

# Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc. (SoTM)

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024



**Held on:** 16 September 2024  
**At:** the offices of MinterEllisonRuddWatts  
Level 22, PWC Tower, 15 Customs Street West  
Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010

Supporters were welcomed to the 36<sup>th</sup> SoTM Annual General Meeting by Ian Alexander, Chairperson. The meeting opened at 7.35pm

A quorum was achieved – there being 41 members in attendance, with additional members attending online.

Ian thanked MinterEllison for generously hosting our AGM at their offices and introduced Olivia Yarrell and Rachael Saunders. Stephanie de Groot (partner) will join latter via Zoom

### 1. Apologies:

Debbie Marshall, Gloria and Guy Nash, Vicky Young and Peter Dormon, Linley Earnshaw, Yvonne Clarke, Marion Atwood, Sandra and John Armstrong, Howard Webber, Dawn Williams, Sue and Brett Wright, Eileen and Graeme Piggot, Orna Weinroth, Sandra Turner, Murray Faulkner, Gavin Tisch, Michelle Morrison, Clare Stevens, Heather Hartley, Cathy Munro, Barb Hughes, Dell Hood, Sonja Galbraith, Anne Rimmer, Michael Watson, Christopher Trigg, Barbara Walter, Karen Hally, Sue & Mike Rowledge, Val Smytheman, Karin and Rob Gouldstone, Mary-Ann Rowland, Derek Tearne, Neal Taylor.

Ian Alexander moved that the apologies be accepted.  
Seconded: Lynda Taylor. Carried unanimously.

### 2. Draft Minutes of the 2023 AGM were not read as they had been available on the website.

Ian Alexander moved that the Minutes of the 2023 AGM, held on 18 September 2023 at the Fickling Convention Centre, Three Kings, Auckland, be approved.  
Seconded: Janet Petricevich. Carried unanimously.

### 3. There were no matters arising from AGM 2023 minutes.

### 4. Chair's annual report was presented by Ian Alexander (available on the website)

Key points from Ian Alexander's report were:

- Replica mast erected on the Island in September 2023.
- Successful Dawn Chorus event in October 2023 and concert in March 2024.
- New Point Of Sale system introduced in the Island shop.
- Gail Reichert appointed as Volunteer and Guiding Manager in October 2023.
- SoTM reached 35 years in November 2023.
- Lighthouse Open Day in April 2024.
- More formal budgeting process introduced including a further extended two-year plan.
- For the 2024-25 year all business-as-usual requests have been agreed and new projects and/or initiatives can be undertaken subject to additional funding.

- Ongoing discussions with DOC on the upgrade to the Kawerau Track, the damaged Hobbs Beach Track future, and the renewal of the Community Agreement.
- Upgrades to Health and Safety protocols for volunteer operations on the Island.
- Upgrades to protocols to protect Island wildlife.
- Dawn Chorus keeps members updated with the activities of the Biodiversity, Infrastructure and Education subcommittees. The work of the Advocacy subcommittee and the Membership team were acknowledged.
- The Field Centre subcommittee has been reactivated and permission has been granted to build the Field Centre in stages. Stage 1 will be an ablutions / kitchen block, wastewater system and five cabins. Surveying and drawing up of architectural plans are about start.
- Two fundraisers have been contracted to work for us and have made an impressive start.
- A significant bequest was left to the SoTM by Peter Lorimer of Wellington. This will be applied to Stage 2 of the Field Centre.
- Ray Walter and Mel Galbraith sadly passed away in the past year and their significant contributions to the Island were acknowledged.
- We continue to work with major partners – Iwi, DOC, Explore Group and MERW – and many other sponsors.
- Matters of governance have occupied large amounts of Committee time and will continue to do so. This may result in, amongst other things, some changes to the name and make up of the Main Committee, but this will be subject to Constitutional change to be recommended at the 2025 AGM.
- Ian concluded by voicing his huge appreciation for the work that all the volunteers, paid staff and contractors undertake to contribute to our conservation project. To show the difference everyone is making, he reported that The Travellers Choice Award of 2024 place Tiritiri Matangi Island in the top 10% of tourist attractions worldwide and number 1 out of 201 places to visit in Auckland.

Ian Alexander moved that the Chair's report be received.

Seconded: Carl Hayson. Carried unanimously.

#### **5. Treasurer's report and Financial Statements presented by Peter Lee-Grey (available on the website)**

Peter Lee-Grey explained our financial situation, using a Powerpoint presentation.

He thanked Ashlea Lawson for the significant shop profits showing in the statements.

He also thanked all our generous sponsors, and those who give in kind financial support making special mention of Explore Group, who carry volunteers on the ferry free of charge, and DOC with their generous discounts on bunkhouse fees.

Peter also thanked the back-room team - David Meldrum, Rise Accounting, the Membership Team, and Hart and Co, our Auditors.

He noted out that our finances remain in a healthy position with assets of just over \$2 million.

No questions were asked of Peter's financial report.

Peter Lee-Grey moved the Annual Accounts for 2023-24 be adopted.

Seconded: Hester Cooper. Carried unanimously.

#### **Reappointment of auditors:**

Peter Lee-Grey moved that the Main Committee reappoint Hart & Co as auditors for 2024/2025.

Seconded: Jenny Gosse. Carried unanimously.

## **6. Setting of Annual Subscription for 2024/2025:**

The following motion was put to the meeting –

“That the annual subscription fees remain unchanged for the 2024-25 membership year.

That is:

Student fees with a NZ postal address - \$15

Individual, family or organisation with a NZ postal address - \$30, with family and organisation having one vote

Student, individual, family or organisation with an overseas address - \$35, with family and organisation having one vote

Corporate \$750 with only one vote.”

Moved by Ian Alexander

Seconded: Darryl Ovens. Carried unanimously.

## **7. Constitutional Amendment:**

Background to this change was provided by Ian Alexander and Simon Fordham.

It has long been considered that we should be looking after the waters around Tiritiri Matangi Island as well as the Island itself. Over the past few years John Sibley has been undertaking a lot of work in the marine environment of the Island’s coastal waters – charting changes in temperature, recording the sea grasses and fauna inhabiting that environment. We want to ensure that we are able to continue work in the surrounding water. Under the new Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill, permits may be needed for this. It is hoped that our general permit would cover this work, especially if the objectives in our Constitution include the surrounding waters.

A question was asked from the floor “Who has ownership of the surrounding waters?”

Simon replied that according to the 1987 working plan, our area of control stops at the mean high water mark. However, the surrounding waters will be administered by DOC when it becomes marine protected.

It was moved that:

Rule two (The Objects of the Society) sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) are revoked and replaced by the following:

- a) To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the open sanctuary at Tiritiri Matangi and surrounding waters
- b) To conduct and support research at, or for the potential benefit of, Tiritiri Matangi open sanctuary and surrounding waters
- c) To provide financial, material and physical support for the work at Tiritiri Matangi open sanctuary and surrounding waters

Moved by: Ian Alexander

Seconded: Karen O’Shea. Carried unanimously.

## **8. Election of officers:**

- Ian Alexander (Chairman) – Nominated by Valerie Lee. Seconded by Janet Petricevich. Carried.  
Ian thanked the members for re-appointing him as Chairperson.
- Valerie Lee (Secretary) – Nominated by Janet Petricevich. Seconded by Ian Alexander. Carried.

- Peter Lee-Grey (Treasurer) – Nominated by Carl Hayson. Seconded by Janet Petricevich. Carried.

**9. Committee:**

Ian Alexander moved that there be a maximum of NINE positions on the Committee.  
Seconded: Rose Coveney. Carried unanimously.

The following Committee members were elected:

- Rachel Goddard – Nominated by Valerie Lee. Seconded by Peter Lee.
- Hester Cooper – Nominated by Janet Petricevich. Seconded by Peter Lee-Grey.
- Carl Hayson – Nominated by Janet Petricevich. Seconded by Peter Lee-Grey.
- Janet Petricevich – Nominated by Valerie Lee. Seconded by Ian Alexander.

All were carried unanimously.

**10. Notices:**

- Anne Rimmer wished to announce that she is editing a new book of Ray Walter's memoirs of life as a lighthouse keeper.
- Ian Alexander gave thanks to Michael Watson for his 5 years of service on the Main Committee and acknowledged his work on the Education subcommittee. Michael was unable to attend the AGM, but a presentation will be made to him at a later date. Those attending gave a round of applause.
- Vicky Young and Peter Dormon have generously donated a bronze tuatara sculpture to the SoTM, and it is intended to display this in the Visitors Centre. It is modelled on "Gary", a Tiri tuatara, and is one of a limited-edition sculpture cast as a fund-raising venture for the Island in 1982 by artist Brian Moore, who recently passed away. The sculpture was on show for the attendees to view. Ian thanked Vicky and Peter for their generosity, and we look forward to installing the sculpture on the Island.

**11. General Business:**

No further business.

**There being no further business, the meeting was formally closed at 8.30pm**

*Following the AGM, Stephanie de Groot, partner with MinterEllisonRuddWatts, gave a talk via Zoom, outlining why the firm were so keen to partner with SoTM and to offer as much support as they can – both in the form of services in kind and volunteer help on the Island.*