

AGM
Paihia Village Green
25 September 2011

Chairman's Report

Welcome Ladies and Gentleman, Boys and Girls

Welcome to the first of what I am sure we all hope will be the first of many AGM's. It is certainly a privilege to be able to provide you with this Chairman's report.

I would like to briefly cover who and what Focus Paihia is, we are a Community Trust with the intention of becoming charitable. We applied for charitable status almost a year ago and are still working through the process. Next meeting of the board of the Charities Commission is the end of Oct and we expect to have an answer shortly after that. The beneficiaries of the trust is the community of Paihia. We have quite an extensive trust deed for those who are interested available for viewing online.
http://paihianz.co.nz/images/uploads/static_content/0819_Focus_Paihia_Trust_Deed.pdf

How was the Trust established

Approximately a year ago after nearly 1.5 years of community discussion and work which I am sure most all of you are aware of it was decided that we had a group of people and we called ourselves Focus Paihia but in reality what were we? So the vehicle of a community trust was chosen as the best mechanism to move forward. An initial board was essentially shoulder tapped to stand as the foundation trustees to get the trust established with a mandate to hand over to a full board within 6 months. Those trustees were Jack Poutsma, Heinz Marti, Rick Codlin, Geoff Williams and myself as Chair. Tania McInnes was also heavily involved in the establishment of the trust. The trust deed was created by Nicole Prosser from Law Direct free of charge and I would like to thank Nicole at this point for all her efforts. Once we had a trust in place the trust deed states how the permanent trustees are to be appointed. These trustees are appointed by 5 representative groups within the town and they are

- Business Paihia (2 Representatives)
- Paihia Districts Residents and Ratepayers Association (2 Representatives)
- Paihia School Board of Trustees (1 Representative)
- Haven of History (1 Representative)
- Local Iwi (1 Representative)

The Interim Trust contacted these groups and asked them to provide representatives to stand on the Trust. In November last year the interim Trust handed the reins over to the current Board of Trustees.

I would like to acknowledge the hours and hours of work by the Interim Board, put into establishing documents such as Strategic Plans and SWATS to provide a guideline and a base to build from for the current board. Thank you very much to both Jack and Heinz who made such a great contribution and elected to not stand for re-election at that point.

I would now like to introduce our current board who is representing our community

Geoff Williams - Secretary and Chair of PDRRA
Sarah Greener - Treasurer and Chair of Business Paihia, Director of The Rock Cruises
Rick Codlin - Chair of Paihia School Board of Trustees
Scott - Sutherland - Director of 35 Sth
Andrew Thompson - Haven of History
Iwi - Still awaiting a final decision on representation.

Tania McInnes - General Manager Focus Paihia

These people work tirelessly as volunteers and give more hours than they probably care to count. While Tania is a paid GM there are many hours that just don't seem to get charged to the Trust. I would like to thank each and every one of these dedicated people for their time and effort.

Moving forward

As of November last year 2010 we had the trust as you see it today, only one small issue we had no money. FNDC generously provided \$15,000 in seed money to allow the trust to make a start, and it is with great pleasure that I can report on what a great start it has been.

Community Design Workshop

A working party was established between Focus Paihia, FNDC and NRC to look at the best way forward for designing the future look and feel of our town. I am sure many of you viewed the great designs that were displayed in the Mall last June submitted by members of the community. We asked for the public to make comment on these designs and we collated that information. It is really interesting how many of the same wishes and goals were expressed.

This was the final piece of the community consultation that we felt we needed to appoint an urban designer. The working party met in July and decided on the best way forward to appoint that designer. This was conducted via expressions of interest from designers and then the Trust panel interviewed these designers and I am very pleased to announce that we currently have a great group of designers working in Paihia this very weekend from Stephenson and Turner, the lead designer is Ken Stanton.

On October 26 we will present to the community a draft plan which will run to Oct 30 for comment. The final design being unveiled at the end of November and will be presented to council at that time as well.

This is a very exciting time and is the culmination of 2.5 years of consultation and is something the community can be very proud of.

The funding for this project is from the 2010/2011 targeted rate in Paihia.

The David Engwicht Workshop

This was a two day workshop held at the beginning of August on the Art of Place making. This project was the result of Sarah Greener receiving a ticket to attend one of Davids workshops in Auckland via FNDC. After completing this workshop Sarah returned to Paihia convinced that this is what Paihia needed. I would like to thank Sarah for her tireless efforts in putting this program together. We managed to make this workshop available for all members of the community and council free of charge.

This was without doubt one of the most enlightening and informative workshops I have ever attended. The object was to show communities what can be achieved with great community spirit and co-operation.

David is an inspirational person and broke the workshop into groups, each group worked on a project that they felt they could achieve. \$5000 was made available to the idea that was voted the best and that group got to carry out the project.

The "Bay Belle" project is now complete and is a true success as a centre piece for Paihia where people can interact and enjoy sitting and meeting other members of the community.

The main object was for the community to work together and meet people that they have not met before. This was achieved in spades as we had over 100 people involved from all walks of life over the weekend of 17/18 September. The bonus was the great space we can all be proud of.

Following on from this we now have a group of very enthusiastic people called the PPP (Paihia Phantom Placemakers), who are vowing to continue with the other ideas that came from the workshop so watch this space for future developments!

The funding for this project came from FNDC and The Eastern Community Board and Focus Paihia.

The Village Green

FNDC and The Eastern Community Board offered the management of the Paihia Village Green to Focus Paihia. The Trust accepted this generous offer as now most of the income from the Village Green remains in our village for ongoing community projects.

This has been a large task in organising the operation of the village green on cruise ship days and I know Tania has put in many hours working on this project and has taken many phone calls at all hours of the day and night relating to this.

This management program will go towards the ongoing funding of Focus Paihia and the projects we wish to run.

The Paihia Op Shop

This is another great initiative that came from the David Engwicht workshop. The shop is due to open on Tuesday the 27 September. This project has been run by Kath and Geoff Williams and many other volunteers who have donated time and fittings, thank you all. All donations of products and time are gratefully received and all proceeds go directly to Focus Paihia for the benefit of the Paihia community.

Anika Whapshott from Blah Blah marketing managed to secure rent free premises for the next three months while we trial the shop, thanks to Malcolm from Whangarei Agricultural and Pastoral Society.

The Paihia Beach Cleaner

A huge thank you to Pub Charity for their generosity and vision for this project. This undoubtedly will touch almost every person in this town at some point. Who doesn't live in Paihia and visit the beach at some stage? After last summers mess on the beaches this is going to be amazing, we not only have one but two machines.

The Beach Tech Marina and building is entirely funded by Pub Charity. The David Brown tractor which will scoop up rubbish and drag or push any really large logs out of the way was initiated by Keith Hammett, Bob Glen and Murray Jenkins who raised enough funds locally to purchase the tractor. They have announced that the tractor will be transferred to Focus Paihia and Keith has volunteered to run the entire project for the Trust. Thank you all very much for your efforts gentleman.

Operations will start as soon as the resource consent comes through from NRC, the beaches that we intend to clean are Te Ti Bay and Paihia Beach. How often the beach cleaner is used will be entirely dependant on how often it is needed.

Paihia is the first town in Australasia that we are aware of that owns and operates it's own beach cleaner. All other cleaners are operated by councils or private companies contracting to councils.

Waitangi National Trust have made a building available free of charge while we arrange the construction of our dedicated building for these machines, thanks very much.

Where to from here?

This year will conclude with the presentation to council of the "Paihia master plan", the intention is that things will continue but at a less hectic pace over summer while we deal with the peak season, next Autumn however we will start again.

The largest project next year will be securing funding for the development of this area in line with the master plan. I have been asked how we expect FNDC to pay for this development in our village, the short answer is we don't. Focus Paihia has recognised that if we want to make a change within our village we need to make that change ourselves, there are many funding methods that have been discussed and looked at. A final plan has not been decided on, however I would like to stress that it is not the intention of the Board to saddle the rate payers of this area with the entire burden of this development either.

We will need to work even more closely with our local and regional councils as well as NZTA and even central government to make this happen. It is important for Paihia to also be aware of how positive the FNDC staff and councillors have been in supporting the projects that we have undertaken. Without their support very little could have been achieved and we would like to publicly thank them for this.

Small projects will continue to roll out thanks to the PPP and I have no doubt they are going to do an amazing job.

I would also like to apologise to all those people that have lent a hand, offered advice or supported a project that I have not thanked. The fact that I am sure to have missed people out is testament to the sheer volume of people that have got behind this town, thank you all.

Finally a very big thank you to all the people of this area for your support in turning out to these events. Just by being here it helps the Trust in knowing that there is great support from the residents for what we are trying to achieve.