

**Minutes of the Quarantine Island/ Kamau Taurua Community AGM 2017, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August  
at 1pm at the Northeast Valley Community Rooms, 262 North Rd, Dunedin**



**In attendance:** Joe Hunter, Lyndall Hancock, Patsy Mason, Hugh Forsyth, Kuini Scott, Jimmy Fyfe, Kristen Bracey, Adrienne Dearnley, Beryl Maultby, Rachel Baxter, Paul Clements, Leonard Guy, Claire Haglund, Phil Perrow, Annika Korsten, Torea Scott-Fyfe

1. Welcome and introductions

Rachel Baxter, a former OGHS student, who participated in the seaweed study on the Island, collecting undaria/seaweed data each year for 3-4 years, outlined her current research interests in volcanology. Rachel is doing a MSc at Otago Uni. Her research is focused on Allens Beach, which is now thought to be the oldest part of the Dunedin volcano – 16 million years old (Island thought to be about 13 million). Rachel can use some new techniques/equipment, radiometric dating/argon. Hopes to spend time on QI/KT during summer so can do some investigations/ comparisons. (Jimmy noted Georgie Cowell did a previous study on the Island. Jillian's partner, Dushan Jugum, may also be good to talk with). Rachel gave a simple explanation about the Dunedin volcano. A few smaller vents/eruption sites originally. Subsequently became one vent that formed Aramoana mole, other peaks around the harbor/peninsula. Rachel said that she had enjoyed spending 4-5 days on the island each year while doing the seaweed study, and looked forward to coming back. There was great interest from members at the AGM and offers to be field assistants!

2. Apologies: Chris Brown, Robyn Urquhart, Rebecca Vella-King, Rauhina Scott-Fyfe, Remy & Ayla Perrow

3. Minutes of 2016 AGM (pp 8-17)

*Move that the 2016 minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record. Joe Hunter, Hugh Forsyth.*

4. Chairperson's Report: Joe Hunter (tabled, pp 3-6 below).

5. Keeper/ Manager's Report, Phil Perrow (tabled, pp 6-7).

6. Treasurer's Report, Beryl Maultby (tabled, attached as a separate report).

Noted that the finances are more complex with various grants (thanks to Kristen, Joe, Phil, and Jillian); change to accrual accounting; and changes to Charities reporting.

Discussion on financial report:

Buildings: historically, these have not been accounted for/listed as assets in financial reports. However, they have been assigned a value for insurance purposes (although the Married Quarters is irreplaceable). Questions about some deficits. This is related to timing of when grants come through in the accounts, eg pest control income from DCC Biodiversity grant won't come through until next financial year, but expenditure was in this financial year. Cycles of accumulating grants for MQ before work begins inflates funds; then grants are spent. Some grants are held by the funders until invoices have been paid, or voluntary contribution/Keeper's contribution reaches a specified target; then funder reimburses QI/KT Community. Grants enable us to improve facilities/take on specific projects, but all funds have to be used for the particular purpose they were given.

Question about the amount QI/KT Council needs to set aside for contingencies.

- (a) Thanks in part to successful grant applications to Lotteries & COGs, the QI/KT Community Council have been able to pay the Keeper a part-time salary at a basic rate [since 2007] during Kathy Morrison's time as Keeper. If funding applications for salary were unsuccessful, QI/KT Community Council would have to review how we manage the Keeper's position, hence fixed term contract. Keepers also value the 'life style'!
- (b) Are there other ways to generate income, eg social enterprise?
- (c) Could we work with other organisations to share the burden of fundraising, or create a paid position to do fundraising?
- (d) What opportunities are there to attract more groups who appreciate what the Island can offer?

- (e) Do we need an 'events person' so we can host more without adding to workload of current volunteers? Sub-committee to investigate this further?
- (f) How could we attract bequests?



*Move that the Chairperson, Keeper's, Treasurer's reports are accepted. Beryl Maultby, Patsy Mason. All in favour.*

## 8. Election of Council Members

Resignation of Noel Johnston accepted. Thanks to Noel for his contribution.

Joe summarised the QI/KT rules/constitution regarding the role of Council members and objectives of the Community – *"To create and maintain a community of people connected with the Island who will work together to maintain and improve the land and its shores in a simple, sustainable and ecologically just manner and provide a safe place for people to revitalise their spirits in connection with land, sea and people..."* Noted that the rules/constitution are on the 'About Us' page of our website.

Meetings are open to non-Council members, but they do not have voting rights. Some members contribute to special projects, rather than as Council members. Some Council members do both!

Nominations: Joe Hunter, Jim Fyfe, Lyndall Hancock, Beryl Maultby, Hugh Forsyth, Robyn Urquhart, Patsy Mason, Kristen Bracey, Becca Vella-King, Torea Scott-Fyfe

Any other nominations: Leonard Guy.

*Move that the above are duly elected. Joe Hunter, Kristen Bracey. All in favour.*

## 9. Setting of subscriptions for the year. Currently \$20 single; \$30 family. *Agreed* to continue at this rate.

Paying a subscription helps Community financially and gives voting rights at the AGM. Challenge of how to help those who regularly contribute to the Island, *feel* like members. Minutes of meetings and emails are sent to a wider group, but it's hard to always gauge who would like to be copied in. Could re-involve Ignite to help investigate this?

## 10. General Business

**a. Sat. 11 Nov. Ken Mason - memorial service.** Small, brief low key ceremony at about 11am, Patsy's & Ken's sons will scatter his ashes over KCC Cove. Ken's brothers are coming too. 6 Masons staying overnight. Others welcome to stay too. Invitations to former KCC members, QI/KT members etc. Patsy is organising a seat and plaque.

**b.Thurs. 24 Aug. - Thankyou Charitable Trust potluck & reporting on grant.** Claire, Leonard, Patsy, Kuini & Joe attending. (QI/KT received \$500 to subsidise transport for people on low incomes. Have not used yet).

**c.Sat 26 Aug. Poetry workshop with Robyn Pickens & Iona Winter.** 14 booked so far, plus Kristen (helping in kitchen, so others can focus on their writing/the workshop).

**d.Curious Minds biodiversity themed events Aug. -Nov. 17:** 9-10 Sept.Noho/Te Reo; Open day 23 Sept? Other dates/groups. Check with Barbara re moth data/borrowing equipment again. itoring requires a permit from DOC -in process.

**e.Bird monitoring:** Claire summarized her interest and work in this area. Her personal goal is to show people around and help them see birds. However, Kristen and Claire recently attended a workshop on using an electronic database, e-bird, developed by Cornell University, which could be a useful tool to record some of our bird observation data. Claire has met with Derek Onley (ornithologist/bird survey at Orokonui) and Frannie Cunninghame(Forest & Bird) and visited the island to explore possible sites for observing more formally/scientifically. Claire is also meeting with Graeme Loh( F & B/interested in seabirds)this week. Claire would welcome help from other QI/KT members, with decision-making and monitoring, particularly Torea and Jimmy. Noted, before shags nest, may be good to relocate some traps to increase density in these areas.

**f. Interpretation.** Katie has about 2 more weeks she can spend on her project, so will focus on compiling what she has and her report. Lyndall sent Katie some corrections for summaries and Kristen for brochure.

**g. DCC Services grant \$5000** - (Thanks to Joe and Kristen for doing the application). This successful funding application means we can allocate some QI/KT funds to improvements for the Lodge and Cottage:

*Move that QI/KT Community approve expenditure for the following:*

1. *\$500 for UV light to sterilise water in pipe to sink*
2. *\$1500 for materials to upgrade electrical system*
3. *\$2000 (TBC) for improving curtains and installing acrylic 'double glazing' for Lodge and Cottage (lounge, dining room Lodge; high windows, kitchen in Cottage).*
4. *\$500 for repairs to track*

*Kristen Bracey, Joe Hunter. All in favour.*

h. Congratulations to Torea, who graduated with a BSc in ecology yesterday. Torea spoke about her plans for the island and briefly, what the island has meant as she grew up.

### **Council Report for Annual General Meeting 2017 - Joe Hunter, Chairperson**

#### **'The Chapel, St Martin's Island', by John Birnie**

you were well above the other yachts and boats  
the ripples and sparkles below were like a dream  
when you sailed calm as an ocean liner  
into the side of the hill  
the ripples kept jiggling in before the breeze  
the light sprang off this and that surface  
and the air came in above it all  
pushed for a moment then flowed around  
your sail run aground and turned to stone  
all the trees billowed out  
and turned to waves as your sail and hull  
anchored you into the green hill  
a school of sheep drift past  
it could all be dismissed as fanciful  
or laughed off as a half-remembered dream  
but for the testimony of sand on the floor  
gritty as questions and prayers  
except for the witness of ribs and planks  
except for the amen of the figurehead  
the wooden cross setting a course  
out over the open sea

This year it is with regret that we note the passing of Ken Mason; a stalwart and long term leader of our Island revegetation programme and of our community. When acknowledging Ken's work I can do no better than to invite you to take some quiet time in KCC Cove, under the tall canopy of trees, with the carpet of emerging seedlings below. The Island takes on its own rhythms and the natural regrowth of forest is a mark of his guardianship and teaching of sustainable practice - hands on. This is his legacy.

The loss of Rosemary Somerville, a SMIC Council member in 1984 is also remembered. We also acknowledge the passing of Frank Swinney, an Island Council member from the very beginning. He kept a keen interest in our community and in his last email to Kristen, in which he thanked her for the newsletter, he wrote this note:

*“Informative and inspiring to see the involvement of these young people and the willingness of those older who are willing to share their knowledge.”*

A huge year of change has taken place with the shift into reaching out to wider community that Ignite had suggested to us in 2014/5. This has now been realised through the vehicle of citizen science - a natural extension of our guardianship and conservation of the Island. This has also tapped into the zeitgeist - the time is right from community gardens to plastic aware shopping; people are interested, can see the big issues and want to be involved. We are making connections with a public community - wider Dunedin, with people who are increasingly informed and diverse.

At the same time we - scientists, communicators, friends of the Island have been finding ways to share our understandings, we have also made the conscious effort to simply be, to take time out to enjoy the simplicity and sense of place that we all love about the Island.

Without overt funding sources, we are developing our education programme regardless and trust that the political fates may bring us opportunities to further pursue this aim. Human capacity and honest communication is the key. We are blessed to have a wealth of expertise with our scientists but also to have a generosity of spirit from so many people with whom we work.

The practical skills that our community so much appreciates from our Island friends have been to the fore this year - a wander around the Island shows the new fencing, the control of the noxious weeds, the best-organized tool shed in Otago, the general order of the historic precinct, the beautiful space of the Married Quarters, the new plantings, the healthy stock and the flaxes springing up in areas fenced from stock.

DOC Management Agreement has slowly and carefully passed from our hands to DOC's even more constrained hands for official agreement and renewal. The length of time that this has taken shows the weight of what needs to be done to fulfil our obligations in keeping with their requirements and our Island ethos. We are making the difficult transition from the old days of typewritten minutes and simple accountancy to a digital interface with Government departments and extensive justification for what is really quite a small financial and charitable concern.

Our writer's residency - consider whether we want to develop this to be an annual experience as it is a sought-after opportunity and an arts or science or spirituality focus lends itself naturally to a short term stay.

Our barndances - which have been roaring successes; we certainly have the interest to hold them more frequently - and acknowledge that they rely on considerable hard work and goodwill from volunteers.

Our finances - all over the country, charities are struggling with changing requirements for reporting and an increasing net of technology required by the government which provides privacy but can be unwieldy for collaborative groups like ours to use easily. Huge volunteer hours get swallowed into chasing funding e.g. via the never ending task of writing grant applications. It may be that we choose to outsource this as a paid endeavour.

We need to think carefully about our individual contributions and the strengths we each and all bring - the most important "learning" this year, as the politicians say, is that we appreciate the chance to simply "be" on the island, that it is a spiritual place where we can recharge, step away from the busyness of it all in town. It has been very positive to see community making significant connections and truly networking with other like-minded groups who are involved in social justice and environmental protection. The coordination of the usual visitor groups to the island makes up a significant component of the Keeper's job - liaising with one school group pre- and post-visit may mean up to an hour on the phone, email and website. Now there is an extra layer of coordination required to organize the visits of various groups involved with our predator monitoring programme, highly experienced scientists who enjoy sharing with the community.

To quote last year's Chairperson's report: "Every Keeper has the day (or worse, the night) when the dory sinks. Every Keeper takes at least a few turns at falling in, and every Keeper has to deal with the reality

of dealing with sheep at the end of their days, our plumbing and electrical peculiarities, the ongoing saga of the water tanks, toilet systems, boat engine dramas and the occasional person who is very odd indeed.”

Phil Perrow has been a most capable fit - he has had just the skill set that we have needed, plenty of experience with all sorts of outdoor wrangling; he “gets” what we are about, he appears unflappable, but best of all, he is hospitable to everyone who visits. People feel comfortable and appreciated. Phil will be much missed but now has a store of crazy stories to last him quite some time. He has put considerable time and energy into the position and the Island, especially the houses and the historic precinct, looks very well because of his efforts. It is exciting for our Keeper of the last few seasons to be leaving us to spend time adventuring with his family and we wish them all the best.

Thank you to everyone who is here today, because you care. The Council, the Management team and all the friends of the Island who have shared time and passion with our visitors are to be congratulated on a very positive and very busy twelve months.

In particular, Beryl our treasurer has a difficult job. There are new and increasing demands on our finances and in the way in which we share information with officialdom. Making the oily rag stretch to accomplish our goals is something of a miracle.

The role of secretary has grown significantly, and we have been extremely fortunate to have a time management wizard who puts in many hours of organization with a sharp eye for every detail. Kristen has forged wonderful connections for us and has been at the hub of our network. Communicating through media, funding applications and coordinating visits and visitors, particularly for our predator monitoring programme have taken considerable energy. On a personal level, I have a great deal to thank her for in her sterling work this year. Without Kristen’s powers, we would be some years behind where we are today. I am delighted that other people in our community have been willing to contribute to this vital work lately.

We are proud to see our younger people taking an active part in our mahi. They have a wealth of ecological experience, both on and off the Island, which has been such a part of their lives. As ever, our elder Lyndall provides hospitality for our regular Council meetings and makes sure we stick to the historical facts. The Island narrative continues to grow under her wise tutelage.

Ngā mihi nui ki a tātou katoa, e te whānau o te moutere nei - Salutations to all of us, the family of this island

A summary of activities follows:

**Heritage - Married Quarters:** Highlights in the last year have been the barndances in the MQ, celebrating being able to use this building. A chance to thank many of the people/sponsors who have supported the restoration over the years. Successful grant applications to DCC Heritage Fund and Community Trust of Otago which has meant work can resume installing the required fire alarms. Thanks to Graeme Innes for doing this work free of charge and Chubb for providing advice, volunteering time and materials at cost. Paul Clements and Phil Perrow are continuing to patch the lining during the quieter months.

**Other aspects of heritage -** University of Otago student, Alana Kelly, has been doing a research project on the archaeological sites on the island and Goat Island. In addition, Alana cleaned up and researched artefacts that have been found previously, and organised a group of students from the Anthropological Society to help do the labouring for some projects that involved earthworks which required archaeological supervision. Thanks to DOC for covering the cost of our Island friend and archaeologist, Shar Briden. The most interesting find – a ‘cultural layer’ in front of the Lodge, shells and ling bones indicating Māori use. -A survey of the cemetery using ground penetrating radar by School of Surveying and Jimmy Brown from Fulton Hogan – results eagerly awaited  
-Interpretation of the Island story – research project by Uni of Otago sociology students, Becca Vella-King and Cam Hurley, providing a forum for some new ideas for interpretation. Also, Katie Greene and her interpretation project through Victoria University.

**Ecology -** Ken Mason’s passing

Weed control work - we have been getting into some areas to tackle weeds, where we hadn't been for some time, thanks to regular volunteers, Taskforce Green, students, and Forest & Bird, especially for their help with removing boxthorn. Doing this work outside of Community Days usually.

Biodiversity monitoring/Curious Minds has added another rich layer

Special thanks to Jillian Hetherington; Nathan Parker, Claire Hagglund, Sam Haultain, Dr Barbara Anderson & Kura Ahi Pēpē study in preparation for WIPCE.

**Community** – open days attracting new people each month. More time spent welcoming & showing people around, relaxing. Focus for community and council members on simply enjoying the island, taking time to interact with visitors on a deeper level

Reaching out to new groups- students, Presbyterian Support Buddies, Syrian new settlers; enabling diversity, access to island for different groups.

### **Keepers Report, August 2017 Phil Perrow**

The job of looking after Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua in the middle of Otago Harbour has its challenges, whether they be financial, physical or having to put our heads together to solve a problem. The people that have come together to be the guardians of this jewel certainly meet that challenge head on. Over the last year the number of volunteer hours certainly exceeds what would normally be expected of a community of this size.

The commitment and aroha shown by this small band of island friends is a beautiful thing and should be a source of inspiration for any group that wishes to align itself with ecological and historical restoration, social justice and a way to find real spiritual connection on any level.

### **Transport and Logistics**

We have continued to build on the strong relationship we have with Monarch Wildlife Cruises operating the Vivienne J in having them provide us with a safe, comfortable and reliable charter service for bringing the majority of our visitors to and from the island.

This has been further enhanced by them charging us the minimum rate on our monthly open day. We have been able to use this saving towards covering the cost of various people and groups who have been able to share their particular expertise with the varied projects we have going on the Island.

We have also had the continued service of John McLachlan who has been able to be on call with the Ally J when the VJ has been pre booked and also providing the Island with a cost effective option when the groups are of a smaller size.

The island has also been able to use the extra capacity of the Albatross Express for bringing larger groups of people to the island for special events. Namely the visit by the Syrian refugee families who had recently arrived in Dunedin and our barndance in March.

### **Landscape Amenities**

We are continuing to add to the ecological restoration of the island. Investing a huge amount of people power towards the planting, transplanting and releasing of our native flora. A significant amount of work has gone into the weedbusting of noxious plants also.

Work has continued to make walking safer and easier on the tracks around the island.

Unfortunately the track from the jetty up to the lodge was effected by a minor slip due to the extreme weather event in July. However with some good planning and capable people this should be fixed in no time.

The buildings and grounds around the historic precinct continue to need the usual tlc to keep the area a safe and enjoyable space for groups.

### **Married Quarters**

Work has continued throughout the year on finishing the internal cladding of the MQ.

This has been achievable due to the determination of Kristen Bracey in applying for funding to cover the skills of our builder Paul Clements. We have also had the expertise of Graeme Innes from Port Chalmers to help with the electrical work including the installation of the fire alarms.

Due to the work of finishing of the flooring and internal bracing by Paul and our previous keeper Don Hunter we have had the opportunity to have not one, but two barndances. These were a fantastic way to celebrate the contributions by the many people over the years and I'm sure there will be many more events to come.

### **Stock**

The sheep seem to be doing a fine job of keeping the grass down and are generally in a good state of health.

The community have been very fortunate to have the services of local peninsula farmer Brendon Cross to help oversee any issues as well as doing the crutching and shearing when needed.

Work is still needed to tidy up the fencing to help manage the grass grazed by the sheep.

### **Fencing**

The fences have had a significant facelift on two of the internal lines to help with managing the grazing as mentioned above.

This was achieved with the help from the students participating on the Farmhand program run by the Malcam Charitable Trust.

The island was also fortunate enough to be donated materials by Farmlands Co-operative to help get the fences into a serviceable condition.

A new fence is to be completed in September to protect self seeded natives.

### **Health and Safety**

The health and safety of all who visit and work on the Island is a high priority for the island community. The bonus of having a keeper on the island is that everyone who arrives is welcomed and given a talk about the hazards. These can include the seasonal effects in certain areas or the tidal or weather changes that are forecasted.

All people who visit - I feel - have that added security of knowing that they are being looked after.

### **Publications and information panels**

There has been an increased interest in wanting to interpret the island's ecological and historical information by a number of students including former island resident and relieving keeper Rebecca Vella King.

### **Te Whai**

The keepers' transport to and from the island has surely been put to the test over the last year. This has been due to the temporary loss of access to the usual mooring at the Otago Universities Marine Studies Centre because of construction work at that time.

Unfortunately due to engine issues and the fact the dory has no covered areas out of the weather this has at times been an uncomfortable and stressful part of the role.

In fine weather and moderate conditions the boat is more than suitable. But for the role it is designed for - which is frequent use of carrying people and materials - I would strongly recommend a more suitable vessel was purchased.

### **Final Note**

There is more that could be said than could ever be written in a report.

However I would briefly like to say what an amazing life changing experience it has been for Ayla, Remy, Annika and myself on this beautiful piece of paradise.

And what a privilege it has been to work, talk, hang out with such a diverse group of people that have a common goal of wanting to nurture and bring to life the magic that this island continues to share.

Keep looking after it, but also remember to let it look after you. It is forever a source of retreat from this ever changing and chaotic world that we live in and it should always hold that simple and carefree space.

Meeting closed at 3pm

**Minutes of the Quarantine Island/ Kamau Taurua Community AGM 2016, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm at the Northeast Valley Community Rooms, 262 North Rd, Dunedin**

**In attendance:** Joe Hunter, Jim Fyfe, Don Hunter, Ana Terry, Lyndall Hancock, Beryl Maultby, Patsy Mason, Phil Perrow, Adrienne Dearnley, Hugh Forsyth, Francine Vella, Robyn Urquhart, Chris Brown, Kristen Bracey, Nathan Parker

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies: Noel Johnston; Be (Birgit) Heller, Becca Vella-King, Torea Scott-Fyfe, Grant Bracey-Brown, Judith Ellis, Kuini Scott, Susan Proctor, Chris James

3. Minutes of 2015 AGM

*Move that the 2015 minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record. (Joe, Kristen)*

4. **Chairperson's Report** (tabled). Joe began by reading John Birnie's poem. In addition to thanks in report, Joe thanked to Chris for his work 'behind the scenes'. Thank you to Lyndall for bringing the old newsletters today. Lovely to look through; many themes repeat over the years.

5. **Keeper/ Manager's Report** (tabled). Don noted his interest in hearing how conversation with mana whenua develops. Enriching experience of working with Paul Clements on MQ. Don appreciated clear guidance on MQ programme of work from Kristen. New H & S legislation an opportunity to revisit and clarify processes. Access to Aquarium- grateful to Doug McKay for trying to work through access issues for Keeper. May involve Phil being designated 'a contractor'. Don noted he is leaving with mixed feelings; privileged to having been able to live on the Island. Thanks to all.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Beryl noted finances are in good health. Significant expenditure over the last year for MQ, from grants Changed to Kiwibank and online accounts which are much easier to manage.

Boat expenses appeared high –included new motor for for Te Whai, plus initial service, fuel

It looks like expenditure for boat transport (to Monarch), exceeds income (boat money received). However, boat transport for expenses for workers on MQ came out of grants.

Noted, MQ budget is not overspent. Reporting is complicated by previous year's grants from Lotteries and grants that are held by DCC Heritage Fund.

Noted: an assets list may be useful to keep track of significant assets separately. These would then be depreciated.

Chris Brown to fill in as treasurer in Beryl's two month absence, 30 June-30 August.

7. **Ecology report (Jimmy)** Areas planted previously looking healthy. Planting from edges, planting slowly, discovering microhabitats, retaining views.

Dunedin Amenities Grant – some funds still for trees sitting with Ribbonwood. Thanks to Don for his efforts with ivy; Ken with northern hoheria. Care needed that no pest plants in shadhouse. (Some Male ferns emerged here and were inadvertently planted).

Key focus remains on allowing visitors/ groups to experience natural world. Special welcome to Nathan who is very interested in developing education resources with us; Funding for Good Nature traps opens new possibilities.

H & S – reiterated Don's message re. our need to meet new requirements.

Don spoke about audit of fences he had done on the Island. Encouraged Community members to think about what we want Island to look like in 20yrs, when reviewing placement of fences. Jimmy noted can't just dismantle/build fences without DOC agreement. Fencing is part of current Archaeological Authority application.

Don suggested funding sources/environment is changing, and that we should explore how we position ourselves/ seek new opportunities for funding, to ensure financial sustainability. Not suggesting Community changes its values.



**Heritage report as tabled.** (Kristen). A busy year with several heritage themed events and developments. Thanks to Don for his work in a very active stage of the MQ project. Chapel – Joe noted some of the issues identified by Guy Williams previously have been resolved through improved drainage below MQ. However, we have not been able to progress other aspects as too many other commitments and no project manager for this.

**Community/Spirituality – as tabled (Kristen).**

Pervading all the ways we do things. Thanks to Joe for her work for the Community. Despite being incredibly busy with teaching and union work, she still manages to put in a tremendous amount of work for the Island.

***Move that the reports from the Chairperson, Keeper, Treasurer, Portfolios are accepted. (Beryl, Jimmy)***

**8. Election of Council Members**

Resignation of Birgit Heller accepted. Thanks to Be for her contribution. We look forward to her ongoing involvement as a Community member, when she can.

*Move that Patsy Mason (Kristen, Lyndall) and Hugh Forsyth (Kristen, Jimmy); Robyn (Robyn, Francine) become Council members.* Thanks to them for their willingness to take on the role.

Others in attendance thanked for contributing in different ways to the Island/Community.

Don - help with long term planning if desired, and to support Phil as new keeper by email/Skype.

Ana - printed, promotional material. Francine - support for Keeper. Chris - as he does currently

Noted, Management Committee meet in between Council meetings to ensure operational matters, any needs of Keeper are met. Council – governance; clearinghouse. First meeting date in July (tbc).

**9. Subscriptions:** \$20 single; \$30 family. This helps Community financially and technically gives voting rights.

**10. General Business**

Lyndall reported that Barbara Thompson had contacted her; Barbara had something from when she was part of the Island Community in the 1960s that she wanted to gift to the island. (Barbara is the wife of a retired Minister, Scott-Thompson, friend of Frank Swinney. Lives in the Wairarapa now. Gift is a framed prayer 'Jesus Christ, master carpenter...' This prayer was regularly used by Community members in the 1960s and also at Iona. Lyndall noted the prayer is part of our heritage. May be able to be incorporated in a historical display in MQ? Chapel also noted as a possibility, but noted that Community have always tried to keep the Chapel plain/clear, so it is able to be used by anybody. Lyndall will keep the prayer for now.

**Opportunity to share ideas for future projects on the Island:**

Nathan is very interested in contributing to developing education activities and resources. He has been to the island several times with school groups (he was a teacher) and with adult groups. Works part-time at Eco-sanctuary. Beyond Orokonui. Ideas include inviting Max Buxton, a Masters student, to the Island to do overnight moth trapping with light boxes. Could do this pre and after rat control as one indicator of biodiversity. Jimmy noted could also use tracking tunnels, seedling counts.

Nathan is also interested in hearing different island stories with view to incorporating them in education offerings, including from runaka.

Ana –offered help with materials using her expertise in graphic design (Learning Media, publications)

Curious minds funding – Joe noted last round coming up. Involves partnership with 'real' scientists at University and/or Museum. Joe suggested Community could try for funding , eg project on sedimentation

Torea and Arlo – have an application pending for a 'Youth' focused event on the Island.

Paul Pope – idea of 'east meets west' – event that connects both sides of the harbour; art/photo exhibition

Kathy Morrison – (previous keeper) is giving a talk about the MQ to University of the Third Age in July.

Kristen has asked Kathy whether she could also do this talk for the Community also.

Blue Oyster – Don/Joe have been exploring idea of a writer in residence (stipend for artist/writer to be funded by Blue Oyster with Creative NZ). Island contribution would be accommodation for a month.

### **Chairperson's Report - Joe Hunter**

Tena koutou katoa,

Working steadily towards compliance with various agencies has taken an increasing amount of our time this year. Renegotiating our Management Agreement with the Department of Conservation has given us the opportunity to have a thorough overhaul of all our documentation and to ensure that the paperwork reflects the realities and the aspirations of our community. It has been a very useful process and has enabled our wider community to take part in breathing life into necessary documentation. Fire plans, ecological mapping, details of our planting plans, health and safety guidance, visitor plans and a statement of practice have all been reviewed and adapted to meet the Community vision and the legalities required.

A huge amount of work has been done by our secretary Kristen Bracey who has undertaken the role of supervising the continuing restoration of the Married Quarters, a treasure unique to the Island. There has been considerable coordination and cooperation demanded as funds have been sought, compliances worked through and many emails and phonecalls have been back and forth to ensure this ongoing project is conducted in a timely and correct fashion. This has been a massive effort and Kristen has worked tirelessly at it. She also has put in much time and energy into ensuring that the business of the Community continues, in particular coordinating meetings, boats, visits, visitors and organizing much of the running of Island affairs.

We are tremendously grateful to her for the work that she has done. Kristen can be proud of what has been accomplished, usually on the smell of an oily rag, and mostly through her encouragement and facilitation of the concerted goodwill of our expert friends.

Thank you to each of our Council members who have contributed their talents and time. It has become increasingly difficult in our busy lives to find time for some of the most important things this year. The Island can be a precarious place for work - life balance. Along with the paperwork it is vital for us to simply enjoy island life. The last couple of meetings we have "worked" at a more sociable side, taking more time to share food and fellowship together before attending to the business. To have such a strong circle of willing friends working together is a leading strength in our community. Our open weekends have brought many talents and interests to the Island. Our Facebook page now has 226 members, and our email list a similar number – many of them have visited as personal friends of the island. With their help, we have also made connections with other organizations within the wider Dunedin community.

Each Keeper brings their own particular skill set and interests to the Island, and Don and Ana have certainly brought their talents to bear in the last year. We have been fortunate to have such gifted people share their love of the wilds of heritage and of art with our visitors. They have spent hours thinking and planning in consultation with the community as we develop a more coordinated approach to our communication. Both in terms of the community vision and in sharing the stories of the Island itself, Don and Ana have generously shared their expertise. We appreciate their willingness to maintain an interest in the further developments – of the exciting possibilities in residencies for artists and writers, and of how we present information to the Island's visitors.

They have literally weathered the storms too; daily life can be a challenge on the Island. Every Keeper has the day (or worse, the night) when the dory sinks. Every Keeper takes at least a few turns at falling in, and every Keeper has to deal with the reality of dealing with sheep at the end of their days, our plumbing and electrical peculiarities, the ongoing saga of the water tanks, toilet systems, boat engine dramas and the occasional person who is very odd indeed. Some of these Don managed to encounter within his first week, and some of these he got more than his fair share.

Every Keeper also develops quite a physical relationship with the Married Quarters, which involves being on, under or up the sides of this enormous old building. Being an arborist in a previous life gives the

advantage when working on the new framing for the Married Quarters, which requires a certain amount of intelligent bravery.

Thanks for the hard work too, on improving the appearance of the historic precinct and the plans for future development. There is nothing like living on the Island to really come to know how she breathes.

Visitors from all walks of life have learnt and laughed with Don. They have engaged in all sorts of tasks. The pace of voluntary work, often by novices, can be frustrating. They have experienced the fascination in learning about this magic place. They can have tremendous fun in the pouring rain releasing trees together, they can find a way to bond as a group carrying timbers or sacks of gravel from the boat up the steep path to the original Keeper's cottage, now proudly bearing the sign 'St Martin's Lodge'. They've all enjoyed the experience, we trust, and Don's hospitality has been a hallmark of his time here. It has been a strength of our community too, that while Don and Ana were away on travels to other islands, we were able to provide hospitality through such an effective team of Island minders.

There are particular friends of the Island, experts in their fields without whom we could not do our very best to maintain the integrity of this space. Our relationship with DOC is evolving and the tasks of updating our Management Agreement has been a useful way to reflect on how it can grow more strongly. We appreciate the constraints of their circumstances and therefore the efforts of staff at the regional office, Shar Briden among others who have shared so much support and advice.

The generous assistance of Heritage New Zealand has enabled the respectful protection of a singular historic precinct. Our builder Paul Clements has been remarkably patient and kind in his work with us. We are fortunate to have someone of his abilities who really understands the ethos of what is being recreated here. Ken Mason has the oversight in managing the return of the forest to the island and it is very exciting for older eyes to see the dramatic and successful revegetation as we reach a "critical mass" for a guaranteed return of a diverse and thriving environment, the planted trees meet over our heads and the totara seedlings sprout and thrive in the top paddock.

The biggest thank you is to our Island visitors. It is so important to acknowledge everyone who comes here, whether to serve in the ecological and historic restoration projects or simply to be, to take time to do a little personal restoration. Everybody who helps in coming here does something that contributes to the future of this ancient, colonial, military, pacifist, farm and bushland place.

One recent visitor tells it best:

"It's such a peaceful place. I rested here. I mean, my soul was rested."

### **Manager's Report June 2016**

Incremental change and consolidation are two words that umbrella activities on Quarantine Island / Kamau Taurua since the 2015 AGM. In the spirit of our name change the susurrous beginnings of a conversation with Mana Whenua can be heard. For the Island Community this is both a process of consolidation and incremental change. How this conversation plays out will be interesting as we share stories, sometimes convergent, sometimes divergent, we may well hear stories that we may not be comfortable in hearing. How shared stories are ultimately articulated is rich in potential as the two communities, one expert in aural storytelling and the other expert in written storytelling come together...

### **Transport and Logistics**

Last year saw a change in transport operator servicing the island. The team from the Monarch have proved excellent and highly professional to work with. Whilst the increase in cruise ship visits to our city has had some impact on our ability to transfer groups on & off the island, on the whole we are now in a stronger position with three vessels able to service the island; Monarch, VJ & AJ. The team from the Monarch are keen to work alongside us to bring more visitors to the island from sectors of the wider community we currently do not reach. This is an opportunity to diversify our revenue stream a little. I feel there may be potential to involve the Monarch team in in kind support for the Community however this will need to take

the form of planned and targeted support rather than the current ad-hoc opportunistic approach. This may need to be part of a larger sponsorship plan to enable a professional coordinated approach to support from the wider community.

The Marine Studies Centre pontoon is now closed to the public. Portobello side pick-ups will now be from the Portobello pontoon however this is tide dependant.

### **Landscape Amenities**

A great deal of effort has gone into improving the amenity value of the land associated with the leased buildings on the island. This work is now entering a consolidation phase with the biggest remaining area to be addressed being the fencing. The fencing adjacent our buildings are predominantly post and wire. These are all in sad and dilapidated condition, simply tightening these is not an option as most of the strainer posts are either unsound or inappropriately installed. The question of replacement involves a conversation around what we want the island to look like in 20 years from now rather than a short term fix and how can we engage the wider community in a meaningful way that has long term buy in and ownership.

A large amount of debris has been removed creating a safer and better presented island in keeping with our values. This work is largely complete except for the debris left over from the Married Quarters restoration. Some of this debris can be used as firewood whilst some is contaminated timber destined for removal from the island. The purchase of a quality scrub cutter whilst expensive has been invaluable as a tool to lessen fire risk and has greatly contributed to the improved look of the island as a whole.

### **Married Quarters**

With the hard work of Paul Clements and the team from Moana House the Married Quarters restoration is edging closer to completion. With the sub floor and flooring now complete we are now at the sign off stage for the structural bracing. Works remaining include wiring, the interior cladding fire protection and interpretative panels. Kristen has comprehensive information on plans and progress in her report.

Working alongside Paul Clements and the Moana House team has been humbling and deeply satisfying. I am disappointed I will not be here to see the completion of the cladding and participate in the barn dance later in the year.

### **Stock**

It has been a year of 'out with the old and in with the new' as some of the older members of our flock were culled due to deteriorating health and younger ones were brought on to replace them. Primarily on the island as a tool to lessen the fire risk the stock do require a high degree of labour input and expertise. The Community is fortunate to have the skills and expertise of Phil Perrow for the foreseeable future to manage the stock. This winter & spring may be challenging for feed however recent warmish weather is allowing for relatively good grass growth. Last year we made a considerable capital investment in electric fence equipment and at times like these, this equipment is invaluable.

### **Fencing**

As per our fencing and re vegetation plans we are quietly working on repairing some of our fences. This work has been undertaken with the in kind support of Malcam Trust who used a fence construction project on the island as an assessment tool for their students. They replaced the fence in the saddle adjacent the East pylon. This allows us to isolate the Western most paddock to allow self-sown native species to establish. In time, new plantings will be introduced here too.

### **Health & Safety**

The Government recently introduced changes to our Health and Safety legislation. This has provided a new and somewhat more pragmatic framework to work within where health and safety responsibilities are shared amongst all concerned. This has given us the opportunity to revisit our health and safety procedures and align them with a primarily 'activities' based approach to hazard identification and management. These in turn are aligned with our partnership with DOC with the result being a fairly robust health and safety management framework.

### **Publications and Information Panels**

A small Community group led by Torea Scott Fyfe is working alongside Ana Terry to develop a comprehensive set of publications and information panels for the island and Community. The Community is also seeking the input of Mana Whenua into the conversation. The idea is that a consistent and professional look and feel is across all Community publicity and information materials. And that the right information is used in the right context. This work compliments the work to date in the design of a new logo for the Community.

### **Te Whai & Mooring Access**

Thanks to Chris Brown for researching and purchasing a new motor for Te Whai! Te Whai has recently had some repairs made to the transom, hull runners and stem including new paint. We now have a formal arrangement with the Marine Studies Centre to moor Te Whai. This replaces the previous verbal agreement. Access to the mooring is exclusively for the island keeper. The Marine Studies Centre will be demolishing one of their buildings and replacing it over the next 6 months or so. Whilst work is in progress access for the island keeper to the mooring will be by arrangement. The Marine Studies pontoon is closed to the public during this time. Portobello side pick-ups will now be from the Portobello pontoon however this is tide dependant.

### **Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Blue Oyster Summer Residency Opportunity**

Conversations over the last few months have led to the potential for a collaboration between the Blue Oyster Arts Project Space and the Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Community. The concept is to host a writer/artist in residence on the island for a period of up to one month over the 2016/17 summer. It is anticipated that this collaborative opportunity would not cost the Community financially. We are able to offer in kind support through accommodation. Final details are yet to be ironed out over the next little while, Blue Oyster Gallery Director Chloe Geoghegan and our Chair Joe Hunter are working on this project.

### **Ale ta ta**

Our time on Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua has been but a small part in a story that goes back generations to a time where early settlers identified the island as 'a place to set nets'. Not so early settlers identified the island as a place to deforest and graze. Today we come together in spiritual retreat and amongst other activities to revegetate. Through all this toitu he kainga whatu ngarongaro he tangata – people come and go, the land endures. As a small South Pacific Island Community we have affected change and, in turn witness the effects of that change. As kaitiaki, the Community has the rare opportunity and a responsibility to show leadership in matters spiritual and environmental. And indeed we do!

Lukim yu  
Don Hunter & Ana Terry

**Financial** - Beryl Maultby (tabled)

### **Ecology Report – Jim Fyfe**

Planting and plant maintenance has continued in the designated areas. The original plants put in these areas now afford shelter for less hardy species to be added within new microhabitats. Thanks to Dunedin Amenities Society for donating \$500 towards trees. Releasing of smaller plants was required as usual in spring. The summer was hot and dry, and watering was needed across many of the planting areas. (Many thanks to Kristen and Chris and other volunteers for their efforts to ensure watering over the holiday season). Ken Mason's return to good health and renewed enthusiasm for ecological restoration on the Island has seen an additional focus on restoration process that facilitates transition from planted paddocks back to natural and diverse forest habitats. In addition to the many community members and associated schools and groups that have contributed, Ken's encouragement of the continued engagement by Students for Environmental Action (SEA) is a valued contribution to the Island restoration work. Recently, we were delighted to have Dr. Jillian Hetherington, from Otago University, and her third year Geography students on the Island doing research on different aspects of native forest canopies. We look forward to their findings!

Weed management is ongoing with the usual efforts to keep gorse, broom and Darwin's Barberry in check. Don has led a campaign to knock back ivy, and Ken has started to tackle the emergence of northern hoheria as a dominant invasive colonizer. The weed Male fern has also started to show up around the Island, and calls for more vigilance when growing up seedlings in the shade house and planting trees out around the Island.

A fencing project with Polytech/Malcam trust Farmhand students to replace a key fence required for sheep management was a success and provides a model for renewing or replacing other fences as required.

Encouraging Environment Education (EE) continues to be a major motivation and shared passion among community members. At the basic level, affordable accommodation for school classes and groups enables an Island experience where participants connect with nature. We continue to have regular groups coming for this purpose. This year we also hosted Nicki Harre, author of 'Psychology for a Better World,' for a workshop with a focus on positive ways we can work together to encourage sustainable behaviour. We also hosted a Seaweed event that include rocky shore exploration, beach clean-ups, and a whale rescue exercise. The numbers at this event were boosted by a geocaching group who participated enthusiastically.

Nathan Parker has recently indicated that he is keen to assist with development of resources to assist schools to engage with EE activities on the Island that support school curriculum objectives. Ken has also usefully developed some key messages relating to ecological restoration that can be demonstrated around the Island. A wider discussion is also underway about interpretive signage and how to do this effectively and sympathetically with the Island experience. The coming year is therefore going to be an important one for discussing and contributing to the Island stories and the way that visitors, young people in particular, connect with this special place.

Another exciting project for development in the coming year that ties in nicely with EE is the development of a predator control program. Thanks to Kristen's efforts with fundraising and support from the Dunedin Amenities Society, the Otago Peninsula Community Board and the DCC's Biodiversity Fund we now have funds to establish a comprehensive network of traps for rats and mice. The next step is to plan the lay-out and monitoring of the network, and other opportunities for community participation. An application to DOC for the University's Surveying Department to do a survey of the island by drone is pending. If approved, this will give us a detailed picture of the whole island. Thanks to Community member, Hugh Forsyth, for initiating this. We love it when people not only come up with great ideas, but also make them happen!

Our work on the Island beyond the immediate heritage area is carried out under a management agreement with DOC which is currently being renegotiated. This is a good time for members who wish to become more active in the conservation and restoration aspects of the community's work to get involved.

### **Heritage** Kristen Bracey

The Community's values of protecting and enhancing the heritage of the Island – and in working to strengthen community - are reflected in a number of the events and projects over the last year.

This began with our participation in the 'Heritage Open House' at the end of August 2015, organised by the Southern Heritage Trust. With so many events in town on the same day, we attracted a modest number of visitors (about 25), however, all of them were very interested in and appreciative of the transformation of the Married Quarters building.

A heritage themed open day was held in April 2016, with Professor Barbara Brookes giving a fascinating talk about the treatment of N.Z. soldiers with venereal diseases during WW1. These soldiers were quarantined on the Island and Barbara described both their time on the island and wider societal attitudes. This open day attracted about 70 people to the Island (in addition to Community members) many for the first time, or

after a long period. It was lovely to bask in the positive feedback about the Island generally, and the Married Quarters building in particular. Thanks to Chris, Lyndall and Beryl for developing an 'Island during WW1 guide' ; Ana and Joe for doing an updated version of the Island brochure at short notice for the heritage day; and Community members who helped with setting up and looking after our visitors. Additional publicity came through Jane Edwards from Southern Heritage Trust, who interviewed Barbara and Lyndall for the 'Heritage Matters' radio show on OAR, and Amanda Nunn's Kiwi Adventures Blog. The Married Quarters was also featured in a double page spread of the Heritage NZ magazine.

The continuation of work on the interior of the Married Quarters building has been a major project again this year. At last year's AGM, I noted that a third of the recycled flooring had been laid and grant applications for the bracing were underway. A year later, the 'new' recycled floor and the steel bracing is in place. A huge thank you to our builder extraordinaire, Paul Clements, and his assistant, our versatile Keeper, Don Hunter. Thanks also to Moana House for their role in carrying up the heavy materials and levelling the mounds of compacted earth outside the building. We appreciate DOC's support also: their archaeologist, Shar Briden, monitored and recorded with meticulous detail the excavation and finds, at no cost to the Community. Thanks also to: volunteers who fetched and carried materials, punched nails, picked up thousands of shards of broken glass, among other jobs; Southern Clams and the Monarch for transporting materials; and our significant donors of funds for the interior— the Sargood Bequest, Thank You Payroll, Otago Community Trust, Alexander Mc Millan Trust, the DCC through their Heritage Fund and through the Peninsula Community Board and Chalmers Community Board, the West Harbour Lions, Zena and Kristen Bracey and Chris Brown.

As I write, there are several jobs left to do to make the interior usable. The salvaged floorboards will be used to line the interior east wall and make skirtings; the new cladding will be used to patch gaps below the roof and on the walls; wiring for lighting and plugs will be installed. We don't have much in the way of funds left, however, and appreciate offers from skilled volunteers with these tasks. We are looking forward to celebrating the end of this major stage of work with an afternoon tea and barn dance on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Fortunately, while Paul Clements was working on the Married Quarters interior, he noticed several problems related to previous work. I say 'fortunately', because although it is daunting and disappointing to be dealing with these problems, it is still better that they have been identified and can be addressed. For example, Naylor Love have recently replaced faulty sash cords for all the lower windows. The most serious of the problems is cupping of the weatherboards. We are waiting on advice from Guy Williams, our conservation architect, and Jonathan Howard, from Heritage NZ as to the possible cause.

Another aspect we have been considering is how else we can share some of the Island's stories. Interpretation panels in the Married Quarters and in a few key places on the Island, themed brochures, oral histories, artefacts...? We are still at the capturing ideas stage, and have made contact with Otakou Runaka, looked at examples of interpretation from other places, and had lots of conversations. We welcome your suggestions.

Finally, I would like to thank Shay van der Hurk and Shar Briden from DOC and Chris Brown from the QI/KT Community for their help with a new Archaeological Authority application. This covers various projects on the Island that involve disturbing the ground, i.e. digging, including placement of new fences so we can expand planting areas and improvements to the track below the Lodge. This will give us a clear framework to operate in to ensure any heritage features are protected as we go forward.

### **Community/Spirituality** Kristen Bracey

*"No one is very good at keeping going at anything without being in a supportive group of like-minded people"* (Niki Harre, Psychology for a better world, p.96)

I feel tremendously glad to be part of several wonderfully supportive groups who care about other people, our community and natural environment. QI/KT Community is one of these groups. One of the highlights of

this last year was the visit of psychologist and sustainability advocate, Niki Harre. Several of us had read Niki's book, *Psychology for a better world: Strategies to inspire sustainability*, and this prompted an invitation to Niki, to come to the Island as part of an 'Art and Sustainability' weekend.

Niki was only prepared to come if we made her work very hard; she walks the talk, trying to minimise her fossil-fuel based travel carbon footprint. I felt very proud of the programme we put together, which allowed us to share Niki with the wider community - workshops for young people on the psychology of change; and a community talk and sharing session in town (at Otago Polytechnic), which allowed us not only to hear from Niki, but from other individuals and community groups involved in a raft of initiatives for "a better world"; community gardens, ethical fashion, biodiversity projects..."

Niki's talk, based on the psychology of making change, influencing others and maintaining our own energy through positive emotions and flow, struck a chord with us, particularly the 'infinite game', (think 'beach cricket') where our focus is on 'keeping the game going' - not 'winning'. Niki writes "With support people can truly become advocates for new social systems...Support takes many forms - it can be about welcoming newcomers, but it can also be about affirming people's actions and efforts to contribute..."

Our values- social justice, ecology, heritage, spirituality - remain as relevant as ever - and strengthening connections with our neighbours on both sides of the harbour, and with communities and groups who share these values is the smart and fun way to work. We know how restorative spending time on the island can be - just ensuring the island is accessible to all seems very important and something we need to continue to work on.

*The formal part of the meeting closed at 3.20pm. Following the AGM, **Ana Terry and Don Hunter** gave a brief presentation on the work they did in Malaysian Borneo over the summer, including the short documentary film they made 'The Giant's Guardian' about the Rafflesia.*