



Featherston Community Centre House Meeting **Tuesday 14 May 2013** **7.30-9.30pm**

~ Brief Summary ~

We had a great turn out of ca. 20 people; providers, partners, centre users, and “new to towners”. The Centre Manager and FCCCT board feel that the meeting was a success, and hope to continue to do these meetings on a quarterly basis.

The agenda included an overview of current and future key projects; including toilet upgrade & fundraising, website upgrade, signage & main-street presence/thoroughfare, “Providers pack” and new lease agreements, and volunteering at the Centre (incl. a variety of casual & regular volunteering opportunities, and as board members and sub-committees members opportunities).

We asked the participants to mingle, discuss and respond to four key questions. Below are the questions asked, and all responses & feedback to these questions.

Finally, we summarised feedback to the questions and noted further suggestions; these are framed below in “take homes”.

We look forward to reviewing all the feedback, fast-tracking those projects/ideas that are already partially up and running, and providing a solid start to those new projects and ideas that are feasible to get on their feet in the next two months. We look forward to working with Wairarapa REAP, as well as key individuals, providers and organisations, and the broader community, who expressed interests in getting these projects up and running. As we progress, we aim to keep developing our community, community feedback and networks, and pursuing a greater range of the below listed projects and ideas.

All attendees and anyone else interested will be able to receive this summary document on e-mail or in hard copy at the Centre office. Contact Centre Manager on fsn.comcen@xtra.co.nz or 06 308 8239 if you attended the meeting, but have not received this summary. If you did not attend the meeting, but would still like to receive a copy of the summary, please also contact Centre Manager.

If you would like to receive an e-mail or phone invite about the next Featherston Community Centre House Meeting please let Centre Manager know.

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting, and shared your great ideas !

Centre Manager
Siv B. Fjaerestad



WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE CENTRE?

1. Great place to meet people
2. Good art and craft area
3. Location, location, location – Featherston is the centre of the lower north Island for regional and business meetings
4. Great car park
5. Open spaces, good light and fireplace
6. Ambience – mix of art, lights, warmth and history
7. Murals
8. The general space
9. Book swaps

WHAT WOULD IMPROVE YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE?

1. Creating a friendlier welcoming area. Presently looks a little office like. Needs to be opened up.
2. Garden or a play area, less asphalt
3. Wood for fire
4. Cleaner premises
5. Warm toilets, and cheer the toilets up!
6. Outside light to work at main entrance
7. Lights that you can turn off from the entrance of the hall – not have to walk all the way down the dark corridor to find the switch!
8. Parking and signage confusing
9. Access from main road
10. Security lights in car park – sensor lights
11. More appealing entrance and outside area
12. Landscaping – play area and planting
13. Water cooler/filter
14. Fundraiser thermometer
15. A 'here's what we've achieved, here's what we need' space

WHAT SERVICES, CLASSES OR WORKSHOPS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE RUN FROM THE CENTRE & WHY?

1. Employment seminars; ie workshops on job searching, CV development, financial incentives, etc.
2. Intro to Featherston – or “Get to know a local” programmes/events (especially good for new people who have recently moved here)
3. Disability support and exercises for disabled people
4. Practical/technical workshops, such as “Metal-cutting with a welder”



5. Evening classes after last train: art, yoga, dance, book clubs
6. A "Happy" group, where people can try out all sorts of different things such as healthy sports (tai chi, pilates, yoga, etc) musical(line dance, play instruments, etc)
7. Computer course; incl. photo shop
8. Play Centre for under 5s

ONE GREAT IDEA FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CENTRE:

1. Solar panels on the roof! Wind Turbine! Centre to generate own energy!
2. Marketing – getting out to Featherston people and commuters
3. Choose a quarterly theme, where workshops, training, speakers, target that theme (f.ex: Boost employment! Boost crime reduction!)
4. Do a community survey at train station/4 square/Fresh Choice/Bowls/RSA/schools/etc to understand our community today – who & what is Featherston?
5. (Related to 4 above) Ask the community the right questions to: a) develop a network of skills & b) use the Centre as a network for the community
6. Community Garden
7. Commercial kitchen – with classes in all sorts of cooking (when not hired out)
8. Annual Fair – fundraising – fundraising stalls & 'bric a brac'
9. Window display in one of the empty shops on main street or bottom half of Kia Ora Dairy windows.

TAKE HOMES :

1. E-mail(?) not always appropriate – maintain the Phoenix page, but perhaps a rethink on layout, content?
2. Three monthly progress meetings seemed popular idea
3. Identify and establish relationships with the networkers, the movers and the shakers, those on the cusps on many networks. Find ways to work together with them to expand and identify networking ideas, strategies, projects, community needs. With their buy-in, more projects may be able to really take off. Mana-to-mana communication needed at first with these groups, individuals. (Lucy Gower, visiting UK not for profit specialist)
4. Speed dating – match volunteer skills to volunteer roles; funders (including local businesses that want to be community minded) to projects; networking; knowledge share (Wendel Richardson, REAP)
5. Beelah Bleakley, Rupert Watson, Julia Reed, and Stella Smith expressed an interest in getting a community group get together off the ground. How can we do this, and who is interested in driving the project?
6. Volunteering – Julia Reed expressed a view that many volunteers don't know what they are letting themselves in for, what's expected of them. How do we overcome the barriers to volunteering? Lucy Gower suggested establishing

- volunteer agreements in which what's expected is stated by each side and for how long.
7. Build up relationships with organisations in town like the library (see 3 and 4 above) (Rupert Watson)
 8. We need to put the Community Centre at the front of people's minds. How? (Julia Reed)
 9. WaiReap – Wendel Richardson informed the meeting that Reap can help get classes etc off the ground. They can give groups the skills and knowledge to do that. They want, and have the resources, to empower people. Need to maximise these opportunities.
 10. Lianne Karaitiana (Workwise) – vulnerable people, e.g. unemployed, will not necessarily reach out to services provided at the Centre. Need to develop, or help providers develop, strategies that overcome barriers to access.
 11. (Related to 11 above:) Lianne Karaitiana (Workwise) – WINZ already have a presence at the Centre, but what other services can WINZ offer from the Centre? Can we approach them to offer help to work schemes?
 12. Explore the 'foodcycle' model (UK food growing, awareness initiative) (Lucy Gower)