



President's Annual Report (2025/26)

It's been another busy and rewarding year for the Association as we worked to keep our community connected and informed about local activities, events, projects, and issues. We took part in a number of meetings and forums, submitted feedback to the WDC Annual Plan, continued to manage and improve the McLeod Bay Community Hall, and delivered our bi-monthly Whangārei Heads Newsletter.

Meetings

Meet the WDC Candidates Meeting (McLeod Bay Hall - 27 August 2025)

We were delighted to welcome more than 100 people to an engaging evening with the Mayoral and Whangārei Heads Ward candidates. Facilitated by WHCA Committee member Susan Crawford, the session covered a wide range of community questions. Summaries and links to each candidate's page were later shared to help residents understand the new Single Transferable Voting system. A big thank-you to Susan and Nigel Crawford and Jan Boyes for making this such a valuable and successful event.

Whangārei Heads Wastewater Scheme (McLeod Bay Hall -15 October 2025)

We had a good turnout of 40 residents attended an informative presentation delivered by WDC staff and the wastewater team, who provided an overview of the work Council is undertaking to reduce stormwater inflow, improve system performance, and increase overall capacity and assessing the feasibility of a new treatment plant in the Whangārei Heads area, which would service the wastewater network from Parua Bay to Urquhart's Bay.

Whangārei Heads Local Resident & Ratepayer Associations Meeting (McLeod Bay Hall - 17 Feb 2026)

A constructive meeting was organised and convened by Councillor Tangiwai Baker, bringing together representatives from our five local resident and ratepayer associations, along with NRC Councillor Amy McDonald. The session was productive and highly engaging, with each association outlining its key priorities in preparation for the upcoming WDC Mayor Forum meetings in March.

For WHCA, the priority areas remain critical infrastructure — including waste, stormwater, drinking water, and roading — as well as the development of a comprehensive climate-resilience strategy for the Whangārei Heads coastal communities. This strategy must address both immediate and long-term challenges, guide effective resource allocation, and support sustained progress for our region.

WDC Resident and Ratepayer Mayoral Forum (Civic Centre - 5 & 12 March)

The overall aim of the forum was to strengthen relationships between Council and Resident and Ratepayer groups. Associations were invited to identify the priorities of the communities they represent for Council to consider during development of the Long-Term Plan (2027–2037).

The key priorities identified by the WHCA are critical infrastructure — including waste, stormwater, drinking water, and roading — and the establishment of comprehensive climate-resilience strategies for the Whangārei Heads coastal communities. These strategies must address both immediate and long-term challenges, prioritise resource allocation, and support sustained progress, all of which will require meaningful community engagement.

The Whangārei Heads community was well represented, and I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Jan Boyes and Bernard Hunwick for representing the WHCA in my absence.

NZRC Marsden Point Liaison Committee Meetings

Jan Boyes continues to represent the Association at these meetings.

Community Lunches McLeod Bay Hall

Thanks to the initiation of Jan Boyes and the help of other wonderful volunteers, this valued community service keeps going from strength to strength. Each month, up to 20 senior residents gather at the McLeod Bay Hall to connect with others and share a delicious home-cooked lunch. Everyone contributes a small amount to help cover expenses.

Submissions

WDC Annual Plan (2026/27)

A written and verbal submission was made to the WDC. The focus of Annual Plan consultation was rating options for 2026/27. The WHCA submission did not comment on rating options but included reference to roading, coastal system and flood management, community facilities and services, waste and storm water and need to establish a comprehensive climate resilience strategy for the Whangārei Heads area. We did however spend a considerable amount of effort encouraging residents to make their own submissions especially as council was seeking feedback on rating options. We printed and distributed over 200 fliers, put up posters, sent out emails and promoted on social media. Despite strong efforts from Council, WHCA, and others only 417 submissions were received. In our verbal submission I asked that community engagement be given higher priority and better resourcing. I also recommended forming a small focus group of Resident and Ratepayer Associations alongside Councillors and Council staff to discuss concerns, identify opportunities for improved collaboration, and lift community engagement in future processes.

McLeod Bay Community Hall

The Hall remains a valuable facility for our local community, offering a variety of classes and activities throughout the week and being available for private bookings. Consistent use has enabled us to maintain very competitive rental rates: \$12 per hour for community use and \$20 per hour for private bookings. Over the past financial year, we replaced the Hall roof and a number of smaller improvements have been made. This year we will be applying for grants and undertaking fundraising to install solar

panels and a battery. We are very fortunate to have the skills and dedication of our Hall Manager, Gerry Marchant, who also oversees Hall bookings. Thank you, Gerry, for your ongoing and valuable contributions. The gardens continue to look amazing thanks to the ongoing efforts of Vivian Marchant, Jan Boyes, and other volunteers, and our lawns are regularly maintained by WDC contractor Citycare Property who generously provides this service free of charge.

Whangārei Heads Newsletter

Is an important community resource. Stay updated on local community activities and events through the Notice Board and directory and find businesses offering goods and services in Whangārei Heads. Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December, free copies are delivered to over 850 RD4 residents from Wharf Road Parua Bay to Ocean Beach, with limited copies at G.A.S Parua Bay, Smith and Local, and the Deck Café. Members can also request to receive online copies via our website. We are grateful to Northport and all our advertisers for their support, which plays an important role in funding this newsletter. A special thank-you to Logan Carter for his long-standing commitment and major contribution to managing and producing the newsletter. We also appreciate the continued efforts of our newsletter team — Jan Boyes and Jenny Butcher — whose support helps keep each edition running smoothly.

Executive Committee

A big thank you to the Executive Committee — Jan Boyes (Vice President), Julie Tatley (Treasurer), Gerry Marchant (Hall Manager), and Susan Crawford (Committee Member) — for their valuable contributions throughout the year. Susan is stepping down at this AGM, and we will miss her energy, focus, and determination in advocating for improved local infrastructure, facilitating public meetings, and the outstanding work she and her husband Nigel have put into the campaign opposing marine sand mining in Bream Bay. Thank you Susan, for your valuable contribution over the last four years.

To keep delivering the services and advocacy our community relies on, we need your support. By growing our membership, we can strengthen community engagement and ensure your voices are heard on the issues that matter most. I encourage everyone to join the WHCA — and to invite friends and neighbours to join as well. You may also like to consider joining our Executive Committee. We are a small but effective team with flexible tasks and time commitments, and we meet only when needed, with some meetings held online.

Thank you to those who recently joined your support is very much appreciated. Annual membership is only \$5 single and \$10 for family. Joining is easy via our website www.whca.nz

Ngā mihi



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