



FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE JULY NEWSLETTER

Community Centre News - straight to your inbox

UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Like most businesses, COVID-19 has put a financial hole in our operations, as lockdown prevented people from participating in the numerous gatherings and meetings normally held at the Community Centre. But so far so good; Centre Manager Siv Fjaerestad has kept the wheels from falling off, and even seen an increase in Centre use.

However, none of us is out of the woods yet. The country is relying on establishing a watertight border, which cannot be maintained indefinitely. Overseas, the disease is entering a 'new and deadly phase' according to the WHO, and previously cleared towns and cities are re-imposing stringent lockdown measures while the finger-pointing continues.

Meanwhile, the local Community still needs support – now probably more than ever – and the Featherston Community Centre continues to strive to be representative of our diverse community, providing a venue and facilities that can be used to promote health and wellbeing, to foster good will and harmony, or a space for people get away from home and focus on working remotely.

The Centre is working with Pae tū Mōkai Featherston Medical to provide car parking and a thoroughfare to the community accessing these facilities and services, including support services based at the Centre.

Our team have developed a plan that will improve the Centre facilities, both externally and internally, to ensure this community resource is relevant and usable for many years to come. This includes safer vehicle and pedestrian access, a bigger Toy Library facility, better privacy in consultation rooms, improved internet access, heating, wiring, and plumbing.

To achieve the full plan means embarking on a series of facility upgrades and renovations. This plan also requires a significant investment compared to the fiscal value of the property, but, we believe it will be of inestimable worth in terms of the establishment of a district 'Wellness Hub' – a moniker coined during our deliberations – that would be available to all in the wider community.

The Community Centre Board, who are also residents of Featherston and who are committed to supporting our community, are exploring a few options to achieve these goals, one of which is to encourage the SWDC to invest heavily in the development by endowing the property to them.

Other funding streams and sources are also being explored and will be carefully analysed as information becomes available. If community consultation will help in that decision, we will fully utilise the rich array of communication channels that Featherston has to offer.

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We are also exploring other methods to improve and support the Centre. Many community groups benefit from the generosity of their residents in lasting gestures of goodwill: would you consider leaving a bequest to the Community Centre in your will? Do you have some funds that you would like to use to support the lives of all South

South Wairarapa residents through community-wide health and wellbeing?

Perhaps you could assist in other ways – the Community Centre Board can always use people with relevant skills. If you can help in any way, you can contact our Board chair in confidence at chair@featherstoncommunity.org.nz.

Paul Mason

Featherston Community Centre AGM 2020

It is that time of the year again! The Featherston Community Centre Charitable Trust invites our community to help us celebrate another big year for the Centre at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 30 July.

At the AGM, you will get a chance to meet with the Board of Trustees who will share the financial and performance statements for the past year. (Agenda papers will be available at featherstoncommunity.org.nz shortly.)

There will not be any resolutions or voting at the AGM, but there will be opportunity to ask questions, to learn about the Community Centre, and to share ideas for the future.

The annual report will be followed by guest speaker Aruni Dias, and music by Moana Leota, who grew up in Featherston! A light supper will be provided. RSVP to info@featherstoncommunity.org.nz by 24 July - we look forward to seeing you there!



FEATHERSTON
community centre

Featherston Community Centre Charitable Trust
Annual General Meeting 2020

30 July 7-9pm
14 Wakefield Street

Annual Report
followed by Guest Speaker Aruni Dias
Music by Moana Leota

Agenda papers available at
featherstoncommunity.org.nz
and at Centre office.

Light Supper provided.

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New Activities at the Centre!

Spontaneous Dance & Live Acoustic Music events!

Our community keeps growing and we are chuffed to welcome **Spontaneous Dance classes with Pavla Miller**. This class will run every first and third Monday of the month, starting 6 July, and is based on practices of conscious dance like Core Connexion (Ingrid Kölle) Open floor and 5 Rhythms.

Pavla has over 10 years of experience with conscious dance and life long experience with dance itself. Together you will explore, using dance as a tool to become present with your body, to ground yourselves, to release any tension and simply to feel joy from moving.

Spontaneous dance is suitable for everyone. There is no age limit. There is a subtle guidance throughout the class but there are no steps to follow. You are encouraged to listen to your body and move as much or as little as you feel on the day.

Also joining the Centre on 2nd and 4th Monday nights is **Featherston Music Club**. For more info on both of these events, please check our website.



Spontaneous Dance

General housekeeping

Please remember to turn heaters to 1.5 after your class or activity. Please also return any rooms that you have used to the condition in which you found it.

We also ask that you always sign the visitors' book and record how many people attended your classes and activities. It is essential for the Centre to have a record of who is in the building in the event of an emergency. It also helps the Centre to have complete user numbers when we apply for funding.

New Zealand is still in Alert Level 1. This means that all classes, groups, events and activities can run as normal. At Alert Level 1, venues such as the Centre no longer need to record people's movement on their premises. But, we can help you keep track of where you've been by using the NZ COVID Tracer QR code poster displayed in our hallway. We also encourage to apply good hygiene practices!

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Matariki ki Paetūmokai

We are proud to support the Matariki ki Paetūmokai Featherston Matariki Festival over 12-19 July, which will celebrate the start of the Māori New Year, and provide opportunities to learn about Matariki and its cluster of nine stars - each star holds a certain significance over our wellbeing and environment, as seen from the Māori view of the world.

This wonderful community initiative is instigated by Fab Feathy and supported by local schools and many community groups.

The Featherston Community Centre will host a Matariki "Crafting Bee" on Tuesday 14 July, where everyone is welcome to join us in drawing, colouring in and making Matariki decorations and decorate the Centre with these. (You will be able to make one for yourself or collect it later.)

Other events will include kite flying, kai, workshops and discovering the Matariki cluster. Make sure you check the programme (we'll make sure to share this website) to find out when all the different events and workshops are happening. To RSVP to the events or if you have any questions, please contact Sophronia Smith on sophronia.s@fabfeathy.nz or 021 382 062.

Matariki is the Māori name for a cluster of stars which is visible in our night during June/July, signalling the start of the Māori New Year. It is a time to celebrate new life, to remember those who've passed and to plan for the future. And it's a time to spend with whānau and friends - to enjoy kai (food), waiata (song), tākaro (games) and haka.

Our tūpuna (ancestors) would look to Matariki for help with their harvesting. When Matariki disappeared in April/May, it was time to preserve crops for the winter season. When it re-appeared in June/July, tūpuna would read the stars to predict the upcoming season - clear and bright stars promised a warm and abundant winter while hazy stars warned of a bleak winter. Because Māori follow the Māori lunar calendar, not the European calendar, the dates for Matariki change every year.

To learn more about Matariki, head to <https://www.twoa.ac.nz/hononga-stay-connected/te-iwa-o-matariki>