



Chairman's Report 2018

It gives me much pleasure to present the fourth Chairman's Annual Report for the Otamatea HarbourCare Society Incorporated.

The attached table sets out what the planting programme was for the 2017 season. It shows that a total of nearly 22,000 trees were planted at more than 20 properties between Bickerstaffe, Ararua and Hukatere. Of these, over 16,000 were trees grown in the society's own nursery. Our relationship with Reconnecting Northland provided 5,000 trees, and labour to plant 10,000 trees. Contract labour was also employed to plant a further 3,300 trees. More than 4,000 were planted through organised events, and the balance by the owners themselves. This year's celebrity guest at the community planting day held at the White Rock Hills property, was Mayor Greg Gent. He came prepared to work, and certainly did his fair share. I think he enjoyed the opportunity to engage with the local community.

There are more than 22,000 trees in the nursery for the 2018 planting season.

It is worth reiterating the Society's strategy as set out in the business plan:

- ❖ *Retain the Society's 'local' nature*
- ❖ *Promote the Society extensively to the wider community and key stakeholders through a variety of media including development of a website. This could also be used as a pathway for collecting funds.*
- ❖ *Develop mutually beneficial partnerships with community groups, NGOs, central and local government agencies.*
- ❖ *Target project-focussed external funding to enable the programme to be implemented.*
- ❖ *Use paid labour to assist volunteers to achieve the intended outputs of planting in future years, although the nursery could operate substantially with volunteer labour. This is because there is a limited pool of fit and able volunteers available in this relatively sparsely populated area.*
- ❖ *Be open to opportunities to co-operate with and complement the work of other agencies and groups.*

A further extract from the business plan shows how we measure success:

		Target 2015	Target 2016	Target 2017
Physical:	Number of trees planted*	8,000	16,000	30,000
	Km of waterways planted/fenced**			

Community connection	Number of volunteer hours/days	500	800	800
	Number of community planting days	4	5	5
Financial	Bank account stays in credit*			
	No 'tags' to Annual Financial Reports			
Organisational:	Annual Meetings held in accordance with Society Rules			
Promotion:	Number of "Friends" Updates produced per year	20	20	20
	Number of print media stories about Society activities published	4	6	6

Notes: *if the intended number of trees gets planted, and the bank account stays in credit, it can be assumed that sufficient funding has been found to operate the Society's activities.

** provided a meaningful way can be found to measure this.

The committee has agreed that the business plan needs to be updated to better reflect the current operating environment.

Comment on Success Measures

As already mentioned, the target of 30,000 plants in the ground for the 2017 planting season was not met, and this is one reason why our business plan needs to be reviewed, and its assumptions reconsidered.

No reliable way of measuring lineal distance of waterways planted has been found yet.

Volunteer involvement in planting days and nursery working bees amounted to about 680 hours. When the time contributed by the secretary and other committee members is added, the total would exceed 800 hours. There were six planting days involving community members, school groups or corporates along with members of the community.

Financial issues will be reported on separately by the Treasurer, however I can report that the bank account was in credit for the whole of the reporting period from the time the account was opened.

The last AGM was held in accordance with the Society's rules.

Nine Updates were produced throughout the year, along with a number of other notifications regarding working bees, planting days and the like.

Only four press releases were produced in the period, but a further four stories were published in the Paparoa Press, Kaipara Lifestyler and the Northern Advocate. A feature was also the story published in the August edition of the Dairy Exporter relating to the White Rock Hills planting day. It was likely the presence of former Fonterra deputy-chairman Greg Gent which prompted the article.

Health and Safety

During the year the committee decided it should indicate that it takes the health and safety of its members and volunteers seriously and so regardless of whether or not technically it was caught by the Act, it adopted a formal Health and Safety policy at its March 2017 meeting. A Health and Safety

Plan was then adopted before the 2017 planting season. In furtherance of this, the Secretary has maintained his First Aid certificate and Growsafe certificate.

There were no incidents of any nature requiring formal notification. The first aid kit has still not been called upon.

Funding

Last year the Society was successful with funding applications as follows:

Donor	Project	Value
Reconnecting Northland	5,000 trees, labour to plant 10,000trees, \$2,100 mileage allowance	\$17,100 (estimated)
Foundation North	Nursery expenses (to produce plants for 2018 season)	\$12,000
COGS	Establish website	\$1,000

For the record, six committee meetings were held during the year, one of these by email. While Society membership is not great, the number of "Friends of Otamatea HarbourCare" grew to just over 200 in the reporting period.

I look forward to another successful year in 2018.

Ashley Cullen

Chairman.