



## **Waitaki Valley Community Society Incorporated AGM**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the Year ended 31 March 2021.**

**Held Wednesday 27 October 2021 in the Back Bar of the Kurow Hotel at 7.00pm**

PRESENT: Calum Reid (Chair), Nikki Ormandy (Treasurer), Anna Glier (Secretary), Gaynor Lines , Vicky Munro (ACB), John Sturgeon, Fiona Munro, Wayne Reid, Betty Hill, Graham Hill, Steve Dalley, Kaye Jenkins , Karen Hoffman, Ross McRobbie (ACB)

APOLOGIES: Seanne McGregor, Megan Collins, Jayne Ashby, Sarah Green, Karen Tweed/ Turner, Rosina Russell

*Moved that the apologies be accepted.*

John Sturgeon/Karen Hoffman      CARRIED

### **WELCOME:**

Calum welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

Calum Reid read the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2020

*Moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record.*

Calum Reid/Kaye Jenkins      CARRIED

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Presented by Calum Reid

This year was the twelfth year for the Waitaki Valley Community Society, which was built on from the Upper Waitaki Community Trust, forming a new entity in July 2009. Officers of the Executive Committee include, Megan Collins, Kaye Jenkins, Jane Ashby, Fiona Scaddan, Nikki Ormandy, and myself, as Acting Chair, Vicky Munro, and Ross McRobie, both attending representing the ACB

Unfortunately, Ashleigh Williams has resigned the position of Secretary again, due to her impending addition to her Family. I would like to thank her for her work over the last couple of years, and wish her well for the coming months.

Anna Glier, from the Front of House, has taken on the role, and I know she will do a sterling job as the new Secretary.



At the last AGM, we farewell Diane as the Chair. She was a valued member of the committee and I again thank her for her service to the community.

### Strategic Planning

The Executive Committee still works with in the established list of aims as a long-term plan, and short-term goals for every year:

### Vision

Waitaki Valley Community Society is an incorporated society based in Kurow and encompasses the Waitaki Valley area, including Hakataramea. The Society's function is to provide a hub for community groups and to increase knowledge and awareness of the benefits, facilities and opportunities in the Waitaki Valley. The Society provides funding assistance to groups within the community and ensures ongoing museum and information facilities in Kurow.

### Aims

The Society aims to:

- strengthen social cohesion (build, encourage, and support community networks)
- support and assist community groups and agencies to enhance community wellbeing and productive enterprise
- provide assistance and advice in obtaining funding for community groups
- encourage and support educational opportunities in the community
- ensure museum, medical and fitness facilities which would be otherwise absent in a small community
- enhance the community environment
- provide information about the Waitaki Valley
- liaise with businesses in the Waitaki Valley to enhance community wellbeing

### Short-term goals included:

Rationalise buildings and associated costs - this has continued to be looked at, with an eye to the future at all times.

Empower Community Groups to reach members of the extended Community

This has been achieved using the Community Page in the fortnightly publication of The Bugle, and the events page on the [www.kurow.org.nz](http://www.kurow.org.nz) website.

Actively promote information about the area

The Website is being monitored, and is meeting this need successfully with a large amount of traffic each month.

### Finances

The Society currently holds tagged funds for various projects and from the sale of Community House. The employment of Nikki Ormandy as Treasurer has ensured community groups can access monthly statements produced by Xero, to ensure correct coding and up to date ledger balances.

A limited budget for the Society means that the costs of Auditor, Accountant, Treasurer and Secretary need support from outside agencies such as the Community Grants Organisations.



The Society currently employs the Museum and Information Centre Co-ordinator, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. We rely on the many voluntary hours put in by some community members and also these employees, and are grateful for these.

### Funding

COGS- \$5000.00

LOTTERY BOARD- \$14000.00 towards KMIC wages

WDC/ACB – \$22000.00

This funding goes towards Society and Front of House expenses, and wages.

It must also be highlighted again, that we have lost a significant funding stream from TW, when their funding was reduced after the first lock down. This was negotiated by Graham Sullivan and myself over 18 months with the WDC. This has had a serious impact on being able to run the Front of house within operating costs.

### Events and Projects

#### Kurow Playground

The next stage of the Playground is now in early development, with a public survey doing the rounds. The project is to look at installing a mini Golf course in and around the existing infrastructure. This is being led by Megan, who is reporting to the committee on a monthly basis. So far, we have had a positive result from the survey.

#### The Bugle

The Bugle continues to be a feature of our extended Community. Seanne has to be commended on raising the informative content we now see.

### Community Groups

Community Groups as at March 2021 under the umbrella of the Society were:

- Kurow Farmers' Market in recess.
- Waitaki Valley School Holiday Programme in recess
- Kurow Museum and Information Centre
- Town Enhancement Group (incorporating the Island Project)
- Kurow Trails
- Neighbour to Neighbour
- Community Car

The Town Enhancement Group has continued to focus on the Waitaki River Island Project.

The latest project is the extension of the Boat ramp, with an application going in to Meridian, in the November round, of funding. Sandy and her team have been a driving force on this project, and if



successful, we will see a fit for purpose Boat ramp, that will not rely on full flows to be able to be used.

The Waitaki DC allocate yearly funding to cover the maintenance work required to keeping this area tidy, to match the funding from the Waimate DC.

Kurow Museum and Information Centre continues to provide services for locals and tourists alike.

Kurow Museum is focused on new developments, with a subcommittee pushing ahead with the Richie McCaw statue.

Kurow Trails are carrying on with tracks and are to be commended for their maintenance of the Hill walkway. New signage is being installed along the walkways.

As you will be aware, I was asked to step in as acting Chair last year, and after a year, I will be stepping down from that role at our next meeting. I will stay on for another year as a Society board member, to help the new Chair pick up the role.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the girls in the Front of House. Without their input into the running of Front of House, a lot of what happens to generate income would not happen. They go way above what their job entails.

In addition, I would like to thank Nikki, for the hours she spends balancing the books, making sure we are compliant if we were to be audited.

Also, thanks to Ashleigh for stepping back into the role at short notice. She has done a great job keeping the Minutes and sending out correspondence.

I would also like to thank the committee, for taking time out of their busy lives to sit on the board, and carry out the tasks that keep the town in contact with the ACB, and council. It is a thankless task, but I can see that you are committed to enhancing the town, for the betterment of the community.

Finally, Thank you to all involved in keeping these community enterprises alive and well. I wish the incoming Executive Committee and the Community Groups well in their endeavours for the year ahead.

Cal Reid  
October 2021

*Moved that the annual Chairperson report be accepted.*

Calum Reid/Karen Hoffman

CARRIED

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Nikki Ormandy (Treasurer) presented the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2021 and answered questions.



07-2021 October  
Grants & Tagged Fun



07-2021 October  
Group Balances.pdf



07-2021 October  
Payment Schedule.pdf

## Treasurer's Report

This report covers the financial period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Over this period the Waitaki Valley Community Society provided financial reporting and managed the financial responsibilities for 7 umbrella groups

- 2 are in recess - the Farmers Market & Holiday Programme
- 5 groups still operate under the Society umbrella during this financial year -- Kurow Information Centre, Kurow Museum, the Town Enhancement Group, The Richie McCaw Statue group and the Kurow Trails group.

Unfortunately, I cannot present a 'reviewed' end of year financial report because my laptop died and it took almost a month to 'fix' the issue. Everything was on track to have reviewed accounts for this meeting but now that the Reviewer requires everything electronically rather than paper copies it was difficult to provide the information required without my laptop.

The Society has received funding from:

Waitaki District Council – service fee of \$5000. This covers the rates, telephone and electricity for the building plus Trustee liability insurance for the Board - this is for the building in particular and does not benefit one group more than the other. Without this grant, any groups using the building at 57 Bledisloe Street would have to contribute evenly towards these costs.

We successfully applied for and received a Community Organisations Groups grant (COGS) of \$5750 in August 2020. This was used to pay towards the accountancy and audit fees charged to the Society, free community advertising in the Bugle, phone and internet not covered by the service fee and website annual fees. There are strict guidelines when applying for Grants and proof of expenditure and a report have to be submitted once the funds are exhausted.

The playground project was wound up with grants from both the Waitaki District Council and NZ Lotteries Board. We thank both for their contributions towards this fantastic project.



The Kurow Information Centre also received funding from the Waitaki District Council towards staff funding plus a \$3000 discretionary grant from the Ahuriri Board towards wages and a \$14,000 grant from the Lotteries Commission towards wages. The lotteries Grant is based on the wages being used to fund an employee to provide assistance with community based queries and assistance through the Information Centre. The information Centre has also received funding from Tourism Waitaki ensuring longer opening hours to assist both travellers and locals with additional staffing also; due to Covid 19, we unfortunately lost this funding in August 2020.

In late 2020, we received \$95,000+GST from the Provincial Growth Fund to upgrade the West Wing of the Kurow Information Centre and Museum building. This was a massive undertaking and we wholeheartedly thank Diane Curtis for her management of this, which took many hours and was mostly completed after her departure from her role as Chair of the Waitaki Valley Community Society. We are very grateful that she continued with this and I'm sure everyone will agree what a massive difference has been made.

Covid 19 has made a huge impact to the 2021 Financial Year number wise and visitor wise. We applied for the Wage Subsidy when it was offered in April 2020 and received it, which definitely helped with wages.

Treasurer report submitted by Nikki Ormandy -  
21/10/20

#### Questions about the Financial Statements:

- John Sturgeon questioned the lack of an individual annual report for the Museum. He stated that monthly reports are given, but not annual ones. Calum and Nicki explained that the financial statements provided are the reports received from the accountant for the society as an entirety. Calum suggested getting an annual report for the Museum subgroup from zero.
- Graham Hill: GST enquiry. The society will go back over past minutes to find answer from a meeting that was held with the accountant in 2019.
- Reid Wayne questioned if the society was aware of the event funding TW is currently offering

*Moved that the 2019-2020 Financial Statements be approved*

Nicki Ormandy/Kaye Jenkins

CARRIED

#### REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS:

##### ***Kurow Museum and Information Centre Report:***

This was presented by Anna Glier (on behalf of Seanne McGregor)

Visitor numbers were 7,101 for May 2020 – April 2021. These statistics represent the fact we lost international visitors completely, reducing our hours, and other parts of the country were restricted in travel for some of this period.

A range of requests continues to be met by the Staff at the Info Centre. These requests vary daily from typing of documents, community car bookings through to support with technology and advice on accessing agencies unavailable in Kurow. Anna Glier and I are currently splitting the week. This is alleviating the need for relief staff that are not only hard to find, but also hard to keep up to date with the day-to-day running of the Information Centre.

A20 trail information is fast becoming one of our most popular requests during the cycling season and even more so during weather events. Without permanent trained staff in the weekend, I do have some concerns on being able to supply this information in a consistent manner.

Last summer we opened the doors seven days a week from October through May with paid staff six days a week, and a volunteer for one. This year with budget restraints, it is looking like we will need to use volunteers for both days in the weekend. We are very grateful to have these volunteers so the door can remain open, but it does remain a challenge to adequately train them as the questions and requests on any day vary considerably.

The NZTA continues to run effectively and meets a need within the community, serving residents from Duntroon to Omarama. Online transactions and not having credit as an option is affecting the total number of transactions.

The cost of the photocopier is largely covered by the Bugle, and we are grateful to the regular advertisers.

Our recently renovated meeting room is getting a great deal of use. Currently the room is used predominantly by community groups, who have access to the room free of charge.

Seanne McGregor  
Coordinator

*Moved that the Kurow Museum and Information Centre report be approved*

Anna Glier/Gaynor Lines

Carried

***Kurow Museum Report:***

This was presented by John Sturgeon.

The museum committee comprising myself, Karen Hoffman (Secretary) and committee Dorothy Duffy, Gaynor Lines, Graham Hill, Biff Russell, Betty Hill, and Fiona Munro have continued this last year with a wide range of activities including the following.

- 1: Continued work on updating and rearranging displays.
- 2: A very successful Market Day with two stalls operating.



The Archive group consisting of D Duffy, R Smith, K Pavletich, B Hill, W Reid, E Russell, J Munro continues to meet and we have a very dedicated group of ladies and one man meeting every Wednesday morning enjoying a time together researching Kurow and its surrounds. An amazing amount of history is coming to light with their work continuing into the afternoon. The sorting of files in the archive continues box by box, documenting and cataloging all the photographs continues. Our main work continues to be the research of the RED CROSS Tablecloths and we are nearing the end where all information will be delivered to the printers. Work also continues in building new displays and we have completed the photographic cabinet.

Funding this last year continues to increase with our Tiger still being the focal point on entry and exiting the museum. Our museum Tea towels and Books continue to sell. We received a grant this last year and our thanks go to TE-PAPA Helping hands grant. This grant will be used to replace our Opossum and Wallaby display. During the year, we said farewell to Peter Ellis who moved to the Marlborough district and our thanks go to him for the tremendous amount of work he achieved within the museum over the time he was with us. It was also extremely sad to lose one of our long-standing members Richard Nehoff who was our no1 machinery man. He is remembered for his expertise and humour and is very much missed by us all.

In closing my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the committee of the museum and Info centre, and our volunteers, who do a great job in all aspects of the workings of a museum. Special thanks to our secretary Karen Hoffman. Thanks also to the Archive group for the tremendous amount of work that has and is going on within the Museum. Another successful year.

J. R. Sturgeon, Chairman, Museum Committee. Kurow

*Moved that the Museum report be approved*

John Sturgeon/Gaynor Lines

Carried

***Kurow Island Report:***

This was presented by Calum Reid (on behalf of Sandy Cameron).

The Kurow Island Team again, sincerely thank the Waitaki Valley Community Society Inc. for their ongoing support and assistance with treasurer and secretarial services associated with the Island. The number of visitors and gatherings the Island attracts is an indication of the value the area is to local and wider community and how much of a destination it has become.

This year the Island Restoration has attracted national publicity and recognition with two interviews having taken place. The first an interview with NZ Herald Stuff and more recently Radio NZ Country Life. Both lengthy interviews where your support and input was acknowledged- albeit condensed into a 15-minute slot. Both interviews have attracted NZ wide feedback and interest.





We are fortunate to have the ongoing financial grants from the Waimate and Waitaki District Councils. The Grants are sufficient to maintain the works required on the Island with surplus being saved for the unforeseen/major works. We foresee this being used on the carpark and road maintenance and making trees safe as a result of wind damage.

We are fortunate to have a good team of local contractors who take enormous pride in their work. We acknowledge the support and assistance from the Ahuriri Board, Department of Conservation, Meridian Energy, DOC, Environment Canterbury, volunteers and Community.

The Te Kohurau Signage Project: We were successful in a grant from the Meridian Energy Waitaki Power Up Fund for informational and photo panels to be placed strategically around the Kurow Island and adjacent Wetland on the South Bank. The Kurow wetland on the South Bank is the development and restoration of a 1.5 km overgrown and inaccessible valuable wetland with its own distinct ecosystem, characteristic vegetation and aquatic life. The Island and Wetland are linked by the Kurow Bridge.

Providing an educational precinct and destination, the purpose of these panels is to inform, educate and enlighten the visitor of the local history, the Waitaki Power System and renewable energy, a braided river and its ecosystem, biodiversity, ecology, plants, birds and aquatic life. All panels are about to be submitted to the designer and a local contractor has donated his time to erect them with Farmlands Kurow donating the posts. As a group, we are very excited with what this project can offer to our local and wider community in terms of education, recreational activity and as a tourist attraction. We expect this Project to be complete before Christmas.

The shelter learning area continues to be our pride and joy and well used and Meridian have also provided funding for 2 bench seats which are to be erected by a local volunteer with the group providing the concrete.

All contractors are required to provide us with their Health and Safety Policies and they are briefed on hazards prior to their job and required to sign our H&S Documents.

The Jet Boat Association have co-operated and provided porta loos for their events and a large jet boat race was held in the winter. There were eight helicopters on the Island and hundreds of visitors. We provided a rubbish bin however; we will be advising them that will be another requirement for next year's event. The Waitaki experienced low flows the day of the event resulting in difficulties launching the boats. We encourage an application by the Jet Boat Association to the Meridian Energy Power Up Fund.

Thank you for your ongoing support in allowing this wonderful asset and unique place to be maintained.

We remain as enthusiastic and committed as ever and are delighted with the use and amount of visitors the Island attracts. We continue to meet on a regular basis and undertake volunteer working bees, picking up sticks and stones, and rubbish, planting and generally overseeing the Islands activities.

Sandy Cameron: For Kurow Island Group

- Calum mentioned that boat ramp funding application is now being done by the WVCS

*Moved that the Kurow Island report be approved*

Calum Reid/Karen Hoffman

Carried

***Kurow Trails Report:***

This was presented by Calum Reid (on behalf of Karen Turner).

Kurow Hill

The Hill trail continues to be enjoyed by many. Our small team of volunteers give it a good trim up every spring and then again just before Christmas. We also replace any chairs up the hill that are looking worse for wear. A lot of people use this track and post photos of the views/walk on social media. This coming year we will be looking at funding for repairing the stairs at the start of the track. Special thanks to Awakino station who this hill belongs to.

Kurow Wetland

The Kurow Island group and the Kurow Trails group have joined forces for a common project. The funding for signs and 3 seats. We applied for and were granted funding from Meridian. Also, we thank DOC for their help and advice.

Kurow Island – signs

- Panel 1 - Renewable Energy
- Panel 2 – History of Power System
- Panel 3 – Lower Waitaki Braided River System
- Panel 4 – Salmon and Trout
- Panel 5 – River Birds
- Panel 6 – Mokihi/Waitaha
- Panel 7 – Threats to Braided rivers

Kurow Wetland – signs

- Panel 1 – Cabbage Tree/Kowhai
- Panel 2 – NZ Flax/Carex secta
- Panel 3 – Long Fin Eel and Eel release story
- Panel 4 – Native fish
- Panel 5 – Insects
- Panel 6 – Raupo
- Panel 7 – Quail/ Paradise Shelduck

Looking ahead, more planting and more weed control and signage in the future.

Karen Turner

Kurow Trails Group

*Moved that the Kurow Island report be approved*

Calum Reid/Fiona Munro

Carried

## GENERAL BUSINESS

1. AGM rule change: In order to present audited accounts each year at the AGM, the Executive propose changing Rule 10.1 (in relation to the AGM) from “an AGM of members shall be held before the end of October each year” to “an AGM of members shall be held before the end of November each year”

*Moved that the AGM rule change be approved*

Calum Reid/Kaye Jenkins

Carried

2. John Sturgeon on behalf of the Waitaki Valley Medical Trust (prior to 2008 WVCS was a representative on the Medical Trust for flat at medical centre), after some changes in relation to the flat and it’s function, the WV Medical Trust came across a clause relating to flat and the WVCS association – John Sturgeon requested a letter of disassociation from WVCS to be removed from WV medical Trust  
Action: Anna Glier to send a letter to Alison Grant, Secretary of the Medical Trust
3. Ross McRobie: Geopark trust organised a Roadshow tomorrow (28<sup>th</sup> of October 2021, 7pm - 8.30) at the Kurow Hall and he urged members of the society to take part in the event
4. John Sturgeon had a question about back-up hard disks after hearing of the issues Nikki Ormandy, Treasurer, had with her computer while getting the accounts ready. Calum Reid informed everyone present that the society now stores all documents in the cloud.
5. Wayne Reid expressed his concern about the old computers in the Museum archives coping with the Windows 11 update.
6. Calum Reid mentioned that the Mini golf project would be a major focus over the next year for the society.
7. Questions about committee members’ election were voiced. Nicki informed the members present that new committee members only had to be elected every 3 year. There was confusion about the exact wording of these rules in the constitution, society to revisit this in their next meeting.
8. ACB members Vicky & Ross stepped in for Peter Ellis over the last year during WVCS society meetings; Peter Ellis has now officially resigned and Vicky was gauging interest for a new representative for Kurow/Duntroon

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.**