

## Vision Motueka Development Trust

### Chairman's Report for 2014

Presented by David Armstrong to the Annual General Meeting, January 29th 2015

Last year Vision Motueka took another big step in its evolution, with some notable achievements and a big structural change that we hope will provide the platform for taking on more ambitious and challenging tasks.

This time last year we were feeling quietly happy that we had kicked off some interesting community projects such as the murals, Volunteers Awards, our own radio show, the music network and the community group contacts database. At the time we had little inkling of the big step up of 2014 - and the new responsibilities that come with accepting these challenges. But also the opportunity to make some real differences.

#### Achievements of 2014

In terms of public recognition, the highlight of the year was winning the Arts and Culture category at the mid-year Trustpower regional Community Awards. It was immensely satisfying to see that others were "getting" what we have been trying to do and why.

The third mural, telling the story of horticulture in the Motueka district, has received universal acclaim. One of the highlights for me was the contributions by a good number of wonderfully engaged and friendly young people from other countries who were working in the area and who turned up weekend after weekend to add their bit to our town. With them, the regular volunteers over those two months formed a team that was great to be part of.

A silent little worker for us is the online database of contacts for Motueka community groups and clubs, which is being downloaded about 60 times a month by people searching for such information. It's little things like this that help build a better connected community.

The annual Motueka Volunteers Awards event in September was again a much appreciated event, with 10 well-deserved awards made. Harcourts as the new naming rights sponsor helped greatly with the cost of the event.

The Motueka Music Network website is now running smoothly and is also being used heaps by people linking up with musicians, teachers, venues and events around the town. The events calendar will soon be the first go-to resource for local music. In 2015 the team will provide several music-based events such as a "meet the teachers" day.

Another big boost for our visibility, and an indicator of what can be done through forward thinking, was the Motueka Economic Summit ("Toward 2030") held in August with the help (indeed, the suggestion) of David Ogilvie and other supporters. The event, attended by about 125 people, triggered many conversations and connections. Some will fizzle away, but some will

build, and in fact a few are already. I'm very confident that more work along these lines will be explored and developed in 2015.

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.

One other activity in 2014 was carried out largely behind the scenes but it has already shaped Vision Motueka version 2.0. One of our supporters, Chris Salt, wrote a paper for consideration as a strategy for the next few decades, and such was its clarity and logic that the paper was presented to, and endorsed by, the Community Board.

This led to an independent steering group to investigate how the plan could be implemented, which in October led to Vision changing its formal name to "Vision Motueka Development Trust" and to reconstitute its Board to include representatives of five other key community-leading groups. This, we believe, is the basis for partnerships on some more challenging projects and initiatives, which we hope will lead to the Motueka community taking more control of its own future under the banner of: "If the people of our community want and need something that Council cannot or will not provide, we must do it or make it happen - and pay for it - ourselves".

### Plans and Goals for 2015

Look back at that quotation in the previous paragraph. "If the people of our community want and need something ..." How *do* we know what our people want for the next 15 years (the time scale used for the Economic Summit)? How can we ascertain what we *need*? How can we discover and distill what people see as a successful Motueka in 2030 and beyond? Until now the main way of answering these questions has been by the Council telling us what it thinks we want and need, and asking us to make submissions in their Annual Plan process to accommodate our own opinions - usually on specific projects.

Vision Motueka 2.0 intends to find some answers to these questions, as best we can. We have a planning team that is preparing a community-wide information gathering programme involving as many people as possible and using as many tools and formats that are practicable. We're calling it "Motueka 2030", continuing the 2030 theme used for the economic summit. We have the money to fund a contractor to work with the team for five or six months. It will all begin in March and build up over a few months, with May being the main month for a variety of community activities, events, meetings and surveys to get as much information as we can from as many people as are willing to take part.

It won't be a perfect process. Some of our methods will provide great results, others may not be so successful. But at the end of it we will have the largest possible collection ever of opinions and beliefs gathered together and available, online and hard copy, for anyone including other community groups to read and, if they wish, to use for their own planning. Some of it may be used

by community groups to lobby Council on issues that concern them. Certainly our Ward Councillors themselves will be able to judge from the results what Motueka people *really* think about some long-term issues. And if nothing else, at least the town will be thinking and talking about their own visions, just like many have been since the Economic Summit.

Meanwhile, our existing projects from Vision Motueka 1.0 will continue. Another mural will be painted this autumn, using the theme of "Our River" and painted on the Whitwells Menswear wall. Again we hope for a good crowd of volunteer painters. As already mentioned, the Music Network will be more active with some events aimed at getting more people involved in music. The "Motueka Moments" radio show on Fresh FM will continue with two new presenters, playing every Wednesday at 1.40pm and Saturday at 4.40pm. The Volunteers Awards will be run again, though this year hopefully not so much in competition with other events. And Vision's part in the Community Christmas Dinner will continue and perhaps be strengthened.

Finally, it is our intention to host a number of public meetings, based around guest speakers but also including community forums. The speakers chosen will present some sort of community project they are involved in, which may not have been widely publicised but is of interest to many people. And the community forum is like a continuation of the meetings we held for the past two years when our seed group gathered to hear ideas from people suggesting projects or initiatives that they thought had merit.

So 2015 will be a busy and hopefully interesting one for Vision and our helpers. The end results may be different from what I've outlined here. Who knows? - the "Motueka 2030" process may unearth some great new initiatives that no-one saw coming. That's certainly what happened in 2014!

Once again, my thanks to everyone who contributed in some way to our work to date. None of this would be possible without you.

David Armstrong,  
Chairman