

Vision Motueka Development Trust

Chairman's Report for 2015

Presented by David Armstrong to the Annual General Meeting, February 3rd 2016

The Vision Motueka "journey" is certainly proving an interesting one, especially as we enter a new year and consider taking on new challenges. The group as it ended 2015 is hugely different to the one which carried out several exciting projects in previous years. Since our formation in 2012 we have become accepted by many in the community as a group determined to make a difference long-term and prepared to back words with actions.

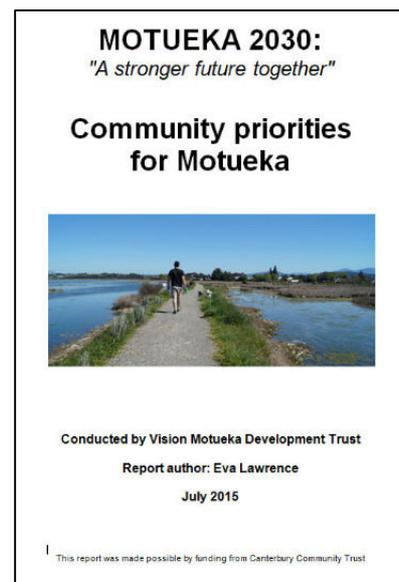
But for us things are changing now. By asking the questions, listening and researching, we are discovering what our community really wants, not what we *think* or *hope* they want. And as a charitable trust we are also pushing the boundaries of our human and financial resources. One of the biggest tasks for the incoming board is to align and allocate what resources we have with what projects and initiatives will provide the most bang for buck in the medium to long term. In other words, like so many other energetic community groups in this town, we are challenged to work out where to put in our efforts and spend our limited resources for the greatest good of the community.

Achievements of 2015

1. Undoubtedly the highlight of last year for us was running the **Motueka 2030** community consultation programme throughout the month of May. Around 1000 Motuekans took part in one way or another, many people in multiple ways; telling us and each other what we thought would make the community stronger into the future. We held a half dozen public meetings, ran a large-scale questionnaire, fed discussion on a very active Facebook group, and so on. In the end we published a comprehensive document of our findings, which we hope will be used well into the future by us as well as our town and community planners.

2. The year began with a **reconstitution of the board** to include representatives of leading community organisations, with the aim of building potential partnerships or at least creating effective development networks. I believe this has worked pretty well, making our monthly board meetings very purposeful and often productive.

3. We oversaw the painting of the **fourth mural**, themed "Our river", last year. This involved considerably more work than previous ones on the organisational side. And with no strong desire from anyone much to design and organise another one, we've decided to put the murals project on the back burner until such time as someone offers to manage another one. Our goal here is to spin the project off to a separate mural entity, to carry on the work in their own way.



4. Spinning off to a separate entity also this year will be the Motueka **Music Network**, a website-based group promoting and building the local music scene. Vision was the umbrella group to get this started over three years ago, and our board has decided it's time for it to stand on its own feet.
5. The **Volunteers Awards** and celebration ceremony in 2015 had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers confirming their attendance. We tried an experiment last year - to focus just on volunteers in sports clubs and organisations - but it clearly didn't work, so we plan to return to the original community-wide format this year.
6. Vision last year became a partner in the **swimming pool** fundraising project. We had been helping informally during the first half of 2015, but once we saw the strong results in the Motueka 2030 findings in favour of a covered swimming pool, we decided to make our involvement in driving the project development strategy a bit more substantial. We are now part of the organising committee, along with a team of pretty dedicated volunteers.
7. Another strong finding from Motueka 2030 was the desirability of an annual signature event for Motueka, which led to discussions about a **harvest festival**. Vision is now a leading contributor in a community team which will put together the first of these events in Autumn 2017. This will be a large community celebration of what our district does best - use its top-quality water to produce bountiful, nutritious food. We hope that it will become an iconic event for which Motueka will be famous.
8. Vision continues to be involved in strategic planning of a **new library**, the anchor facility of a community and visitor **hub** on the side of Decks Reserve. With so many potential partners and contributors involved, plus our reliance on TDC, progress continues to be slow, but be assured that it is not stagnant and our involvement is very significant and demanding.
9. In 2015 we were a leading facilitator and contributor to the Council's submission to government to roll out **ultrafast broadband** to Motueka. This project is dormant now awaiting government's decisions, still 4 - 6 months away, but some thought is still going into developing a digital strategy for the town regardless of the outcome of this government initiative.
10. Even though it is no longer a Vision Motueka project, the FreshFM radio show, "**Motueka Moments**" continues to broadcast thanks to the dedication of one of Vision's trustees, Liz Salt, who does regular interviews with local people about their role in the community.
11. One improvement that I've been pleased to see through 2015 has been our formal and informal **engagement with iwi**. Two very busy iwi leaders, Joy Shorrocks and Rima Piggott, have contributed constructively to our board's deliberations as representatives. Furthermore, the hui at the marae as part of the Motueka 2030 month was a huge success with nearly 100 attending and excellent presentations. Maori leaders said it was the first time ever that their five entities were present at a hui together.
12. It is also worth mentioning that our organisation's public profile and **level of engagement** with the community increased markedly in 2015. Our Facebook page, and especially the 760-member "Motueka 2030" Facebook group, have become busy with useful discussion of ideas and projects. Our website visitor numbers rose dramatically during the Motueka 2030 month, and we have been given the opportunity to submit columns to the local newspapers.

All these projects have involved a range of people on project teams, some being our own trustees but most being other people working with us on specific projects that interest them. My thanks to all those within and outside our numbers who have contributed time and effort to one or more of these projects.

Plans and Goals for 2016

We are at yet another turning point in our evolution as a community development trust. The new board will start with the results and analysis of the Motueka 2030 consultation, and work out which projects to continue, which to partner on, and which to postpone as just too hard at present.

Clearly we have committed ourselves to continue with the big projects we're working on - the swimming pool, the harvest festival, ultrafast broadband and the library/hub. We will need to ask and answer the question about whether we can take on any more.

One thing I personally would like our new trustees to think about further is how to continue and build community engagement - be it regular forums, public meetings, visiting other groups who may appreciate our help, community issues surveys and the like. We started out as a very much grassroots-oriented group with our small public meetings, but last year these diminished, apart from the intensive work around Motueka 2030.

Also, I think we need to be asking should we, and do we want to, get involved in making submissions to local government and central government on plans and issues that directly affect Motueka, and other general advocacy work.

I want to use this report to put the following suggestion on meeting schedules to the new trustees. As I've already alluded to, our vision and work is developing in two streams - (a) specific **project execution** and (b) **community engagement and vision development**.

I believe the former - project execution - is a matter of governance for the whole board, including trustees and the six partner representatives, because most of our active projects are being done in partnership with other groups or people. I also feel that how Vision Motueka engages with the community and develops and implements the vision we hold as our mission or kaupapa is a matter primarily for our trustees. Our partner representatives, after all, are representing their own organisations which have their own philosophies, and it is to those philosophies that they must be true.

I therefore propose that our full board - trustees and partner representatives - meet *every two months* rather than monthly, and that their main task is to monitor projects and the health of the full trust including its finances. And I propose that the seven trustees meet *every other month* without the partner representatives, to consider policy, how we engage with the community, and how to continue the development of our vision for the future of the town. This suggestion will be debated by the trustees, with the goal of a decision before our next full board meeting.

I trust the new board, be it under my chairmanship or someone else's, will look forward to the challenge of lots of strategising and decision-making in 2016. My thanks again to board members for their contributions to our work last year.

David Armstrong, Chairman