

Vision Motueka newsletter #53
June 2018



First, my apologies for not having sent any newsletters since February. No, we haven't gone into recess, but we have narrowed our work focus this year, one result being that work on our main project has been largely behind the scenes.

Why so few projects now? Well, following our AGM in February, we were left with just four trustees, one of whom will be leaving Motueka before the end of this year. Despite our enthusiastic appeal for some new trustees with new ideas and energy, only one person put himself forward and this has resulted in one project possibility that he is working on (see the final paragraph below). For the other three of us, it was time to accept that if we are to remain an effective community-led organisation tackling tasks outside the remit of other organisations, we need to focus mainly on one major task. So that is now on continuing and building further the enormously challenging project we began two years ago - the **Youth Employment and Skills Training (Yeast)** initiative.

This is a very challenging piece of work. Under the leadership, determination and stamina of Linda Glew, we've spent about two years of fact-finding, network-building and strategising, and a clearer picture of a way forward is emerging. We've built a small team, led by Linda and under the Vision umbrella, which involves some key partners in the youth engagement and training sector who are far more experienced than ourselves and are also passionate about the potential of Yeast.

The Yeast team is now driven by the awareness that the answer is not for us older adults to create what we think is a sound work/skills training environment and culture; but rather for us to create a youth leadership team made up of people aged around the 18 to 25 year bracket and help *them* create that desired youth engagement and training environment. We adults so often think we know the answer(s) to job creation for youth, but then wonder why it rarely works. Vision Motueka understands that such initiatives must be *youth-led*.

Fortunately - and as a result of creating a clear, workable and accountable strategy - we have been able to persuade several funders to support us financially. As a result, we have contracted a part-time (about 10 hours a week) Youth Engagement Worker through to at least the end of this year, starting June 5th. Tasman village resident and experienced youth project leader Anna Hughes has been tasked with a clear set of activities designed to build up a core group of young leaders, a team which will have access to funds to enable a range of chosen (by them, not by us oldies) events, seminars and activities that will offer a range of opportunities for youth in a sustainable, rather than one-off, manner.

That's the plan anyway. Hopefully you will see more about Anna and her work in coming weeks, in print and social media or other events or meetings. As she builds the youth-led framework, we will ensure updates on our website and Facebook page, and will be backing her 100 per cent.

Part of the Yeast package will probably be the local Cisco Networking Academy being set up by our new trustee, Raig Kleinhans, to teach and qualify young people in the growing computer network sector. This project is still in its very early stages but Raig is working hard to bring together the required equipment to enable this free service to selected young people interested in an IT career.

David Armstrong, Chairman,
Vision Motueka Development Trust
Ph: 03 528 4046