

Featherston Community Centre



2021 Annual report from the Board Chair

Welcome:

2020-21 has been an interesting year. But aren't they all? Every year brings with it high points and heartaches, but the trick is to keep going, try to keep your eye on the ball.

The board of trustees has had a few changes over the last 12 months. Such is the lot of volunteer organisations. Personal priorities change, situations evolve, and people tire of long hours and years of service.

I would particularly like to thank Patsy Wooles for her continued participation and commitment to the FCC board, only recently taking the opportunity to retire once we exceeded the minimum required number of board members.

Our current line-up is –

Chair: Me (Paul Mason)

Treasurer: Paul Mason (acting treasurer), assisted by past treasurers Maud Bot and Graham Evans

Secretary: Cheryl Linge

Board members/Trustees: Michael Schaefer, Ian Grigor, and Rupert Watson.

While this does satisfy the constitutional minimum, we are keen to expand our numbers. We are especially keen to find someone who will fill the role of treasurer.

The Community Centre has also welcomed Jo Baldwin as the Centre Manager.

Jo brings a wealth of experience in business and marketing, with a history of community service and focus. She has already made her mark with her bright personality, innovative thinking, and shrewd judgement.

Our major achievement has been the building upgrades, made possible by the award of a grant from the Provincial Growth Fund. Our District Council put us forward as a worthy project among several other likely contenders and the PGF board chose us to share in the growth initiative.

We were able to resurface the carpark and introduce some cohesive and functional design, replace the garage roof, upgrade our electrical fittings and re-line most of our internal walls – providing better privacy and a more professional appearance – and cap that off with repainting inside and out.

The South Wairarapa Rotary Club has donated money for extending the re-lining project to help us provide a facility to cater for COVID- and well-being related services that would not otherwise have been practicable without the improvements in privacy and security their assistance will provide.

You will also know that we have welcomed the DHB COVID vaccination centre. They have set up operations in the Matai, Kauri and Rata rooms at the center. This has severely impacted our ability to service larger groups, but Jo has worked with other local facilities to ensure our user groups are housed somewhere suitable during this time of national need. Past board members Nik Rilkoff and Fiona Waller were instrumental in shepherding that arrangement into being – as I was not keen to subject the Community Centre to the degree of upheaval and disruption that will inevitably result. However, the need is great and in retrospect, I think it was the right move. I believe Jo’s comprehensive care and cajoling will win out, and that next year, we will be able to re-group and perhaps even emerge stronger for the experience.

There are more plans in the pipeline –

- Toilet area renovations – floors and equipment,
- Kitchen layout and hardware
- Entranceway layout and office restructuring.

We have already secured some of the funding for these operations and will seek what we don’t already have from other funding partners.

Our increased visibility, in large part thanks to the Vaccination centre and to the co-located medical Centre will be enhanced by the erection of clearer signage in both English and Te Reo Maori.

This elevated profile should translate into greater public awareness and – as soon as we can service the need – higher take-up of our facilities and services.

The future of the Centre is bright. Our finances are in good shape and our people are keen and capable. We look forward to serving the community to the best of our abilities well into the foreseeable future.

Paul Mason

Chair

Featherston Community Centre Charitable Trust Board