

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Chairpersons Report – May 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa, welcome to our AGM

On behalf of your committee, it is exciting to be able to report another positive 12 months, building on the progress made in 2023/24.

In last year's Annual Report, we identified eight areas of focus for 2024/25 which have all seen significance progress.

Financial Performance:

The 2024/25 year saw the introduction of a budget process, an upgrade to our operational management reporting and a changed Annual Reporting format to align with current reporting standards. This supports providing financial information for Grant Applications and the completion of Tier 4 Statements, required by funders.

As a component of the budget process, the committee approved the investment of surplus funds into capacity building, whilst maintaining a conservative level of working capital. This will be reviewed in the 2025/26 budget by the incoming committee with focus moving from building capacity (which will need to be funded separately) to addressing the seismic and alterations upgrade.

Lower working capital makes operational viability even more important.

During the year, the committee approved investment in a laptop, printer, and tablet so that The Buckland Community Centre records and other operational records can be located on stand-a-lone and committed equipment. Total cost \$2,743.

Committee:

Again, your committee has continued to live up to the commitment made in September 2022:

“To be transparent and to respect each other's perspectives. The way forward will be through small steps towards a cohesive outcome requiring the support of community and a relationship with council..... for the benefit of the community.”

It is important to reiterate this commitment as it is still relevant to today.

The year presented challenges, and I would like to thank the committee for their enthusiasm, perseverance, passion and commitment to the development and growth of the capacity of the hall and its ongoing service to the community.

It would be remiss not to acknowledge the volunteer time, not only in the normal course of activities but for the contribution to the significant projects that have been undertaken this year.

During the year three new committee members were co-opted. Each brings strong skills that complement existing members.

The committee held 11 meetings from May 2024 to April 2025. One committee member is stepping down due to other commitments at this election.

Nominations have been formally received from 13 existing committee members.

Capacity Building:

In the last annual report opportunities were identified to build capacity and make the hall more attractive for users:

- Stage Production Project, incorporating sound, lighting, and stage extension resource. It is amazing that this project is nearing completion with sound for the front hall being completed, the stage extensions purchased and lighting being approved with install currently being scheduled. When this aspiration was imagined by the committee and approved last year there was no expectation that it would be realised within the space of one year. Grant funding was received from Foundation North, Four Winds Foundation and BlueSky Community Trust. It was the very generous donation of a local doner, Christine Montagna (Ray White, Tuakau) that meant the final stage, lighting, could be brought forward. Funding contributions to this project totalled \$31,198. The total project cost was \$52,260 with The Buckland Community Centre committee approving the contribution of the balance of \$21,062. Once completed the Stage Production facilities can be fully marketed to those without their own facilities such as local schools, performing arts schools and other social events, plus those included in our annual program such as our recently announced Franklin's Got Talent.
- Reinstatement of toilet facilities and green room to the rear hall. This project was completed late 2024 after stellar commitment from committee members. The cost (excluding volunteer time) was \$18,422.

The completion of this project has achieved the objective of both providing a green room for use during stage events as well as a separate facility for use by rear hall users.

The benefits of these investments are already being experienced.

Future Redevelopment & Seismic Upgrade Project:

With the capacity building projects nearing completion, two years of operational experience (gaining spatial use and hirer feedback), financial performance, strengthening of the committee and experience and credibility built with funders, focus can now confidently be turned to the Future Development and Seismic Upgrade Project.

To this end a Building Committee has been formed. Solutions Architecture has presented to the committee to provide design and professional services for the Buckland Hall.

The Building Committee is currently working with Solutions Architecture to finalise an Agreement.

The challenge with this project is the magnitude of the funding.

Community Response | Community Emergency Hub:

Our application to Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal Trust for \$30,000 was successful and this project is circa 98% completed.

The grant funded a container (EPOD) for storage of emergency resource, foundations and decking, the LCD display unit located at the front of the hall and equipment. The equipment is held on behalf of the community.

Our application to the 2024/25 Local Preparedness Fund was successful and provides additional valuable resource for our emergency response (delivery pending):

- Survival Wheelie Bin
- First Aid Package
- CEH Signage
- Utilities Package

The Buckland Community Hall is a formally registered Community Emergency Hub. Community Response Group and Community Emergency Plans are currently being developed with advice from both Auckland and Waikato Emergency Management.

The Buckland Community Centre is represented on the Pukekohe Steering Group and collaborates with NAPVRA (Hunua Ararimu Paparimu Valley Residence Association) and Tuakau Community Response Group.

Subject to funding it is proposed to host a Community Response Expo at the Hall in the later part of the year to increase awareness, encourage participation and highlight your Community Emergency Hub operation and resources.

As a result of our experience with Cyclone Tam, a separate Facebook page has been set up called Buckland Community Emergency Hub and it already has 126 followers.

Auckland Council:

The continued support of the Franklin Board and council is very much appreciated.

- i. Operational funding and insurance contribution (cash basis) for 2025/26 - \$15,691. This funding is very much relied upon to enable us to meet the increasing operational costs (council do not fund building maintenance costs).
- ii. The GEM Strategic Grant App which provides notification of Grants available as they are published and enables the management of applications has proved invaluable, along with the associated training for our committee. This has increased our experience and knowledge of funding opportunities and application writing.
- iii. Regular representation at our monthly committee meetings as appropriate.
- iv. Forecourt repair. This was completed last year, addressing a significant repairs and maintenance item and an identified safety issue. Our appreciation for the support of our local Franklin Board members and to councillor Andrew Baker for expediting this work.

We will be interfacing more with the council with respect to the Re-development & Seismic Upgrade Project in the coming year.

Waikato Council

With our involvement with Community Response, in September 2024 we reached out to the Waikato Emergency Management team who have been extremely helpful with templates and connection to both Tuakau and Pokeno Community Response Groups. Emergency events do not recognise arbitrary boundaries so strong cross-boundary cooperation and collaboration is essential to be developed.

We are working with the Waikato Community Venues and Events Team Leader to investigate the potential for targeted rates funding. This will be a project that will need to be worked through carefully and require community consultation.

Constitution Compliance – Re-registration:

Last year we had anticipated seeking approval at this AGM for a revised constitution for re-registration to comply with current legislation. A part of this review was to consider whether the society should register as a Charitable Trust. This is still under consideration pending discussion with IRD regarding obtaining donor Status.

Digital Strategy | Improvements to operational efficiency:

The digital environment / technology is constantly changing, and investment is required to keep abreast of these changes. Going forward the use of A1 to create images and logos provides opportunities. We are already using this capability e.g. Community Response logos.

Investment in the website to maintain functionality and to refresh the user experience has recently been completed (this will be ongoing) and the capability of Mailchimp has been increased. Canva and the Affinity Suite of graphic programmes have been free due to our not-for-profit status.

Digital code access has been added to the rear hall southern door, improving security, and the ability to monitor access.

The Wi-Fi system was extended.

The year has seen total people subscribing to our newsletters increase from 307 to 527, members who live within the defined area increase from 129 to 155 and Facebook followers increase from 458 to 727.

Bookings | Hirers | Events:

The focus to build regular hirers remains with some success. The strong relationship with Pukekohe Table Tennis continues with the addition of the successful Dynamix Dance School. Going forward with the stage production facilities it is planned to focus on having children's drama groups on a regular basis. Ballroom dancing continues as a popular activity, as does the occasional Baby Sensory classes. A recent addition is the sewing courses.

Cost of living challenges have seen a softening in one-off events.

The opportunity to utilise the hall facilities for drop-in events has yet to be progressed, the main constraint being resource to lead.

With the strengthening of the committee the ability to hold events has been improved. In addition to Christmas at Buckland Hall, Halloween, The Great Brick Competition, the Toy Sale, and Buckland's Best Brains Quiz Night the following potential events are being planned:

- As mentioned previously, Franklin's Got Talent. Base funding received from Creative Communities which has enabled the planning for this event to proceed.
- Community Response Expo, pending funding application decision.
- Community Dance, feasibility study in progress.

ANZAC Commemoration:

A challenge this year with the closure of the road for the service. It is a testament to the relationship between the council, the Buckland Community Centre committee, and other stakeholders that we were able to meet the challenge.

Our thanks to Logan Soole who led the charge, iTraffic, Community Police, AT, and the Franklin Board members for approving the contribution to traffic control costs. Next year planning is already underway.

It is always rewarding to see how well attended this event is by the community (young and old) both at the commemoration and hall.

Thank you to all who participated with note of the representatives of Day Care (wreath laying) and the Buckland School prefects who did their school proud. As always, our appreciation to Neville Jamieson for organising the event.

Maintenance and Improvements Programme:

In addition to the projects undertaken, ongoing maintenance has seen the installation of cavity ties to the front façade. This has included the demolishing of wall linings in the ladies' toilets to facilitate completion of this work and to address damage to the internal walls. The remaining cavity ties are scheduled for install this week which will enable the repairs and maintenance and painting to be finished.

The installation of the sound equipment included repairs and maintenance to the storage location and associated electrical work to upgrade and improve accessibility. This will be further improved when the lighting system is installed.

The northern facing windows have had the putty repaired / replaced ready for painting.

A new safety railing was installed (volunteer labour) outside entrance 2 which resolved an identified safety risk.

The canopy and parapet have been repaired and are awaiting painting. On completion a new Buckland Hall sign, donated by Stuart Howard, will be erected. This will significantly improve the image of the hall.

Our Health & Safety policy statement was reviewed by a community member and re-approved by the committee.

The considerable work undertaken in 2024 has seen the committee resolve that the current period is one of consolidation and completing outstanding works.

Proposed Buckland Hall Youth Advisory Group

Part of our Tikanga | Purpose is that the committee are Kaitiaki | guardians for existing and future generations. We are looking to establish a Youth Advisory Group to inform how the hall should develop so that we meet that commitment. We want to encourage engagement with our rangatahi and future community leaders.

Finally, I would like to thank you for attending this evening and express my appreciation for the huge effort by committee members and community, without which the progress that we have made would not be possible.

Ian Farrant
Chairperson
19th May 2025