



October 2023

Chairperson Report 2023

The last 12 months has all been in the ‘invisible work behind the scenes’ category. The continuous supply of rain over summer has prevented any real trail building. Then, to cap it all off, the Auckland Council response to the flooding events in January and February has left us in a situation where we thought we had approved projects only to find that the rules have changed.

All of this work has resulted in some good progress on securing the route between Snells Beach, Warkworth and Matakana under the auspices of the Matakana Coast Trail Trust. Sadly my workload in that area has been at the expense of growing the society.

The society bank account reflects this through its lack of transactions.

We do have some success.

Our work last year submitting to the resource consent process has resulted in “The Kilns” receiving its resource consent and thus ensuring connectivity through the property and access into the Puhinui reserve from Warkworth. This access won’t physically materialise until after 2025 when the development enters construction.

We have a design for Muncaster Road Bridge from Hutchinson Consulting. This design is being submitted for resource consent by Matakana Coast Trail Trust as there is a significant cost component to the submission for which they have funding on top of the delays presented by the new council rules for structures in flood plains.

We have formally entered the approval process with DoC to form a trail through Lawrie Reserve. Given the current workload of DoC we do not expect this process to be a speedy one.

We hosted a stall at the recent community day in the old Warehouse Building. This was a fantastic evening we received a lot of support for the trail project as a result.

I see our major challenge in the short term now is to get some meaningful work in front of us so we can engage volunteer working bees and contributions and turn these into new trail.

We can really use some help in all areas, especially people to co-ordinate volunteer events, help write our newsletters, assist with fundraising events, and even do the fun stuff like trail construction and maintenance.

I wish to thank our current committee and membership for their support.

Looking forward we have a mountain of work to do. In the administrative area alone there is significant work. The new societies act requires us to revise our rules, confirm the status of all members and re-register the society before 2026.

I see this as a good opportunity to get some new blood and divide up the workload. Hopefully this time next year we can celebrate the completion of some new trail.

Gary Heaven

Chair, Mahurangi Trail Society