

The Colville Project

Chairperson's Report

July 2019 - June 2020

This has been another busy year for The Colville Project (TCP), which has seen us continue to work solidly *with* community, *for* community.

Community has truly been an active part of our team, putting their weight and energy behind the Project through instigating, planning and implementing a number of key fundraising and profile-raising initiatives. In particular we must thank Wharf Road Cafe in Coromandel town, where the owners and staff donated their time and talent to host a magnificent five-course gourmet dinner that raised over \$3000. We also thank the 'Great Colville Fishing Competition' team who organised another terrific event, only to have it postponed due to contrary weather. Postponed again from Easter due to the Covid 19 lockdown, the team looks forward to hosting this event next summer. Other initiatives include stalls at the Colville Queen's Birthday weekend Market, and at Coromandel's annual Barry Brickell Play with Clay day. We extend our thanks to those who have volunteered their time for these events, and to those who have contributed to and/or run a range of raffles and promotions.

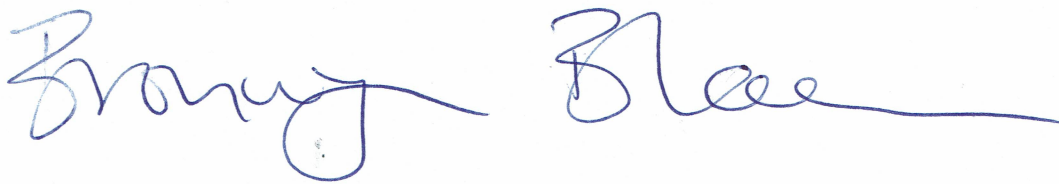
The Colville Project also broadened our community of support this year, making connections with experts such as Alex Griegg from the Building Biology and Ecology Institute, and furthering relationships with Steve Marshall, Connie, and their team from Beca Engineering. Our work with Beca culminated in the development of an exciting Concept Plan for The Colville Project. Key design parameters for the plan included not having current specific land, having the option to be movable & adaptable, a need to be fit for purpose and a desire to be environmentally responsible. The resulting concept plan is one our team is proud of. We believe it has the potential to cater for the needs and aspirations of our Northern Coromandel communities now and long into the future.

It was exciting therefore, for us to take this plan out to our Northern Coromandel communities in November 2019, through a further series of four workshops across our district. The purpose of these workshops was to share the concept plan and the journey to achieving it, and to consult with community to focus the priorities for both the next steps and construction. We had a really strong community turn out, and this is testimony to the strong support The Colville Project has from our communities.

The TCP Trust continued to maintain close contact with community through monthly updates in The Pānui, through The Project's website and Facebook pages, and being available for various coffee drop-in chats at local cafe. We have continued to actively engage with Thames Coromandel District Council, and the Coromandel Colville Community Board, including exploring potential site opportunities. And, we are building relationships with Iwi representatives in recognition of mana whenua interests.

Community wellbeing and resilience have always been at the heart of TCP, and The Colville Project team continues to strive to this end. For us, as across the globe, the 2020 Covid 19 Pandemic has brought challenges to how to do this. However, the TCP Team, like thousands of others across New Zealand, has continued to maintain focus, has adapted to work from home and risen to the challenges of conducting business and building relationships through 'virtual' means. This has not always been easy as, the technology access is so variable across our district, our distances huge, and our remoteness significant. However, it has served as an active reminder about the importance of our work in providing the infrastructure, and supporting opportunities that enable self-sustaining Northern Coromandel communities, with expanded access to essential services and social connections, who are able to retain their unique character and whose members are able to stay in their community right throughout their lifetime.

The Colville Project and our communities, we are in this together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bronwyn Blae". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Chair

The Colville Project Trust