



Waikato Rural Transport Forum

MINUTES of Meeting

Date: 7 December 2015
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Venue: Community Waikato, Victoria Street, Hamilton

Present: Desiree McKenzie, Raymond Short, Briar Hickling, Laurie Franks, Andrew Baillie, Kim Cable, Wayne Thomson, Aroha Waetford, Vincent Kuo, Bridget Burdett, Paul Keesing

Chair: Ms Sarah Gibb
Minutes: Ms Bridget Burdett

The Chair officially opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. A round the room series of introductions was undertaken.

Previous minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

Transport Initiative in Huntly

Mr Wayne Thomson told the story of the North Waikato Transport Trust which is based in Huntly. It now has 40 volunteers trained, and has been taking local people to Waikato hospital for three weeks. Travelers are not asked to pay but donations are welcomed. The Trust employs an administrator, nominally 10 hours per week but who works many more hours than this. The trust uses software developed by Gary Goodman from Palmerston North to manage bookings, manage vehicles and to coordinate drivers.

The shuttle is managed through the Huntly Friendship House. There is an 0800 number people can use to book (0800 828865).

The Chair thanked Mr Thomson for his presentation

Future of the Rural Transport forum

Sarah Gibb convened a general conversation about why the forum exists, and whether we might want to change its focus or the nature of its meetings in future. There was general agreement that the forum is valuable. It exists to help people from different communities to talk with each other, and as a link between people and agencies that have an interest in rural transport.

Some potential future discussion topics include:

- Access to drivers' licences in rural areas
- Learning about how the transport industry plans and funds transport in New Zealand and locally
- More interaction between the forum and the Waikato regional transport committee, including more information for forum members about the role and decisions made by this political group
- A mixture of speakers with a particular focus, and more general discussion topics

As a group, the forum could potentially support individual groups' submissions on topics of mutual interest. This could avoid conflict between individual forum members and the organisations they represent.

There was also discussion about a quarterly newsletter, to replace or include forum meeting minutes. This could be loaded onto the forum website, www.waikatocommunitytransport.org.nz

Next meetings

The next meeting of the forum will be on the 7th of March 2016 in Huntly. Mr Wayne Thomson indicated that he would arrange a venue for this meeting.

Any agenda items for the next meeting should be sent to Mr Paul Keesing.

The Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 3 pm.