

## 2017 Presidents Report

Piha Ratepayers & Residents Assn.

Welcome to you all:

First, a special welcome to our guests from Auckland Council and the Waitakere Ranges Local Board. A mutually cooperative affiliation with these people is fundamental to an active and functioning R&R and we are grateful for the good relationships that we enjoy with them and their support for what we are trying to achieve for the Piha community.

Second, to thank the members of the R&R committee past and present. The knowledge, experience and the time and effort they expend for the benefit of the Piha community is a huge and invaluable asset. Much of their work goes unseen and receives little thanks.

Third, to those of you here tonight sharing your ideas for the benefit of the community and supporting the Piha R&R.

Auckland Council and Auckland Transport continued their re-organisational efforts in to 2017 and this has resulted in people who had an intimate knowledge of Piha issues and a history of cooperation and assistance, being moved to new areas of management and traditional areas of responsibility, such as Local Parks now being lumped in with the City and Waiheke and the separation of parks from assets within the parks.

Water Quality: Water pollution in the Piha Stream Lagoon and the Marawhara Stream lagoons remains a problem. Our efforts this year have been frustrated by personnel changes at Council and an apparent effort to put the issue into the “too hard” basket and declare the lagoons “permanently unsuitable for swimming.” The good news is that nature has done what we have been advocating for some time and “flushed” the Piha Lagoon with sea water. This has resulted in a clean lagoon, suitable for swimming despite the signs. We will continue the battle. Our thanks must go to the Water Quality sub-committee of Graeme Carrie and Dave Bryant for their continuing effort in this area.

Library Building: We are currently in negotiation with Auckland Council for a renewal of our lease that expires in March. This will be covered in more detail by Hanneke in the Library report.

Post Office: The Post Office owned and operated by the R&R continues to be an important asset to the Piha community and will also be covered separately.

Our work this year has covered many issues including: Dune levelling at Piha Beach (Sth); Freedom Camping; Footpath safety; Claude Abel Lily Pond; The Gap Concept plan and submissions; Dog Control issues; Erosion control of the Piha Stream adjacent to the West Coast Gallery and Fire Station; Filming in Piha; working with Council and other Piha Groups to assist in ensuring Council acquires the Ministry of Education Land for the benefit of the Piha Community and more.

This year we are embarking on a new project which at this stage we are calling “Local Heroes”. The Idea is to have an annual recognition of people who are responsible for positive actions, initiatives or service to the Piha community. It is intended to include prizes, trophies and more than one category. Nominations from the community will be judged by an independent non-partisan guest panel and the recipients recognised at a community function.

Membership. The Piha R&R is the organisation that represents the Piha community with the Waitakere Ranges Local Board and Auckland Council organisations. The strength of the R&R is dependent on strong community input and support. The more members we have and the more active those members are in sharing their thoughts, ideas, concerns and complaints, the better the R&R can represent the community and the better the community can become.

Thank you again for your attendance and we look forward to continuing our efforts, with your support, in the coming year.

Ken Cowan  
President