

## Vision Motueka Development Trust - Chairman's Report for 2017

*Presented by David Armstrong to the Annual General Meeting, February 14th 2018*

2017 was another quirky year in the evolution of Vision Motueka over the past six years. This time last year we were considering closure due to a lack of trustee numbers. Following that meeting, five people signed up for the remainder of 2017, all providing valuable input. But four of them have decided not to stay on, due to other commitments. And so we're back to a state of "will we or won't we" keep going. And key to making that decision is again to examine the role of Vision Motueka in our community.

When we started out we were essentially a project-oriented group, with projects - such as the painting of the four big murals - chosen on the basis of benefit across the community and the fact that no other group was taking them on. Then back in early 2015 we ran the "Motueka 2030" month of community consultation and conversations about the future of the town. That process resulted in a report that included a prioritised list of projects and development areas, based on what people told us. It gave the Vision board a steer on what community priorities we should tackle if we could, along with others being done by other groups, or which were outside our capabilities.

2017 saw the completion or progress on some of these:

- We continued a sustained lobbying position on advancing the building of a new library.
- We provided some expertise and manpower to assist the fundraising programme for an indoor swimming pool.
- We initiated and oversaw the running of the first Motueka Kai Fest, to the point where a new independent Trust was able to take it into the future.
- We ran another successful Motueka Volunteers celebration event in October.
- We took slow but steady steps toward developing a strategic framework and initiating some actions in the Youth Employment and Skills Training (YEAST) area, which Linda Glew will explain further shortly.
- We maintained the Community Contacts database on our website.
- In the environmental sustainability arena, we facilitated and umbrella'd the Motueka Boomerang Bags project. That is now being spun off to an independent organisation.
- We continued to moderate and administer the popular "Motueka 2030" Facebook group, which still enables and hopefully encourages conversations about local issues affecting our town's future. It now has 912 members.
- We publicised the Whanganui-Motueka ferry proposal and ran a well-supported survey to gather opinions on the proposal from people at the Motueka end.
- And just sneaking into the 2017 year, we lined up this meeting to introduce the co-working and training hub initiative, which will surely improve business and employment prospects for the town, another issue highlighted by the Motueka 2030 report.

A number of people, Vision trustees and others, contributed to these items of work, and on behalf of our board I want to thank all those people for their enthusiasm, passion and ideas. And it is worth noting that most of these activities were a direct result of the key findings of the Motueka 2030 findings and priorities.

## Plans for 2018

So what will occupy us in 2018? This will largely depend on whether or not we are able to sign up a few more people to join the board of trustees, and what particular interests or passions they may bring. And if you think you would like to offer your services, please get in touch with me or Linda.

But with the numbers we have at present, we will remain in the position to focus on these activities:

- Our governance and participation in the YEAST project will continue until such time as the team or activities stand on their own feet. This includes raising funds, guiding the sub-projects and making or facilitating the connections with partnering organisations.  
It's worth noting that, as with the Kai Fest project, this approach highlights a key aspect of the role of Vision Motueka - which is to work with people outside of our formal structure in order to seed and foster new community-led projects, usually to the point where they can either carry on independently or be gently laid to rest if they're not working.
- We are formally listed as a stakeholder to be consulted in the feasibility study and community consultation process for the Motueka Library development project, so we will continue to push for a good quality and timely solution to this long-running issue.
- We are likely to provide some support for the Hive project, particularly in the overlap of that project with our YEAST work -- training opportunities for our young people.
- We continue to play a small role in the governance of the Kai Fest Trust.
- We will host another Volunteers Celebration event in October.
- Any other suitable and achievable projects brought to the table by new trustees.

Finally a word about the structure of Vision Motueka Development Trust. One change which the trustees decided on late in 2017 was to abandon the board structure of the past three years which provided for the inclusion of non-trustee representatives of six major community organisations - our Ward Councillors, the Community Board, Keep Motueka Beautiful, Our Town Motueka, Ngati Rarua and Te Atiawa. That expanded board worked really well for some time, but last year it was felt that as the number of active Vision projects decreased, the trustees needed to concentrate more good governance and project seeding with specific emerging groups.

One unexpected bonus of having reps of other organisations at our board meetings was that it provided a forum for them to catch up with each other and become more aware of what each was doing. In a town the size of Motueka, I believe it is very important that the leaders of influential groups work together more to make the most of the potential overlaps and synergies in their work. Therefore Vision Motueka in 2018 hopes to host more community meetings and forums to look at new initiatives and problem areas -- to at least ensure that community conversations have a forum. Tonight's meeting about The Hive is an example. But to do this effectively requires us to have a few more helpers to set up and run these public meetings.