

Algies Bay Ratepayer & Residents

June 2013 Newsletter



Annual General Meeting: The AGM was held on 20 April 2013 in the Betty Paxton Room at the Mahurangi East Community Centre. There was a very good attendance from the residents of the Bay which indicates a high level of involvement as to what happens in the Bay Community. Guest speakers at the meeting were Penny Webster our local Auckland City Councilor and Bob Howard, Chair of the Local Community Board. June Turner, Local Community Board member was also present. Both Penny and Bob shared with the meeting their experiences as representatives for Rodney within the Greater Auckland City.

Election of Committee 2013/14

The following were elected to the Residents and Ratepayers Committee for the next year:

Officers:

Richard Papworth -Chairman -Ph. 4255261 richardpapworth@xtra.co.nz

Tony Frogley - Treasurer – Ph. 4254971 jmfrogley@xtra.co.nz

Anne Murphy - Secretary – Ph. 4255211 annemurphy8@vodafone.co.nz

General Committee:

Shona Duncan Ph. 4256129 dsduncan@xtra.co.nz Portfolio: Coastal, Foreshore

Kate Leslie Ph. 4255629 kateleslie@slingshot.co.nz Portfolio: Civil Defence

Brian McGrath Ph. 4254017 bmcgrath@xtra.co.nz Portfolio: Roading, Signage, playgrounds

Peter Bishop Ph. 4255893 pabishop@xtra.co.nz Portfolio: Parks, Reserves (south) Petanque

Nigel Hayman Ph. 4255446 ngh@igrin.co.nz Portfolio: Records, IT, Newsletter,

Garry Cocroft Ph. 4256995 firefisho@kol.co.nz Portfolio: Marine, coast guard, boat ramps, beach front

Peter Stoupe Ph 4255085 janicestoupe124@hotmail.co.nz Portfolio: Roading, Signage (South)

Ray Harrison Ph 4256101 harryzon@xtra.co.nz Portfolio: Parks & Reserves (South)

Representation on Committees:

Warkworth Area Community Liaison Group - Richard Papworth, Anne Murphy

Coast Care Rodney – Shona Duncan

Combined Ratepayers & Residents - Richard Papworth, Kate Leslie

Highfield Reserve – Anne Murphy, Shona Duncan

Goodall Reserve – Kate Leslie, Anne Murphy

Sandspit Yacht Club Liaison –Richard Papworth, Anne Murphy

Civil Defence – Kate Leslie

Please feel free to contact any of the above Committee members regarding any concerns you may have. Each member has specific responsibilities identified but this does not preclude an approach to another member should this be your preference.

Membership: If you have not paid your \$10.00 subscription just fill out the attached form and with \$10 send it to: Algies Bay Residents & Ratepayers, PO Box 12, Snells Beach 0942. Payment by Direct Debit is also an option, see attached form.

Did you know!!

BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR LOCAL ISLANDS:

The island group of Motuketekete, Moturekareka, Motutara, and Kohatutara or the Rocky Islets island areas are a group of connected islands south of Kawau Island, which you see when looking out from Martins Bay. There are the remains of a 309ft long wreck of a Barque named the “**Rewa**” built in 1889, in a bay on Moturekareka which will be covered in more detail in the next newsletter.

The three islands are now Scenic Reserves managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and are composed of Waipapa group greywacke rock. A shingle area connects the south-western side of Moturekareka with Motutara except for about 1.5 hours either side of high tide and has a shingle beach around much of the shoreline. There is a low saddle between two hills near either end of Motutara, and there is a collapsed trig station on the eastern hill top.

Archaeological surveys of Moturekareka and Motutara were carried out by DOC in 1994/1995 and on the flat land adjacent to the “**Rewa**” hulk was found to be the main area of both Maori and European settlement.

Archaeological evidence suggests that these islands were not permanently inhabited prior to European settlement. The three islands, Moturekareka, Motutara and Motuketekete were purchased by John Long Haydon on 18 March 1845 from NgatiPaoa chiefs for a total of 18 pounds sterling and twelve blankets.

In 1848 the old Land Commission ruled that these islands were part of the 'Mahurangi and Omaha Purchase' and paid compensation of 90 pounds 15 shillings to Haydon. The Crown later sold Moturekareka to one Theophilus Heale, who was involved in working the copper deposits on Kawau Island. Frederick Whittaker and Theophilus Heale had been involved since 1845 with the setting up of a copper mining company at Kawau Island, and apparently their efforts were opposed by the company already there at Kawau. "The original company were deeply hostile to the newcomers, and refused to allow Whittaker's miners to live on Kawau, so they had to camp on Motuketekete, an island a few miles south, and be ferried back and forth each day to the mines."

There have been many owners of these islands over the years, but perhaps the most documented of owners/residents on the island of Moturekareka are two eccentric hermits, Charlie P. Hansen, a fine-looking, big, jovial Scotsman and Snow Harris. In the early 1920s Hansen, a retired sheep farmer, purchased Moturekareka, Motutara, Kohatutara and Motuketekete.

The western third of Motutara was taken from Hansen for quarry purposes in 1929 under the Public Works Act to supply road metal for the main highway upgrade between Auckland and Whangarei. The quarry operation primarily in the 1930s and 1940s removed a lot of rock from the western end of the island where the remains of an old wharf rock walls and building sites are still present. Also present are old tracks and tunnels (which were probably explosive stores). In 1968 the quarry reserve was transferred to the new HGMP for recreation purposes. In 1980 both Kohatutara and Motutara were reclassified as Scenic Reserves. DOC purchased Moturekareka as a Recreation Reserve in October 1993. On 21 May 1996, it was gazetted as a Scenic Reserve.

(Contributed by Anne Murphy & Nigel Hayman)



