



# FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE MAY NEWSLETTER

Community Centre News - straight to your inbox

## A note from Siv

One of the things that I have been missing the most, during lock down, is hearing the easy and cheerful chatter that so often comes from behind the doors of the Kauri room at the Featherston Community Centre, and the friendly greetings and catch ups that happen in the kitchen, hallways, and offices at the Community Centre.

Closing down the Centre when the country moved to Level 3, and moving our business to "working from home" was surreal, mundane and practical: packing bags and folders, backing up files to the cloud, emailing our Centre users to let them know, printing signs for the doors, tidying, cleaning, sanitising.

Sitting in our home offices, we have been "together, apart", and while there is certainly still plenty to get on with, it is so profoundly quiet. There is no-one arriving, visiting, leaving, running, popping by and saying hi, forgetting their lunch, checking on their dog or asking for some advice or picking up a flyer in the hallway. There is no meandering to and from spaces to take part in one of the many scheduled groups, events, activities and meetings.

A bustling beautiful 'interactive' community that just days before were coming to the Centre to use a room, to meet someone, to learn a new skill, to chat or play a game or make something, to share information, experiences, companionship – everyone is now at home.

As I reflect on the many people who use the Centre, and the many ways in which it is used, it really brings home to me that the Centre is not just a facility, but it is a place of great purpose: a thriving and bubbling hub of activity, a platform for networks and creativity, and a springboard for so many valuable community relationships and interactions.

While there is no lack of chatter, noise, activity, comings and goings behind the doors and walls of my home office (my young children are already highly adept at and almost fully fledged professionals at providing this service!) it nevertheless lacks the generous, considerate, sharp-as-a-tack and extraordinary conversations and moments shared by people of all ages and all walks of life.



I have come to realise that although the rooms of our Community Centre are modest, they give life and reason to so many intentions, and are small or large building blocks in the intricate pattern of so many of us as we go about our lives and purpose.

In the meantime, we are preparing to reopen when we are given the thumbs up by the government. Rest assured we are doing everything that we can to get ready for welcoming the community of users back in, and helping you get stuck back into your projects, support groups, meetings and activities.

Guidelines and information around arriving at the Centre, accessing and using different rooms while social distancing, and ensuring everyone is safe, will be provided on our [web pages](#) and on our noticeboards. We will send out a special notice to our mailing list and of course on our facebook.

Meanwhile, if you need information about groups, activities or services that are normally offered at the Centre, or online alternatives, you can head to our [home page](#) and as always [our facebook page](#) provides an informative and interactive online space for the community.

If you have any questions, or suggestions on how we can make you feel comfortable, please don't hesitate to e-mail us on [info@featherstoncommunity.org.nz](mailto:info@featherstoncommunity.org.nz)

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## Featherston Medical is moving!

...right next door to the Community Centre! This is, as far as I'm concerned, one of the greatest things since sliced bread and we bid them a very warm welcome to our neck of the woods!

It's certainly been very exciting to see the new medical centre build develop throughout the last 6 months, and it's been a humbling and inspiring experience to see the build coming to completion even during lockdown.

On Monday 18 May, Featherston Medical will re-open in their brand new premises! Big heartfelt congratulations to Harsha, Aruni and the team, for working so hard, on all fronts, to look after the wellbeing of the community!

Please be patient during their move - note that Featherston Medical will be closed on 15 May, and

their phones will be diverted to another medical centre for emergencies only during this day.

Featherston Medical will have a number of car parking spaces on the Centre grounds allocated to their clients, as well as space for surgical bus services and of course ambulances. Next time you arrive at the Centre please look for guidelines around parking and remember to drive slowly and carefully. You will surely also notice that our large gates on Wakefield Street have been removed to create a two lane access and drive way to and from the Centre car park and the new Featherston Medical at 14 Wakefield Street.

The Centre is looking forward to having Featherston Medical as our neighbours and to work together to support our community!

# WE ARE MOVING

Featherston Medical will be closed on Friday 15 May 2020. Our phones will be diverted to another medical centre for emergencies only. We will re-open on Monday 18 May 2020 at our new medical centre, entrance from 14 Wakefield Street, next to Featherston Community Centre.

*Thanks for your  
co-operation*



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## Centre User Stories

Lock down forces us all to think differently, and many good ideas and initiatives are born under great pressure and limitations. We are pleased to announce a partnership between the Featherston Community Centre and Happy Tuesday Design Studio.

Happy Tuesday is introducing the Centre to a few human-centred design methods, that help us understand the various Community Centre user groups needs. During Lockdown a Centre User Stories Working Group was set up, and a series of small workshops were facilitated by Cheryl Gallaway, Director of Happy Tuesday.

In these workshops we have been working to identify the user experiences, especially for seniors that use the Centre, ensuring that they have a voice, and examining their experiences and stories to help identify the many changes felt by seniors in the community.

We hope this work will enable us to identify opportunities for the Centre to continue to provide a place for seniors, as well as for the wider community, throughout and after Covid-19.

Also as a result of these workshops, the Centre is excited to launch a wider user-experience survey in which we'll welcome people's stories and thoughts. Head to the [Featherston Community Centre User Survey](#) to do the survey.



It was with great disappointment that the Featherston Community Centre Board of Trustees had to decide to postpone the Featherston Art Sale 2020, scheduled for 7-10 May 2020.

We are monitoring the development of the COVID-19 pandemic and the government guidelines, with the intention of rescheduling the Art Sale later this year.

Our artists in Featherston and Wairarapa are an important part of our community and we know that they put a lot of time and energy into their work.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters for their enthusiasm and support of the Art Sale event in years gone by and for years to come. In the meantime, we're thinking about how to continue supporting art in our community - watch this space!

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## Finding our way forward together

As with many charitable organisations and trusts around the country, the Featherston Community Centre runs on grants from trusts and foundations, as well as koha and room usage fees. The lock down and its flow-on effects have affected our income dramatically, and in the coming weeks and months we'll be exploring ways to financially sustain this safe, happy and welcoming Centre.

## Please consider a regular donation to the Centre

The Centre is closed due to Alert Levels 3 and 4. Without rental income and koha, the Centre will suffer.

Please help us by making a tax-refundable donation on our GiveALittle page or deposit a donation directly into our bank account: Featherston Community Centre, 38-9005-0917230-00 and help us be able to continue looking after the community in the future!

If you would like to claim donation tax credits, please contact us on [info@featherstoncommunity.org.nz](mailto:info@featherstoncommunity.org.nz) and provide us with your contact details so that we can send you receipts to confirm your donations.

Thanks!!!

## Can you volunteer?

The Centre is always looking for new volunteers - are you a friendly face that could help welcome visitors as they return to the Centre in Level 2?

Have you got a skill that will help us support the community of users? If you have a background in finance, administration, communications or IT, get in touch! We would love to welcome you to the team.

Contact [info@featherstoncommunity.org.nz](mailto:info@featherstoncommunity.org.nz) to apply.

## Featherston Knitters staying busy during lockdown

The Featherston Knitters may not be able to meet up every Friday during Lockdown, but they certainly don't stay idle for that reason.

Check out their wonderful creations in the newsletters on our news tab <https://featherstoncommunity.org.nz/news>

As we move forward, we really hope to hear from more of our groups and see what they have been up to. Please send us photos of your projects, a little bit of information, your newsletters and so on, so we can help spread the word and share it with the community- these are the things that warm our hearts, give us inspiration and courage to keep on going!



Love these cute knitted toys from Sandra!

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## NOTICE BOARD

To get the most up to date information, head to the [covid19.govt.nz/](https://covid19.govt.nz/) website. You can sign up for daily news of COVID information here:  
<https://confirmsubscription.com/h/i/ADC3F2ED21BCFD3C>

The Wairarapa Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)'s Facebook page is a central point for all official information relating to COVID-19 in the Wairarapa:  
<https://www.facebook.com/COVID19Wairarapa/>

If someone is struggling to access services or to understand what help is available, then call 0800 239 247, and the team at Wairarapa Emergency Operations Centre.



## Featherston Foodbank

By donating to Featherston Foodbank you can make a real difference to people's lives. Financial donations can be made to Sth Wai Foodbank Coll: Kiwibank 38 9020 0577385 00.

If you need a food parcel, call 022646372 or email [feathfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:feathfoodbank@gmail.com)  
A delivery or time for collection can be arranged.

## Narcotics Anonymous

To see the latest information about NA online meetings, go to the "Meetings" section of NA website: [nzna.org](http://nzna.org).  
For information about online meetings and support in Featherston, you can text or call Sharleen 021 767445 or Blair 027 4462220

## Alcoholics Anonymous

Featherston's AA group that normally meets at the Centre will still be meeting online at 7.30pm on Wednesdays. If you want details of how we do this, please contact Katie on 0273144887 or John on 02041462157

## Women's Refuge

By booking and donating a hotel room via the Women's Refuge Booking platform, <https://www.safenight.nz/> you can help ensure that someone whose home is not safe, can still take refuge in a safe place.

## Hospice Wairarapa

If you or someone you know is facing a terminal illness during this difficult time of isolation, and you experience those moments that catch your breath - don't hesitate to contact Wendy, Wairarapa Hospice's Clinical Services Manager (Mon, Tues and Thurs) on 0273983857.

## Feldenkrais

During Lockdown Rupert Watson is teaching classes online via zoom. Head to [movewithease.co.nz](http://movewithease.co.nz) and e-mail Rupert for details.

## Yoga online

Odette Rowe is offering online yoga classes weekday mornings and Monday evenings: go to <https://nzyogasnug.com/classes/> for more information and to book.