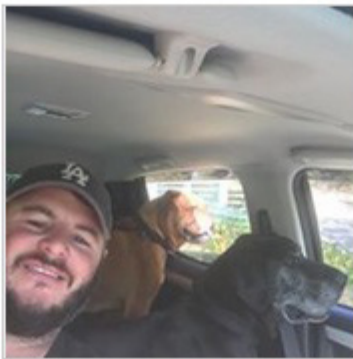
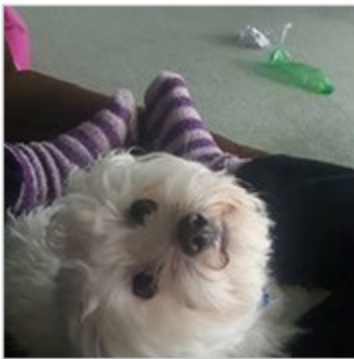
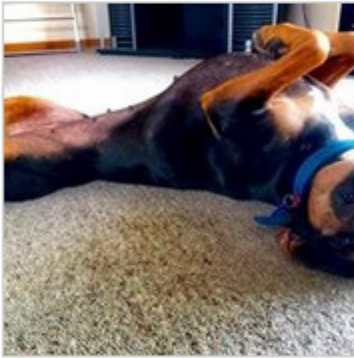
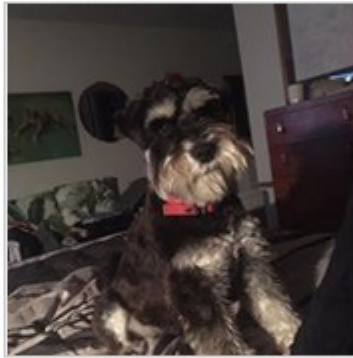
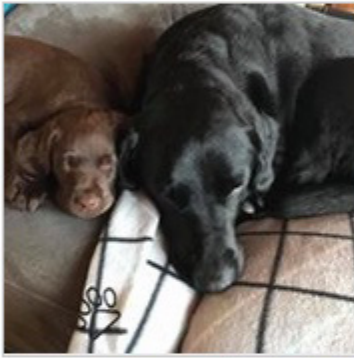
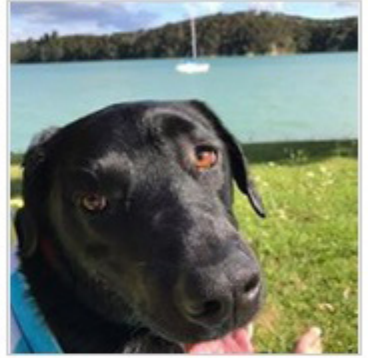
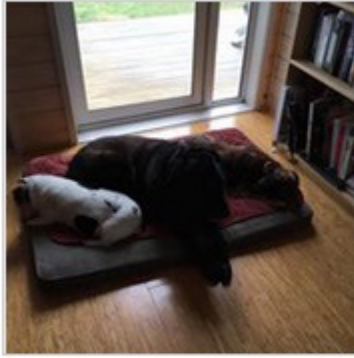
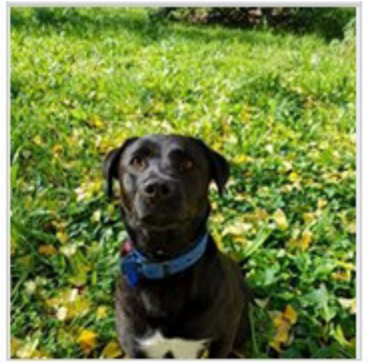


***The Bay of Islands Watchdogs***

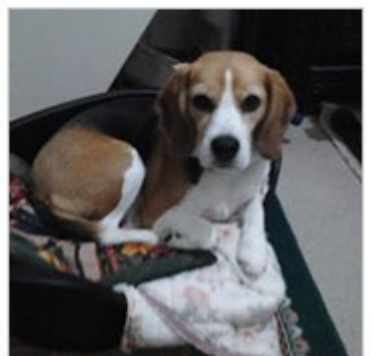
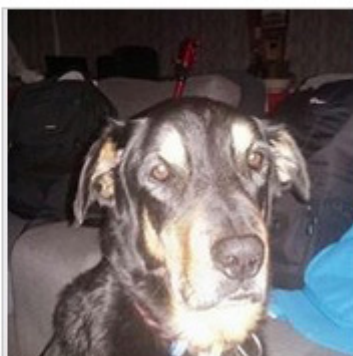
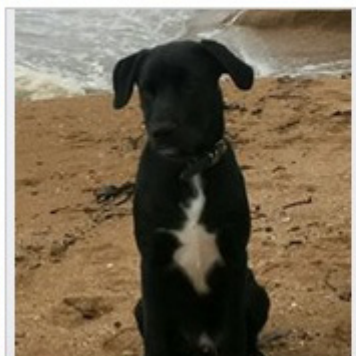
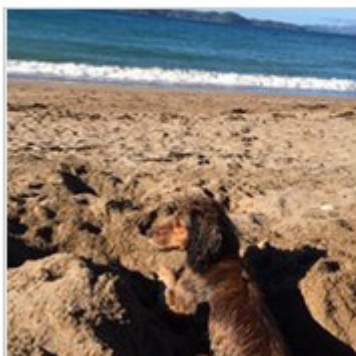
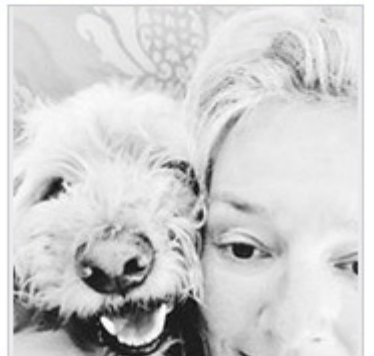
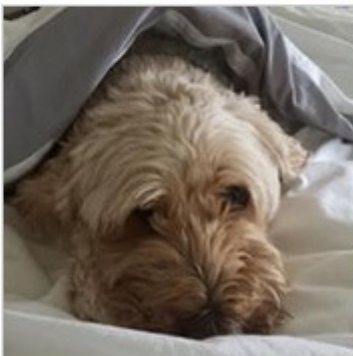
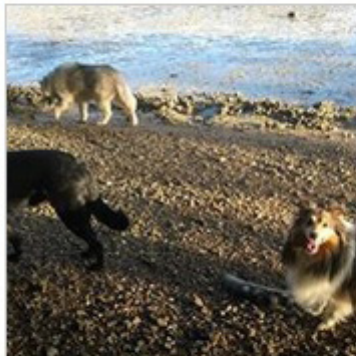
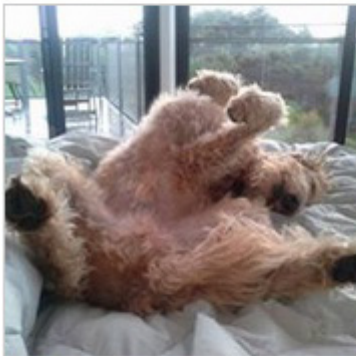
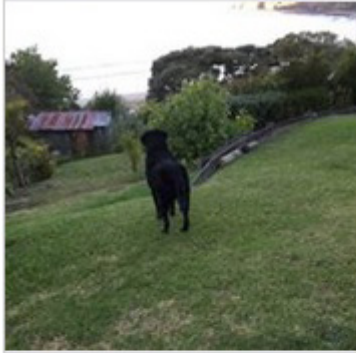
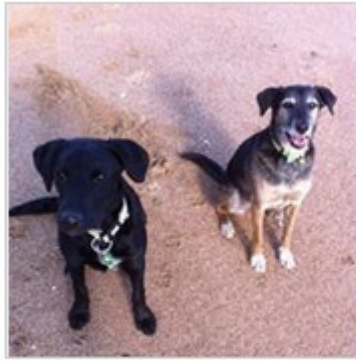
***From 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017***

***Our story so far ....***



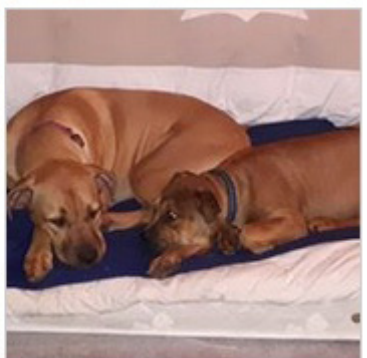
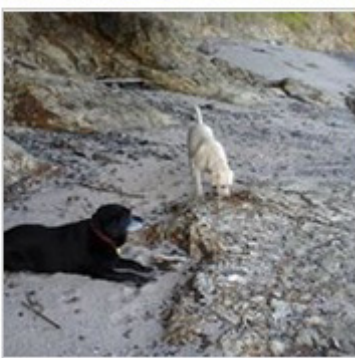
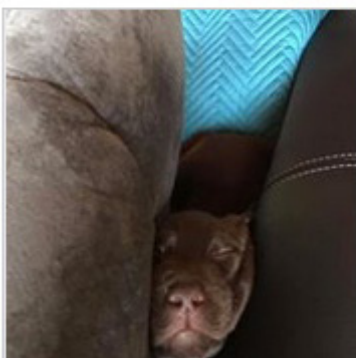
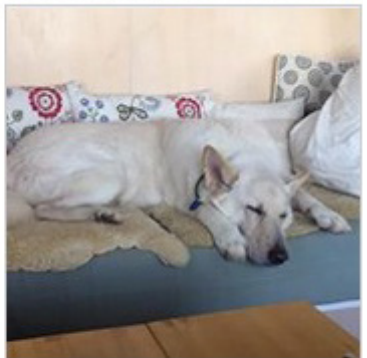
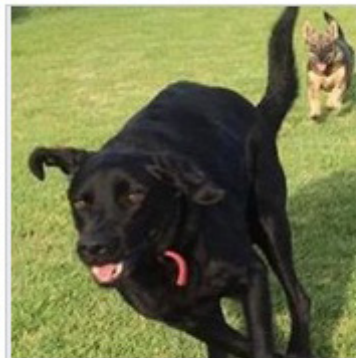
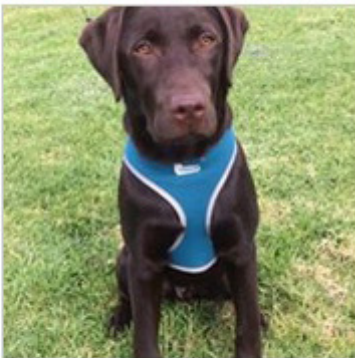
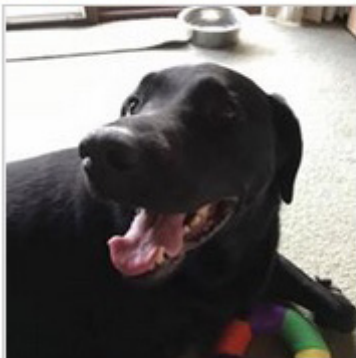
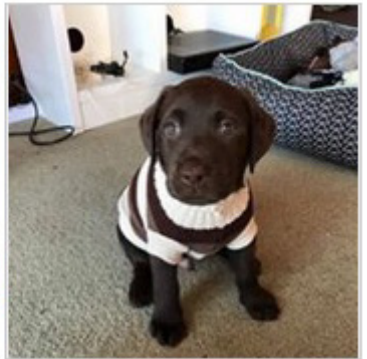
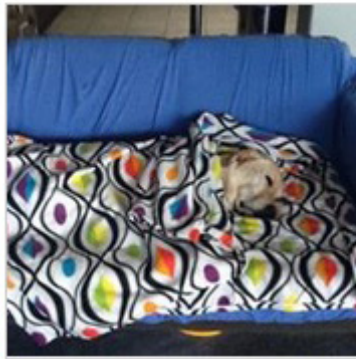
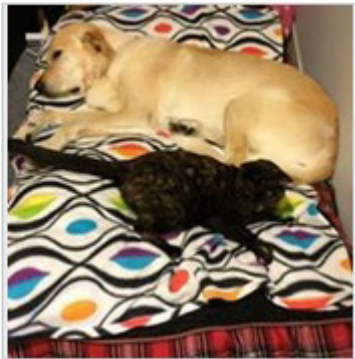
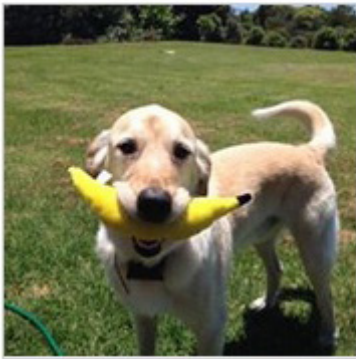
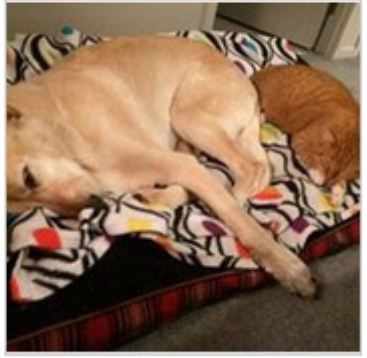
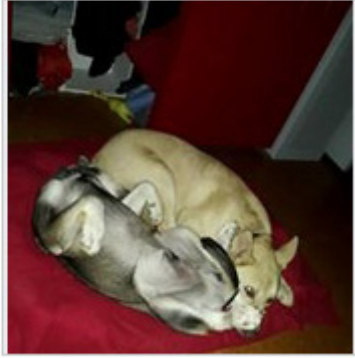
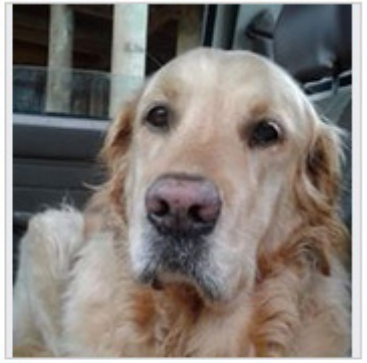
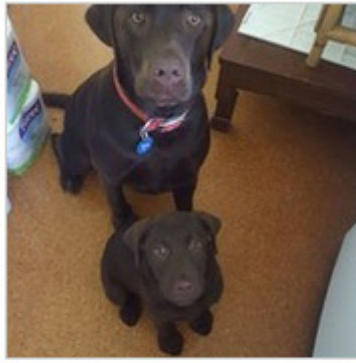
The BOl WatchDogs





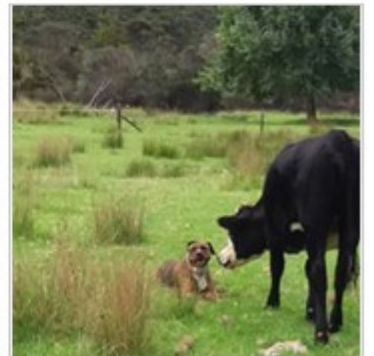
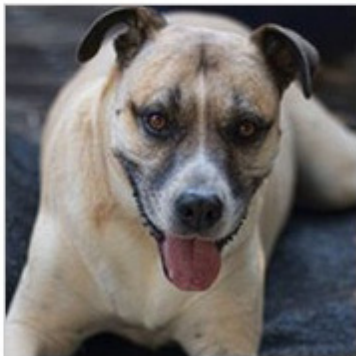
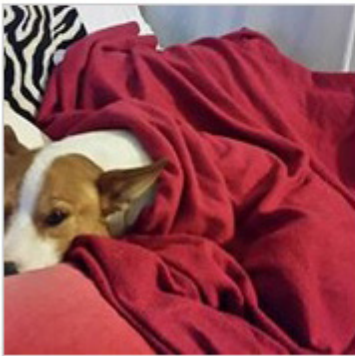
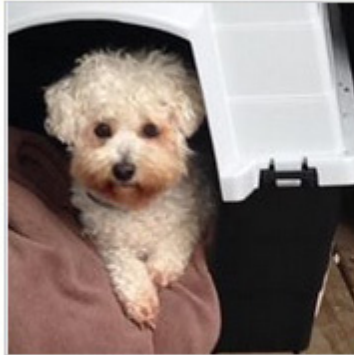
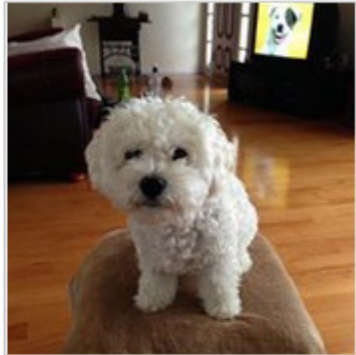
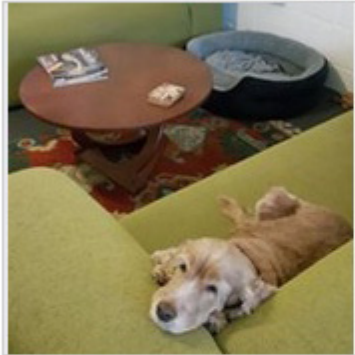
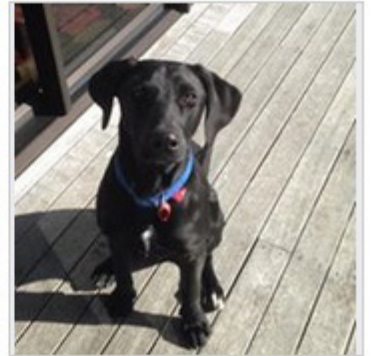
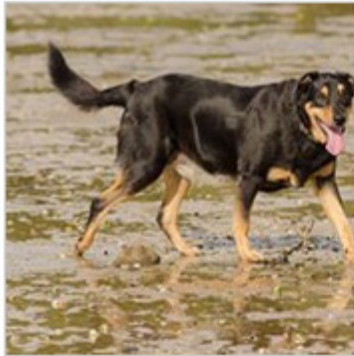
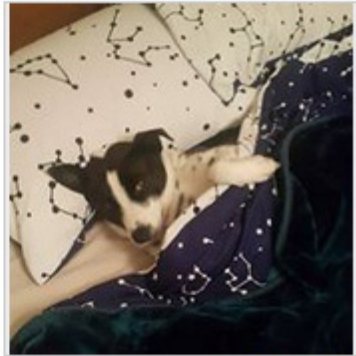
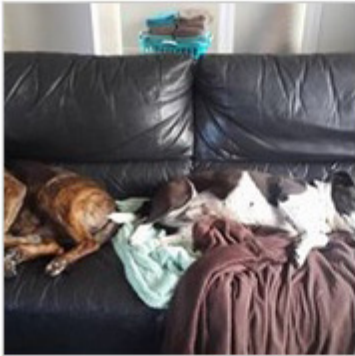
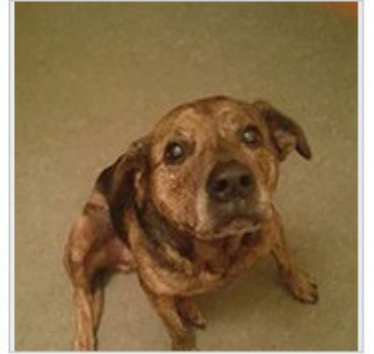
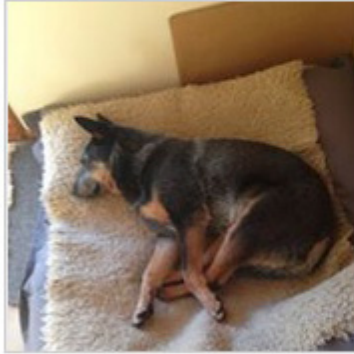
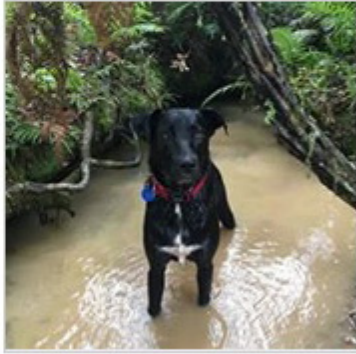
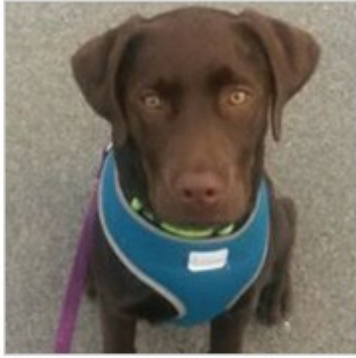
The BOI WatchDogs





The BOI WatchDogs





The BOI WatchDogs

# 1. Reason we started



The Dog Bylaw proposal to the community boards was very unfair to dogs and was a completely different document that the community was asked to comment on.



Very biased towards wildlife preservation rather than the needs to the dog community / general community.



Poor community consultation.




No off leash beaches in the Far North for 6 months of the year without any consideration of other nice suitable off leash areas




Proposed banning dogs from Russell Peninsula by limiting to 1 dog per household, not registering new dogs, using RMA to ban pets for new homes



## 2. How we got going

 Leonie got sent a copy of the dog bylaw which had just been passed by the community boards & posted on the Russell Notice Board –  
“Guys I think we have a problem here”

 Much discussion ensued blocking up the Russell Noticeboard so started own FB page BOI WatchDog on 22nd July.





### 3. What goals we set



SAVE OUR DOGS!!! The “Bay of Islands WatchDogs” is a community group, which has been formed to advocate for the BOI dogs whose rights are currently under threat from the proposed draconian draft FNDC Dog Control Bylaws and Dog Policy.



We will provide a platform from which dog lovers can learn from each other, learn how best to encourage community change, and lobby the Council. Our Council needs to genuinely listen to the views of both resident, and visiting, BOI dog lovers. We want to encourage those who love dogs to live in, and visit, our beautiful region.



**The BOI WatchDogs**





Our goals are (i) to stop passage of the current draft policy and bylaws, (ii) to encourage proper and thorough consultation, and (iii) to ensure that Council develops a new policy and bylaws which are inclusive, kind, and positive.



The BOl WatchDogs

## 4. Who is involved



Out of the Facebook Group Leonie, Debbie, Kate & Alan took the lead in organising concerned BOI dog owners.










Grew rapidly – now 740 members from all over Northland. Dog loving community from all over Far North, bach owners, holiday makers from all over New Zealand and concerned swallows from all over the world.



The BOI WatchDogs





## 5. What we have done

-  Formed FB Group with 740 members
-  Linked up with existing Paihia group
-  Generated an email storm to Council and Community Board
-  Created media coverage both local and Northland
-  Packed the local Community Board Meeting in Waipapa
-  Attacked staff conflict of interest behind biased drafting and policy
-  Urged process stopped, dog bylaw back for discussion and resubmission to community boards



## 6. What we have achieved

-  Awareness of the issue throughout the community and Northland
-  Ensured the Community Board support for forcing policy and bylaw changes
-  Forced a change of management of the bylaw drafting process
-  Delayed implementation of the bylaw pending satisfactory revisions
-  Created a vehicle for dog owners to lobby for care & protection of dogs in the community





**we say**

**"Hopefully council can come up with a win-win solution for responsible dog owners and the environment."**

**you say**

**"While dogs can and do kill kiwi, dogs that are well managed do not."**

Tony Dunlop

## MUCKY MESS

Well done DoC for clearing most of the rubbish trees and overgrown rubbish shrubs from the Kororipo Pa reserve. But when is DoC going to clean up after the contractors?

These guys disappeared and left behind a chewed up, muddy mess which has been made even worse with all the rain we've had. They wastefully tipped a great mass of wood chips down the bank at either end of the reserve area, which could have been used to lay down a temporary path where the original walking track had been.

It shouldn't be up to track walkers to search for bits of wood to lay across the mud in an endeavour not to sink ankle deep in the slippery, gooey muck.

Heather Mackay  
Kerikeri

## CRAZY BYLAW

I am writing to make a complaint about these crazy proposed dog control bylaws. I, along with up to 10 other dog owners, walk along Long Beach every morning.

There are no other people on

the beach before about 9.30am so the dogs are off leash and have a wonderful time. I am 72 and would not walk if I had no dog, so both my and my dog's health are improved with this exercise.

Should other people come to the beach early we put our dogs on leashes until we can assess the situation. We are responsible and regulate our own behaviour along with that of our dogs.

To walk on Opua beach (as proposed in the new regulations) I would need to drive 8km and then take a ferry. This is not a bylaw to control dogs but to control people.

The birds are not a problem. There are no kiwi or weka on Long Beach and in any case they are nocturnal. I am not.

We can all exist together. Kiwi numbers are increasing even though dog numbers are also rising so the arguments of the wildlife protection people do not stack up. There has to be a solution to this situation but it is not by coming down heavily against dogs.

Louise Irvine  
Russell



Russell watchdogs oppose a council draft dog bylaw.

## RESPONSIBLE OWNER

We are retired dog owners who spend a lot of time on the Russell peninsula at our holiday home.

In Auckland we are classed as responsible dog owners. Our dog needs lots of exercise off lead. In Russell we take him for a run at the end of Long Beach. This happens in the daytime and the dog is never out of our sight. He

comes when called.

I am also an environmentalist. I am on the Board of Forest and Bird and a trustee of the Northern NZ Seabird Trust. Protecting our fauna and flora are important to me. Black and white thinking around dog rules is unhelpful. Just as we do not ban all cars because of some bad drivers, we should not ban dogs because of some irresponsible dog owners.

While dogs can and do kill kiwi, dogs that are well managed do not. Cats, rats, stoats and possums do far more damage to our wildlife than dogs do, but because of dog licensing dogs are an easy target to legislate against.

We need education on responsible dog ownership, along with policing and enforcement of the rules. The people in Russell need to coexist with dogs and work together to ensure that our special wildlife is protected. This involves eliminating wild predators, containing cats, and ensuring responsible dog ownership.

Tony Dunlop  
Auckland & Russell

## ONLINE CHATTER

On the Stuff.co.nz story 'Supermarket distribution workers strike for better conditions': Companies should be made by law to give a permanent job after six months working for a company, not keep 'em casuals forever.

Damien Thom  
Facebook



## HAVE YOUR SAY

Letters must not exceed 250 words and must have your full name, residential

address and phone number. Only your name and town/suburb are published. The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or withhold any correspondence without explanation. Letters may be referred to others for right of reply. Email jenny.ling@fairfaxmedia.co.nz

## Opinion

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

# One Point of View Cr Dave Hookway There's lots to fix

We have some of the worst roads in the country.

Have you noticed that the most notorious spots have remained the same despite millions of dollars thrown at 'maintaining' them every year? Why? The simple answer is that we are not fixing the foundations. While the potholes get a bit of fill or slap of bitumen, we don't resolve the underlying issue(s) that caused them.

So it is with our council. For years we have had complaints about service, poor communication, obstructive behaviour, and even the occasional whisper of possible corruption.

Following the council's significant loss to the Rintoul Group in the High Court recently, my calls for an independent review of our procurement procedures were supported by Mayor Carter. Such a review needs to be at arm's length from any staff. It must address concerns covering the past four years, since the Serious Fraud Office last investigated the council. This review needs to be widened to offer the community an opportunity to step forward with their concerns; not just procurement matters, but also other issues we have failed to address.

Like those pot holes, we need to get to the foundation of the problem and resolve the issues before we can move forward with confidence.

Some in the community believe many of the current problems can be traced to the senior leadership team, and call for them to be restructured or replaced. If even half of the complaints I have received from the public are true, this must be taken seriously. Claims that



"For years we have had complaints about service, poor communication, obstructive behaviour, and even the occasional whisper of possible corruption."

people are scared of retribution by council officers are alarming, and the council's current litigious attitude is costing ratepayers a fortune, with lawyers the only winners.

The other issue that has blown up in council's face recently is the proposed dog control bylaw and policy review. If my email inbox is anything to go by, hundreds of residents are shocked with the prospect of not being able to take Skip for a walk along the beach or give him some off-leash time when away from home. The draft policy provides just five dog exercise areas across the entire Far North District — one each in Kaitiaki, Opua and Russell, and two in Kerikeri.

Now I have to admit to a conflict of interest, having dogs of our own.

I understand the issues of protecting wildlife and the problems that dogs, and more generally their owners, can cause. But what has me very concerned is that a council staff member associated with writing the policy has been actively signing people up to a Facebook page supporting it. This does little to instil confidence in an unbiased policy development process.

Obviously we are getting a lot of things wrong. If the reports about the numbers of people signing the petition calling for government intervention are correct, we need to act urgently and take bold steps to fix the very foundations of our council.

This will only happen when we restore open and transparent processes through which decisions can be scrutinised.



Proposed changes to dog exercise areas have caused the Bay of Islands WatchDogs to challenge the Far North District Council.

BAYLEY MOORSTUFF

# Dog lovers challenge bylaw

BAYLEY MOOR

With off-leash dog exercise areas threatened under a proposed council bylaw, Bay of Islands dog lovers have rallied to fight for their canine companions.

The Bay of Islands WatchDogs formed after concerns about the draft Dog Control Bylaws and draft Dog Policy released by the Far North District Council.

Residents' concerns include dogs being made to be on-leash at all times at Russell Beach and

Tapaka, where dogs were previously allowed off-leash at certain times. The only specified off-leash areas would be a small part of Long Beach and at Opua Beach.

Russell dog owner and group member Alan Wilkinson says there has to be a balance between dogs and the environment.

"Responsible dog owners are being punished, birds are still here because we have looked after them."

Wilkinson says he and wife Karen have been involved in

landcare and pointed to a graph used in the council documents which show kiwi numbers increasing in the Russell Peninsula.

The lobby group launched their Facebook page on July 22 and within two days the group had 350 members. After feedback via social media and emails Deputy Mayor Tania McInnes says she spoke with chief executive Shaun Clarke about the draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.

As a result the proposals for

Russell, Paiahi and Opua would be looked at and the documents would not be going "in their current form" to the Strategy Committee meeting on August 30, as originally planned.

There is currently no time frame for when new consultation might begin, McInnes says.

"We need to collaboratively come to an agreement. There's two sides to it - the dog lovers and the environment protection. Dogs are a big part of who we are as New Zealanders and the environ-

ment is highly important. There is a win in there."

The council had previously undertaken consultation in November and December of 2016, receiving 234 submissions on the bylaw and policy; 43 of those submitters spoke at hearings in February and March this year.

In 2006, the current Dog Control Bylaw was adopted. Legislation requires the bylaw to be reviewed every 10 years.

What do you think? Email jenny.ling@fairfaxmedia.co.nz



The BOLI WatchDogs



# Bay of Islands dog-owners voice anger at bylaw changes

12 Aug, 2017 8:00am

3 minutes to read



About 60 dogs and owners gathered on Opua Beach in protest at a draft bylaw which would make it one of only two beaches in the Bay of Islands where dogs will be allowed off lead. PHOTO / RUTH LAWTON

Northern Advocate

Changes to a controversial dog control bylaw have sparked further outrage among Bay of Islands dog owners, with a proposal for one dog per household in some areas.

The original draft bylaw, released last November, proposed loosening up some of the rules around taking dogs on to beaches, especially in winter.

A second version released in June, however, beefed up the current restrictions designed to protect wildlife. Russell dog owners in particular were upset it designated only one beach in the Bay of Islands, the Beechy St waterfront in Opua, as an off-leash dog exercise area.

They formed a group called the Bay of Islands WatchDogs and called on the Far North District Council to start consulting again from scratch.

Earlier this week the council released a third version of the proposed bylaw which added a second off-leash beach, Sullivans Beach in Paihia, but WatchDogs member Leonie Exel said it was worse than the previous version in almost every other way.

There was still no off-leash beach in the Russell area and, more alarmingly for dog owners, it proposed creating a one-dog per household zone along much of the east coast from the southern Bay of Islands to Hihi in Doubtless Bay. Urban areas would retain the two-dog limit in the current bylaw.



**The BOI WatchDogs**



Dog owners outraged at more new changes to proposed control bylaw

By [Peter de Graaf](#)  
3:25 PM Tuesday Aug 15, 2017

More changes to the Far North District Council's proposed dog control bylaw have sparked further outrage among some Bay of Islands dog owners.

The original draft, released in November, proposed easing some of the rules around taking dogs on to beaches, especially in winter, but a second version, in June, tightened current restrictions, to protect wildlife.

Russell dog owners in particular were upset that the plan designated only one beach in the Bay of Islands, the Beechy Street waterfront in Opuia, as an off-leash dog exercise area.

Read more: [Dog owners won't lie down for law change Letters: Thinking outside the kennel](#)

They formed the Bay of Islands WatchDogs, and called on the council to begin consulting again from scratch.

Last week the council released a third version of the proposed bylaw, which added a second off-leash beach, Sullivans Beach in Paihia, but WatchDogs member Leonie Exel said it was worse than the previous version in almost every other way.

There was still no off-leash beach in the Russell area, and, more alarmingly, it proposed creating a one-dog per household zone over much of the east coast, from the southern Bay of Islands to Hihi. Urban areas would retain the two-dog limit.

Group members planned to take their concerns to a meeting of the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board in Waipapa yesterday.

"To gazette a huge area of the Far North as a one-dog area in the third revision of the policy, with six days to review it before a community board meeting, is disgraceful," Ms Exel said, adding that the consultation process so far had been so abysmal that "tinkering at the edges" of the bylaw wouldn't fix it.

Bay of Islands Watchdogs, which as of last week had 600 members, was planning to urge the community board to recommendation that councillors to halt the process and carry out further consultation. If the new bylaw was introduced in October as planned there would be "huge non-compliance," she said.

FNDC district services manager Dean Myburgh said the draft bylaw had already been consulted on extensively, and many people supported the effort to balance the needs of dog owners with other beach users and wildlife.

"However, the council is aware that a number of dog owners in Russell, Opuia and Paihia have recently voiced strong views. It is therefore asking the community board to give further consideration to the draft bylaw," Dr Myburgh said.

The council could not reopen submissions, but had asked the community board to consider whether the draft bylaw should be amended. The draft is due to be considered by the council's Strategy Committee on August 30, and the full council on September 14.

By [Peter de Graaf](#)

- [Northland Age](#)

Copyright ©2017, NZME Publishing Limited



Some dog owners are even more outraged now than they were when they staged a protest on Opuia Beach a week ago on Sunday.

Russell dog owners up in arms over beach ban

8:00 AM Wednesday Aug 2, 2017

Russell dog owners are up in arms over a draft bylaw which would ban off-leash dogs from every beach on the peninsula.

The only beach in the Bay of Islands where dogs would be allowed off-leash is a narrow strip of sand along Opuia's Beechy St, on the other side of the water.

The proposal spurred dog owners to set up a Facebook group called BOI WatchDogs to fight the bylaw. As of yesterday the group had 420 members and had broadened its aims to take on dog issues across the Far North.

It has secured a commitment from acting Far North Mayor Tania McInnes to put the bylaw on hold and is setting up a formal committee. The group is also working on a new name to reflect its Far North-wide focus.

Member Leonie Exel said the group's immediate aims were to get a formal undertaking from the council to put the draft dog control bylaw and dog policy on hold, and that a new round of "thorough and genuine" consultation took place.

The group believed the previous consultation was flawed and didn't take all views into account.

One line about the Russell Peninsula ideally becoming dog-free had caused particular angst. Although that line was contained in a memo, not the actual bylaw, it was "indicative of an unreasonable attitude" that had swung too far in favour of wildlife.

"We need to co-exist and we need to work out ways to do it. We need a policy that's dog, human and bird friendly," Ms Exel said.

About 40 dog owners meet at Russell's Duke Tavern last weekend to formulate their goals. They plan another get-together at Opuia Beach on Sunday afternoon.

The current bylaw dates back to 2006. It bans dog on beaches between 9am and 6pm in summer and requires dogs to be on a leash at many popular beaches year-round.

The first draft of the new bylaw, released last year, kept the summer restrictions but loosened up the wintertime rules by allowing dogs off-leash from March to November on all beaches except Russell and Tauranga Bay.

When a second version of the draft bylaw was released last month, however, the rules for off-leash dogs had been tightened up dramatically.

The new version proposes limiting off-leash exercise areas to Empire St in Kaitaia, an area off SH12 in Kaikohe, Roland's Wood and a field on Wiroa Rd in Kerikeri, Beechy St waterfront in Opuia, and Rangiputa Beach. All other beaches are on-leash areas.

Acting Far North Mayor deputy Mayor Tania McInnes said the original draft was "pulled to have some more work done".

"But there are a few things in there [the new version] we have to review and ensure we've talked well to the community about. We're trying to balance the views of people who love dogs and those who are concerned about wildlife. We have to find a way we can have both," she said.

The council is required to update its dog control bylaw every 10 years.

Tension in Russell between dog owners and conservationists has been high since the council seized a husky named Laska. The council said it had been roaming on nine occasions and had been seen with a weka in its mouth.

Draft bylaw a "win-win"

Not everyone's unhappy with the proposed new dog rules.

Conservationist and dog-owner Brad Windust, of Paihia, said the draft bylaw still allowed people to walk their dogs on a leash on most beaches and set aside areas for off-lead exercise.

"I think it [the draft] is looking really good. We need a win-win. We need to protect wildlife and people need areas to enjoy with their dogs."

Mr Windust created his own Facebook forum, called BOI DogWatch, "to put the other side". "People don't realise that New Zealand is the seabird capital of the world but 90 per cent of them are threatened. We're really lucky to have little blue penguins and dotterels but dogs are constantly harassing birds along our beaches."

- [Northern Advocate](#)



Russell residents are up in arms over a draft bylaw requiring dogs to be kept on a leash on all but a few Far North beaches. Photo / File

Copyright ©2017, NZME Publishing Limited



# 7. What next



Continued pressure to ensure the redrafted bylaw is acceptable to dog owners



Helping the Council to resolve conflicts in public space utilisation



Pressuring for more sensible controlled access to DoC banned tracks and reserves



Blocking RMA covenants forcing banning pets



Ensured the Board support for forcing policy and bylaw changes



Continue to get the word out there to expand the group to more dog owners





## 8. Creating a community

- 🐕 Making sure lost pets are handled cooperatively and not by generating conflict
- 🐕 Stopping outsiders and trouble-makers making trouble
- 🐕 Working constructively with the local wildlife community



The BOl WatchDogs



## 9. For the long haul ...

- 🐕 Better facilities for dog exercise
- 🐕 More assistance with dog training
- 🐕 Better and more local dog pound services
- 🐕 Better access to the DoC estate
- 🐕 Better knowledge of wildlife needs and management



The BOI WatchDogs