



The Northern Action Group
Incorporated



AGM

24th June 2024

“A Better Rodney”



“Campaigning to get Democracy for the people of North Rodney”

AGENDA:

- WELCOME
- APOLOGIES
- MINUTES - of the previous AGM meeting on the 5th June 2023.
- MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- TREASURERS' REPORT
- ELECTION OF OFFICIERS AND COMMITTEE
- ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
- GENERAL BUSINESS

GUEST SPEAKER(S):

- Topic: "A Better Rodney"
 - Hon Chris Penk (KKM MP)
 - Greg Sayers: Ward Councilor
 - Local Board members
 - Peter Sinton (WALG)
 - Sue Crockett (FTT)
- Comments and General Discussion

Minutes of the 5 June 2023 AGM

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE NORTHERN ACTION GROUP JUNE 2023

Held at Totara Park Hall, 5 Melwood Drive, Warkworth on Monday 5th June 2023 commencing at 7.04 p.m.

1. WELCOME

Attendance:

Committee – Bill Foster (Chair), Hugh Briggs (Sec), Maurice Purdy (Treasurer), Lance Taylor, Peter Buckton.

Members, supporters and Speakers: Greg Sayers (Auckland Councillor), Sue Crockett, Stephen Law, Colin Smith (RLB), Ivan Wagstaff (RLB), Guy Wishart (RLB and Labour candidate), Tim Holgate (RLB), Glen Ashton, Deanna Yarndley, Pete Sinton, Elizabeth Foster.

The Chair, Bill Foster, welcomed all attendees (16 including the Committee and guest speakers) to the AGM. It was an excellent turnout, given the poor weather. Bill identified the speakers: Greg Sayers (Auckland Councillor for Rodney) and Guy Wishart (Labour candidate in general election and Board Member) and welcomed them to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

The Secretary (Hugh Briggs) read out the apologies from Wayne Brown (Mayor), Michelle Carmichael (RLB), Marja Lubeck (Labour List MP), Chris Penk (National MP) and received another from the floor Ken Harcombe. The apologies were moved and accepted.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous AGM meeting on the 20 July 2020 were taken as read. Copies were available at the meeting but no questions were raised.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising and Bill Foster indicated that most of the matters in the minutes would be covered in his Chair's report later on and in subsequent discussion. The minutes of that meeting were then accepted as being a true and accurate record of that meeting. Moved Peter Buckton, seconded Maurice Purdy. Approved.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair, Bill Foster, then presented his very comprehensive report by way of Powerpoint slides. This report can be viewed by way of a link on the website and in the next Newsletter. He started with a review of the 6R's from last year, which are again highlighted again in 2023.

Key issues raised (again) were:

1. The disconnect between planning and implementation, with them not being aligned together.
2. District Plan has not been well done. It is driven by the central organization with little input from locals. Localisation is required (use of those experienced professionals and organisations).
3. Need again to review the local board subdivisions to have a fairer representation of rural and urban issues.
4. Shortfall on local infrastructure to cope with growth or natural events. Council have allowed development in hazardous areas but putting responsibility on to residents.
5. Council is "broke" and needs better administration and financial management. The overall management structure is not "fit for purpose"
6. Government is not giving Councils appropriate funding mechanisms to resolve local issues. Unfortunately, Rodney is unlikely to receive its due share as Auckland is urban-centric. There is a need for it to be driven by the locals to ensure its issues are resolved.
7. Whilst there should be more emphasis on public transport overall, it does not work in rural areas as it is uneconomic (note empty buses).

Action this year:

Bill then identified the significant work undertaken this year:

1. A submission to the Council's Annual Budget
2. Further billboards for the campaign which NAG is continuing with, to get the message for better service and action across. They are now more positive, given that some roads have been improved and the Mayor is recognising the importance of "localism".
3. Presented to the new (and more invigorated) Local Board
4. Met with the Mayor at a combined meeting with a positive response (which now needs to be actioned).
5. Again indicated that there would be no change to the "no fee" policy, with donations gladly accepted.

He ended his presentation with thanks to all the supporters with their generous donations, without which NAG could not continue its fight on behalf of the Rodney communities.

Moved that the report be accepted – proposed Bill Foster; seconded Hugh Briggs (Sec)

Hugh Briggs (Sec) thanked Bill for his tremendous work on behalf of NAG and the Rodney Community. There was loud applause for this.

6. TREASURERS' REPORT

Maurice Purdy presented the brief financial statement (copies were made available and was also shown on the Chair's presentation). The financial

funding from any appropriate agencies. The main expenditure was on materials and the printing of the signs and billboards.

It was then moved that the accounts be accepted as a true and accurate record, as attached and signed off by the Chairperson. Moved by Hugh Briggs and seconded by Peter Buckton.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Bill then moved that the nominations as shown on the Chair's slides for the three officer positions could be accepted, unless there were more coming from the floor. As the Chair was the only nomination, Bill stood down whilst the Secretary, Hugh, acted as Chair to undertake the voting for the Chair position. Hugh proposed that Bill be nominated as there were no others, seconded by Peter Buckton. Bill was unanimously voted as Chair.

Bill resumed in his role as Chair to complete the election process. The nominations for Secretary (Hugh Briggs) and Treasurer (Maurice Purdy) were moved and accepted, as there were no others presented. Lance Taylor and Peter Buckton were re-elected onto the Committee. Two others – Peter Sinton and Malcolm Black- had been approached by Bill. They were duly elected.

8. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Bill advised the meeting that there was no annual subscription provided for. Any person that made a donation was considered to be a financial member as per the Constitution. Members just had to fill in the membership form and indicate their donation. It was resolved to maintain this process. Moved by Bill and seconded by Hugh.

9. DISCUSSION

Bill opened up the discussion session by reiterating the main points of his report. His main question to the meeting was to ask how could we unify the Rodney community to get better governance and more equitable funding. NAG wanted positive ideas and possible solutions to achieve this.

He identified from the recent Council Satisfaction Survey some astounding results. The survey results are included in his presentation on the website of in the next Newsletter. The highlight was that the level of dissatisfaction has increased in almost every area covered in the survey. He showed on a map that the two areas with the highest levels were Rodney and Franklin. Franklin's was even higher than Rodney's. The surveys had been undertaken since 2015. He concluded by saying that there is a need to bring communities together to resolve all service issues. NAG's role to coordinate this with urgent action.

He then invited the guest speakers to comment on these issues and on the theme chosen: Localism – Power to the Locals.

10. GUEST SPEAKERS

Greg Sayers: Ward Councillor

His main points were:

1. **The Budget:** This Budget we designed to fix the "big hole". It was apparent after the additional costs of the storm events that it could not be fixed in the short term. The debt of \$275m had been extended by another \$50m. Ideally the books had to be balanced – by some methods without raising the level of rates by a significant amount. The proposed cuts to community facilities and Local Boards have been rescinded; a no to debt increase; the Rodney LB presentation was very good; intention to keep rate increase in line with inflation (@6.7%); principle goal for Mayor is to ell AC shares to raise funds immediately (still to persuade all Councilors to approve that).
2. **Rodney road funding** – Hill Street still has \$18m in budget. AT working with local Groups to finalise design. If budget approved, could be after 1 July to get design finalized and could be done within 6-12 months(!?)
3. **Unsealed Road network** – has been no increase in 5 years; proposed to double budget from \$2.6m to \$5m. AT has no funds but Mayor has signed a Statement of Intent fo AT to carry out this programme.

Questions:

Bill wanted to know how and where money was spent – should be a local accounting system.

Glenn wanted to know if the next big budget would be the 10 year refresh? Greg said it would be to meet fully balanced accounting

Colin wanted to know whether AT had an Asset Management Plan, which should include the unsealed roads in it. Need to coordinating group to save funds (local contractors)

Peter Sinton wanted to know what operational costs included – need to cut staff (especially managers and not all front line staff). Need an overall wage cut as is done in private sector. Greg said other Councils are doing wage cuts. It will be addressed more in next year's budget.

Ivan wanted to know if alternative models talked about will be used

Deanna suggested reduced rubbish collections to save funds

Bill on summing up - need next year to have structural changes. NAG needs to push hard for this over the year. Greg's thoughts were very well received and his hard work for the Rodney communities was gratefully acknowledged.

Guy Wishart (RLB and Labour Candidate for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

His main points were:

1. **On Localism:** need to increase, and Chris Hipkins has seen it in action (Hawkes Bay, etc), and Labour recognizes its importance. Central services are not ready and more funding required for engineering works, and Emergency Management Plans @ local level. They have to be run by locals.
2. **Roading:** Shocked by state of roads in Rodney (Micheael Woods saw it and suddenly one section not on list was repaired soon after!). Ivan and Colin on RLB pushing very hard for this. Need overall for better infrastructure

Questions:

Glenn - need for fuller infrastructure, including telecommunications to ensure communities not isolated physically and socially. Major water catchment issues, with overland flow paths, with need to catchment management plans. Also need to prioritise roads used by trucks to improve surface. Need tree planting away from river banks to ensure flood flows not blocked.

Chris Penk (MP)

Bill read out Chris' statement, which will be available on the website or summarized in the newsletter. One major point on his proposed Members Bill for better representation was that decisions would have to be from the Council and not the Local Board! That will be very difficult (if not impossible) to achieve with the present emphasis on urban resolution.

Marja Lubeck (Labour List MP)

Bill also read out her statement – again which will be highlighted on the website or newsletter.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Bill opened up the discussion for the floor to participate.

Sue Crockett (Executive Member Fight the Tip campaign)

Sue took the opportunity to advise us of the latest situation with respect to the Appeal. The case is now closed and a decision is awaited. Given another major case (Pakiri Sands) was to be heard immediately afterwards, a decision is not likely for at least 6 months. The team was optimistic that it would be declined – for very obvious reasons.

She said the case had raised Aucklander's awareness for better disposal of waste and the need to minimize waste creation. There are new technologies happening that will do further recycling of many waste streams. It requires real education about waste creation and management.

On that note, **Bill** declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm with an invitation to share tea/coffee and finger food. Further discussions took place until 9.20pm.

Hugh Briggs
Secretary

Chairman's Report

Chairman's report to 24 June 2024 at this AGM

I'll be brief, as much of what needs to be said has already been covered in my latest newsletter.

It's a year for NAGgers to celebrate our successes!

Last Year at the AGM my focus was on:

- The disconnect between planning and providing for growth
- The Maintenance shortfall (assets being bled)
- Unfair transport (roading) priorities; and
- The need for fairer local board representation.

We also had concerns about

- The Wayby Landfill proposal
- Storm damage
- AC being broken
- 3 (or 5) waters

Sucesses!

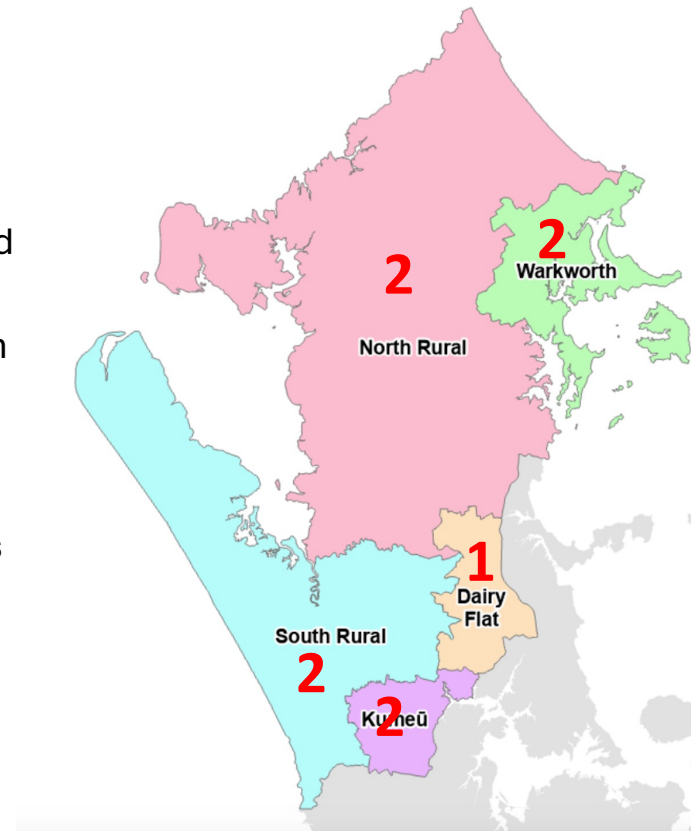
Well, NAG (like rust) never sleeps and this last year has been one of **progress**.

NAG, with local community groups RCV and LCA, the RLB, One Mahurangi, our Councillor, the Mayor and new Government, have all combined to make some real progress for Rodney!

Our speakers will tell us where they have contributed to making a difference shortly, but let me list the gains!

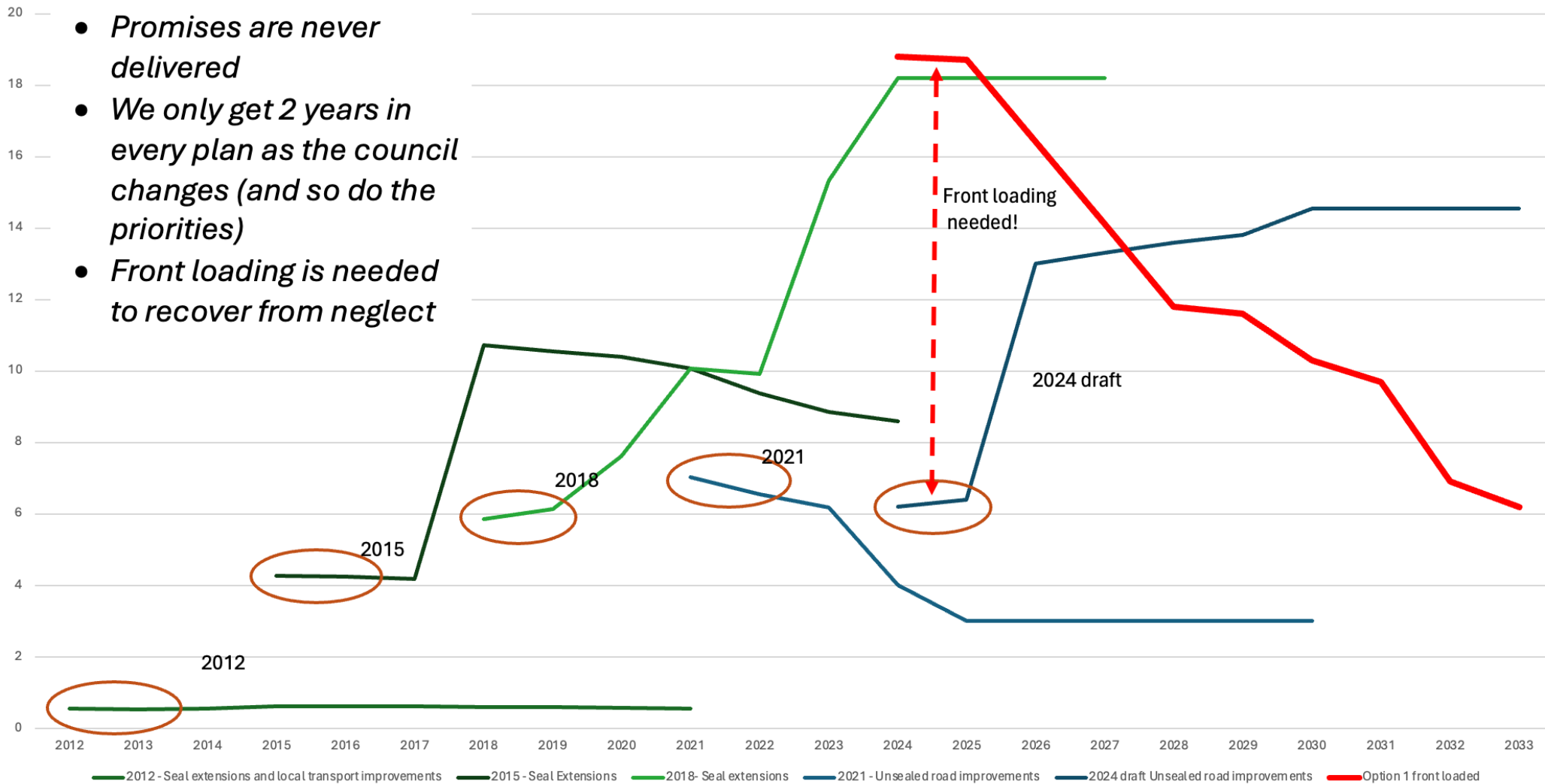
- The “3 waters” cancellation – replaced with “local water done well” (and recognition of the need for water management planning).
- Rates rises being contained – helped by Govt lifting Watercare borrowing restraints on AC
- RFT cancellation – more user pays charging to follow to improve fairness
- The URIP funding of \$125 m (and hopefully front loaded)
- Better liaison and transparency with the Local Board and with community groups
- An adjustment (small) to Local Board discretionary funding formula which helps Rodney
- The representation review to reflect fairness and balance between rural and urban and north and south Rodney communities.
- Review of transport focus by Govt and AC to recognize trip times, fairness across different transport modes, community connectivity and the importance of infrastructure to services that bleed infrastructure assets.

- Rodney is 40% of Auckland's area, only 5% of population
- 95% rural geographically
- 60% of people classified as rural
- Rural pay over 50% of rates, get only roads and drainage services
- Previous boundaries were place-based: urban members represented rural areas.
- New proposal recognises urban rural differences:
 - Groups communities of common interests
 - Groups communities by service needs
- Meets quota
- Fair to urban and rural, North and SouthWest, everyone represented



ARTP Funding of seal extensions and unsealed road improvement (\$millions Real values 2024 prices)

- *Promises are never delivered*
- *We only get 2 years in every plan as the council changes (and so do the priorities)*
- *Front loading is needed to recover from neglect*



Making things work:

Planning:

- The disconnect between planning and action for growth in Rodney, and integration of infrastructure and service providers activities is an ongoing problem.
- Peter Sinton will talk about how (and why), starting in the Warkworth District, we think ratepayers are going to have to step up to confront the ad-hoc nature of development and its implications (waste, poor infrastructure, inefficiency, ignorance of the geography and environment and economic consequences).
- We talked about “Power to Locals” last year and this is one way we can make that work.

URIP:

- With RCV and LCA and Colin Smith of RLB we continue to push to get AT’s management structure changed to deliver oversight of quality and performance in delivery of work with. We made presentations to the AT Board last year, but no management control changes have flowed from that...
- Thanks to Greg’s efforts we now have better engagement with AT’s management of the URIP, and there is more work to be done on prioritisation and effective delivery.

Where to from here:

Looking forward this raises the “never answered” question of The Future of Rodney in AC – currently we just have a structure that continues all we have been saying for years:

- the structure of Auckland was never fit for purpose from the beginning;
- that Rodney should never have been in the “super” city;
- that we continue to pay as ratepayers for the pleasures of Auckland city dwellers; and
- that Rodney is just another resource for the expansion and pleasure of city Aucklanders – but one which WE are expected to pay for.

..and we still haven't stopped the Dome Valley landfill idea yet! (Sue Crocket will likely want to talk about that).

Perhaps our speakers can say a few words about a review of AC, and Local Government legislation?

Also we should never forget AC's promises to Rodney back in 2018:

AC Promises to LGC for Rodney [2018]	Current Status [2024] (6 Years on)
A potential extension of aspects of the Waiheke pilot project, empowering the local board, to Rodney	✗ No extension to Rodney- some additional governance staffing support
A planned move of the Rodney Local Board office to the Rodney area, including the potential for a second meeting space in Kumeu	✓ It took years but Warkworth and Kumeu offices now opened. No public access or toilets.
A major increase in road sealing budget for Rodney	✓ ? Finally the promised \$125m. Will we ever see it ?
A review of service level variability across the Auckland region to determine how to address funding distribution issues across local board areas	✗ ? Review completed several years ago showed asset and facility unfairness. GB slow to change allocation. Minor formula change for ABS and LDI funding slightly benefits Rodney
Triennial reviews of local board allocations and delegations to coincide with the long term process as an ongoing commitment to localism and devolution	✗ No progress. The governing body shows political resistance to reallocations and any real delegation.
Targeted communication improvements in areas of Auckland with strong local identities or unique challenges - such as Waiheke and Rodney - to build the public trust and confidence	✗ “Our Rodney” propaganda for AC introduced- to tell us what AC is doing for us. “Have your say” promotions patronise ratepayers. CIM surveys still show low trust in A/C

So there's still stuff to do for Rodney. But tell us what you think in our discussion time.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Committee, and those in the community working for a better Rodney, and most importantly you, our supporters.

Thank You All!

Yours Sincerely

Bill Foster

Treasurer's Report

Northern Action Group

Financial Report for the year ended 31st March 2024

Cash In

Donations	\$500.00	
GST refunds		\$48.15
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>\$548.15</u>	

Cash Out

Totara Park Hall Hire 2022	\$30.00	
Mahurangi Matters (AGM)	\$40.00	
Bank fees	\$10.00	
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>	

<u>Bank Balance at 31st March 2023</u>	<u>\$152.82</u>	
Plus deposits		\$548.15
Less expenses		\$80.00
<u>Bank Balance at 1st April 2024</u>	<u>\$620.97</u>	

Creditors:

MP Purdy: Totara Hall 2023		\$30.00
MP Purdy: JE Harris Domain/Hosting	2023	\$144.84
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$174.84</u>

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024

ASSETS	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Bank Balance	620.97	152.82
GST Owing	0.00	48.15
Total Assets	620.97	200.97
LIABILITIES		
Total Liabilities	174.84	0.00
Net Assets (Liabilities)	446.13	200.97

M Purdy
Treasurer
June 2024

Election of Officers and Committee – Nominations received

OFFICE	PERSON	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Chairman	Bill Foster	Maury Purdy	Hugh Briggs
Secretary	Hugh Briggs	Bill Foster	Lance Taylor
Treasurer	Maury Purdy	Hugh Briggs	Bill Foster
Committee:	Lance Taylor	Hugh Briggs	Maury Purdy
	Peter Buckton	Lance Taylor	Hugh Briggs
	Malcolm Black	Lance Taylor	Maury Purdy
	Peter Sinton	Hugh Briggs	Bill Foster

Annual Subscription

To reconfirm the past decision that a (any) donation is the membership fee.

Members are any persons who are residents or property owners in North Rodney, complete our membership form and pay the membership fee.

We don't charge an annual membership fee but rely on donors to fund our limited expenses. If we had a bit more we could think about running some advertising to promote NAG's messaging. 😊 So if you think we are doing something worthwhile, keep supporting us please!

General Business



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AGM CONCLUDED



“Campaigning to get Democracy for the people of North Rodney”

Speakers and Discussion

“A Better Rodney”

