



# Featherston Community Center Trust

## Chairman's report - 2019

**The Featherston Community Center was established in 1992**, (27 years ago) through the efforts of Dick Smith and a group of visionary community members who worked to raise the funds to buy it and to set it up as a community center.

Purpose – four-fold

- provide a **community space** for the provision of services, ongoing and one-off events, activities and classes that maintain and enhance the well-being of the people of Featherston and the South Wairarapa.
- provide a **community facility** for meetings, activities, events and projects and to professional, voluntary, and social service providers
- **co-operate with agencies**, organisations, people and groups in matters pertaining the wellbeing of the community.
- **serve and support** all people in Featherston and the South Wairarapa district.

The trust owns this property and the buildings and has only recently leased part of the carpark to the Featherston Medical Center in a bid to help that project become a reality.

Our vision - in line with the four-fold purpose - is to provide a **community well-being hub** here, and partnering with the Featherston Medical Center (and by extension, the DHB and the mobile health service), we are well on the way.

We have also been in discussion with **Pae Tu Mokai**, to explore some synergies and to enlist their help in reaching out to sections of the community that may be feeling disenfranchised or in some way poorly served by this facility. (Pae O Tu Mokai – name of a nearby Pa which the area was known by. Called Burlings by settlers who frequented the accommodation house build here, and eventually, when a town was surveyed, in true colonial fashion it was named for the project superintendent, Isaac Featherston.

The centre has robust planning and management systems and is supporting itself to the tune of around 45% of operating expenses. For the balance we rely on the generosity of a range of community fund sources, without whom we would be unable to continue in our current form. Chief among those valued partners are

- The TG McCarthy Trust
- COGS (the Community Organisation Grants Scheme)
- SWDC
- Wairarapa Reap (Rural Education Activities Program)
- Featherston's Own Charitable Trust
- Lion Foundation
- Nikau Foundation
- Featherston Community Board

These people and groups have enabled us to provide a home to the many groups who together serve **over 700 people each month**.

**We are proud that** Meals on wheels, Fab Feathy, the Featherston Beautification Group and the SW Community Network, call this facility their home, and the many other groups and

individuals who run meetings and provide their services from here, encompassing everything from yoga to ukulele and from Health to history.

Our annual Art Sale was a great success again, thanks to The Art Sale committee which was comprised of:

- Emily Greenberg
- Shannon Stevens
- Cheryl Gallaway
- Sian Harcourt

This event provides a platform for our local artists to exhibit their talents during the now Iconic Booktown festivities.

The trust is managed by a Trust Board. And the Center facilities are managed and maintained by Siv Fjaerstad, ably supported by a team of volunteers and helpers:

- Jocelyn Konig
- Marina Lira
- Roydon Goggin
- Alan Brook
- Phil Ashworth
- Jack Sheppard
- Claire Bleakley
- Chris Miller

They were supported by a cast of thousands - too many to name but please know we are grateful for their support.

We are also grateful for support from Henry at All Seasons Tree services

We have also received the time and effort of Graham Evens and Richard Pemberton and Alex Prujean and Jessica Smith in the design of our carpark upgrades.

In short, the Center is in good heart and fine fettle with a full complement of enthusiastic and capable board members and management staff supported by a robust accounting system resulting in a healthy financial position. We are looking forward to a year full of exciting changes and challenges and intend to embrace them all.

**Paul Mason**

**Board Chair, 2019**