



MRHLG Inc COMMITTEE MEETING

21 November 7pm

at 1070b Wainui Road, Mahinepua & Zoom

1. Formalities

- a. Attendance: Brian Putt (chair), Jen Ritchie-Campbell, Mary-Anne Schaab, Jo Leather, Casey Campbell; Phil Shepherd & Maxine Dignan on zoom
- b. Apologies: Doug Jane, Corbins, Lynne Lucas, Gerlinde Haase
- c. Previous minutes confirmed as a true & correct record (Jen/Jo)
- d. Correspondence circulated. Brain invited comments – mostly covered in agenda (Brian/Jen)

2. Trapper's Report

Trapping report circulated prior (updated on the website under 'info')

Casey read Lyndon's report

Lyndon has: Repositioned traps around Mahinepua Bay and Ronaki Estate. Rabbits sighted through both areas as well as Baby Quail and Baby Ducklings. Met with Jo and we placed a mixture of traps in the vicinity of one of the burrows in the Core Area. Rat activity had been sighted on the camera. 3 x Rats removed from there over the first 3 nights. Collected traps and gear from NRC and will be sorting this over the coming weeks. 8 x Rats in total removed from around burrow. A noticeable decrease of destructive Predators through entire Area is encouraging. To note, the running totals reflect what is now in TrapNZ. No more Mustelid/Cat Catch this month.

Quarterly trapping reports for Rattler, in minutes and on the website.

We're likely to equal if not surpass last year's numbers – decline in trapping data from members & Volunteer numbers have gone down (records not yet complete for year)

Lyndon had put possum/mustelid traps on the peninsula April/May but removed them because they were interfered with by people on track – in process of replacing.

Brian suggests signage (on traps) re traps/predator control, & consultation with DOC. Some discussion re community agreement and communication with DOC & reserves trust – Jo to follow up – approach DOC for authority to put up signage and investigate stickers for traps.

Need Lyndon's assistance leading up to Xmas parade – agreed to pay for a couple of hours.

3. Financial: Treasurer's Report

Jen presented report, already distributed, (Jo/Jen)

INCOME

- One friend and one member subscription, along with a small donation (\$110 total)
- Interest earned on all accounts (\$368.40)

OUTGOINGS

- Our September and October trapper invoices (\$5,617.84).
- Our GST payment for the 6 months to 30 Sept 23 (\$1225.85).
- A reimbursement for camera batteries (\$22).
- A reimbursement for a new hard drive (\$98).
- Total funds \$46,420.99

GENERAL

- The paperwork is now with our new accountant to finalise the performance report. This will be presented (as usual) at the January AGM.
- I am preparing a draft budget for review at the November committee meeting.
- Our term deposit expires on December 1st. I will discuss the options for reinvestment as part of the budget discussion at the November meeting.

Brian, Casey & Jen gave koha of \$500 to opening of Te Touwai marae on behalf of group

- a. Awaiting final figures for the annual Performance Report. Move authorise treasurer to sign off performance report (Brian/Jo)
- b. Draft budget & funding implications based on assumption that there will be no funding, subs remain same, and the same rate paid to trapper.
 - i. Should we increase subs? (may result in reduced 'donations' and member numbers, but not raise much additional money;
Casey – propose 2024 sub remain unchanged but go up to \$70 in 2025; 'feel' factor of extra donation. Jen – need funding conversation at AGM. Referenced Jade's donations which were ring-fenced for transmitters, down to \$700 now. Brian – recommend to AGM leave subs as is, but note may need to be increased in future. Agreed
 - ii. Suggest we fund Martin up to 10 days to support Lesley's survey as springboard for next year's funding applications.
Adopt treasurer's recommendation (Brian/MA)
 - iii. Reinvestment 6% 6mths. Agreed.
- c. Unpaid subscriptions – process - Jen follows up. Currently have same number as last year, 5 usual households have not paid
Friends: from Kaeo parades, 5 in 2022, 3 in 2023 – follow up with last reminder re Rattler and trapping support. Focus at Kaeo Parade on getting \$20 donations from people

Summary profit and loss sheet with actuals for the last two years (still with the accountant to validate) and a budget for the 23/24 financial year

Overall position:

- *worst case scenario - we will have just under \$18,000 in funds at the end of September 2024. At current rates, that will provide around 6 months of trapper funding.*
- *However, these numbers include a capital outflow of c \$10,000 to cover the cameras and transmitters required if we succeed in obtaining our transmitter permit from DOC. That application may well be declined. If that were to happen, we would have \$28,000 at the year end, providing around 10 months of trapper funding.*
- *We can also expect 2025 subs and donations to be received by the end of March 2025 providing a further 3 months cover.*
- ***Overall, this means we can fund our trapper for the next 24 months.***

Key decisions for discussion on 21 November.

- *Do we wish to increase our annual subscription amounts? The levels have been unchanged for some years, while our costs have increased. That said, subscription funding totals c \$2800 annually which only covers around one month of trapper costs. As an example, if we increased the annual sub from \$60 to \$75, this would generate an additional \$700.*
- *For the population survey being conducted from January 2024, Lesley Baigent has asked if we would support some of Martin Schmid's time. I propose we fund up to \$3500 (or roughly 10 days in total). This is included in the attached budget.*

For information.

- *Term Deposit expires on 1 Dec, balance \$36606.20. I propose to reinvest c \$25,000 into a 6mth term deposit currently paying 6% per annum. That will allow us sufficient funds to cover operating expenses in the interim.*

4. Jo's report (excerpts):

Kiwi monitoring

Prep for population survey being done by Lesley from Jan onwards (which land area to cover and therefore which landowners permission to seek). Jen & Jo will contact relevant land owners for permission to carry out Survey (Brian /Casey)

Jo – thanks to Lynne for her help over last month.

Graham has remained nesting with a clear signal, and we have an approximate location for when Lesley comes to help put out cameras, planned later this week, weather has put stop to the last two attempts. Meanwhile Terry is still safely in his puriri tree burrow. Our military operation get those rats has had us on our toes - as soon as we seem to have a week of no rats, another is running around in our camera footage.

We've also had a possum exploring the camera. Terry is now at day 83 with an expected incubation of 75 - 90 days. The telemetry indicates he is still nesting. Rats and possums aside there is wonderful news - we have on camera a chick and a second very attentive young adult kiwi beside the chick. Terry can be seen feeding in the leaf litter close to the nest area but he is not on any of the chick or other images. Has Terry been incubating two eggs, only time will tell?

Funding – no open applications. Propose applying to Foundation Nth next.

Brian – we're cobbled by kiwi status (no longer on endangered list). Need tangata whenua connection, & need a learning/teaching element– discussion. Tried 2 philanthropic trusts with no luck – let down by status of kiwi and the fact we're a small entity.

Need to follow up 2 queries about funding from Rattler months ago.

Casey – to follow up with Mark re other matters & cameras

Jo – NRC \$10,000 funding approval for pest management, includes Lyndon's new backpack – he's very pleased with it. Need to discuss early next year about whether to add or alter trap lines.

Permit status – modified, transmitters extended

Advocacy plan with DOC & Kiwicoast. Jo had meeting with Cinzia last Friday

Move that recommendations from DOC are included in application (Brian/Jen)

Needs to be a bigger application group with whole project outlined from the beginning.

Discussion around benefit of combining with other groups for funding

Bernie Buhler is happy to have his name as an approved kiwi handler to do telemetry.

Move we accept this offer. Agreed

We have support for our application from NRC, Save the Kiwi and Kiwi Coast.

Communications:

Jo has written a flyer of Kiwi Facts and a triage sheet for North Island Brown Kiwi.

Communication received from Paul Smalley at Marble Bay properties re kiwi, pigs and weed control.

kiwi habitats – Lesley happy to run dogs thru any area where there's going to be land clearance

If kiwi spat is found, put it in freezer and get to Lesley

Email fr Cinzia re permit application details and reconnecting Northland trial – suggest decision by email after meeting.

Thanks to Mataia Landcare for their support. Their successful permit application was based on ferret incursion - ruled out as being an option for us

Jo shared video of Kiwi chick with those present.

5. **Toxins:** Process for handling of newly supplied NRC toxins and traps.
 Discussion re how to distribute lures, toxins, etc. Who's going to help Lyndon with this.
 Jo moves that toxins be made available to members as soon as possible.
 Don't have the capacity to do rat knockdown as we used to.
 Use Rattler, website, AGM to share information and distribute thru Lyndon
 Maxine offered again (with Brian) to hold a supply to distribute to Tauranga Bay Valley &
 Marble Bay Properties. Discussion about need for appropriate training, formal
 documentation, obligations, etc.
 Toxins held in shed that Lyndon has access to. Book in shed to record who takes it. Maxine
 to draft H&S form/guide & record sheet (with Jo)
 Some toxin left over from previous years is about to expire. Discussion around the group's
 control and potential of availability to members.
6. **Communications & PR, Rattler, Whispers, etc**
 - a. Lynne is writing an article for Whispers shortly, but unlikely to be published before
 Santa Parade 10 Dec.
 - b. There will be one more edition of the Rattler before Xmas – will include details of the
 AGM. Let me know if there is anything else specific to include. Brian will put notes
 together for AGM in Rattler, Constitution, Te Touwai, etc.
7. **Kaeo Hineraumati Christmas parade Sunday, 10 Dec (10-2) - our stall – plan & volunteers**
 - a. promote 'friends' sub and donations
 - b. Jen has confirmed spot next to Kaitiaki Whangaroa, discussion about logistics (Jen,
 Brian, Casey, MA, Lyndon, Jo, possibly Gerlinde) Agreed to ask Lyndon to be there.
 Invite Lesley. Handouts, traps, etc
8. **Trapper contract renewal – expires 31 Jan, needs to be updated, defer to January**
9. **Volunteering opportunities - Casey has distributed a document outlining ways people can
 help – could take to Xmas parade to hand out – sign up more friends/members at Kaeo
 parade. Further discussion**

AGM – 7 January AGM morning tea. Jen to book Pūmanawa Farms shed
 Brian would like to retire as chair but will pick up the role again if no-one else can
 Jo handing funding over to Rebekah
 Maxine won't be standing for secretary role, but will be available to help with admin as able.

Next meeting 14/19 Dec, 6pm, Xmas snacks
 meeting closed 9pm

Signed: _____ Brian Putt (chair)

Date: _____