



RUAWAI RAMBLER

A Newsletter for Ruawai and Surrounding Area
From the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group

June 2022

From the Editor

This is obviously not our regular Newsletter. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I have not been able to get a full newsletter to print. No stories, local information or advertisements. It is mainly information from the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group. **The noteworthy information is that our AGM (which was postponed last March because of Covid 19) will now be held on June 28, 2022 at 7pm in the Ruawai Tokatoka War Memorial Hall.** This is your opportunity to have input about what we have been doing or bring up new ideas for Ruawai. The AGM is also the time to elect Executive and Committee members. Anyone wishing to become a Committee member must submit his/ her name to Bruce Crompton at least 48 hours before the meeting. I have been a member of the RPDG for about 15 years. When I became involved, Catherine Stewart, Sue Henderson, Raewyn Child, Elaine Crompton, Jonathan McCall and others were on the Committee. Our 'older' residents will remember these people. In about 2010, for various reasons RPDG languished for a couple of years. Bruce Crompton then revived the RPDG and it has been doing well since then. Bruce and Elaine have done a huge amount of work and they work for the best of our Community; not for power and control or for their own glory. Bruce, and several Committee members, give their own time and equipment to maintain the walk/cycle way on the stop bank and for other work projects as they come along. This saves the cost of bringing in outside contractors. Elaine can often be seen weeding and maintaining the gardens. If you want the RPDG to continue the good work it has been doing, come to the AGM and put in your vote for all these committed people. We have a new website. To access go to: ruawaiexperience.org.nz. The site gives information about Ruawai and surrounding area, business information and copies of the Rambler going back to 2016.

On a personal note: I have collated the Rambler for several years and have enjoyed doing it. For personal reasons, I have indicated to the RPDG Committee that I am happy to remain involved, but I do want to reduce my input.

Committee Members

Bruce Crompton -
Elaine Crompton
Peter Flood
Des Bickers
Mark Jeffries
Tony King
Craig Sanford
Kelly Retimana

Jo Wessel - Editor Ruawai
Rambler

Report to the Ruawai Rambler

June 2022.

Again it's been a busy year with much achieved and a few ups and downs.

CCTV for Ruawai.

This has been the result of work by Peter Flood, Willie Paniora of the Ruawai Police and the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group. Two stages have, so far, been completed and Peter will elaborate further in a separate report.

Christmas Parade and Free BBQ.

Unfortunately, these were cancelled because of ongoing concerns about Covid and uncertainty as to what our obligations were under the traffic light system. Things look far more positive for the 2022 Christmas period.

Ruawai Mural.

As discussed at our last Public Meeting, the mural has deteriorated and needs to be replaced. Since the meeting we have found the name of the original artist and priced the option of having him paint a new one. Incredibly, this is a cheaper option than copying, digitally restoring and reproducing the original. We Have applied for funding for this option and await the outcome.

Village Green.

There have been hold-ups with this project; however, the stage will be removed in the near future and seating installed for people to enjoy.

Gardens.

It will have been noticed the garden behind the Gazebo is looking quite unhealthy. This is the result of over-spray by the Council contractor who has apologised for the damage. We are still waiting for the Corrections Department to supply labour to clean up the flax on the corner and the median strip and will speak with them about cleaning up behind the Gazebo as well. The Corrections do not come on demand but show up on a planned roster system.

We understand that they will be available on the 17th June. It is intended to plant some additional wild flower seed in the median strip over the winter to get a little more colour in the summer.

Website.

This was the brainchild of Sara Ball, who also put together the notice board on the corner. Sara has offered to continue to maintain the website in the short term. However, she is no longer on our Committee and, in the longer term, the site has an uncertain future.

Walkway.

I am happy to report that this project is now finished after four years. The KDC have finished upgrading the last section of the stop bank and Ruawai Promotions and Development Group have overlayed the South end of the walkway with fine limestone, which will settle over the winter. Thanks to Des Bickers and Craig Sanford who supplied labour and machinery to level and roll the surface.

Ruawai Rambler.

Jo Wessel, who has been running this since its inception, has indicated that he would like to reduce his input but remain involved. Jo will report separately on this.

Kaipara District Council

Over the last year the RPDG have made representations to KDC and Northland Regional Council about the restrictions on building in Ruawai and the removal of the right to subdivide. We have made two submissions and I have presented our concerns directly to the KDC at a Council meeting. It is still our view that the restrictions are premature and that Ruawai will not prosper until a resolution is found.

KDC have decided to make Ruawai a pilot for an adaptive communities initiative for the Kaipara. We will continue to work on this matter as opportunities arise.

Bruce Crompton, Chair, RPDG.

CCTV update.

The cameras installed around Ruawai in early March are proving to be a major deterrent to the shadier characters in and around our town. They have made a significant difference to the reduction in crime and when the 'not so bright' are unable to resist the temptation to engage in some 'not so legal activities', Willie Paniora, our local Police Constable, is quick to knock on their unsuspecting doors. There has been a number of cases now where stolen property has been returned to their rightful owners; often on the same day. Willie mentioned, on one particular occasion, "If I didn't have the cameras, I would not have known where to start".

Since the last Rambler, we have had three temporary outages which were quickly resolved using the fund that has been set aside from our KDC camera rate charge. The main installations have been totally funded by business owners and locals and the rate charge is used solely for ongoing maintenance. We are fortunate to have these funds available.

When these mentioned outages occur, Willie is quickly on the phone to me to have the problem rectified. He has become, understandably, totally reliant on their functionality. This proves their effectiveness.

CCTV Northland and RPDG are presently developing and pricing stage four of the CCTV Ruawai project. I will keep you informed as we move through this process.

Peter Flood.

The following item was in the last newsletter. I have inserted it again as a reminder.

Report on Mural

At our last general meeting the deterioration of the Mural in the centre of town was discussed. It was painted 20 years ago. It was agreed that the RPDG would put in place a project to restore the existing mural.

Recently, the name of the original artist who painted the Mural has come to light. We have contacted him and he will, if desired, produce another original. It will be painted with long-lasting paint on more durable panels.

At our meeting, in February 2022, the RPDG opted to take this option. It was decided to apply for funding as soon as possible for this. As soon as funding is approved, we will be in a position to proceed with this project.

Bruce Crompton Chairperson RPDG

Here are pictures of the mural about 15yrs. ago and the way it is now. The difference is certainly quite obvious

