



Chairman's Report 2021

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

In the 2020 planting season a total of more than 24,400 trees were provided for planting at 39 properties within our area of interest. Most of the trees had been grown in the society's own nursery.

About 1450 trees were planted through organised events (school groups) and contract labour was employed to plant a further 7,300; the balance was carried out by the owners themselves. In the past we have often had a celebrity guest at a community planting day each year but in 2020 we could not find a suitable site for such an event, not to mention the impact of a certain viral disease making its presence felt.

There are about 25,000 trees in the nursery for the 2021 planting season. About 3,000 of these were a donation from Kauri Park Nurseries to the Paparoa-Maungaturoto Lions Club for planting alongside the Lions walkway at Paparoa.

Grants from Foundation North have been much appreciated over the last couple of years. Midway through 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 current contract we have entered into with Fonterra means we are able to continue to supply plants for qualifying sites in our area for free, although we will likely need to look elsewhere for further funding before the end of the current financial year to ensure our ongoing financial viability.

Several things have happened since we reviewed our business plan in 2019 - the Covid Epidemic, the enacting of the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management last September and the signing of the \$100M Kaipara Moana Remediation agreement last October. This has certainly boosted the level of interest in obtaining plants for waterway enhancement. On the other hand, the second dry summer in a row highlighted the limitations of the nursery's water supply. This should be taken into account next time the business plan is reviewed. The storage dam did not overtop last winter.

The committee has invested \$1,200 in replacing the plastic roof in the nursery potting-up/storage area.

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
Physical:	Number of trees planted*	20,000	20,000	25,000
Community connection	Number of volunteer hours/days	800	800	800
	Number of community planting days	4	4	4
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	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 2020 was 24,493, 4,493 ahead 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 120 hours, and more than 90 hours at planting events involving school pupils. As stated in last year's annual report 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. There were three planting days involving school groups; the trend for the landowners to make their own arrangements for planting continues.

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.

Six Updates were produced throughout the year, along with a number of other notifications regarding working bees, planting days and the like. We now have an administrator to maintain our website, so that channel is now properly operational.

Only two press releases were produced in the period, but further stories were published in the Paparoa Press, Maungaturoto Matters and Kaipara Lifestyler. At the time of writing this report the HarbourCare Facebook page had received a total of 376 'likes'.

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 make any funding applications but has entered into a further contract with Fonterra to supply 5,000 revegetation plants to farms in the Wairau River catchment. We will likely need to make application for further funding later this year if we wish to maintain the same level of operation as we do now. In the future the Kaipara Moana Remediation fund should be a source of funding, but not likely until next year.

For the record, nine committee meetings were held during the year, six of these by Zoom, two by email, and one face-to-face. Society membership has been boosted by the requirement for people receiving plants to be members, and the number of "Friends of Otamatea HarbourCare" is slowly increasing at about 220 in the reporting period.

I look forward to another successful year in 2021.

Ashley Cullen

Chairman