

WAITUTU MATAITAI

4th ANNUAL REPORT

23 March 2019

The Annual Report of the Kai Tiaki for the Waitutu Mataitai, will be presented to those interested, at the Waiau Club, King Street, Tuatapere, at 11am on Saturday 23 March 2019.

Over the last 9 years the sandy delta from each side of the Wairaurahiri River has been getting less and less, with one particular southerly storm removing a very noticeable amount.

Because the paua had started to recover from out in the deep, we had just left it to continue, and we did not know that the last storm had covered a vast area with sand right over the paua rocky habitat, until the Otago University Marine Team led by Dr Chris Hepburn and Derek Richards went in to do a survey on the original GPS transects during a student-teaching trip.

With the Ministry of Fisheries only granting us about one-third of the area we had originally applied for, and required for it to be managed in a successful way, this is a disaster.

At Omaui a big rocky area was covered in sand for about 10 years, but is now changing back to what it was.

Should we wait and see what happens, or should we do as Jane Davis said, and let our mokopuna work on getting what we had originally applied for ??

Or will we just have to be supermarket hunters ?

Graham Metzger
Kai Tiaki

WAITUTU INCORPORATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MATAITAI MEETING

23 March 2019, 11 a.m.

Held at the Waiau Club, Tuatapere.

Present: 10 people

A minutes silence was held for Jane Davis.

Minutes: L Gale **moved** that the minutes of the meeting of 29 March 2018 be approved. Seconded D Cole. CARRIED.

Matters Arising: Nil

Annual Report: Graham Metzger, Kaitiaki, presented the Annual Report to the meeting.

Graeme commented that this could be the last time we will have the Maitaitai meeting in this format. There is pressure from some marae to have the annual meetings where every maitaitai holder meets on the same day at a different venue each year. Some marae are not in favour, as they don't want their business known by everyone else.

The last research report by Otago University showed there were very little paua left. A lot of their habitat has been covered in sand, as the coast is changing. Round by the Crombie seems to be OK. This may also be reversed naturally over a period of years, we can only wait and see. Dene was round there recently and there was a small patch of paua, and he couldn't find any around Long Point. Past the Waitutu Hut they were much more abundant and there are plenty around Port Craig.

It could be worth putting some groups of adult paua into the area to see if we could get them to start re-establishing. There is not a lot of seaweed left there for them to eat, so they may not stay in the area. However we would still have the problem of people finding and taking them. It would be better if Otago University could do some research on the seaweed.

Miles asked if there was a set time for the ban on taking paua to be removed – there is no end-date, so the ban will be removed when the Kaitiaki decide it is not needed any more.

Meeting closed at 11.55am.