

Report to the Board of  
The Little River / Wairewa Community Trust

AGM 4 September 2017

.....“ **What is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history.**” **Cicero, Orator, 46BC**

The title quote refers to the fact that the Trust, starting from very small beginnings in 2011, has now laid firm foundations for the expression of its own vision and its own history that dovetails with the recently expressed expectations and needs of our modern community in 2017. These have built on the foundations left by earlier settlers in the area.

The Trust AGM is moving back to the preferred point in the yearly financial calendar. For historic reasons this had slipped, but that is one amongst many other things that have been addressed. This report then reflects the short nine month period from November 2016 to end August 2017.

For the Trust to be operated efficiently and in line with legal requirements the previously planned implementation of streamlined and modernised in house administration is now nearly complete. Online banking signalled last year is up and running. Invoices are now paid directly to creditors' accounts from the Trust account. Each payment is checked by the Trust Treasurer / Accountant and by two independent Trustee authorisers, before payment is made. Similarly incoming funds may be made direct to our account. The account may be accessed by any Trustees who may wish to view the current balance by arrangement with the administrators. This provides an additional layer of transparency.

The Trust is also activating the Xero accounting system and in the next few months that will be structured. This is a large task since all sources of funds will be flagged and payments will be relationally tied to those sources to which the projects may accrue. The architecture of the software is complex, as it needs to be, but will serve our purpose well into the foreseeable future. Thus ensuring that Tier 2 funding methodology will be in place as the scope of our activities continues to widen.

It is pleasing to be able to report that the Board, despite amendments to the contrary to the Deed, had the forethought to have the accounts audited during the past two years. It was thus able to successfully negotiate and meet the demands of a routine random audit request from the Department of Internal Affairs. That was completed in February of this year. Had we not done so then matters would not have been so easily managed. The motion before the Trust today at this meeting refers back to that event and a previous amendment to the Trust Deed. Trustees and members will have read and carefully considered this.

The Board of Trustees has every reason to be well satisfied with the progress that the Trust has made in the last nine months. Ongoing projects have been managed and run successfully and have not been allowed to dilute the strong commitment to the

communities of Birdlings Flat, Little River and Okuti Valley. The amount of volunteer time that has been contributed by the Board and our members is in the spirit of, and in character with, that shown by the earlier settlers of this area.

This year the Trust has more clearly defined and reduced the number of events with which it is associated. Our human resources are finite and the running of large numbers of events in years past drained not only financial resources but also consumed an unacceptable amount of valuable and rare volunteer time. Such distracters reduce the ability of the Trust to meet the purposes for which it was originally set up and the needs of its community.

The main activities of note over the last nine months have been; a total of nine events and activities. Two are associated with environmental matters which are of direct interest to the Trust. Seaweek and The Okuti Freshwater Day. It is hoped that those very specific activities will be supported again next year. The Okuti reserve programme has been supported, Flower Power is being organised and the Kitchen to Table project ran very well indeed.

A group of Trustees and members set too and created a new brochure that highlights the environment and landscape that we have in our area of reference. Some of the images on this brochure were selected from the winning pictures entered in a competition run by this group. Sponsorship of this brochure by local businesses will assist with the financing of a fresh brochure at a later date. The Walking Festival is again being supported by Trustees to mark our appreciation of the wonderful support of other community organisations on the peninsula and the work of DOC and CCC.

A very important inaugural activity that had been planned was the attendance of the Trust at the recent Pumpkin Festival when the Trust ran its own marquee. This generated a lot of interest and the banners and logos used, the displays, as well as business cards clearly established the Trust's identity. The success of this and the fact of the emergence of burgeoning Trust activity will enhance community and public support and awareness of our purposes. The Trust will continue to attend other such events in like manner to enable us to gauge, in accordance with the Deed, community interest and provide support for our new and dynamic Planning Committee. The upcoming Community Breakfast is once more being planned to include other local organisations.

This venue will provide the opportunity to showcase the ongoing growth and enthusiasm being generated by a new Formal Committee named The Little River Village Centre Planning Committee. This "Think Tank", created by the Trust has received and on 21<sup>st</sup> August accepted a full and formal delegation from The Little River Wairewa Community Trust. The espoused goal; **To ensure that the ideas and aspirations of the community members, which were recorded and documented in the Little River Big Ideas document, will be brought to fruition for the benefit of the community and visitors to the area.**

Currently the committee has members skilled in project management, accounting, town planning, design and engineering, as well as representatives from CCC, our Community Board representative and other local organisations as well as the community. It will achieve great results, to the benefit of all, but we must be patient, and this committee must be nurtured and given all the support that we are able to

provide in terms of our time, our knowledge, and experience. That Committee deserves the fullest support of the entire community.

As at the time of writing this small committee, only active since April has already successfully submitted to the CCC Draft Annual Plan both before Council and to The Banks Peninsula Community Board. New and exciting layers of ideas for the refreshing of the Little River Village Centre are in train and have been drafted. When they have been refined submission will then be made before our Community Board and to Council for the Long Term Plan. Remember these ideas are the ideas, presented by the community to the Working Party, and filtered and refined in the Little River Big Ideas Plan.

This exciting development is reminiscent of the time when Little River was first planned. During an intense period of growth and despite World War 1 and The Great Depression, roads were built, the railway established, the Domain appeared, Tennis Courts in 1911, The Coronation Library in 1913 followed by a Memorial Gate and electricity in 1923. and culminating in the construction of the Service Centre in 1938.

Interwoven with the above, the Trust has managed many requests and inquiries from the public with our weekly “Drop in Sessions” run by our Secretary. These have proven popular and are a valuable source of feedback. They also generate a fair amount of research and administration.

Finally we are pleased to report that the Birdlings Flat Community Hall, “Te Whare Tapere o Te Mata Hapuka” received its final code of compliance certificate on 30 August 2017. It is now open for public use and has been delivered to the Council Asset Register. This building programme has been a very useful learning opportunity. It is also an excellent example of a joint venture between CCC, the Community Board and the Trust.

Once again the professional and supportive Board has achieved many effective and positive outcomes during the period. There is no such thing as a setback, only a challenge. The time has gone fast, the activities have been demanding and satisfying, and the Trust has again achieved remarkable successes. Long may it continue to do so.

Kia kaha, “The Future Awaits Us.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R.G.M. Burch" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert G M Burch. (Tumuaki / Chairman) Little River / Wairewa Community Trust. Sept 2017  
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