



# Arawa Canoe Club Inc.

Annual Report

May 22, 2024 – May 21, 2025

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# Arawa Canoe Club Inc.

## Minutes of 2024 AGM

**Arawa Canoe Club**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, Starting at 7.10 pm**

**Held at Avon Rowing Club, Kerr's Reach**

### Present

Brett Leask, Heather Bushaway, Florin Pirnea, Katie Cambie, Sara Smith, Sam Manson, Dave Monk, Roli Luthi, Scott Martlew, Kathryn Bunckenburg, Ken Livingston, Jube Wichers, Dylan Neal-Hill, Bruce Johnston, Ben Nicholls, Mike Robertson, Lloyd Bathurst, Mark Munro, Tania Leslie (non-member).

### Apologies

Aniwa Mackenzie, Alan Williams, Linda and Daryl Poulsen, Dave Knight, Stu Clark, Vicki Ferguson, Robyn and Madison Garrett. Moved to accept Apologies: Bruce Johnston / Heather Bushaway

Motion carried.

### Confirmation of Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023, were taken as a true and correct record.

Moved to accept: Bruce Johnston / Lloyd Bathurst

Motion carried.

### Matters Arising

N/a

### Annual Reports

The written Annual Report was presented and tabled by Ken Livingston. The Annual Report was emailed to members prior to AGM and was made available on the Club Web site for all members to read. No questions raised from the report.

Moved: To accept the 2023/2024 Annual Report. Moved Sara Smith, Mike Bruce Johnston

Motion Carried

### Financial Report and Balance Sheet

No questions raised from the financial report.

Motion: to accept the Financial Report and Balance Sheet. Moved Bruce Johnston, Mike Robertson

Motion Carried

PUBLIC

## Elections of New Officers

Current committee members have been re-nominated for positions with vacant positions filled with one nomination per person. No voting required.

Moved: To accept nominees for Club Officers Ken Livingston / Lloyd Bathurst

Officer	Name	Nominated	Seconded
Patron	Lloyd Bathurst	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers
President	Ken Livingston	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers
Secretary	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers	Ben Nicholls
Treasurer	Mike Robertson	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers
Premises & Equipment	Roli Luthi	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers
Membership	Hube Wichers	Bruce Johnston	Ben Nicholls
Media	Sara Smith	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers
Coaching	Aniwa MacKenzie	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers
Racing Officer	Jordan Pearson	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers
Club Captain	Scott Martlew	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers
Sponsorship/Marketing	Heather Bushaway	Bruce Johnston	Hubertien Wichers

## Motion Carried Subscription and Fees

Motion to increase prices of Subscriptions for the 2024/25 season by \$10 (\$20 for family).

Junior	\$110
Open	\$140
Family	\$240
Out of Town	\$65

Moved to accept: Bruce Garrett/ Katie Cambie

Motion carried.

## General Business

- Need for club review/strategic plan to be developed. Bruce Garrett questions the succession plan of the committee; several members are aging and have been on the committee for a long period of time.

## Closure.

The meeting closed at 7:35pm.

## President's report:

It's been a fairly steady year again, with the club trundling along as usual. Although things have gone reasonably well, there are a couple of areas that have been on my mind throughout the year – funding and coaches – because both have an impact on what we can do now and more importantly, what we'll be able to do in the future.

### **Funding**

The script is the same as last year: While we've received some funding for regattas, it's becoming more difficult in both obtaining grants and filling in the paperwork and complying with their odd timeframes. The unreliability of grant funding puts additional stress on the families and athletes who want to go to the North Island regattas, which means we really need to push now to get long-term sponsorship.

The club is still financially strong from membership subscriptions and storage fees, but more external funding will allow us to give more support for regattas and a more consistent gear replacement regime. Knowing that we're going to take a huge hit when we finally get going on a new building means we need to conserve as much capital as possible, while still giving members a good shot at regattas in the North Island and provide equipment to get people started in paddling and to be the best they can for training and racing.

I believe that corporate sponsorship will be a much more reliable source of funding, and by aligning with and supporting Arawa, businesses could get a reasonable amount of coverage and market size. I'm particularly interested in targeting B-Corp organisations, because as part of their B-Corp certification they have to show support for community organisations, and their values are more likely to be well aligned with ours. To do that, we need to do very specifically targeted proposals, and for that we need some help. If you're a whizz with marketing, sales, or even Photoshop, please get in touch. Better still, if you know of any organisations that might be willing to support the club please let us know.

### **Coaching**

Our sprint paddlers have done really well again at the Nationals and Tikitapu, which is a great tribute to Leigh and Dylan. However, we don't have any new young paddlers coming into the Arawa system – we still have some U14 paddlers but in a year or two that cohort will move through and we'll have no more U14s coming up. We currently don't have any extra coaching capacity to give new, young paddlers a chance, which broadly means the competitive future of the club is at stake. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be interested in getting juniors going then please give me or the Coaching Coordinator a call. We're happy to give anyone who is interested a grounding in coaching, kayaking and paddle technique, plus first aid courses.

I'm trying to figure out a coaching model that could work for Arawa and have had a chat with coaches from Poverty Bay and North Shore (the two consistently most successful clubs at the Nationals). They have quite different models of how they work, the groups they coach, and how their coaches get paid, which tells me further investigation is required.

On the multisport side, the Saturday morning sessions continue to successfully introduce people to paddling, and the roster of coaches are doing a wonderful job. Many thanks to Alan Williams, Bruce Garrett, Caitlin Ruddle, Daryl Poulsen, Sarah Helmore, Tania Leslie, Bruce Johnston, Stu Clark, David Knight, Linda Poulsen and Aaron Carpenter for their energy and enthusiasm on Saturday mornings.

We started a Wednesday evening session focussing just on technique, so that multisporters (indeed, any paddlers) could learn how to paddle properly. The sessions started well, with a reasonable level of interest, but faded as Coast to Coast loomed, and I suspect it faded from memory, too, which tells me we need to advertise it regularly. Many thanks to Caitlin Ruddle, Fred Teear and Matt Harris for taking the first few sessions, and to Alan Williams, Dave Knight and Aaron Carpenter for their continued support for the sessions (and I chip in from time to time, too).

The Weedcatchers coach group work amongst themselves to ensure someone is there to take the sessions, but that hasn't always been successful, particularly with the low turnout of paddlers after Coast to Coast. In the questionnaire last year we asked why people weren't interested in Weedies, and the answers didn't come up with any consistent-enough reasons or times to home in on any specific changes to the approach, day, or time.

## PUBLIC

### **Strategy**

The process of developing a strategy to guide the club for the next 5-10 years is under way. We've had three sessions with a mix of people, and have gravitated to a few broad directions:

1. Focus on kayaking, with the option of including canoeing (C1, C2 and C4). The feeling is that we have enough on our plate with multisport and flatwater kayaking, and that including such variants as stand-up paddle boarding, waka ama and ocean ski paddling would take up more time, effort and investment than the club can manage.
2. We are the biggest kayak club in New Zealand by a long shot, and we don't need to actively seek growth. We will continue to help kayakers to be the best they want to be, irrespective of the sort of kayaking they want to do, and whatever their background or current abilities. Clearly, this approach might have to change if there was a steady decline in membership. In any case, we are currently constrained by the availability of coaches.
3. It's unlikely we'll move to a new building for another 5 years. In the meantime, it will be worth making the current building a bit more habitable, and a few suggestions have been made (such as extractor fans that work better) – but we're open to more!

### **Media**

Many thanks to Sara for her work on the newsletter and media. Below is her report:

Facebook and Newsletters continue to be our most successful method for communication, both in delivering and receiving communication from our diverse audience.

- As at 22 April 2025, the Newsletter has a subscription membership of 807, increasing from 725 in May 2024, with an average open rate of 65%.

- The Arawa Facebook page has increased in followers by 200, with an audience of 2,600.

Facebook posts are highly interacted with by our followers, and the private message function has been well responded and supported by the Club Admin.

The Arawa website continues to be developed with new content to improve reach and information access for current, past and prospective members and includes the ability to contact the Club Admin via online forms. The website has on average 1500 site visitors each month.

### **Club boats and gear**

Brendan O'Neill of the Otago club offered Arawa a pair of Masters K1s in very good shape for a very reasonable price (\$1500 each), which was too good to turn down. They're slightly more stable than the full racing K1s and are used just about daily, so they've proven to be a good purchase.

A second offer we just couldn't refuse was two para-K1s from Scott Martlew. As a gift to the club he sold the black one he trained in here for \$500, and the white one (that I think he used in the Paralympics in Paris last year) for \$1500. Both in very good condition. They are superb learner K1s because they're super-stable (as K1s go) and great additions to the fleet.

We sold two of the K2s that haven't been used for ages. This leaves us with six good K2s and one in OK working condition for people to try out. Ben has done good work to keep the multisport fleet up and running, but some of the Eclipses are getting to the end of their repairable lives. These boats get a lot of hard use and they've survived a surprisingly long time. We've been looking around for new alternatives, but there are very few options for lightweight beginners.

We bought four Orka paddles that were discounted end-of-line stock, but they haven't lasted well at all. The club was short of good paddles for bigger beginners, and so we've ordered four from Lagom Composites, which will be made a bit more robust for the club.

### **Membership**

Membership numbers have drifted a round 640 for the year, with the usual jump when the Coast to Coast entries are confirmed.

### **Canoe Racing New Zealand (CRNZ)**

Stu Clark reached the end of his tenure on the CRNZ Board and Arawa nominated Florina Pirnea to replace him. Aniwa MacKenzie was elected, so there is still a South Island representative on the Board. Congratulations to Aniwa, we're confident she'll do a good job in addition to her National and International Officials roles.

## **PUBLIC**

CRNZ circulated their draft Constitution, to which we gave some suggestions and raised some questions. The Constitution was accepted at the AGM last month.

CRNZ have spent a bit of time and effort to develop the Athlete Welfare policies, processes, procedures, structures and people, based on much of the work done by Cycling NZ in the wake of the Olivia Podmore tragedy. Mark Munro and I have had some input into the process, but I'm still trying to get some time with the key person at CRNZ to test their initiatives against athlete progression scenarios.

At the CRNZ Awards presented at Tikitapu 2, congratulations go to Olivia Brett for the U23 Paddler of the Year, Team of the Year, and Excellence Award, Florina & Florin Pirnea for Volunteer of the Year, and Bruce Johnston for Outstanding Service. All very well deserved and a recognition for the hard work they've put in year after year.

### ***Racing***

We had a couple of great fun series of races on the Avon, typically over 10km with a 5km short-course option, and a variety of courses and formats. The spring series had the extra challenge of a couple of feral whitebaiters who struggled with a 1 hour disruption to their routine once a week.

### ***Classic River Race***

A howling nor'wester put the cat amongst the pigeons for the 2024 Classic River Race, and the course was moved to what was expected to be a flat water option from the clubrooms. The same nor'wester proved to be challenging on the way out to the Estuary and back up to the first bridge, but from there the relative shelter of the upstream leg to the Stanmore Road bridge made the going a bit easier.

With the hot dry conditions, the winner on the day was a free Mr Whippy to all competitors on the finish line. Many thanks go to Ben for doing a huge amount of the behind-the-scenes work and thinking ahead that went with the change of venue (and coming up with the Mr Whippy idea!)

### ***Sprint Racing***

The big news was the success of the women's K4 at the Paris Olympics last year, with Arawa's Olivia Brett in the power house. Scott Martlew was agonisingly close to a medal in the Paralympics, with half a second between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place, and Scott in 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Asia Pacific Cup will be held in Japan on the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of May (and we should have results by the time the AGM comes around). Selected to represent NZ are:

- Oliver MacDonald in the 16U category
- Stella Crossan and Dylan & Lewis Monk in the 18U category
- Madison Garrett, Natasha MacGibbon, Tiago Chamberlain and Liam Rogers in the 21U category.

Heading off to the Junior World Champs in Portugal in July are:

- Stella Crossan, and Dylan & Lewis Monk in the 18U category,
- Madison Garrett, and Natasha & Thomas MacGibbon in the 23U category.

Wishing them all the best to have a good time and do a good time in their races.

At the Nationals in April this year, wins went to:

- Nicole Pirnea and Zara Rose – 14U women's K2 200m and 500m
- Nicole and Zara, with Daniel Pirnea and Kaidan Scott – 14U mixed K4 200m and 500m
- Dylan Monk – 18U men's K1 200m, 500m and 1000m
- Dylan and Lewis Monk – 18U men's K2 200m
- Dylan & Lewis, with Jessica McDonald and Stella Crossan – Junior mixed K4 200m
- Natasha MacGibbon – 23U women's K1 200m, 500m and 1000m
- Thomas MacGibbon, Tiago Chamberlain, Dylan Monk and Reid Clancy – men's K4 200m (which was a breathtaking race with the top teams paddling in perfect synch, massively impressive speed and cadence aided by a slight tail wind, and a very close finish).
- Well done to Lucy MacAllister for taking out the Unlimited (was Novice class) Junior women's 200m.
- Arawa also won the Senior mixed relay, with Thomas & Natasha MacGibbon, Madison Garrett and Tiago Chamberlain, and the Club Relay, with Olivia Brett, Thomas MacGibbon, Nicole Pirnea, Dylan Monk, Stella Crossan and Oliver MacDonald.

## PUBLIC

Please come along to the club prizegiving that we'll schedule for a couple of weeks after the AGM, to acknowledge and celebrate their superb performances.

### *Appreciation*

A big thank you to all the parents and volunteers who have helped out and pitched in regularly and at various times of the year. The club functions on your goodwill and time and effort.

I also really want to thank the committee for their hard work and contributions, and the lively discussions at committee meetings, when the different viewpoints come out!

Finally, many thanks to Ben for holding so much of the club operation together, planning and organising stuff in the background, and making the committee's (and my) life a lot easier.

Ken Livingston,  
President

## Treasurer's report:

Once again the club had a good year financially, with an increase in surplus recorded for the year.

Income for the year was \$217,567 and expenses were \$124,725 giving a surplus of \$92,842 compared with last year's figure of \$87,341.

Main income sources were as follows; interest of \$58,427 (\$55,578 last year), membership income \$87,595 (\$79,310 last year) and donations etc were \$53,311 (\$53,675 last year).

On March 31 the club had \$70,953 in cash and short term deposits, \$970,157 in one Term Deposit Account and \$161,792 in the other. These two funds are to be used to help fund the future rebuilding of the club rooms.

Once again a huge vote of thanks must be given to Chris Cox who is the club's honorary Auditor and Bruce Johnston who gives many hours of work to the club, both in his accounting roll and other duties.

The future looks promising, however the recent drop in interest rates might reduce our income from that source but this could well be offset by a continuing increase in membership fees.

*Mike Robertson Treasurer*

## Membership

Our membership has increased overall this year by 27, our current membership on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025 was 627.

The historic increase in membership around summer continued, most popular months to join the last two years have been March and April.

The membership age split are close to last year's figures, with a good split of numbers in each age group. Under 18 paddlers make up around 10% of the club population. The male/female split remains close to 2024, with the club being made up of 66% male paddlers and 34% female paddlers.

Our members indicate their paddling interests on the membership form when joining. The majority indicate multisport paddling (55%) followed by flatwater racing (26%), recreational (17%) and then waka (1.5%).

## PUBLIC

Storage has been at full capacity during the past twelve months with numbers reaching the double figures at points. The average time from waiting list to storage spot has been over 3 months.

Overall, the club membership seems to be in a good position.

*Ben Nicholls, Club Administrator*

## Media

Facebook and Newsletters continue to be our most successful method for communication, both in delivering and receiving communication from our diverse audience.

- As at 22 April 2025, the Newsletter has a subscription membership of 807, increasing from 725 in May 2024, with an average open rate of 65%.

- The Arawa Facebook page has increased in followers by 200, with an audience of 2,600.

Facebook posts are highly interacted with by our followers, and the private message function has been well responded and supported by the Club Admin.

The Arawa website continues to be developed with new content to improve reach and information access for current, past and prospective members and includes the ability to contact the Club Admin via online forms. The website has on average 1500 site visitors each month.

*Sara Smith, Media Officer*

## Coaching Coordinator

*This year, we introduced the Wednesday technique session, which has seen a slow but steady increase in participation. It serves as a progression for paddlers who have completed the beginner sessions.*

*The Saturday beginner sessions have had high attendance following the Coast-to-Coast event.*

*These sessions are made possible by our dedicated volunteer coaches. We appreciate their support and welcome anyone interested in volunteering as a coach to join us.*

*Aniwa Mackenzie, Coaching Coordinator*



## Financial Reports

## Statement of Financial Performance

**Arawa Canoe Club**  
**Statement of Financial Performance**  
 "How was it funded?" and "What did it cost?"  
 For the year ended  
 31 March 2025

	Note	Actual This Year \$	Actual Last Year \$
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>1</b>		
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities		53,311	53,675
General grants		7,734	15,944
Government service delivery grants/contracts		0	0
Non-government service delivery grants/contracts		0	0
Membership fees and subscriptions		87,595	79,310
Revenue from commercial activities		4,118	1,558
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		58,427	55,578
Other revenue		11,243	15,130
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>222,428</b>	<b>221,195</b>
<b>Less Expenses</b>	<b>2</b>		
Expenses related to fundraising		31,078	51,220
Employee remuneration and other related expenses		36,589	30,302
Volunteer related expenses		0	0
Expenses related to commercial activities		1,546	1,258
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b>81,486</b>	<b>70,607</b>



PUBLIC  
Statement of Financial Position

**Arawa Canoe Club**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
"What the entity owns?" and "What the entity owes?"  
As at  
31 March 2025

	Note	Actual This Year \$	Actual Last Year \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>3</b>		
Cash and short-term deposits		70,953	66,199
Debtors and prepayments		12,669	14,103
Inventory		65	78
Other current assets		161,792	124,206
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>245,479</b>	<b>204,586</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	<b>4</b>	53,387	61,722
Investments	<b>5</b>	-	-
Other non-current assets	<b>3</b>	970,157	922,469
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1,023,544</b>	<b>984,192</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,269,023</b>	<b>1,188,778</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>3</b>		
Loans		-	-
Other non-current liabilities		-	-
<b>Total Non-Current liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>23,142</b>	<b>24,383</b>
<b>Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)</b>		<b>1,245,881</b>	<b>1,164,395</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>5</b>		
Capital contributed by owners or members		-	-
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)		113,932	-
Restricted reserves		1,131,949	1,164,395
Discretionary reserves		-	-
Property, plant and equipment revaluation reserve		-	-
Investment revaluation reserve		-	-
Other reserves		-	-
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>		<b>1,245,881</b>	<b>1,164,395</b>

This performance report has been approved by those charged with governance.

**ARAWA CANOE CLUB INC**  
**ANNUAL REVIEW**

To the members of Arawa Canoe Club Inc.

I have reviewed the financial statements which provide information about the financial performance of Arawa Canoe Club Inc and its financial position at 31 March 2025. The information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set in the notes.

**Responsibilities**

It is my responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial statements presented by the committee and report my opinion to you.

**Basis of Opinion**

A review includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes assessing:

The significant estimates and judgements made by the committee in the preparation of the statements, and whether the accounting policies are appropriate to Arawa Canoe Club Inc's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I conducted my review in accordance with New Zealand Auditing Standards, except that my work was limited as explained below. I planned and performed my review to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary to provide me with sufficient evidence to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error.

In my capacity as reviewer of the documentation, I declare that I am a member of the Arawa Canoe Club Inc but am not involved in the running of the club.

**Qualified Opinion**

In common with organisations of a similar nature, and due to the nature of income, my examination of receipts was limited to comparisons to bank deposits and entries into the books of account. There are limited systems of control over such receipts on which I could rely. I have no reason to believe that there have been any unrecorded receipts, but I am unable to confirm this.

In my opinion, except for adjustments that might have been found to be necessary had I been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning above mentioned receipts, the financial statements:

- Comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.
- Fairly reflect the financial position of Arawa Canoe Club Inc, on 31 March 2025 and the results of its operations for the period ended on that date.

This report was completed on 08 May 2025 and my qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.



CRAIG COX  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT  
CHRISTCHURCH

PUBLIC  
2025 AGM Agenda

7:30pm, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Venue: Arawa Canoe Club, Kerrs Reach

Item	Discussion	Proposed Resolutions Required
Opening	Welcome Apologies	Accept apologies
Minutes of Last AGM		Accept as a true record
	Matters arising	
Annual Reports	President Membership Racing Coaching Financial	Accept the Annual Reports
Confirm financial report auditor	Craig Cox	Confirm
Election of Officers	Positions	Nominees
	Patron	Lloyd Bathurst
	President	Ken Livingston
	Treasurer	Mike Robertson
	Secretary	Bruce Johnston
	Marketing	Heather Bushaway
	Racing Coordinator	
	Premises & Equipment	Roli Luthi
	Media	Sara Smith
	Coaching Coordinator	
	Club Captain	
	Membership	Hubertien Wichers
Any other business?		
Close/Next AGM Date	May 2026	