

Keep Whangaparāoa's Green Spaces.

Healthy Communities Need Space

Message from the President of KWGS – Nigel Varey

I am conscious it has been a while since I have communicated with you, our support base, about the Gulf Harbour golf course and what the volunteers at KWGS have been up to. While half of our committee members have been overseas for extended periods they have remained engaged and we have kept the focus on our core aims.

Just as a reminder, KWGS is entering its 5th year in the fight to save the green space and the golf course. During that time, we have had great support from people with diverse backgrounds, and inevitably people have come and gone. Recently Howard Baldwin has decided to step down from our team. Howard has been a consistent and effective member of KWGS for four years. We are very grateful and appreciate his contribution.

The important message is KWGS will endure and stay in the fight for as long as it takes, and let's be clear, this could be a long fight. We are pleased to announce that Trevor Mackenzie and Karen Franklin have recently joined our committee. Karen ran a second outstanding fundraising event for KWGS earlier in the year and we welcome her and Trevor to the team. Both are founding members of KWGS and have been actively supporting us over the past four years.

Today we are in a good position with very strong support from Council. You will recall that in July 2024 Council CEO Phil Wilson wrote to Mr. Olliver clearly stating that Council would uphold the 999-year Encumbrance in favour of the community, restricting the land use to golf and country club purposes. This showed real leadership and commitment to the community.

You will also recall we instigated the liquidation of the golf operating company, GHCC 2016 Ltd. We consolidated the debt of several members and ensured KWGS was included as a creditor in the proceedings. Work

continues on this, but it is unlikely that any money will be forthcoming from GHCC 2016 Ltd to reimburse members and staff. There are some further avenues to explore in this area, and we are continuing to work closely with the liquidators. The Liquidator reports are available here:

<https://app.companiesoffice.govt.nz/companies/app/ui/pages/companies/6102875/documents>

Or search www.companies.govt.nz GHCC 2016 Ltd and look for the documents tab.

KWGS started out as a 'defensive organisation' however, over the course of the last year we have increasingly focused on identifying and developing options for returning the land to a golf course and preserving the open space. In April this year our committee made a decision to create a distinct and separate entity to actively pursue one option for returning the land to a golf course and preserving the open space. That entity has been formed and is proceeding with discussions with various parties. More information will be available at a later time.

KWGS will continue to network and provide advice to any other parties that may be interested in the golf course to ensure they understand the importance to the community of this valuable green space and the determination of the community to defend it long term.

In September, our team organised a briefing for local Council candidates to ensure that those coming into office are familiar with who we are and what we are trying to achieve. It was well attended. Council CEO Phil Wilson attended and addressed the attendees, we are confident Council will continue to support our efforts. We congratulate the successful candidates and offer thanks and encouragement to the unsuccessful.

This month sees the anniversary of the community group working to maintain the golf course land. I wanted to recognise the work that the mowing team and the 150 or so volunteers have done and the tremendous positive difference that their efforts have made. Woolly nightshade, Moth plant and Pampas are just some examples of plants that have been dealt with. Thanks also to Restore Hibiscus and Bays for their help.

Finally, we decided to postpone the public meeting signalled previously for last week. In the meantime, I wanted to send out this President's Report to let you know my reflections, and it is my intention to issue more regular updates to you all. I am always open to questions and discussion via Facebook and email and welcome your feedback and input. We will continue to keep you informed through our media channels and public meetings if and when appropriate. Thank you for your continued support.

Nigel Varey

President Keep Whangaparaoa's Green Spaces Inc

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