



4 April 2014

Tena koutou

This is an update on the Featherston Community Centre's meeting on 13 March 2014 and the Community Development Scheme (CDS) application.

It was great to have so much support and hear so many ideas at the House Meeting. All of the comments gathered that evening are attached at the end for you to read.

Following the meeting, the Board and Centre Manager met to discuss how we could successfully apply for CDS funding. The CDS fund is to employ a community development project worker who can facilitate the process of building community capacity and capabilities.

We were excited about the opportunity to apply for the CDS funding. The process of developing the CDS application helped us to review our current finances and the aims of the Centre. We realised that the CDS project required us to have a significant and ongoing operational funding for the next 3 years to align with the 3 year CDS grant. We could not use the CDS grant for the day to day operational costs of operating the Centre (power, rates, insurance etc). We are in a good financial position for the next year, but will enter into another funding round over the next year to maintain the current level of funding for the day to day operational costs and managers salary. We determined that we should not apply for the CDS funding when we could not guarantee the level of operational funding over the three year life of the CDS funding to operate the Centre on a day to day basis.

We are proud that the Featherston Community Centre is owned by the people of Featherston and has been in existence for over 20 years. We have just finalised a 3-year Strategic Plan (see attached). While we have determined not to apply for the CDS grant, we still want to broaden the focus of the Centre beyond 'keeping the doors' open to becoming a community hub and broadening the services, groups and individuals who know and use the Centre, strengthen links between people and groups, and expand the range of services happening at the Centre to better support the community.

We will continue to run regular House meetings to obtain and test ideas, promote community networking, and report back on what the Centre is doing etc.



We are now considering the ideas you provided us, and developing an Action Plan to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan in response to this new information. We look forward to reporting back to the community about the Action Plan at the next House meeting.

Thank you again for contributing to the House Meeting. If you have any further thoughts or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact us. Please refer to the Minutes of the Meeting at our new website listed below.

Kind Regards

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Featherston Community Centre House Meeting 13 March 2014

Attendees: Paul- Family Works, Dick Smith, Lee- Featherston Community Board, Katie Beatie- Featherston Community Board (FCB), Emily Greenberg- Featherston Community Centre (FCC), Wendy- WAIREAP, Graham Evans- Treasurer FCC, Rupert Watson- FCC Sheridan Evan, Heather March, Colin Roberston St John , Colin Olds- FCB, Stella, Mary Mason, Rowena Finlay- Featherston Own, Stella Smith- Featherston's Own.

Apologies - Gary Thomas, May Brown, Dean Davies, Margaret Craig, Vivien Napier, David Montgomerie, Julie Riddell, Odette Rowe, Judy Thomas, Steve Crew, Ron Mark, Julia Reed, Peter Jackson.

Community Development Scheme (CDS) – Grant

- CDS Grant available for 3- years at \$80k per annum
- Purpose of CDS grant- encouraging community to find new ways of working together and finding ways to become self sustaining and resilient.
- FCC wish to apply for this grant and we want to consult with the community and obtains ideas from the community on what the Centre should focus on and how we should proceed if we were to obtain the CDS grant .
- We propose to develop a framework and running meetings to assistance in the development of the community scheme. Ideas tonight will help inform ideas for the application we propose.
- If we are not successful in obtaining the CDS grant- we want to continue to move the FCC beyond focussing on 'keeping the doors open' to strengthening the FCC role as a hub for the local community.
- The purpose of this meeting is to obtain ideas from the Community on what the FCC could do to strengthen its role as community hub including ensuring the Centre is well known, used and valued by the community.

Next Steps

- Please refer to the notes below for the ideas that were developed at the meeting.
- The FCC is now considering the ideas provided to us and are developing an Action Plan and look forward to reporting back on the Plan at the next House meeting (date to be confirmed).



House Meeting feedback & ideas summary:

SOUTH WAIRARAPA NEEDS:

- Focus on the Future and the Now
- To see how FCC facility in Featherston can benefit them
- Youth focus and Drop in Hub
- Amalgamated sports (Rugby, soccer, cricket, etc)
- Advocacy and facilitation of communication between Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough, and outlying and rural townships too.
- Drive in movies (like Australia)
- Training
- A community notice board – Featherston’s Own offers part of the ATM window for a start
- Capture the history of the Centre & “Wake up Featherston” movement!
- To all together take out a whole page of mid-week, Wai-Times, etc, and advertise Featherston – meeting needs
- CAB & Budgeting services
- Get involved with the centennial celebration of WWI 1914-1918
- Driving lessons for youth, immigrants, etc
- Activities for youth, especially NEETS (“Not in Education, Employment, or Training”)
- More social events for youth (more pride also)
- Commercial kitchen
- A common source of information for funding ideas and opportunities. “How to” workshops for groups
- Cultural activities & learning
- A greater sense of belonging (or just an increase)
- To engage all the other SW towns; small and large
- Foodbank
- Expansion of available services;
 - Heartland service centre
 - Government agency outreach
 - Housing NZ or other org helping people find accommodation



SOUTH WAIRARAPA STRENGTHS:

- Proximity to capital
- Featherston: centre of roading network, 45 minutes to Mt Bruce, 45 mins to Lake Ferry, 45 mins to Wellington
- Accessible by train; transport hub
- Two iwi who work well together
- We have home stay's for small groups – need contact venues (?)
- Strong identity: Know who we are
- Can do attitude
- Craft groups have knitted slippers for local kids and kids in Christchurch
- People
- Youth + Aged
- Churches that talk together and work together
- FCC: facilities have no stairs and a fire place: ie, good accessibility for all, and warm!

IDEAS FOR HOW TO SUPPORT & PROGRESS OUR STRENGTHS

- Keep thinking of the Big Picture.
- With collaboration & relationship building, organisations and projects will strengthen.
- "Together we can do it better"
- Featherston Community Centre has been able to fundraise \$110k over past four years for building maintenance alone.
- Cooking & IT skills
- South Wairarapa - strong sense of community, lots of different groups with wide range of passionate interests working to either better the community as a whole or just have fun with likeminded people.
- By 1 July we need to apply to FCB for \$\$ - pitch for specific project. Talk to Lee.
- Sunday market. Herbs. Fresh produce. (Like MBA)
- Conferences & packages for smaller groups.



IDEAS FOR MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS:

- Conference facilities, data show, etc
- Polling booth
- Run surveys
- Improve our ability to be a place to take refuge.
- Run Basic Health Screenings using student nurses from Masterton Polytech
- Talk to AoG Church about their facilities to get ideas for improving FCC facilities
- Working more with Turret House/Presbyterian Support; maybe there's something that they'd like FCC to do, and vice versa.
- Plantings on verges; fruit & olives, etc
- Needs painting (Centre interior/exterior?)
- 2 x printable/electronic white boards
- "Open group or Stand Day": SW groups present & exhibit what they do/activities : fundraise
- Youth Drop In Hub
- Communication to "Hard to reach" people/communities
- Decent community noticeboard with
 - New supermarket
 - Library
 - information centre
 - Stella's Winter happening (more info?)
 - Centre needs
- Measure impact that each group or service has in the community
- Identify how many people in SW with various needs; f.ex cerebral palsy, autism, arthritis, obesity, diabetes, autism, etc
- Publish & help the community understand what each group does, and eligibility to participate. That way, if people feel they are eligible to participate then they are eligible/able to.

OTHER FEEDBACK & CLARIFICATION:

- Ensure Featherston Community Centre is the facilitator of the project, not The Project.