SH25 bridge would be a flyover incorporating pylons and pre-fabricated pieces that would be made off site and slotted in. **Q How do you combat Council lethargy regarding local issues. Presently the problem is raised at Community Board level and then taken to Council. Is there a shortcut to circumnavigate the flow of information.**This is not deemed to be the case as 80% of policy is through central government and then dispersed to local government. Council needs to respond to problems through an open-door policy where a culture of openness is encouraged**.** **What would if elected National do to mitigate erosion and flooding.**Along the coastal areas large tracts of land have become susceptible to both Erosion and Flooding. The Resource Management Act (RMA) is up for review. Its replacement would envisage 3 key strategies.1. Adaption: Raising properties on stilts
2. Physical adaption through using rocks, walls and groynes
3. Retreat through leaving the said land vacant as in the Christchurch red zone.

Each property regarding moral and ethical issues needs to be balanced regarding their own unique perspectives. For e.g. can ratepayers be expected to fund properties that experience flooding. **Q Would National if elected repeal 3 waters** An unequivocal Yes **Q Availability of Medical Health is critical in rural areas What do you see as fair access to availability of services to Cooks and what will National’s vision be to promote fair and equitable Health care for all New Zealanders**To solve some of these big problems we must get our economy thriving and growing. Layer upon layer of regulations and red tape thwarts development and is our biggest barrier to turning current chaos around. The inception of District Health Boards is problematic. Scott made it a personal mission to reinstate the Westpac Helicopter Service.Barriers 1. Staffing issues
2. Aging Demographic
3. Insufficient Cell phone coverage
4. SH 25 Closure
5. Insufficient funding through economic chaos

**Sue Costello** Parks and Reserves from Whitianga to Hot Water Beach . If there is something operationally that needs to be done the public can Request for Service by contacting the Council. Issues 1. Shakespeare Tracks have been improved.
2. Track for Cathedral Cove is closed. DOC is trying to establish GEO tech side presently. It is unlikely to open this side of Christmas. There are 3 geotechnic reports that are a wastage of time and money. (Scott Simpson)
3. Purangi Upgrade
	1. Bollards are to moved back towards the Rd to give families more room**. This might be of concern as children and families crossing the road might prove to be in danger on such a busy stretch of road in summer. (A member from the Public)**
	2. Parking to be on the opposite side of the Rd.

* 1. Refurbishment of whole area
	2. Likelihood that it will be 3 years away. What the Ratepayers want needs to be reflected in the 10-year Long Term Plan
	3. Consultation will be ongoing with public. A meeting needs to be arranged to solicit a vision of what the community wants.
	4. Now no destination playground has been planned as this might detract from the beauty of the area. The Council and Ratepayers could look at an alternative playground area.

**New Cell Phone Tower** Apologies from Sarah and Blair Matheson. The issue is: there is no objection to building a Cell Phone Tower, but the dispute lies to where it is being placed. There have been 3 alternative suggestions given to Connexa that are within the same area, yet they are not given any credence to.Excerpt from Bruce and Suzie NicklinToday we are looking to update the community and seek suggestions as to the next possible steps the community takes with the council not to consent to the proposed Communication tower to be placed at the entrance to Resolution Rise. Connexa on behalf of Spark are utilizing the law of 2017 on the National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities. Allowing them to place towers such as this where they like, without taking into consideration any human elements such as health, current land use of land, impact on property values and the visual impact on driving into Resolution Rise and Cooks BeachIn our petition within the community, it is clear the tower is not welcome on the proposed site. In our petition within the community, it is clear the tower is not welcome on the proposed site. Three landowners on Purangi Rd and Resolution Rise have offered alternative sites with rejection of these from Connexa with no compromise. Over and above other community members, there are members of the community within close range of the tower that will have their health adversely effected by the EMF rays from the tower - where will they move to? German researchers have found that the first 400 metres from a cell tower are unsafe. They found a 3-fold increase in cancer as well as getting the cancer earlier in life. When Resolution Rise was consented the entrance way to the sub Division was consented to be looked after by residents as the gateway and we have looked after the land, trees, and signage for 15 years. We are unable to have anything in the subdivision over 8 metres yet an 18 metre communications tower can be erected on the gateway we look after. A requirement in the resource consent was the developer had to plant hundreds of trees to beautify the subdivision. Does a 15-metre steel Tower beautify the sub- division? No This is also the school bus stop and parents do not want children standing under the tower. The proposed new bus stop is not as easy or safe to access from Scott Drive or those coming from Longreach. Residents also collect their mail from directly under the proposed tower. We ask those here today, that perhaps hold positions of power to influence the council to listen to the wants of the community and push for this site not to be consented. Reply from Scott Simpson Siting Cell phone towers has always been controversial hence legislation in 2017 for allowing cell phone towers to be built in areas that require up to data transfer. Connexa now operates as a separate identity. Examples of areas that have stopped the siting of towers in particular areas are: Katikati , Paeroa, and Coromandel. The community must come together and show a side of unity. Scott is happy to facilitate a meeting with Connexa offering alternative sites that comply with coverage and maximizes the commercial benefit to them. **Storm Water and Flooding** Murray has experienced 2 stormwater and sewage flooding events on his property and yet the Council won’t accept liability. Below is a report that Murray Haycock tabled for our Meeting, identifying areas of flooding in Cooks. Collectively we must make an approach to Council. Quick solution would be to pull the weir at the Lakes.**FLOODING****Rivas Road**Heavy vegetation within the catchment's flood flow path chokes the flow velocity which will hold back waters to increase flood height.  Realistically the only solution is to reform the stream channel to suit a required design flow capacity or leave everything as is and accept the current situation. **Captain Cook Road**Flooding of this area has only occurred since filling by the Cooks Beach subdivisional development closed off the drain leading across the CBD lands that provided the relief for the Endeavour Place catchment.  The Developer Engineers had assumed an alternate adopted flow path which is 200mm to 300mm higher and accordingly causes the flooding before overtopping and releasing to the adjoining catchments.Some new build development and in most locations section infill with impermeable materials has occurred within this catchment.  These actions have exacerbated the earlier created situation and it can now be considered permanent unless significant new drainage works are undertaken.  An immediate relief action would be to reform the drainage channel along the south edge of Captain Cook Road nominally 300mm depth at the maximum available grade to release into the junction of Charles Green Drive.  All vehicle entries would need to be culverted with a minimum 225mm diameter culvert.**Riverview Road**Not directed to a specific location but I am aware of numerous property developments at low elevations.  I'd suggest the cause is a choked flowpath in Cook Stream slowing and elevating the flood water height.**Bank Street Reserve**A local impoundment still mostly in natural topography.  There is / was a piped drainage link serving this area and I assume it is still working.  (Through Morrisons into the CBD piped network).  Truth is, that drainage is probably undersized to accept the flows out of that catchment and I do not know how good catch pits are serving that area.**Rees Road Culvert**Discussed previously, minor works were undertaken some years back to lower the crest of the road.  I doubt that was very successful, simply if Cook Stream's flow channel is choked, water will back up and overtop Rees Ave.  Simple choice, either reform the flow channel or accept the probability of current flood impacts.  **Oyster Drive**West End:  No flood impact from surface waters.  One of the Iti Lane coastal outlets worked which despite rainfall intensity maintained a "dry catchment".East End:  A piped drainage system exists or existed to serve this area.  The coastal outfall was abandoned when the Rock Company's wall was constructed.  I am not aware of any coastal drainage infrastructure now provided.**OTHER ITEMS****Sewage Pump Stations**This was an extreme failure by Council and / or Council's Service Provider. All sewage pump stations are fitted with 6 hours of storage. All are performance monitored 24 /7 and have alarm notifications complete with battery backup provided via SCADA telemetry to a remote mobile phone or pager and the base station.  All fault situations are identified and reported in real time.A trailer mounted alternator is part of the Cooks Beach Sewerage establishment and is sized to provide power requirements to all but the main lift station.  It is difficult to understand under the operation and maintenance requirements that the failure events occurred.  In addition to management requirements there are numerous nominated design construction actions within the Cooks Beach Sewerage plan presented for the Loan and Consent purposes that have not been undertaken.  One major design failure allows flood water ingress at gulley traps.  Also, manholes are not sealed.  There are nominated soakage trenches at suitable overflow locations that have not been provided.Discharge of raw sewage onto residential property surfaces is not a Permitted Activity and breaches numerous Regulations, Statutes, and Codes of Practice that are adopted by TCDC.The events that occurred at Cooks Beach on February 13th, 2023, were not "Force Majeure" as has been suggested by TCDC personnel.  All aspects should have been controlled.Permanent remedial works will necessitate works to control surface water flooding concurrent with the necessary Wastewater System upgrading to obtain safety within dwellings and to eliminate wastewater drainage failure.**Flooding in Longreach**This situation should not exist.  I have not undertaken design but visually it appears the flow channel under and below the road bridge crossing is too small.  It is choked with vegetation.  The bridge span is adequate.The situation is like the Rees Ave location.  Vegetation is holding back the flows causing the water level to back up and flood across the roadway.  Good gradient is available in the flow channel below the bridge.  **Coastal Erosion**Agree with the conveyed comments and the community needs a new approach - not rocks.  Sandbag groins have been used elsewhere and seem to be the most logical, the least impacting, and are the easiest to install and if required, removed.One side issue at Purangi Estuary.  In addition to controlling the beach erosion and hopefully maintaining a navigable channel, unless sand mobility is stopped the relocation into the Purangi Estuary will progress beyond recovery i.e.: tidal flows within the channel will be lost. What has been done by Council to alleviate the problem 6 months down the track? **Council should be aware that the problem still exists** **Excerpt from Letter to Paul and Paul Hopkins Reply 9/7/2003.**1. The Generator for the wastewater treatment plant is stored at the Treatment Plant.

·       The portable generator for Cooks Beach is stored at the Cooks Beach Treatment Plant·       The portable Generator for Hahei is stored at the Hahei treatment plant.·       During Cyclone Gabrielle we had an Operator stationed at Hahei so that they could service any callouts without potentially being isolated by flooding on the Whitianga Road·       However due to severity of the local flooding Hahei was isolated from Cooks Beach at times which did impact on our attendance to some callouts in Cooks Beach 1. The Wastewater pumps work on a high level lock-out interlock

This means that when pump station (A) is at high level pump station (B) [which is pumping to Pump Station (A)] reduces its pumping capacity to one pump and then pump station (C)  [which is pumping to Pump Station (B)] reduces its pumping capacity to one pump and then pump station (D)  [which is pumping to Pump Station (C)] reduces its capacity to one pump.When the level in pump station (A) drops to an acceptable level, then pumpstation (B)  [which is pumping to Pump Station (A)] recommences using two pumps and when that pumpstation is at a reasonable level pumpstation (C) recommences using two pumps.If any of the pump stations become overloaded again the process continues until the wastewater has been cleared from the system and it all returns to normal.·       This system of interlock and protection of pump stations is standard operating practice for wastewater pump stations·       Due to the very high level of rainfall and flooding, we had a huge amount of inflow and infiltration into the wastewater system from local stormwater flooding which then initiated the interlock and protection system described above There will be times when the system cannot cope and overflows may occur.·       Typically we do not design for 1 in a 100 year events as then the infrastructure is hugely expensive and overdesigned for normal operations·       Cyclone Gabrielle was a 1 in 100-year event that exceeded the capability of many infrastructure assets operated by TCDC·       This was also similarly the experience of many other Territorial Authorities around the North Island·       Every effort was made by the TCDC staff and contractors to deal with the events across the district, but the level of rainfall and flooding was exceptional. I can advise that TCDC has initiated ongoing work to improve the Stormwater System at Cooks Beach.  Key points are:·       TCDC has appointed a Stormwater Engineer to lead the work and has had the first meeting with an engineering consultant who will undertake technical investigations·       Our *Action Plan* to address the issues will be discussed at Mercury Bay Community Board Workshop on Wed 5th Jul and appropriate guidance sought. Concerning the comment “It happens too often here where people are having sewage in their homes” I did a check in the TCDC Request for Service system and was only able to identify thirteen reports of wastewater overflows from Jan-2018 that affected properties.  The key points from this area.       The major of house and property floods are due to Stormwater flooding.b.       Most of these house and property floods were associated with the recent Cyclone weather events which caused very high levels of rainfall and flooding and resulted in a huge amount of inflow and infiltration into the wastewater system.c.       This suggests our focus needs to be on handling the stormwater issues as the top priority.  Regards**Brett Houston**Water Services Manager Thames-Coromandel District CouncilPrivate Bag, 515 Mackay Street, Thamese: brett.houston@tcdc.govt.nzw: [www.tcdc.govt.nz](http://www.tcdc.govt.nz/)Excerpt from Paul over the Councils Reply. Post Meeting  I certainly agree with you that the problem is stormwater, and the sewage is a result of the stormwater issues. In regard to the one in hundred year event.  It may well have been in other areas (e.g.) Gisborne but certainly here in Mercury Bay it was a fairly minor event as far as rainfall went. Our problem was continuous on off rain that had occurred in the previous 3-4 weeks, had saturated the ground where the water table was near surface.  When "Gabrielle " arrived with the high winds and moderate storm rain (for us here in Cooks Beach) it just tipped that previous 3-4 weeks of rain over the top. I'm not trying to downplay the situation as the rain was significant but the main problem was the sodden ground and high winds.  Flood wise, we have certainly had a lot worse on the peninsula. I'm very pleased to hear an engineer has been appointed to look into our problems here.  Could we have the person’s name please and the consultant?     Always good to know who is dealing with your problems. Has a time frame around remedial conclusions been established?Would you mind keeping our three councillors, community board and us here at MBSRRA up to speed with your plans please Brett.Thanks again for the reply. **Summary of Emergency Response** Cooks Beach, Ferry Landing and Flaxmill Bay does have a community response plan. The plan is not a public document as it contains personal information. The plan details local hazards, how to recognize these risks, what to do and stay informed. There is a public information brochure which we will make a copy available on our website.Please note that the council approved contractors are used before, during and after emergencies to complete work. However, during a response, the Community Response Group does have the ability to communicate with EOC to ask for permission for another contractor to undertake work. **Gold Card** Presently there are no concessions in the Coromandel for public concessions and these are presently allocated by the Waikato Regional Council for off peak transport Services. Through your rates monies are collected to be redistributed to transport enterprises. John is looking at extending the rating to services in the Coromandel. Purangi Rd slip at Flaxmill Bay will cost a sizable budget to repair. Bob has a simple answer and that is to keep it as a single lane. If this is made as a permanent feature it would act as a road calming measure in an area thwart with speeds exceeding 50K.The Maramara track is an attractive walk for trampers alike. The Council has upgraded half but it needs full repairs for whole length. DOC needs to be aware of the shortcomings. The Roading measures identified have been put on the backburner due to damageExcerpt from Ed Varleys letterOn the downside however, because of the need for funding to be prioritised towards storm response both Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and council are looking to move funds that would have been used for traffic calming into the storm repairs. This means that there is the minimum level of funding needed for signing of speed limits in the next financial year (2023-24), not for physical measures. The physical traffic calming projects are being moved into an ongoing program of works under the councils 2024-34 Long Term Plan that will be open for public consultation next year.Hopefully we can get some traffic signage in readiness for the 2024 season. Kane has done an exhaustive amount of work researching what would be the best outcome with Braedon Jack. The best option is SECURE YOU with a quote of 22 thousand. We need to approach Council for getting power. None of the data is seen by the public only the Police, so you can rest assured that confidentiality is always maintained. If you wish to contact Kane with regard to funding please email Kane Jones   Majority were in favour of donating $300 for the repair and up - grade of the Notice Board outside the dairy. This would be shared with Dune Care There is a need for developers to have an open door with communities as the public at large needs to input Ideas opinions that contribute to a working village: spatially planned and constructively designed. The Council would have collected 3 -4 million for drainage and paving as well as 14 million dollars in Rates over a 15 Year period. This translates to a negligible amount of money for Mercury Bay South.How much has been spent at Mercury Bay South can be found at[Cooks Beach Newsletter (weebly.com)](https://mercurybaysouthratepayers.weebly.com/expenditure-over-a-15-year-period.html)If you any suggestions for the 10-year LTP get them in quickly ready to submitted.Ideas that are candidates for inclusion* Tennis Courts
* Surveillance Cameras
* Purangi Estuary Upgrade
* Purangi Reserve
* Flooding
* Toilet Upgrades
* Footpaths
* Airport Runway
* Green Tansfer Station
* Lakes
* Foreshore Erosion

A report conducted by a Specialist has been sent to Council, however it has yet to be communicated to the Ratepayers. Some of the Ratepayers are canvassing to use Green Carp (who are vegetarians ) so as a source control the Lake Weed. There has been a favourable response from the Community Board who will investigate developments.**Background:** for about the last 20 years the weed control has been by way of aquatic spraying using diquat gel. Apart from the name diquat is a very user friendly spray acting as a dessicant. This causes breakdown of the leaf structure so that the weed is unable to photosynthesise and consequently sinks to the bottom composting over time. The root structure is not affected and dependant on water conditions the weed usually sprouts away in 3-4 months negating any effect of the spray. Council has determined (presumably) that for this reason the spray programme has been discontinued. Council employees have mentioned another weed control method and that is mechanical harvesting. This is an extremely expensive method of weed control, and would need to be done on a regular basis. To my understanding this has not gone anywhere possibly due to the high repetitive costs involved. The third proposal was to stock the waterways with grass or silver carp as they are known. This was the subject of our proposal submitted to the Community Board in July 2022. We received a subsequent email from the Board acknowledging the potential benefits of the carp proposal and that this would be referred to Council staff for follow up/investigation. To date the only action we’re aware of was the appointment of a water quality scientist to inspect the waterway on behalf of the Council. That occurred mid October last year.  Apart from a few “snippets” relating to the carp nothing in that report has been released to the public. **Background**: grass carp are herbivores and should NOT be confused with koi carp. Although grass carp are considered a pest there are strict control protocols in place for their release.Any potential release site is inspected by DOC and Council to determine possible effects on releasing into specific waterways. Should there be no issues then DOC and the fish supplier company apply for a licence from the MPI for a predetermined quantity of fish, depending on weed over levels. A management contract can be arranged to provide monitoring of the fish. EG if too many are put into the lake and they don’t thrive then numbers are reduced. Conversely if not enough fish are supplied then the numbers are boosted. These fish are known as “the cows of the ponds” as they graze rather than clean out a  weed source.Containment is an important factor in any release of grass carp. This regard DOC has a minimum agreed mesh size of 35mm for covering outlet drains and importantly to stop fish escaping. I personally spoke with Council staff pointing out where outlet streams and pipes needed to be meshed. These fish are highly salinity intolerant meaning if they got into the stream leading down to the outlet point towards Shakespeare cliff they will certainly not survive. **Cost:** my cost estimate for Council spraying the Cooks Beach Lakes (4 hectares in area) as presented to the Community Board last year was conservatively $10,000 being an annual spray cost back then.Cost of carp advised at that time was $8000 to supply 100 fish based on an estimated 25% weed over factor. As these fish live for a number of years then this cost can be considered as a one-off with future management monitoring numbers etc. During my discussions with Council staff I urged him to make further enquiries to the fish supplying company VIZ, nzwaterways.co.nz Their website is really worth a visit. To my knowledge Council employees have made no attempt to obtain any information whatsoever from NZ Waterways Restorations despite being given the contacts. And despite these fish being placed in storm water ponds in and around Tauranga, and Hauraki district council staff have seemingly made no attempt to do an in depth due diligence. They are now widely supplied throughout NZ (refer their website) and I understand are now in the Pauanui lakes golf course ponds as a private release. Would appreciate you advising where the Council position is with the carp proposal.For attendance at the meetings, please contact Governance Advisor Kelly Martin kelly.martin@tcdc.govt.nz .You can also find out more information about participation at public meetings here: <https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Council/About-our-Council/Community-Board-Information> Mercury Bay Community Board 2023 Dates

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| Date | Time | Board | Venue |
| 26-Jul-23 | 9:00am | Mercury Bay CB | Mercury Bay Board Room |
| 6-Sep-23 | 9:00am | Mercury Bay CB | Mercury Bay Board Room |
| 25-Oct-23 | 9:00am | Mercury Bay CB | Mercury Bay Board Room |
| 6-Dec-23 | 9:00am | Mercury Bay CB | Mercury Bay Board Room |

 | Scott Simpson, Sarah Matheson and Bruce Nilkin to help facilitate a Meeting with Connexa Response From Council .To facilitate a mtg with Council Cyndy Lomas , Murray Haycock And Council.Paulette Tainsh Cyndy Lomas to put on Website. .Cyndy Lomas to advise Ed Varley of Purangi Rd slip in Flaxmill.Bob Nicholls, Sue Costello to contact DOCKane Jones  |                    **Scott Simpson**Scott.Simpson@parliament.govt.nz**Blair and Sarah Matheson** **sarahkmatheson01@gmail.com****Bruce and Suzie Nilkin** **Bruceandsuzie@outlook.com****CONTACT**enquiries@connexa.co.nz0800 661 266**Murray Haycock**Greg RocheJonathon StammersBrett Houston Len SaltCyndy Lomas **Bob Nicholls****DOC****Sue Costello** |
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