

OCBC Chairman's Annual Report – 2020-2021 Season

It is a pleasure to report back to OCBC Members and our community on the performance of the Orere Community and Boating Club for the 2020-2021 club season.

As the Club's 2020-21 Performance Report details, the year has been a good one for the OCBC in many ways.

Membership is at an all-time high, three outstanding fishing competitions enabled us to deliver almost \$5,000 to the organisations that support Orere Point and we were able to continue our programme of support for the wonderful Orere School.

However there are always things we could have done better, and there are things we haven't, for various reasons, been able to progress as the committee hoped to be able to do. The reality is that delayed or diminished expectations may be a feature of our country's path through the global pandemic that has loomed over our heads for the last 18 months.

Fortunately we dodged any Covid bullets at our big fundraising events through the season. All three fishing competitions – Labour Weekend, Anniversary Weekend and Easter – were blessed with fine weather, big attendances and great atmospheres. We raised funds for our Clinic First Responders, the school and this year we included for the first time the Maraetai Coastguard. Because, well, you never know....

Our annual Over-60s Christmas Lunch had more than eighty attendees, while at the other end of the age spectrum, almost 50 children came along to the Orere Children's' Christmas Party where they were fed, entertained and visited by Santa.

Recently work was done on the club boat ramp, shoring up the barbeque area and repairing the growing hole at the top of the ramp. We hope the work done can enable the area to be enjoyed by Members for some years, however we know well that the tide can't be tamed and ongoing maintenance is the price we pay for this great feature for our community and club.

On the topic of tides, the significant changes at the river mouth have been the subject of much discussion with the Council through the year. Remedial work has been scoped and we are optimistic that the river can be made navigable again this summer.

As we stated last year, the Club sees our Orere School as one of our community's best assets, and for that reason we have continued to support the board, staff and pupils a number of initiatives when we can. Some of the pupils of today will be the Orere community of tomorrow, and hopefully they will understand the strength of local community support.

Our Club continues to build positive relationships with Auckland Council. We were happy to be part of the Council's trial programme last summer aiming to reduce free camping at the beach. Changing the mindset that says it's ok to pitch up anywhere and camp will take a few more summers yet, so the return of the programme this year will be welcomed.

The impact of Covid on the Council's budget has seen the drainage work in Orere Point that was on the workbooks being delayed (not scrapped), one of many Council plans or goals that have been similarly impacted. We continue to believe that a walkway to the school should be part of the Council's and our near futures.

Through another arm of Council a significant pest reduction programme was undertaken through the first six months of the year. You may well have noted the reduction in possums taking long naps on the road through the gorge. We supported this initiative, and we continue to invest in traps around the area with the goal of fostering our native birdlife.

Thank you to Michelle Roberts and Natalie Hartnell for their leadership with this pest eradication activity within our community.

One issue the new committee will try to address is power security here at Orere Point. We appreciate the impact weather can have on our power supply, but it is worth asking about alternative feeds and line maintenance given the regularity of outages.

Sponsors and supporters enable us to put on great events to support our community. We are grateful for the unstinting generosity of businesses and individuals who allow us this opportunity, and wish to recognise in particular Wanna Internet, Bolt Electrical, Roofing and Spouting Ltd, Burnsco, Top Catch, Your Virtual Assistant, Town n Country, Kennards Hire and Splore.

Many individuals and families have made donations to the club through the year and while we will respect your privacy here, know that we know what you have given and we thank you for your generosity and kindness.

The OCBC committee sees some departures this year, meeting the requirements instituted in the club's constitutional changes last year.

Sadly we farewell Karen and Stu McCrindle along with Sharon Hegan. There has been more club business done at Karen and Stu's place than anywhere this year, and we will greatly miss the commitment, capability and caring that this happy home has fostered.

Jeannine Wardley leaves us too, but will guide us still along a straight financial path thanks to the excellent systems she has implemented with the club.

John Borkin also departs the committee at the upcoming AGM. John has been instrumental in developing further the good relationship we enjoy with the council, and his governance expertise was of great benefit when it came to updating the OCBC Constitution last year.

Our successful year is largely down to great people doing great work for the club and community. It is a pleasure to recognise these people here.

Karen McCrindle was again the hub around which the club rotated, Natalie Hartnell organises the best fishing competitions with the best sponsors, Rebecca Tossell built a wonderful bridge between the club and our school, and Commodore Rick Simpson and his team did a fantastic job of remediating our ramp area.

Kerry Forse and her staff and board continue to make us proud of our school, while Rudi Baptist, Terry Ouwejan and Travis Pram added style, comfort and a particular identity to our beach experience with the newly famous 'Orere Chairs'. Mark and Merna at the dairy also deserve our thanks for their commitment to keep serving the community through a couple of very rough years.

Finally we would like to acknowledge Angela Fulljames and Malcolm Bell from the Franklin Local Board for their work on our behalf with Auckland Council, and also to acknowledge Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki, the Labour list MP based in Papakura. Anahila is building a good relationship with the school and after a briefing from the club, is wanting to support the initiatives we have brought to her attention. Anahila may not be our official MP, but she does know where Orere Point is.

Our club is here to represent and work for our whole community, and our goal is to be able to report back to Members each year that we have made things better, or made them easier or more enjoyable for all of Orere Point.

I firmly believe the OCBC has done this through the 2020-21 club season. Thank you for being part of this.

Edward Pram, Chairman