Greenhithe Residents Assn

**Chairmans Annual Report 2022-2023**

**Overview**

**2022-23 will be remembered for the natural disasters that befell the Auckland region and our communities’ amazing response to these. The Good Sorts session following the AGM tonight is a chance to celebrate those people and their stories.**

**The coming year will see much needed rejuvenation work done on your hall. Its importance to this community in future disasters should not be underestimated and we ask for the communities help and support in being ready for these events.**

**Committee**

**Your committee have conscientiously worked on positioning the Association to be ready to upgrade your community halls. They have pursued the communities’ interests with Council, Watercare and Auckland Transport through our Local Board.**

**A warm thank you to Committee Secretary Tricia Moore and Treasurer Adele Piper, who have been tremendously efficient and effective since stepping into their roles this time last year. Both have driven continuous improvement in the processes and systems of the committee.**

**As you will see in the Treasurer’s report, Adele has resigned as Treasurer, and we urgently require a replacement for her.**

**A special mention to Samantha Joyce who joined the committee last year as our liaison with the Upper Harbour Drive cycleway barriers group. That group, working with local board members, and with broad community support have achieved a rare win in getting Auckland Transport to both consult and make changes to the final form of the cycleway. Sam also keeps our website up to date.**

**Outside the committee a special mention to Karl Vetter, previously a committee member, Karl has found himself more able to contribute his skills on specific projects outside of the committee. With some substantial renovation works to be undertaken in the near future I would encourage others who can contribute skills and time in that area to get in touch me or a member of the committee.**

**And what would a GRA annual meeting be without an acknowledgement of the work of immediate past Chairman Brian Carran, who continues his ongoing service to our community as GRA’s resident handyman.**

**Community Halls**

**2022-2023 projects.**

**These were very limited as hall bookings slowly recovered from covid lockdowns and funds were tight for most of the year.**

**New signage has been put up on the hall exterior and shortly the signpost at the front will be replaced. Thank you Nika Osborne for pushing this along.**

**Exterior painting at the front as well as numerous minor repairs were completed.**

**Future Hall Projects**

**Last year we said, “Funding dependent!” Well, we held to wait the whole year for funds, but they have now arrived.**

**On the last day of the financial year the sale proceeds from the land behind the hall were received ($138,000 including GST)**

**We were also fortunate and grateful to receive from the most recent Upper Harbour Local Board grants process $15,000 from Council towards our rejuvenation project. Thank you local board and Auckland Council.**

**Construction costs have gone up, but we will do as much as possible of the following works:**

* **Community Village Hall**
* **New fire doors, Overlay Hall floor, interior Hall painting, replace Hall chairs, install wi-fi at Hall, recarpet Hall foyer, refurbish curtains and blinds for Hall, and extend the carpark!**
* **Old School Building**
* **Reflect on its future.**
* **Replace the roof, replace pipework, curtains and heating.**

**In whatever capacity some of you could assist in making our funds stretch further through time, advice or lowering materials costs we would gladly welcome your support.**

**Hall Management**

**Huge thanks are extended to Michelle Heald for managing the Halls and we are seeing bookings recover strongly.**

**During the storms she opened the hall during the power outages in the area so that others could access power, tea and coffee, somewhere to cook and a chat.**

**Many of you know Michelle has been injured recently and cannot stand nor walk for long periods. Undaunted, she continues to manage hall bookings for the committee and sends out her family members to do the physical works in her place.**

**Michelle is a great asset to this committee and this community.**

**Finance**

**The accounts to March 31st 2023 show an increase in income to $40,108. This is below our budget of $60,519 but still above our 2021/2022 levels. Our overall result for the year was break even, after taking into account the rates rebate. It is pleasing to see this trend is reflective of our recovery after the Covid shutdowns. However, at this time hall usage is on the increase and we are hopeful that we will be able to sustain surpluses again into the future.**

**We are cognisant though that the councils’ rates remission, future ability to deliver grants and other support may be adversely impact by budget cuts.**

**Already, council from this year was no longer able to cover insurance premiums on these buildings as they have done for many years. This will result in additional cost of over $10,000 per annum for the association. At almost 25% of our rental income this is challenging and will force us to review pricing for hall hire and how and if we can keep both facilities running. It is not our intention to use the capital sale proceeds to fund operational costs.**

**We still require Assn members to maintain an organization that owns the hall! Membership dues are $20 per household, and we would appreciate your support in keeping these facilities open to locals and in walking distance for many.**

**Membership, apart from helping fund these facilities, gives you a vote on these important issues even if you are not on the committee.**

**Council and Local Board**

**Particular thanks go to Uzra Balouch and Anna Atkinson who have regularly attended GRA meetings. They have advocated for us on many issues. Recent progress has been completion of the new playground at the Memorial Park in Roland Road, the pathway near the Scout den, advocating vociferously with Auckland Transport on the cycleway barriers.**

**Current issues are the rezoning (Plan Change 78), the impact of council budget cuts on community facilities and groups, lack of sufficient public transport in our area and resilience of the area in emergencies.**

**The Residents Assn owes Uzra and Anna a great debt of gratitude for their relentless support of our Assn and our community.**

**Emergency Resilience in Greenhithe**

**Our community hall has long served as a central gathering place for various events, activities, and meetings. It has been the heart of our neighborhood, bringing people together and strengthening our sense of belonging. Whether it's hosting cultural celebrations, organizing community forums, or providing a safe space during emergencies, the community hall has consistently proven its value.**

**It provides a platform for residents to connect, share experiences, and support one another. The hall's inclusive nature fosters a sense of belonging, which is crucial for the well-being and resilience of our community.**

**Moreover, the community hall plays a vital role during emergencies and disasters. It serves as a community-initiated designated gathering point, enabling efficient communication and coordination among residents. In times of crisis, it becomes a haven for those seeking shelter, food, and assistance. By having a well-equipped and maintained community hall, we can significantly enhance our preparedness and response capabilities.**

**In light of the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters and other emergencies, we need to put “arms and legs” on the existing emergency resilience plan to ensure it is tailored to our community's specific needs and people know their roles when the worst occurs.**

**The Greenhithe Emergency Resilience Group (on which I represent the Greenhithe Residents Association as owner of the key community facility) will be calling a meeting in the near future on just this issue. Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) only indirectly supports many areas of Auckland, such as Greenhithe. The local community is expected to step up to run facilities and coordinate information until AEM can respond.**

**I urge you all to attend that meeting when called, so we are ready for the next event. Please also attend the Good Sorts session tonight to thank the many volunteers who stepped up during those testing times.**

**A special thank you to Hon. Vanushi Walters for her coordination, communication with and leadership of the Upper Harbour local community leaders’ group during those events.**