



DRAFT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Mahinepua Radar Hill Landcare Group,
held at 10.30am, 7 January 2024, at Pūmanawa Farms' shed, 174 Tauranga Bay Rd, Kaeo

Present: Brian Putt (chair), Maxine Dignan (secretary), Jen Ritchie-Campbell (treasurer),
Lesley Baigent, Kate Casey & Peter Beran, Casey Campbell, Gerlinde Haase, Rebekah Hasloch,
Lyndon Hurst, Doug Jane, Jo Leather, Lynne Lucas, Juliet & Colin McArthur, Derek McKinstry,
Dennis Morse, Sarah Quinlan, Mary-Anne Schaab, Phil Shepherd, Diane & Dale Turkington,
Mary & Monte Woodworth,
Guests: Thomas Hawtin, Robyn Tauroa.

Apologies: Jo Hill

Brian Putt welcomed members and guests, Robyn Tauroa and Thomas Hawtin, from Kaitiaki Whangaroa.
He thanked Pūmanawa Farms for the use of the venue.

Chairperson's report:

Brian presented and spoke to the chairperson's report on the activities of 2023 (below)
Received (*Brian Putt/Maxine Dignan*)

Minutes of the annual general meeting held on 7 January 2023, having been circulated, confirmed as a
true and correct record (*Phillip Shepherd/Lynne Lucas*)
Brian advised that the society's constitution was completed during the year, under the
delegation received from the last AGM.

Treasurer's report:

Jen presented and spoke to her treasurer's report on the finances of the Society (below), and
the Annual Performance Report to the Charities Commission (attached), showing a balance of
\$52,906 in BNZ accounts and cash as at the financial year ended 30 September 2023. Adopted
(*Jen Ritchie-Campbell/Jo Leather*)

Election of officers and at least 3 other committee members.

Chairperson: Brian Putt (*Maxine Dignan/Phil Shepherd*)
Treasurer/Secretary: Jennifer Ritchie-Campbell (*Maxine Dignan/Phil Shepherd*)
Committee: Dale Turkington, Rebekah Hasloch, Mary-Anne Schaab, Lynne Lucas, Phillip
Shepherd, Jo Leather (*Brian Putt/Casey Campbell*)
Carried by acclamation.
Brian asked that committee members reach out into the community for additional volunteers,
particularly for kiwi call monitoring.

Annual Subscription: Motion that the annual subscription remain unchanged. Carried (*Jen Ritchie-
Campbell/Dale Turkington*)

General business:

- i. Brian welcomed Robyn Tauroa and Thomas Hawtin (chair) from Kaitiaki Whangaroa – Their kōrero
about their mahi in the rohe of Whangaroa included:

Background of the Kaitiaki Whangaroa roopu and emphasis on the value of 'sharing' across groups.
Robyn and Thomas have social research backgrounds and involvement in Waitangi Tribunal mahi.
They are aware that Whangaroa misses out on various opportunities such as funding, so focus on
working together for benefit of the whole Whangaroa rohe. Robyn and Thomas were commissioned
by DOC to research and report on Kōwhairoa prior to a proposed 1080 drop. The roopu was set up
and registered as an Incorporated Society as an alternative, to protect, restore and enhance the
environment in the bio-region of Whangaroa, a diverse group of whānau, hapū, community groups

and Rūnanga with a focus on pest and weed control. A pest control plan was developed for the harbour from 2018. People are included as part of the environment. It is about supporting, collaborating, administering, monitoring, ngāhere/taiao, improving waterways as kaitiaki – drinkability, swimability and biodiversity, including rāhui in harbour to protect scallops. Also the ‘Know your waterway’ project including catchments, of Pupuke, Kaeo, Tauranga Bay, Ngāmoko/Wainui.

Membership and ‘following’ – work alongside and sharing with MRHLG, and other groups.

Thomas shared their scoping report and draft Whangaroa Environmental Plan developed for rohe from Oruaiti, Maungataniwha, Mokau Ridge, Takou and back around the coast. The harbour and the people – community of communities. Hoping to include groups like MRHLG on the strategic map.

Brian thanked Thomas and Robyn and emphasised the necessity for the type of collaboration they were discussing, especially in relation to shared funding applications.

- ii. Strategic plan. Casey introduced and spoke to the strategic plan which is available on the website. Potential for expanding scope of work to champion conservation, increase potential for funding, and economies of scale and effectiveness through collaboration.

Colin McArthur queried changes needed to improve potential for funding. Casey responded with background and MRHLG efficiencies, and funders’ broad focus on larger groups and wider range of endangered species. Collaboration is the key.

- iii. Kiwi monitoring. Jo presented about this work, the DOC Kiwi permit update, Kiwi listening data and challenges of interpreting spectrogram records. Exciting to hear good call count in the Orua Bay area where we haven’t listened for many years. Thanks to Save The Kiwi, Kiwi Coast and DOC, and to our newest young kiwi listener. Funding applications background – biggest message is that we need to collaborate with other groups, have a larger project area, increased membership involvement. Recognised NRC equipment grant & Lyndon’s work. Thanks to NRC also for loan of cameras for monitoring. Jo has begun new application to Foundation North and has met with Reconnecting Northland re potential funding. DOC has granted an extension to our permit for transmitters. New permit application submitted, advocacy and education being integral components of new requirements. Note – ferrets have been caught at Takou Bay – too close for comfort. Taxon transmitter monitoring process and data gathering and young kiwi surviving to adulthood, nesting habits. Jo noted the value of our data at a research level. Jo shared detail about Fred, who has been retired from wearing a transmitter after nearly 10 years, and video of Graham and Terry and their 3 chicks on Radar Hill.
- iv. Lyndon presented a trapping update, including annual catch data, pest management support and bait availability. He is starting his second full year as trapper for the group, and thanked all for involvement and feedback across the 1300ha that he traps. Traps and toxins are available for members – emphasis on the need to read the data sheet and safety care. Chew cards etc are used to monitor the pests present in the area and Lyndon is reviewing data for particular areas. He showed the difference between stoats and weasels. He has found the use of Enviromate traps worthwhile. Shared data from trapping does not include many more kills through toxin in bait stations. Thomas queried the impact of reducing rats/possums on increased numbers of stoats/weasels. Casey noted that hoped-for lower trapping numbers are a result of Lyndon’s work, not an indication that he’s doing any less.

Meeting closed 12.13, invitation to share a cup of tea/coffee.



Chairperson's report (Brian Putt):

The wet and cyclonic start to 2023 did not deter our Kiwi heroes. We have a new young recruit to replace the aging Fred, he's named Terry and has stepped up to the mark with energy and vigour. Both Graham and Terry have successfully hatched eggs and raised chicks this Spring. We can only assume that their success is repeated across our rohe by other Kiwi couples.

A summary record of the group's activities in 2023 is set out below. Membership is up, largely the result of our trusty treasurer's tenacious invoicing. It's pleasing to see because it means that nearly half of the households in our area are members. They are seeing the emerging benefits of our successful trapping regime across the rohe - stunning Pohutukawa blossom this summer and native trees and shrubs flourishing as possum are hit hard by the trapping.

A special thank you goes out to our trapper Lyndon Hurst! His focussed trapping skills, honed to the needs of the many different locations, are bringing tangible rewards to our environment. Trapping success is up 19% on 2022.

Our volunteer hours and Kiwi call counts are down on 2022, largely a reflection of the wet winter. It's hard to entice listeners to sit around in the damp on cold winter evenings listening for our kiwi friends. They stay inside too! Jo, and Maryanne have mastered the tedious interpretations to the Kiwi call recorder spectrograms. We secured several recorders and placed them in strategic locations around the rohe. A big thank you to the listening team for their tireless efforts.

This Kiwi call information gives direction for the Kiwi population survey which is underway this month; January 2024. The ever-reliable Lesley Baigent, vet and Kiwi guardian is conducting the survey with her trusty Kiwi tracker dog, Yagi. We have much to thank Lesley for. She guides us and advises us all year on so many issues. She is a bright and ever reliable beacon for our group.

A highlight for the group was being awarded two environmental awards at the NRC annual community awards – a very special achievement. We've adopted the revised constitution and redrafted the strategic plan (Casey's work) – both are on the website and open to comment.

We made a big presence at the Kaeo Xmas fair in December. Our treasured Kiwi, chick and eggs are a magic drawcard. For most people this is the first time they can touch or see a real Kiwi. We gained a few names for Kiwi Aversion Training for Dogs ('KATS') and volunteers. Lesley runs the KATS programme which is a great success for any dogs attending.

Biggest disappointment in 2023 was losing our DoC community funding after a decade of funding support. This funding cut has affected most Landcare groups in Tai Tokerau. We have been too successful. Kiwi status has been adjusted by DoC from "*endangered*" to "*conservation dependent*" in Tai Tokerau. This has lowered our funding leverage with benefactors – an unanticipated outcome of DoC's action for all community groups reliant on charitable funding.

Our **big task for 2024** is to secure **\$40-50,000** funding to allow our trapping regime to continue through 2025. Any contact you may have with environmental benefactors will be gratefully followed up by the committee.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the committee members for their relentless efforts throughout the year – Maxine for administrative services; Jen for caring for the money; Lynne for keeping the *Rattler* alive; Jo for coping with DoC and many other tasks; Maryanne for translating the spectrograms with Jo, Casey for keeping the trapper records and Phil for sage advice. Without your strength and commitment Mahinepua-Radar Hill Landcare would collapse. We need more helpers to continue our success. Anyone ready to step up!!

Happy New Year! Nga Mihi o te Tau Hou

Brian Putt

How we volunteer our time



Volunteered Hours

	Admin	Travel	Advocacy	Monitoring	KATS	Funding	Predator Control	Pest Plant Control	Misc
FY'21	642	13	99	36	0	38	229	34	24
FY'22	453	19	118	281	2	12	558	420	45
FY'23	477	45	59	244	35	65	98	419	54

MRHLG's FY 2023 impact:

Annual membership cost per household	\$ 60
MRHLG's annual expenditures per member household	\$744
Feral cats, mustelids, possums etc. trapped per household	31

Mark Walls trapped 52% of all FY 2023 member-household catches, including 144 possums.

MRHLG depends on members' trapping & volunteering, even if for just a few hours p.a.

Progress being made



In 2023, membership →0%; volunteered hours ↓22%; Kiwi calls ↓33%; total trapping ↑19%

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Treasurer's report (Jen Ritchie-Campbell)

Summary Financial report:

During last year we have improved efficiency by taking out costs. Our membership levels have been maintained and we have been able to fund increased service levels (trapping). There are questions over how long we can maintain current service levels. This is a function of:

- Whether receive the DOC transmitter permit (as this requires a significant capital outlay for monitoring cameras)
- Whether we can source additional funding (both DOC and STK declined our requests this year)
- Whether or not we wish to deliver new services as outlined in our strategic plan (monitoring of other rare species / weed control etc)

So, the Committee faces some significant decisions on how to best re-position the organisation for funders, while using our limited cash resources to best effect.

Detailed financial report:

1) Update on Accountants

As I mentioned last year, as a Tier 4 charity, we are only required to complete a performance report. We have amended our constitution to reflect this. In 2023 we have been fortunate to have our accounts prepared by Sue Brown, a Chartered Accountant in Kerikeri. This service has been provided free of charge and represents a significant cost saving.

2) The finalised performance report to 30 September 2023 has been circulated by email.

3) Our financial performance for the calendar year 2023:

Our bank balances as at 1 January 2023, totalled \$56,400.27. During the year our net outgoings totalled \$10,283.90 giving us a closing bank balance of \$44,093.37 as at December 31 st 2023.

Income breakdown	2022	2023
Subscriptions (members and friends)	\$2,980.00	\$2,680.00
Donations	\$6,556.58	\$7,070.00
Sales (Tshirts)	\$ 195.00	\$100.00
Grants from Funders	\$18,708.00	\$11,500.00
Interest Earned	\$702.17	\$2,239.17
Tax reclaims for RWT/GST	\$132.86	
Total Income	\$29,274.61	\$23,589.17

Subscriptions:

We were able to significantly increase our paid membership levels in 2022 from 27 to 47 households. This year we welcomed 2 new member households and we have maintained 46 paying households.

Subscriptions are down 10% in dollar amounts as several households paid multiple years (of arrears) in 2022.

Donations:

Our donation level has increased 8% to \$7070 from 40 households. We were very fortunate to receive two donations of \$1000 this year and our thanks go to those families.

Grant Funding:

We received the final tranche of a Save the Kiwi two-year grant of \$11,500.

Interest:

We deposited \$35,000 into a Term Deposit at the end of December 2022. We have been able to reinvest at increasing interest rates. This resulted in higher interest rate income in comparison with the previous year.

Expenditure breakdown

The Group's outgoings this year were up 13% on the previous year:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Trapper	\$27,724.90	\$32,122.05
Transmitter Program	\$947.34	\$739.71
Supplies & Equipment	\$1,441.73	\$1,689.32
Administration & Services	\$1,122.83	\$288.88
GST		\$1,056.11
Total Outgoings	\$31,236.80	\$35,896.10

Our trapper costs:

These increased 16% to just over \$32,000, due to an overall increase in Lyndon's trapping time and an increased hourly rate. However, our predator kills from our contracted trapper have continued to increase.

Transmitter Program & Supplies and equipment:

We made a few asset purchases during the year. In addition, in October, NRC's biofund provided us with c \$10,000 of equipment including baits and lures. Unlike other funders, NRC sources and supplies the equipment. We are distributing some of this to our members today. The remainder will be deployed by Lyndon. The additional baits and lures supplied by NRC will reduce our need to purchase those this year.

Administration & Services:

Our admin and services costs decreased 74% (from \$1122.83 to \$288.88) as our accounting services were provided at no cost. We have a COGS grant (c \$800) for operating costs.

GST:

GST was repayable on the Save the Kiwi grant funds. Our trapping costs do not include GST and we therefore do not have offsetting GST expenses.

Summary

At present we have no additional funding sources for the coming year. If no new funds are received and our other cash flows remain at 2023 levels, we will have around 18 months of funding for professional trapping. Should our enhanced tracking permit application be approved by DOC, this will drop to 15 months. It is therefore essential that we identify additional funding sources in the next few months. The proposed changes in the strategic plan outline a path towards attracting stronger engagement from funders.

Thank you to all members and friends for your contributions this past year. We very much appreciate your support and I hope that you can see that your funds are being used effectively to further the objectives of the group.

Jen Ritchie-Campbell