



## Chairman's Report 2020

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

The attached table sets out what the planting programme was for the 2019 season. It shows that a total of more than 18,000 trees were planted at 28 properties within our immediate area and a couple towards Kaiwaka. These latter two were supplied because no-one else locally had stepped forward to take up the offer of free trees. Most of the trees had been grown in the society's own nursery. Our relationship with the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group meant that we were able to obtain 1,500 Manuka from Nga Uri o Hau Nursery at Te Arai to make up for losses arising from courier delays in getting the new plantlets from the propagator.

More than 3,100 trees were planted through organised events, contract labour was employed to plant a further 2,100 and the balance was carried out by the owners themselves. We usually have a celebrity guest at a community planting day each year but we could not find a suitable site for such an event other than at Paparoa where the whole school turned out in light rain with help from members of the community supporting the school, Otamatea HarbourCare and the new lifestyle village taking shape in Franklin Rd.

There are about 22,000 trees in the nursery for the 2019 planting season.

Grants from Foundation North have been much appreciated over the last couple of years. Midway through the year (2019) we were approached by Fonterra who sought to involve us in their programme of making water quality improvements to the catchment of the Wairau River, which includes land from the Brynderwyn Corner to the outskirts of Maungaturoto. The contract we have entered into 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 planting contractor costs. When the Te Arai nursery started offering plants for free a few 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) are now charging commercial wholesale rates, which changes our operating environment again. One of our original supporters, Reconnecting Northland has quite recently helped us out with meeting the cost of acquiring some karamu and carex plants to help balance the range of species for the 2020 planting season.

We reviewed our business plan last year, and the only change to our chosen strategy is to update the reference to a website, now that we have one up and running. We still need someone to volunteer to be administrator for the website to keep it current.

Business Plan extract follows:

### 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-focused 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 2019	Target 2020	Target 2021
<b>Physical:</b>	Number of trees planted*	20,000	20,000	25,000
<b>Community connection</b>	Number of volunteer hours/days	800	800	800
	Number of community planting days	4	4	4
<b>Financial</b>	Bank account stays in credit*			
	No 'tags' to Annual Financial Reports			
<b>Organisational:</b>	Annual Meetings held in accordance with Society Rules			
<b>Promotion:</b>	Number of "Friends" Updates produced per year	12	12	12
	Number of print media stories about Society activities published	4	4	4
		Target 2019	Target 2020	Target 2021

**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.

### Comment on Success Measures

The tally of trees planted under the Otamatea HarbourCare banner in 2019 was 18,026, 2,000 short of the target.

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

Volunteer involvement in nursery working bees amounted to about 235 hours, and more than 270 hours at community planting events including school pupils. The main reasons for these reduced volunteer hours 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. While there were four planting days involving community members, school groups and the like, there is a growing trend for the landowners to do make their own arrangements for planting.

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 three press releases were produced in the period, but a further stories were published in the Paparoa Press and Maungaturoto matters.

### **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. The policy and plan were reviewed last year.

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 did not need to make any funding applications but has entered into a contract with Fonterra to supply 10,000 revegetation plants to farms in the Wairau River catchment. This contract should provide enough of a surplus by using volunteer labour to sustain planting in other parts of our area as well.

For the record, seven committee meetings were held during the year, four 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 2020.

Ashley Cullen

Chairman.

