





# Minutes of AGM Meeting

Held Wednesday, 5.30 pm March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Orchard Church, Te Puke

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## PRESENT:

- Board Members: Deryck Shaw, Darryl Jensen, John Burke, Lilian Harley, Michael Crawford, Ross Bawden and John Scrimgeour
- WKI Contractors: Sally Hickson, Alison Dewes, Guy Wilkins,
- Members: Ann Nettlingham, Carlos Jacome (MPI Funder), Julian Fitter, Will Nettlingham, Frances Van Alphen, Margaret Scrimgeour, Rob Fraser, Thomas Grant, Pranoy Pal, Laura Rae, Meredith Davis and Kiri Tapsell.
- Invitees: Carlos Jacome (MPI Funder), Murray van der Maas, Ken Shirley, Rob Fraser, Jackson Efford, Te Taru White, and Mel Brown
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## 1. Opening Karakia

Te Taru White provided a short welcome mihi and opening karakia.

## 2. WELCOME

The Chairman, Deryck Shaw welcomed everyone to the second Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Wai Kōkopu. He apologised for the delay in holding the AGM noting that there was a delay in receiving the audited annual financial statements and also the adverse weather events and state of emergency that the Government declared for the BoP region meant that it was important to avoid unnecessary travel and hence the meeting was delayed from the originally scheduled date of February 15.

Deryck acknowledged the support Wai Kōkopu had received from the Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry for the Environment, TECT and BayTrust.

He called for any items of General Business to be placed on the agenda and asked if there were any questions and noted there were none.

## 3. APOLOGIES

The apologies were read from Board Members Andre Hickson and Grendon Boyton.

Additional apologies noted via email:

Wayne Werder, Alastair Rhodes, Robyn Denham, Rick Rapana, Sharon Searle, Hannah Fromont, Dougal Henderson, Kevin Morley, Marty and Chrissi Robinson, Philip and Rachel Sexton, Russell Dunstan, Tracey Tutanekai, Malcolm and Sally Lee, Adam Duker, Aaron Taft, Sharon Morrell, Jonathan Streat





Barry Cawte, Deb Porter, Jackson Efford, James Trevelyan, Jenn Sheppard, Lisa Hickling, Paul Hickson, Paula Hudson, Pim De Monchy, Richard Fowler, Sarah Dudin, Sharon Morrell, Terri Eggleton, Tim & Mel Cumming

#### 4. BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Present Wai Kōkopu Board Members introduced themselves, their experience and background and what their hopes are for Wai Kōkopu moving forward.

Deryck acknowledged there was a strong range of experience and capability among the board members however highlighted there is an opportunity to add another Board Member from our catchment that has strong ties to the region.

Julian Fitter noted that it would be good to see a more diverse Board.

#### 5. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The Chair drew attention to the minutes of the 2021 AGM. The Chair then invited any questions or alterations to the 2021 minutes.

MOVED Ross Bawden / John Burke

THAT the minutes of the Wai Kōkopu AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

#### 6. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Deryck presented his report where he acknowledged and thanked Andre Hickson Foundation Chair of Wai Kōkopu; fellow board members and the team of contractors who worked with Wai Kōkopu. From the workshops to the stories we tell, a lot of work has been put in over the past two years and it is making an impact.

He also thanked the Ministry of Primary Industries, BayTrust, MPI, TECT and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for their contributions to the project. He outlined the importance of continuing to strengthen these relationships.

Deryck reiterated Wai Kōkopu's purpose 'working together over the next 20 years to restore and replenish the Waihi estuary; Pongakawa, Kaikōkopu and Wharere Rivers and surrounding lands, contributing waters and associated biodiversity.'

He outlined the importance of understanding that this is not a short-term project but requires intergenerational change. Although this can (and will be) be challenging, it's Wai Kōkopu's key role to involve the community to replenish and revitalize the health of the Waihi Estuary. It's crucial that Wai Kōkopu continue to connect with the catchment and partners in a meaningful way to deliver on this.

To ensure Wai Kōkopu deliver on its purpose, he outlined fourteen ways that Wai Kōkopu are implementing changes from developing Environmental Plans to estuarine rehabilitation.

Deryck acknowledged the hard work of the Lighthouse Farmers who are contributing to positive environmental outcomes and especially thanked John and Margaret



Scrimgeour who have led the way with transparent pan-sector farming. He outlined the ways Wai Kōkopu are seeing improvement in the reduction of greenhouse gasses by 7%, reduction in peak cows by 3% and N loss down by 13%.

He also thanked the previous Board Members who had made significant contributions to Wai Kōkopu's administration, systems, fundraising, governance, and project delivery.

Moving forward, Deryck acknowledged the importance of working together with organisations such as Te Wahapu O Waihi, sharing resources and learnings so that Wai Kōkopu can continue to deliver outcomes that are beneficial for the entire community.

Deryck welcomed any questions or comments on the report.

General discussion followed:

- Julian Fitter suggested reviewing the new Incorporated societies Act 2022 that is soon to be implemented which will affect how a Society operates. He also talked about the importance of establishing a membership list.

MOVED - Name Unknown due to incorrect name being recorded / Margaret Scrimgeour THAT the chairman's report had been received.  
CARRIED

## 7. FINANCIAL REPORT

John Burke presented the audited annual financial report which included the mission and targeted outcomes for Wai Kōkopu.

He noted total revenue, for year ended March 2022 was \$965,183. This captured the following contributions / donations:

- \$767,259 contribution from MPI.
- \$61,013 contribution from BayTrust
- \$46,556 contribution from MFE
- \$51,380 contribution from TECT

John outlined the breakdown of the operational expense and noted that Project Management included a whole range of work completed by a number of people such as fundraising. Moving forward, this will be split out and coded more clearly.

John also noted that any unused donations sit under the code 'liabilities' which means they were received but are currently not in use. This equated to \$803,051 of grants and donations.

John invited any questions or comments.

- Julian Fitter asked if it was possible to move the year-end to the end of June (instead of March 31). John commented that Wai Kōkopu had applied for this, but it was denied by IRD. John commented that in hindsight, it would have been beneficial (due to the timing of the AGM) to include budget vs. actual of this financial year.
- John commented that the biggest focus for Wai Kōkopu in 2023 is on accelerating land retirement and environmental programmes.
- John Scrimgeour shared further background around the auditing process and the difficulties in getting the reports and processes completed in a timely manner.

- A question came from an attendee regarding if the MPI funding is ongoing, and John responded that we are reviewing our five-year projections at the moment, which we will present to the Board, but really we probably need another two and a half years of funding, so we will be talking to MPI for continuity of funding

MOVED: John Burke / Darryl Jensen

THAT the audited accounts for Wai Kōkopu for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 be adopted

CARRIED

## 8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

John outlined that in the last AGM, Wai Kōkopu didn't have an auditor and recommended that we continue to roll over with our current auditor for 2023.

MOVED: John Burk / Laura Rae

THAT BDO be appointed as the auditors for Wai Kōkopu for the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

CARRIED

## 9. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Deryck outlined that under the Wai Kōkopu constitution, they are required to set a fee. Previously it has been set to \$0.00. The recommendation for the rest of 2023, is to set a fee of \$0.00 however for the next financial year, a nominal sum of \$20 is set for a family of up to five.

Moving forward, for this to be implemented, it's important for the Board to develop a membership strategy with membership benefits.

Deryck asked if anyone had any comments or questions. Julian Fitter suggested adding a Life Membership category of \$250 similar to other societies in the area.

MOVED: Darryl Jensen / Julian Fitter

THAT Wai Kōkopu maintain a register of members and that the annual subscription to be set at zero for the current financial year (YE March 31, 23) and that for the 23/24 financial year the subscription be set at \$20 for a family (up to 5 members with up to 4 aged under 18 and an individual membership fee of \$10) and that the Board develop a membership strategy including membership benefits.

CARRIED

## 10. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The Chairman outlined that under the Wai Kōkopu constitution, there was a need to record a 'Register of Interests'.

Deryck noted that new members haven't been recorded in this register due to not being involved in the financial year ending March 22.

MOVED: Lilian Harley / Deryck Shaw

THAT the annual register of interests for the Board be received.

CARRIED



## 11. WAI KŌKOPU ACHIEVEMENTS

Alison Dewes, Wai Kōkopu Project Manager thanked everyone for their involvement in the project to date noting that it's been a big two and a half years with lots of challenges (weather, Coronavirus, constrained contractors and catatonic farmers).

She reiterated the link between the health of the people and the health of our ecosystem and that trying to make big changes in three years is impossible, this programme needs to span generations.

She outlined that a big part of the Wai Kōkopu process is multi-pronged. Wai Kōkopu not only works with the local community but also alongside other catchments. They share knowledge to ensure that the team can make the changes required.

Alison acknowledged that a big challenge Wai Kōkopu have seen at the top of our catchment is the weeds and the pests. Generally, there can be a big sense of being overwhelmed however it's important that people come together to overcome this.

Some of the highlights of the project were outlined:

- Strengthening and supporting Lighthouse Farmers alongside MPI
- The Wai Kōkopu team have connected with 40% of the catchment.
- Implemented a strong monitoring programme i.e., water testing/drone footage.
- In 2022, Wai Kōkopu retired/restored around 140ha of land.

Looking forward, 150ha of steep land is to be retired in 2023 and fish passage restoration is a big focus.

Julian Fitter asked about how Wai Kōkopu is working with schools. Alison confirmed that Wai Kōkopu's focus is on Pongakawa School.

Pranoy Pal asked about how Wai Kōkopu are factoring in natural calamity/weather events. Alison responded that Wai Kōkopu are in discussions with partners to assess learnings and what is needed in case of an emergency.

Pranoy also asked about Carbon Farming and what Wai Kōkopu's plans are. Alison responded that Wai Kōkopu have brought in Carbon Farming and Forestry Advisors to help assist farmers. John Burke reinforced that Wai Kōkopu's funding goes into the planting of natives but they are providing assistance on what happens on a variety of land use that could include carbon farming or forestry planting.

Alison then introduced Lighthouse Farmers Anne and Will Nettlingham who shared a case study of land use and lifestyle changes they have made with the help of Wai Kōkopu.

## 12. GENERAL BUSINESS

John Burke reaffirmed the need for an additional board member with strong links to the community.

MOVED: Julian Fitter / John Burke

THAT this AGM endorse the current board members and as per the constitution supports the appointment of one further Board member with strong links to the community. That the Board invite persons from within the Wai Kōkopu community who wish to be considered as



Board members and request that the current Board members signal their availability to continue on the board.

CARRIED

Darryl Jensen commented that there was still a lot of work to be done in terms of sedimentation in the catchment waterways due to horticulture development and retainment areas. Ken Shirley acknowledged the challenge and Thomas Grant said that keeping the retainment walls is being advocated for.

Deryck Shaw outlined the importance of connecting with other like-minded community groups such as Te Wahapu and invited Te Taru White to speak about the new group formed to help clean up the estuary.

Te Taru outlined the project has just received funding and is being driven by Kura Paul Burke and Roana Bennett. Although in its infancy, the group share a common goal with Wai Kōkopu and look forward to working together.

MOVED Deryck Shaw & John Burke

THAT this AGM note the progress of Te Wahapu and look to work closely with them, our funders, MPI, TECT and BayTrust, industry groups, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, farmers and the wider community in accordance with our purpose.

### **13. CLOSURE**

Carlos Jacome (MPI) acknowledged the work of Wai Kōkopu and the farmers that are doing something different. He noted the level of maturity, confidence and trust was impressive.

The chairman brought the meeting to a close at 6.58 pm.

### **14. Closing Karakia**

Te Taru White provided a closing karakia.