

The Pukenui/Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust

SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting held in the Hurupaki School Library, 20 Dip Road, Kamo, Whangarei on Thursday 11 September 2014 at 5.30pm

Facilitator: Gerry Brackenbury

Scribe: Sara Brill

Present: Margaret Pohe, Sue Milner, Tanya Cook and David McDermott (Whangarei Quarry Gardens)

Apologies: Sharon Morgan, Neil Cameron, Max Hutchings, Jane Norman and Julianne Newbold

	Item
1	<p>➤ Welcome</p> <p><i>The meeting was opened at 6.00pm by the Chairman with a welcome to all and a round of brief introductions.</i></p>
2	<p>➤ Apologies</p> <p><i>Moved by Gerry Brackenbury that the apologies recorded above be received. Seconded by Margaret Pohe, Carried.</i></p>
3	<p>➤ Confirmation of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 08 August 2013</p> <p><i>Moved by Margaret Pohe that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 08 August 2013 be confirmed. Seconded by Sue Milner, Carried.</i></p>
4	<p>➤ Chairman's Report</p> <p><i>The Chairman's Report was tabled at the meeting (attached as appendix). Moved by Gerry Brackenbury that the report be received. Seconded by Tanya Cook, Carried.</i></p> <p>➤ Predator Control Report</p> <p><i>An update from Max Hutchings as Team Leader of the Predator Control Group was read by Gerry Brackenbury.</i></p> <p><i>Investigate the possibility of obtaining funding for summer students to work in the forest with monitoring and other work. Tanya Cook.</i></p> <p>➤ Whangarei Quarry Gardens Update</p> <p><i>An update was given by Dave McDermott, Operations Manager of the Whangarei Quarry Gardens. More weed control is happening at the gardens. There was discussion on possum and rat control in the gardens to the assist the forest. The possibility of holding future monthly meetings in the new facilities currently under construction was mentioned.</i></p>
5	<p>➤ Financial Report</p> <p><i>Audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 were tabled by Tanya Cook.</i></p> <p><i>Moved by Tanya Cook that the financial report be received. Seconded by Gerry Brackenbury, Carried.</i></p>

6	<p style="text-align: center;">➤ Election of Officers</p> <p><u>a. Chairman:</u> <i>Gerry Brackenbury nominated by Margaret Pohe. Seconded by Tanya Cook, Carried.</i></p> <p><u>b. Deputy Chairman:</u> <i>Sharon Morgan nominated by Gerry Brackenbury. Seconded by Sue Milner, Carried.</i></p> <p><u>c. Secretary:</u> <i>Margaret Pohe nominated by Gerry Brackenbury. Seconded by Tanya Cook, Carried.</i></p> <p><u>d. Treasurer:</u> <i>Tanya Cook nominated by Margaret Pohe. Seconded by Sue Milner, Carried.</i></p> <p><u>e. Auditor:</u> <i>Gerry Brackenbury moved that Mike Bezuidenhoudt continue as Trust Auditor. Seconded by Sue Milner, Carried.</i></p>
7	<p style="text-align: center;">➤ Election of Trustees</p> <p><i>The reappointment of Gerry Brackenbury, Sharon Morgan, Margaret Pohe, Tanya Cook, Neil Cameron, Sue Milner, Richard Shepherd, Fred Tito, Sharon Kaipo, George Tuhiwai and Jack Parata was confirmed. Moved by Gerry Brackenbury, Seconded by Margaret Pohe, Carried.</i></p>
8	<p style="text-align: center;">➤ General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discussion on the difficulties of invoices and payments from Max and replacement for Tanya as Treasurer. To be considered for next meeting.</i> • <i>Gerry to enquire about joining Volunteer Whangarei to get more volunteers.</i> • <i>Management Plan to be reviewed to see if any changes need to be made.</i>
9	<p style="text-align: center;">➤ Conclusion</p> <p><i>The Annual General Meeting closed at 7.10pm. Refreshments were served prior to the regular monthly Board Meeting.</i></p>

Confirmed a true and correct record

Signed _____ Date _____

Name of person signing _____

**THE PUKENUI/WESTERN HILLS FOREST CHARITABLE TRUST
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

It is with great pleasure that I present the Chairman's Report for The Pukenui/Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust for 2014.

Before I touch on the many successes the Trust has achieved over the past twelve months, I must thank our major funder who has assisted us financially to achieve our aims, and that is the ASB Community Trust. Their generous support has been the catalyst that has enabled us to plan with confidence our programmes for the coming years. Over three years, we have been generously gifted nearly \$170,000.00 enabling us to employ two part-time trappers on a semi-regular basis, plus the purchase of our pest control needs such as traps and toxins.

Further to which, thanks must go once again to the work of Max Hutchings, leader of our hard-working pest team. He and the team have done the hard, and occasionally dangerous, work to prepare the forest for a new life force. Nearly 600 hectares of bush has been extensively targeted for possums, stoats and rats, and last month a possum bust successively reduced their numbers in the Western Hills above the Maunu Road.

Out of the original 500 or so goats that infested Pukenui Forest four years ago, only a handful remain and the Department of Conservation has recently committed \$20,000.00 to see the total eradication of goats in the forest. Already, young saplings are thriving and species like Kohekohe are making a rapid come-back. I am working with our trapper, Chris Windust, to improve the status of one of our rarer native trees, the NZ Sandalwood (*Mida salicifolia*), a favourite of goats and possums. Chris has also been keeping an eye out for a Kaka parrot that has been leaving his calling card in the form of chewed up rotten logs!

Thanks are due to a number of agencies and individuals, including the Northland Regional Council for the gift of traps and help with toxin licence applications. The Whangarei Native Forest & Bird Protection Society has, after nearly 80 years of conservation, called it a day and taken the long walk to the pavilion. Our Trust has been one of many, financially assisted by this legendary group of conservationists.

Others we wish to thank are Jonzone Creations and staff at Hurupaki School.

It is great to see the Pukenui Forest Trust feature in a recently published book on 130 sanctuaries around New Zealand. It is called "Paradise Saved" and is an excellent and heartening read.

Our education work continues with stories in the local papers, school visits and a planting day with Kamo Primary School. Last December, we had a stand at the Whangarei A&P Summer Show and were able to talk to a lot of people about our work protecting Pukenui Forest and our aspiration to return kiwi in the next few years.

Last year, I was asked by the Royal Society to mentor Jane Norman, a teacher at the above school. Jane was a great help in setting up a lizard survey, with advice from the NZ Herpetological Society. This year, I am doing the same with Julianne Newbold, a teacher from Whangarei Heads School. Both have been helping in Pukenui.

Finally, we sadly farewelled one of our hard-working volunteers, Ian Buckley, who passed away suddenly a few months ago. Ian was a passionate conservationist and a very practical man. He restored a park bench and this has been placed in a lovely little park at the Quarry Arts Centre. A memorial plaque to Ian graces the bench.

The coming year has many challenges, including a review of the Trust's Management Plan, the commissioning of a Species Translocation Plan by Dr Kevin Parker and thoughts about a full-time Ranger.

Gerry Brackenbury

Chairperson

The Pukenui/Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust