



Chairman's Report 2019

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

The attached table sets out what the planting programme was for the 2018 season. It shows that a total of nearly 21,000 trees were planted at more than 20 properties between Bickerstaffe, Ararua and Hukatere. Of these, over 17,000 were trees grown in the society's own nursery. Our relationship with the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group provided 3,250 trees from Nga Uri o Hau Nursery at Te Arai. Contract labour was also employed to plant a further 6,200 trees. Nearly 5,000 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 Jason Smith. The major highlight of the day though was the presence of the Country Calendar film crew, and the resulting profile it gave us when the programme showed later in the year.

There are about 20,000 trees in the nursery for the 2019 planting season.

We have secured an increased grant from Foundation North again this year - \$16,500. This means we are able to continue to supply plants for qualifying sites in our area for free, as well as boost the fund to cover contractor costs. When the Te Arai nursery started offering plants for free a couple of years ago it caused us to review whether or not we should continue to operate our nursery, but the consensus was that it was worthwhile to carry on providing this local service. Te Arai (Nga Uri o Hau Nursery) have since introduced a small administration charge, which changes our operating environment again.

We recently reviewed our business plan, and the only change to our chosen strategy is to update the reference to a website, now that we have one up and running.

Chosen Strategy (updated):

- ❖ *Retain the Society's 'local' nature.*
- ❖ *Promote the Society extensively to the wider community and key stakeholders through a variety of media including the 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

Unfortunately the business plan was not updated before March 2019 to include performance measures for the 2017-18 year, so the following comments relate to the criteria for the 2016-17 year.

The tally of trees planted under the Otamatea HarbourCare banner in 2018 was 20,736.

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 371 hours, much less than that for the previous year. The main reason for this is the use of the external propagator for germinating the majority of seeds, and standardising the pots and trays used to a greater degree, so that the potting up process is very much quicker. There were four 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.

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

Only two press releases were produced in the period, but a further stories were published in the Paparoa Press, Kaipara Lifestyler and the Northern Advocate. The main highlight though was the episode of Country Calendar which featured the community planting day held at White Rock Hills.

Health and Safety

The committee 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
Foundation North	Nursery expenses (to produce plants for 2019 season)	\$16,500
COGS	Establish website	\$1,000

For the record, five committee meetings were held during the year, two of these by email. Society membership remains steady, as do the number of "Friends of Otamatea HarbourCare" at just over 200 in the reporting period.

I look forward to another successful year in 2019.

Ashley Cullen

Chairman.