

Kaimai Omanawa Rural Ratepayers Association (KORRA)

Chairman's Report 2025

KORRA was first established in 2020, with its focus on improving safety and security as its top priority and fostering a more connected community. Five years on, this remains our priority.

In July 2023, when I assumed the role of Chairperson of our committee, comprising a mix of new and experienced members, we prioritized addressing the concerns our community had about the safety of our intersections off State Highway 29 as a key focus. SH29 is now recognized as a National Road of Significance. Significant progress has been made with the new roundabout at Redwood Lane, which will eliminate the dangerous Belk Road intersection once complete. Omanawa Road will also feature an improved intersection with the new Omanawa Bridge alignment, which is scheduled to begin later this year. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to determine any improved intersection outcomes from Poripori Road to Old Kaimai Road. This is somewhat disappointing, but it is the old 'squeaky wheel' approach of keeping those intersections on the minds of decision-makers, where we hope to see some success eventually.

KORRA set the goal of seeing three new CCTV cameras installed in our community. These were to be located at McLaren's Falls, the intersection of Omanawa Road and The Poripori Waterhole Road Reserve. By applying through the Western Bay of Plenty District Council CCTV fund, I am pleased to announce that we have now completed this goal with the last camera being installed at the Poripori Road Reserve in July. These cameras will serve as a deterrent to unwanted behaviour in our community, as they are both live-monitored and recorded by the NZ Police. Applications are open for the next round of funding in September. KORRA would welcome ideas from the community regarding where these should be located and why.

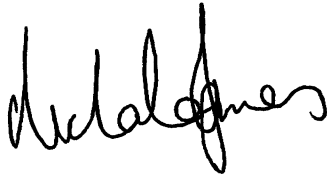
The Poripori Road Reserve, a very popular spot among locals and visitors, now offers the convenience of having a toilet at this location. KORRA worked with the council to help with the planning process, determining the best location for the toilet at the site. It is pleasing to see it finally installed and being well utilised. KORRA made two submissions to council for the Reserve Management Plan. One is to gain better access to the Ongaonga Reserve, and another is to improve the parking area at the Poripori Road Reserve. Thank you to Debbie for your work on this.

Following the terrible head-on accident on Omanawa Road, involving an American tourist and a resident in May, our committee member, Graeme Mills, reached out to our council and worked with Councillor Murray-Benge to advocate for directional arrows to be painted on the road to help eliminate further instances of this. Along with directional arrows at the Omanawa Road site, we will also see new ones painted before the summer season on McLaren's Falls Road and at the Poripori Waterhole site, all popular tourist spots in our community. Thank you, Graeme and Councillor Murray-Benge, for your collaboration.

As with any volunteer organization, it is the support of its members that makes it possible to create change. It is an ongoing struggle to gain and retain membership. With that in mind, tonight we will reflect on what our next steps are for KORRA. With the new Kaimai East and West community board having been established and the need to re-register our Association before April 2026 to comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022, we will discuss the direction of the Association tonight. After two years in the role as Chairperson, I have decided it is time for

a new chairman. Someone with new energy and the willingness to make a difference in their community and take on this rewarding role. I want to thank my Vice Chairman, Gary Benner, Treasurer, Debbie Marshall, and other committee members, Lorraine Weenink, David Jones, Bryan Smith, and Graeme Mills, for volunteering their time to make our past year a success. It has been a privilege to work with you. I want to thank our councillors who are here tonight for their guidance and support over the past two years. Lastly, we would like to extend our gratitude to all our members for their continued support; we would not be here tonight without it.

Nichola James

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nichola James', written in a cursive style.

KORRA Chairperson