

**Minutes Quarantine Island/ Kamau Taurua Community AGM, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 2pm at the Northeast Valley Community Rooms, 262 North Rd, Dunedin**

**In attendance:** Joe Hunter, Lyndall Hancock, Jimmy Fyfe, Beryl Maultby, Patsy Mason, Leonard Guy, Claire Hagglund, Jillian Hetherington, Lorena Smith, Annal Dhurgana, Kristen Bracey, Chris Brown, Hugh Forsyth, Paul Sewter, Ashley Mountfort , Adrienne Dearnley, Brendan Penwarden

**Apologies:** Robyn Urquhart, Kuini Scott

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Minutes of 2017 AGM (pp.8-16)

*Move that the 2017 minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record. Joe Hunter, Jim Fyfe. All agreed.*

**3. Chairperson's report to the AGM QI 2018 - Joe Hunter**

*'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*

*Our Constitution states that we*

“ 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...”

This year has seen a huge load as our community continues to grow the important work of sustainability in caring for the Island observing, gathering information, predator and weed control. It has not been a full year since we last met like this, but so much has happened that it is difficult to summarise it all.

2017- 18 has seen perhaps the greatest effort in our history in a concerted plan to progress the ecology projects on the island, with much time spent in applications for funding and reporting on progress to a increasing number of providers.

Each new Keeper brings their strengths and skills to the job. In 2017 we farewelled our wonderful Phil Perrow as he set off on new adventures with his family. Phil’s warm and practical nature, his local knowledge and his understanding of our ethos saw our endeavours strengthened. With the arrival of Dries van den Broek and his young family we have again been able to build on extensive skills and background relating directly to our major projects. Dries has also taken on the task of managing a variety of international visitors who have stayed in return for volunteering for jobs which are more intense than the usual work of our community open days.

These days have seen strong participation from a widening pool of keen and committed people, many of whom have chosen to return and take on aspects of the island work that they find personally satisfying. We also have a group of very generous and knowledgeable experts who have provided many hours of their time to progress the practical demands of caring for the historic precinct and the regeneration programme. An example of this is our volunteer electricians, Roman Solomatenko and Graham Innes, who donated more than 100 hours to replace and upgrade most of the electrical system in the Lodge in 2017-early 2018. Graham also donates time to do the required monthly check of the fire alarms in the Married Quarters and helped Dries with repairs for Te Whai.

In particular, our Council has benefitted from the energies and interests of some talented and very busy people. Our treasurer has taken on some complex changes and has worked on making our financial records better align to current practice.

Our secretary appears to have a fulltime voluntary position and her amazing powers of organisation have been a real driver in the direction of our community. We feel as if we are years ahead of what we expected to accomplish. At times it has been a real struggle to keep the whole show on the road, as taking on projects such as Curious Minds and predator control requires considerable time in coordination, fulfilling funding and reporting requirements, having an overall view of the work and keeping true to our community vision. Without Kristen’s determination and sheer diligence, none of what has been achieved would have been possible.

I am more than ready to step down from the position of Chairperson as the increasing demands of my own career and personal circumstances mean that I no longer am able to be so involved. The island is in the hands of a unique and principled group who have achieved some physical miracles in the last year. They also have the heart of the community and I thank every one for their intelligent and generous application.

The Management Agreement with the Department of Conservation has felt a little like a lumbering beast as it has taken much time and dedication from both parties (and even a change of government!) to ensure that it reflects the aspirations, the realities and the philosophy behind how we care for the island and share enjoyment of this special place with so many people. We very much appreciate the relationship we have with DOC and the personnel who have taken time to understand our perspective.

From our Statement of Intent:

“The Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Community Council meets bimonthly to supervise the activities of the Community and the running of the Island. We follow our Management Agreement with DOC and agreed Revegetation, Visitor and Heritage Plans. Maintenance and project work is discussed and agreed by the Management Committee at its monthly meetings. The Keeper may also identify work that needs to be carried out and draw it to the attention of the Council, particularly the Management Committee. Finally, the Keeper, Treasurer, and Chair present reports on the year’s activities at the Community’s Annual General meeting. These processes ensure that the management and other objectives of the Community on the Island are routinely monitored and controlled.”

**Heritage Plan for Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua 2015-2020 Summary:** By 2020 the Married Quarters will be usable again as a hall; and interpretation panels, brochures, educational resources and special events will help us to share different aspects of the Island’s history with the wider community. A new Archaeological Authority (Appendix A) will provide clear guidance about work that involves disturbing the ground, and most of the projects listed on this Authority will have been completed, notably the improvements to the track below the Lodge; drainage by the track from the historic precinct towards the hospital; fence for new plantings from the corner of the cemetery to connect with plantings in the big paddock; erection of the lychgate by the cemetery; and levelling and terracing the ground in front of the Lodge. Note that we have made good progress towards achieving these goals.

**Ecology** - Biodiversity monitoring, revegetation, observation and encouragement of native species, predator control, weed management ( some requiring very physical effort!) learning about the ecological challenges of the island ecology – this has been an exciting time. Thanks to those who have helped with these projects.

**Community** has been in great heart this year with so many opportunities for people to come to work, share, play and learn on the Island.

From our minutes and email correspondence, here is a brief calendar of just some of the many activities we have been involved in: work around interpretation and communication, community members involved in e-birding, Election forum organised by Sustainable Dunedin City/Forest & Bird/ Generation Zero, Thank you Charitable Trust reporting dinner for grant recipients, Predator Free Dunedin meetings, interview on Volunteer Otago’s Radio Hotspot on Otago Access Radio. Application to Speights for funds for trees, shears and watering system. A huge application for a DCC Service Grant enabling funding for improvements and towards our Keeper’s salary. Report from Alana Kelly on her Honours Dissertation on archaeological sites on island. Application to DOC

Community Fund, application to Ngai Tahu Fund for interpretation, accountability report to Lotteries for Keeper's salary, talk to North Dunedin Rotary, Peninsula Community Board "Conservation Clinic". Curious Minds Biodiversity monitoring on Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua and associated reporting. Aurora Tower upgrade. Charities Annual Report, liaison meeting with Kimberley Beckett from DIA re our Lotteries Community application for Keeper's salary, Curious Minds funding application for new funding to monitor efficacy of traps/ broaden participation in biodiversity monitoring. ORC –Structural Integrity Report on the jetty, Amendment to Building Permit for MQ approved, Land use resource consent granted, Weedbusters funding application for transport costs for volunteers, Uni Volunteer Fair, Weed control training, Meeting with Shay van der Hurk, DOC re draft Management Agreement, landscaping proposals...

Communication to wider public via social media, regular community newspaper articles, and of course our beautiful newsletter and website has continued throughout the year.

When you think that this is less than ten months and just five Council meetings, it is staggering what is being accomplished!

Finally, as our Island website states, "We are delighted people continue to be drawn to the Island, to help with projects, to talk, to dream, to have fun, and to consider serious issues, such as climate change."

Remembering Jolyon Manning, former SMIC member, whose obituary was in ODT yesterday, and Judith Ellis, who's celebrating her 90th birthday today.

Thanks to Lyndall for her hospitality hosting meetings during the year.

Kia ora tātou katoa.

#### **4. Keeper's report, June 2018 - Dries Van den Broeck**

Since my start in October 2017 the island has mostly been a place where there was always something going on. It has been ever since fascinating working with school groups, on projects with volunteers and welcoming the many visitors we received. The island is surprisingly an intriguing quiet place only a stone's throw away from the city but yet to discover by many (even local) people. As a family we greatly appreciate the support we got from the QI/KT community when Nadjeđa was doing her recent research program in Sweden. Another job might of made this impossible. I continue doing the role with passion and look forward to the upcoming projects and people that may come on our path.

#### **Transport and Logistics**

We have had the continued reliable service of John McLachlan's smaller AJ (max 12) and (mostly) larger VJ (max 18). Even though John had medical surgery the transport of groups on and off the island was not affected. During the restoration of the Keeper's boat, Te Whai, John has been lending his private boat Spotty to guarantee the Keeper's transport.

For people visiting on a private boat we might need to foresee a buoy on an anchorpoint so people do not use the mooring line which is only designed for one boat at the time.

#### **Ecology**

The weeding/ planting /releasing weekends were an unexpected great success and look promising for the future. "War on weeds' days with overnight stay on the island were advertised by DOC and

on our Facebook page. The weeds we try to control on the island are mostly gorse, darwin's barberry, ivy and broom.

Luckily rats and mice are the only pest animals on the island. In order to keep on top of their numbers we use different techniques. The first step is setting out tracking cards in the tunnels which we do within the Curious Minds program and involve students in this. All collected data was processed by Jillian Hetherington into a map showing the activity in different zones on the island. Once we knew where the activity is highest we can start trapping. We have about 26 automatic resetting A24 traps, 6 DOC 150/200 (wooden boxes with 1 or 2 traps inside), snappy traps are often used in the tracking tunnels. A wildlife camera shows us useful information about the predators and the functioning of the traps.

### **Landscape Amenities**

Right after summer we started with mowing and widening some of the tramping tracks on the island. The question is if we need wide tracks (for firebreaks) and if we do then do we need to invest in a new mower/extra sheep or other solution.

Also we get regular help from residential volunteers through our WWOOF program.

Aurora is planning electricity towers upgrading, this will affect the landscape on the island.

The Chapel roof was repainted by Paul Clements at the end of the 2017 summer, and volunteers repainted the sides a reddish-brown, close to the original colour.

A Moana House crew felled 2 Eucalyptus trees for 2019 firewood.

With the Speights grant a 3000L tank will be installed uphill and will provide a higher water pressure.

### **Married Quarters**

Paul Clements and I clad the interior east wall. At the moment the interior windows are getting painted. The fire alarm system is regularly checked by Graham Innes. On the North side a trench was dug out by volunteers under the supervision of Hugh Forsyth.

The outside walls of the building need to be repainted, the paint that was added about 8 years ago is UV sensitive and some weatherboards have warped over time. Wiremu Bretton has repainted the north facing side, the works have been postponed until better/warmer weather.

### **Fencing and livestock**

The furthest end of the Western paddock has been isolated in order to protect the self seeded seedlings from grazing. Two stiles were added (one to go over fence towards Ken's seat and another one at the bottom gate behind the Married Quarters) by a Farmhand crew facilitated by the Malcam Trust.

The sheep are in good health, although there are still a couple of elderly ones to keep an eye on. The shearing needs to be organised before it gets too warm. The last shearer (Ethan) was keen on helping out again this year. The investment of a solar rechargeable fencing device was made for better strip grazing. The flock is being rotated in the different paddocks (mainly the East side paddock and the West side).

### **Health & Safety**

No accidents recorded.

The jetty's structural condition was inspected by engineer, Dave Littleton, in May, 2018. He reported that substantial repairs are needed, including replacing some piles, brackets and decking. Kristen and Chris recently met with the CE of Port Otago, Kevin Winders, to request support. Subsequently, the Port's pile expert has been over to assess the jetty; a report is pending. The ORC have asked for the Community to submit a plan by the end of June for the jetty repairs, however, the repairs can be spread over 5 years.

### **Visitors**

Many different schools enjoyed their school camp over the past year. Our education team has been involving the young students in the different programs within the Curious Minds program we offer. In the colder season we host different school groups doing the Marine Study Center programme during the day. Since January we started to use the voluntary help of young travelers (12 so far), in exchange we offer them a memorable experience and free of charge accommodation. On our monthly community day we receive first time visitors but also visitors who like to come back. We have combined the war on weeds working bee with the open day recently and this led to receiving a great amount of volunteers working in the reserve.

Since the 2017 summer was incredible we received many day visitors over the weekend washing up in a kayak, paddle board or dinghy.

Several articles in the local newspaper 'The Star' covered groups on their adventure on Quarantine Island over the past year.

We try to encourage locals to visit the Island to come over for relaxing and volunteering by using various channels such as our Facebook group, DOC site, Volunteer Otago... Newsletters are published regularly (about every 2 weeks), and news on Facebook and in local bulletins. Also we work on a regular basis with young overseas travelers (WOOFERS) and offer them accommodation in exchange for some volunteering.

### **Te Whai**

The 300 hr check up for the Yamaha outboard was due (following the warranty rules). The engine was scheduled for 1 day but there were additional issues and parts needed to be ordered from Japan. During the weeks we were without the engine, we were able to use John McLachlan's Spotty. Te Whai was laid up during the same time frame and properly inspected. The boat needed urgent patching up and painting to prevent getting in a worse state.

Graham Innes helped with the patching and gave lots of useful advice on how to work on the dinghy.

### **Summary**

The Island Community has been carefully looking after this small piece of paradise for nearly 60 years now. The heritage buildings are nearly fixed up and well worth visiting, the walk through the reserve shows a stunning amount of work and effort in replanting and maintaining native vegetation. Local people and schools have the rare opportunity of spending time here to learn, relax and contribute.

It's great to work with people with different skills and interests sharing their passion for this beautiful bit of history and environment we find in the Dunedin harbour.

## **5. Treasurer's report (attached) - Beryl Maultby**

Finances healthy. Successful grant applications and some generous donations from individuals. Lodge income appears to have increased slightly, enabling some funds to be used for deferred maintenance.

Reserve - what would be prudent to keep aside? Enough to cover salary for a year if application for Keeper's salary was unsuccessful/only partially granted, supplemented by Lodge income?

Investigate interest bearing/investment accounts

*Move that the reports are accepted with minor amendments to the Performance Report. Jillian Hetherington, All agreed.*

## **6. Election of Council Members**

Resignation of Robyn Urquhart accepted. Thanks to Robyn for her contribution.

Nominations: Jillian Hetherington, Claire Hagglund, Brendan Penwarden (Kristen Bracey, Hugh Forsyth. All agreed).

Joe Hunter said she will stand down as Chair - need to elect a new Chair at next QIKTC Council meeting.

There are many opportunities for people to contribute from outside of the Council also.

**7. Setting of subscriptions** for the year. Currently \$20 single; \$30 family. Agreed to continue at the current rate. Bank account details are on QIKT website. Reminder to go out in next newsletter/Facebook.

## **8. General Business**

**Budget:** Draft budget tabled. Note that this budget, has been submitted as part of a recent funding application.

Discussion about aspiration to move 'off grid', which would enable removal of wire from pylon to pole by MQ, which contributes to bird mortality, and poles in historic precinct. Estimate for this is about \$30,000, solar plus back up diesel generator. No QIKTC funds have currently been set aside for this. Cost of jetty repairs is also unknown but likely to be significant and require grant applications. Kristen to contact Aurora to ask if they would cover/contribute to cost of island going off-grid. If not, could try to raise funds for this in future. Noted, Aurora have recently been helicoptering materials to Goat Island, so work is likely to start soon. They have been planning the upgrade for about 2 years.

**Water filter system/tank:** *Move that the water plan, including the water filter system and tank is a priority for 2018. Leonard Guy. All agreed.* Speights grant for tank has come through recently. Leonard, Chris, Hugh, Dries to liaise over this.

**DOCCF/Keeper's salary:** *Move that QIKTC enter the DOC Community Fund Agreement with DOC for weed control.*

*Move that QIKTC enter the DOC Community Fund Agreement with DOC for weed control, and the Keeper's paid hours are increased from 20 to 26 p.w. on the signing of the DOCCF agreement (weed control). Kristen Bracey, Jimmy Fyfe. All in favour.*

**Mattresses:** some of the foam & innersprung mattresses in the Lodge are in poor condition. Autex supply the DOC style mattresses we have currently. Single mattresses 100mm thick are \$316 and 200mm thick are \$393, incl. Freight. More need replacing, however, there is no discount for buying a particular amount, so start with four.

*Move \$1500 for the purchase of 4 Autex mattresses for the Lodge. Kristen Bracey, Jimmy Fyfe. All in favour.*

**Cemetery.** Lyndall would like an entrance at other side of the cemetery, closer to the headstone, where the original entrance was. This would avoid people walking across the mounds. She requested the lych gate be moved, however it is set in concrete (after blowing down!) so would be extremely difficult to move. There was no lych gate originally. A second entrance could be created near the headstone by removing pickets and directing people to use that entrance. Would have to ensure sheep could not get from cemetery into plantings. Work party (Chris) to come up with a plan, and try to do in 2018.

*Move that Lyndall's cemetery entrance suggestion is included in 2018 work plan. Joe Hunter. Agreed.*

Also, Lyndall to chase up survey results with Fulton Hogan. Lyndall has written to Head of Survey School but hasn't had a reply, however, it is Fulton Hogan, specifically Jimmy Brown, who has the raw data from the survey over a year ago.

*Agreed* - Leonard to approach the University's Survey Dept to request a student project to enable Community to make use of GIS data from earlier drone survey. Not sure how user-friendly it is in current format? Tony Moore, supervises post-graduate projects. A summer student would probably have to be paid, but might fit with second semester project? Hugh has been in conversation with Craig MacDonnell and Pascal Sirguy (who did the drone survey) - will forward emails to Leonard.

*16/7/18 - Next Council meeting at Lyndall's, 10 Shandon Rd, Waverley*

*Meeting closed at 3.05pm, followed by a presentation from Hugh on possible tracks and planting.*