

ENM Annual General Meeting

5.30pm October 2024

Palmerston North Community Leisure Centre, 569 Ferguson Street, Palmerston North

Minutes

Daniel Morrimire opened the meeting with a mihi and karakia at 5:30pm

Rebecca Bell welcomed and acknowledged attendees, and introduced the staff and board who were in attendance.

Apologies

Apologies were noted from Alison Short, MDC; Angelique Reweti, Massey University; Anna Goodall; Anthea McClelland, Forest and Bird Manawātū; Bob Seldon, Greasy Chain Trust; Debi Marshall-Lobb, PNCC; Ellieda Komene, ENM; Fran Richardson; Fred Hirst; Grant Hadfield, MDC; Grant Smith, PNCC; Helen King; Helen Worboys, MDC; Irene Thomas; Joanne Baird, SuperGrans Manawātū; John Girling; Kate Aplin, Whatunga Tūao Volunteer Central; Kathryn and Kelvin Lane, Manawātū Estuary Trust; Kaydee Zabelin, PNCC; Kelly Dombroski; Kendall Palmer, ENM; Kerry Jaques, ENM; Kylie Look, Kainga Ora; Lara Blackmore, MDC; Lew Findlay, PNCC; Lyn Quinn, Timona Park Orchard Trust; Margaret McKenzie, Forest and Bird Manawātū; Margi Mitcalfe, Moheke Pātaka Kai and Community Berm Gardens; Mary Eastham; Nola Fox, Wildlife Foxton Trust; Rebecca Culver, Just Zilch; Rosalie Heckler; Rosemary Gear, Green Corridors; Ryan Jackson, 350 Pāmutana; Tania Bramley, NZ Landcare Trust; Trish Hawkins, Tararua Community Services; Vicky Forgie, Manawātū River Source to Sea.

Whakawhanaungatanga

An opportunity to make connections, all attendees briefly introduced themselves and their activities or projects, where applicable:

- Amy Viles, PNCC Community Development Officer.
- Chris Teo-Sherrell, Water Protection Society – inspired by hope.
- Stewart Harrex, Ruahine Kiwi – noted successful funding for project of \$50,000 from Horizons.
- Kath and Kelvin Lane, Railway Land Action group – keen to prevent diminishment of public open spaces. Classification of Reserves under Reserves Act – submissions closed yesterday – supported reclassification as it will be followed by management plans. Can watch out for the bits of land you are connected to.
- Bessie Nichols, Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park - has been part of Source to Sea and feel incredibly well supported by our peers. Working on a restoration project and have base now in place for a 15-year programme to restore wetlands. Source to Sea also supports us through Phragmites Karka – looks like bamboo, but it's not – it's a choker of both ancient trees and new seedlings. Working on an R&D project to find ways to get rid of it.
- Sharon Williams, Hāpai te Hāpori: Shannon Kai Hub - Working with an iwi group toward a community garden. ENM gave an inspiring submission to Horowhenua District Council LTP.

- Niluka Velathanthiri – connected with ENM through Every Bite and Future Living Skills. Want to see soft plastic reduction. Want to strengthen bridge between Massey Sustainability and ENM.
- Beth Tolley, Extinction Rebellion – currently doing one Friday a month in the square to talk to people and give information. Focus initially on climate crisis – 9 planetary boundaries that are essential to life – we have now exceeded at least 6!
- Marise Clark, Pit Park – ENM have been a backstop and advice centre for us over the years. This year we have had a shortage of volunteers. People are tired, stressed and they don't have the income – good steady number, but would always like more.
- Sally Pearce, Future Living Skills – interactive workshops for adults on how to live more sustainably. The energy in these classes, and the facilitator's passion is really inspiring. Also involved in Moheke Community Gardens and Pataka Kai, which gets support from lots of organisations; and administrator for Living Streets Aotearoa.
- Siobhan Hirst, Manawatū Food Action Network Kai Resilience Kaiawhina – inspired by all new opportunities out there.
- William Wood, PNCC Councillor – passionate lover of native birds – enhancing and protecting space for wildlife I'm a big fan.
- Zulfiquar Butt - look after small kitchen garden and friend of ENM
- Lorna Johnstone, PNCC Councillor and chair of Community Committee - Enjoyed Council supporting some of changes made on climate change. Appreciate ENM work and very strong voice of advocacy in the council chamber.
- Brian Finch, Green Corridors - Planting trees and seeing birds. Would love to see more volunteers attending our working bees.
- Jill Rapson, Keeble's Bush Trust - Had a quiet year – lots of weed control and another summer planned trying to control Old Man's Beard, Blackberry & Wandering Willy. Enjoy ENM's connections and support with funding.
- Hewana Arachchige Sumanasena - Soil cultivation, plant breeding, pasture production. Sold block and moved into town in Awapuni – involved in community gardens. Growing plants and volunteering
- Jean Hera, ENM Board – Joined governance board this year; lead member of Natural Burial Manawatū - Long held passion for me which goes back decades; also a member of Extinction Rebellion Manawatū.
- Viv Aitken, ENM Board – Joined the board as a relatively new person to Palmerston North. Wanted to learn what is happening on the ground and I've been so inspired. Palmy Homegrown – had my garden available for viewing. Volunteer of Repair Café.
- Bronny Ferry, Kahuterawa Valley Permaculture Group - Regenerating bush. Pleasure and hope from seeing the growth here; also member of Natural Burial Manawatū - inspired by gifting our bodies back to the earth at the end of life.
- Heather Meikle, ENM Board – work for EnviroSchools in the secondary school space
- Rachel Keedwell, Ahimate Reserve Community – get together on Sundays and talk and connect as well as weeding; Chair of Horizons Regional Council – pleased to have groups here that we're funding and see the difference it makes.
- Keith Joblin, Unesco Geopark – putting together a proposal for more funds to make this happen. Edwards Pit Park, and shared user highway will allow some space for signage to go along that space.

- Brent Barrett, Chair of Sustainability Committee on PNCC – Climate, water, resource recovery.
- Harvey Jones, RECAP – one of our longer standing projects has been a community orchard. Community Garden behind Ashhurst Library and a community sharing shelf. Crop Swap once a month. Community Kai runs out of the library – was serving up to 50 families. McCrae’s bush – expanding bush. Seed library in Ashhurst Library. Ashhurst School: gardening with students and a grandparent has donated \$2000 for a glasshouse!
- Daniel Morrimire (Morri), Manawatū Food Action Network Coordinator – love coming to work every day. Inspiring to see all the groups and all the things going on.
- Heinz Fellerhoff, Co-chair of ENM - in environmental space don’t do as much as I would like!
- Simone Fellerhoff – supports Heinz.
- Sajani, ENM Youth Board member - recently joined.
- Rebecca Bell, ENM Co-Chair - been on the board for 2 years. It takes a long time to learn all there is to know what there is to know about an organisation. Generalist in terms of environmental interest. Try to take a long term and holistic approach to how I’ve lived my life and raised my kids.
- Anthony Behrens, photographer and designer. A picture is worth a thousand words; Whio Whio hut – ENM is a really important part of that.
- Madz BatacheI, ENM – Passionate about seeing what people are doing.
- Rennie Williamson, ENM – Really excited about what is happening in the pipeline. Getting organised and sharing your stories.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 26 October 2023

Motion: That the minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. *Rebecca Bell/Rachel Keedwell- carried*

Matters arising from Minutes

No matters arising

Annual Performance Report

Heinz Fellerhoff presented the Annual Performance Report, acknowledging the significance of having our community attend – “you here as you are the reason we are here, and supporting our community is what we are here for.”

He also acknowledged some key supporters of ENM’s work and noting these partnerships provide benefits to what we’re doing now as well as to future generations.

- Palmerston North City Council for our ongoing Sector Lead Partnership.
- EHA, ECCT, Lotteries, Department of Conservation and Horizons Regional Council for critical funding support.
- Jennian Homes supporting fundraiser.

He noted the good financial performance. The intention is for the surplus to be reinvested into the community this year.



The focus this year has been on developing strategic direction. What we want to be as an organisation and what we should be focusing on.

Heinz also acknowledged:

- Richard Ram (since 2018) and Philip McConkey who both stepped down from the ENM Board during the year. Richard had an impactful contribution in the IT and Communications space and Philip has been a strong leader for climate action.
- Our youth Board Member, Eve Hill, who played a large role in the sustainability space at PN Girls High School and will be moving on to university next year.
- ENM Staff – Madz, Kerry, Helen, Morri, Siobhan, Sumeet, Ian, Willoughby, Mark, Jenna and Sally, noting that ENM couldn't do what it does without these people making it happen.
- The vast majority of environmental work across the region is done by our member groups. Hope in the sector. It's easy to get knocked back - the perseverance in this space is humbling and amazing. Environmental work and need for action doesn't end now.

Harvey Jones noted that it's great to see the Newsletter subscribers have increased. Reflection of good work.

Motion: To accept the 2024 Annual Performance Report. *Heinz Fellerhoff/Marise Clark- carried.*

Presentation – example of impact from ENM's support

Rennie delivered a short presentation about the Environmental Initiatives Fund, sharing some of the successful projects and encouraging members to apply.

Anthony left the meeting at 6:30pm

Management Committee Plans

Proposed ENM Strategic Framework

Rebecca presented the ENM Strategic Framework and noted the positive membership feedback that has been received from people. The Board has adopted this as their strategic plan for the next three years. We are presenting it tonight to be received by our membership.

We have organised our work around four pou:

Climate Action, Biodiversity & Enhancement, Food Sovereignty, Circular Economy. These have always been part of the work that ENM does.

Invited questions and comments, and the following points were discussed:

- Concerns were raised about the strategy being too top-down, rather than being an underpinning approach, as well as concerns regarding ENM's current levels of support for membership. Members of the Board acknowledged these concerns, noting that the goal is to remain bottom-up, with the strategic plan focused on supporting members. They also acknowledged that resources have been skewed for some time, with a stronger focus on the

food network, and that we need to reassess and provide more support for biodiversity and other areas.

- Communication is primarily through email, which makes people feel less invested. Some communication, particularly through email and surveys feels very "cookie-cutter" and members are not feeling as invested in it. There was a request to share more stories about what the members are doing and ensure that ENM doesn't take credit for the work of member groups. The Board noted the need to improve communications, and will work toward enhancing this to be more personal and engaging for members.
- There were questions around why ENM is assessing performance, with a concern that it feels very corporate/business-like and not suited to those of us who are hands-on and working in the field. It was noted that the strategic plan is for ENM Board and Staff accountability, not to monitor member groups. Additionally, ENM's funders require high-level accountability and specific reporting to meet their funding requirements, and it is necessary to have tangible performance measures to ensure continued support. It was noted that the goal is for ENM to focus on the administrative and support aspects, so member groups can continue doing the impactful community work they do.
- There was acknowledgement of the need to increase our focus on climate change, which isn't getting enough attention in the region. It's the most important problem we need to focus on - Is Foxton still going to be on dry land in 50 yrs?! The Board recognised the need to develop a deeper understanding of climate change and its impact and noted that while climate change actions are integrated across all work areas, it has now been made one of the four pou to ensure sufficient focus, investment, and resourcing.
- Concerns were also raised about ENM's handling of the Ruahine Kiwi Project, and questions were raised regarding its mandate to lead in this space. There was a desire to ensure that the project would prioritise delivery of on-the-ground efforts. ENM has been the contract holder with DOC for Ruahine Kiwi. Now this funding stream has ended, the project is at a transition stage and the goal is for the project to become self-sustaining. The Board emphasised that they are not aiming for a takeover but instead want to nurture the project to stand on its own. In order to do this, a dedicated project manager is needed to move the Ruahine Kiwi project forward and help it to transition to a more sustainable, long-term model.

It was proposed that ENM:

- Organise an open dialogue meeting to further address concerns regarding the Ruahine Kiwi project.
- Revisit and refine the Strategic Plan 2024-27 through additional opportunities for dialogue with the membership.

Motion: To receive the ENM Strategic Plan and that the Board feedback their discussion on the member comments in the next 3 months. *Harvey Jones/Bronny Ferry - carried*

Zulfiqar Butt noted his vote against this motion as he supports the plan as presented.

Annual Budget and Year-to-Date Financial Update

The Annual Budget and Year to Date Financial Update were tabled. It was noted that the plan to address the current shortfall is to seek additional funding. If we are successful in this, we will hope to achieve more outcomes.

Motion: To receive the Annual Budget and Year to-Date Financial Update. *Bessie Nicholls/Heather Meikle – carried.*

Stewart left the meeting at 7:30pm

Election of ENM Board and Officers

Election of the Board

Harvey Jones was invited to Chair this part of the meeting. He took the floor and noted that the Management Committee of ENM is known as the ENM Board.

ENM Board Nominations had been received from Jean Hera, Rebecca Bell, Heinz Fellerhoff, Kendall Palmer-Frecklington, and Heather Meikle, while Viv Aitken and Ellieda Komene automatically continue into the second year of their two-year terms, and Sajani Dissanayake was co-opted onto the Board at the October 2024 meeting as a Youth Member.

Motion: That the five nominated people are elected to the ENM Board. *Marise Clark/Zulfiqar Butt – carried.*

Election of Officers

Harvey called for nominations for the Chair and Treasurer/Secretary Positions.

- *Heather Meikle* nominated Rebecca Bell for Chair, with the nomination seconded by *Bronnie Ferry*. There were no other nominations, and **Rebecca was elected unopposed as Chair.**
- *Heinz Fellerhoff* nominated Kendall Palmer for Treasurer/Secretary, with the nomination seconded by *Rebecca Bell*. There were no other nominations, and **Kendall was elected unopposed as Treasurer/Secretary.**

Harvey congratulated the newly appointed Board and Officers and handed the meeting back to Rebecca Bell.

Appointment of Auditor

Motion: To appoint BDO Manawatū Audit to carry out the audit in 2025. *Rebecca Bell/Bessie Nicholls – carried.*

General Business

Set Fees for Affiliate Business Membership

Motion: that the Affiliate Business Membership fee shall remain at \$500 per annum, and can be reduced or waived at the discretion of the ENM Board. *Heinz Fellerhoff/Marise Clark – carried.*

Daniel Morrimire closed the meeting with a Karakia Whakamutunga at 7:45pm