

Community Newsletter

August 2011

"...A community needs a soul if it is to become a true home for human beings. You, the people must give it this soul."
Pope John Paul II

Welcome to the first Focus Paihia Community Trust monthly newsletter. This is a community newsletter, in which we are keen to share with you what the Trust are up to, along with outlining other items of interest to the wider Paihia community. We trust that you find this informative. The **Q** means we have a question for you and would like your feedback, so email in with your thoughts to focuspaihia@xtra.co.nz.

SO WHO IS THIS FOCUS PAIHIA?

Following, in a bit of a nutshell, is an outline of who and what Focus Paihia (FP) is. Now set up as a Community Trust, (waiting to hear on charity status) FP is made up of representatives from a number of community groups in Paihia. This includes Business Paihia Inc., Paihia and Districts Residents and Ratepayers Assoc., Paihia School Board of Trustees and the Haven of History. An Iwi representative is currently being appointed.

FP came about around mid 2009 when a few locals got together and decided it was time to stop complaining about the state of Paihia and to do something about it. It was acknowledged that the community needed to take charge, rather than waiting for someone else to do it for us. Over the next six months the community came together and worked on a vision and key objectives, which were launched in 2009. Details of these can be found online at www.paihianz.co.nz.

In 2010, things got a little more formal and around June an interim Trust was formed. Strategic aims were put in place and a number of actions were agreed upon to move forward. The current Trustees were confirmed in November 2010.

All the work (and there has been plenty of it) has been done on a volunteer basis, until recently, when a part time general manager was appointed. The Trustees are still volunteers.

One of the main aims (and the reason that FP was initially set up) is to address the look and feel of Paihia.

We are at stage two of this process. See the Urban Design section that follows. It is also our aim to encourage a more united, inclusive community, as we want to be an exceptional place to live, work and visit.

We want to celebrate who we are by respecting our past, thriving in our present and creating our future. Some of the objectives are to create a contemporary, maritime village that embraces its cultural heritage and protects its natural environment, be world renowned for providing exceptional visitor experiences, has a prosperous year round business environment, ensures that infrastructure complements and enables sustainable development and to be a connected community where we all feel safe, included and valued.

Projects may include such things as supporting more sustainable business practices as to encourage more stable employment opportunities, particularly for our young local people.

To be an exceptional place we have to work together and be supportive and proactive. We need to have a plan, we need to be flexible and we need to be open to new ideas. To do this we have to listen and respect each other's opinions. We don't all have to agree but we do need to come to a point that we can move forward with a united front. Magic things will then start happening.

So, we are now at the next phase, whereas we have done lots of talking, a bit of planning and have collected information on where we want to be as a community. It is now time to start acting, while still doing a bit of talking to ensure we stay on track.



Q We need a name for our newsletter, send us your ideas?

URBAN DESIGN PLAN FOR PAIHIA

We are now at Stage Two of developing a look/feel for Paihia. Expressions of Interest are currently being called for from professional designers. One designer will be appointed to develop two to three draft designs for Paihia, based on the information the community has already provided.

We plan to present these draft designs to the community later in the year. After some feedback, a final design will be developed. The final design will be launched and celebrated before Christmas!

FOCUS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

Focus Paihia is working on the following activities over the next five to six months:

- Stage two of the urban design campaign;
- The Village Green management;
- Encouraging better communication;
- Working with our partners, such as Far North District and Northland Regional Councils, the Eastern Community Board and Far North Holdings Ltd;
- Continue work on a BOI marketing initiative;
- Look at encouraging more community events;
- A hospitality training initiative.

FUNDING

So, how are we paying for things? Firstly, FNDC provided a grant of \$15,000 to the Trust. This money is going towards day to day operational costs, such as producing this newsletter, management and generally making sure that we keep momentum going. The Paihia targeted rate is currently covering the urban design development and will likely be invested in future development.

Proceeds from the management of the Village Green will go towards day to day operations and projects (if there is enough!)

FOCUS PAIHIA DATA BASE

We have started a database of names and email addresses. The database will be used to send out information relevant to the Paihia community (such as this newsletter). If you are keen to be included, please email your details to us at focuspaihia@xtra.co.nz. If you are included and don't want to be, just let us know at the above email. Note, we do not plan to give the database details out to others.

FACE TO FACE

Tania, our general manager, will be at the Paihia Library on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, from 2pm to 4pm. This is an opportunity to pop in and have a chat. You might want to share an idea, clarify some information or just catch up. All welcome. Note, this is open forum and appointments will not be taken. Commences Tuesday 23 August.

FACEBOOK

Yes, we have a facebook page, 'Like' us and keep up to date at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Focus-Paihia-Community-Trust/142920462436123>.

REFERENCE GROUP

To ensure we have good feedback from the community, we are keen to set up a reference group of sorts. The Trust is currently represented by five community groups in Paihia. However, we know that many of the community are not represented in these groups, such as youth, stay-at-home mums and dads and the artistic sector.

Our thoughts are to meet with like-minded individuals on a quarterly basis, to share news and encourage dialogue. If you would like to be involved, please make contact by emailing focuspaihia@xtra.co.nz.

COUNCIL NEWS

Under this section we plan to highlight any Council news that is relevant to Paihia. The news this month:

Council officials Bill Hutchinson and Alistair Wells have been leading a group of locals in setting up a Paihia and Environs Civil Defence Community Response Plan. In essence, this identifies the responsibilities of various agencies such as the Police, Fire Service, St John

Ambulance and Coastguard, various local bodies such as Fullers, Far North Holdings and the Paihia I-Site. It sets up a Residents Representatives Response Group to assist in disseminating warnings through established lists and contact groups. An A5 sheet about Civil Defence Emergencies will be distributed to all households in the next few weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are planning on putting together a community **Street Party** on a sunny Sunday afternoon. It will be held prior to Christmas and will be a chance for us all to get together, have a laugh and a catch up. The plan is to all bring something to share, arrange some tunes and a few activities for all ages. Participation is encouraged and free. Anyone wanting to get involved please make contact. Watch this space for developments.

After a very successful inaugural event in 2010, the **“It” Festival** is back and will celebrate much of what makes our home so special. Get more details at www.paihianz.co.nz, tickets are now on sale.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES



David

Enwicht has been in town inspiring and sharing his philosophy on good community development techniques. There was a great turnout from the local community (thank you) and the elected members and staff of FNDC. The Eastern Community Board and FNDC provided funding, of which \$5,000 will go towards a community project. Watch this space for more details.

Little projects are already springing up from the ideas gathered at the workshop. There’s now a place to rest outside the Outrigger Motel and Mark is looking for old jandels (?), so please drop them off at either Bay Adventurer or Abel Tasman. You can then ask him what they’re for ☺.

FP is now managing the community aspect of the Village Green. The first focus has been the **Arts & Crafts Market** on ship days and public holidays. A committee has been set up, represented by a stall holder, a Paihia retail person and FP. Stall holders now need to have their product certified to ensure that the person selling the items is making at least 50% of the product. Stalls will also be limited to 36 per day.

We are working on developing a **hospitality/retail training scheme** before Christmas. There are two aims. The first is to lift our general customer service and the second is to up-skill ‘new’ workers to the area on the Bay of Islands in general. It is recognised that all our workers are ambassadors for the Bay of Islands and we want to ensure that, no matter who you are, you have a base knowledge which you can use promote the Bay in an enthusiastic and correct way.

Beach Cleaner



Thanks to Pub Charity, Paihia will be the first town in NZ to own its own beach cleaner. FP has purchased this machine and it is due to arrive in September. We are planning on having a bit of a celebration and will invite you all to come and check it out in due course.

Rotary Club of Bay of Islands celebrates 50 years of service to the community in 2013, and to celebrate this achievement this community-minded and proactive group has chosen to beautify the Te Haumi flats beachside area. They have set up a Trust which includes 3 members who are not Rotarians but who represent the community, and have consulted very widely with 17 groups and organisations. Their Vision Statement is “to create an attractive, people-friendly amenity area that provides a welcoming and instructive entrance to Paihia

with full acknowledgement of its historical and cultural importance." Their plans are still at the formative stage but it looks to be a very exciting development which will certainly enhance the area. If you would like further information, or want to get involved, please contact either Trust Chair Richard Green at 4027860, or Club President Frank Leadley.

DID YOU KNOW?

Henry Williams was a drawing master at a girls' school before coming to Paihia.

That a book of wartime memories about the area was published just this last weekend. It's called 'Barbed Wire on the Beaches', by long-time resident Maureen Yorke. If you would like a copy (cost \$30), phone Maureen on 402-7839 or try the bookshop.

TRUSTEES:

The trust deed is online at www.paihianz.co.nz.

The current Trustees are:

Grant Harnish, Chair (Director of Salt Air)
Geoff Williams, Secretary (Paihia R&R)
Sarah Greener, Treasurer (Chair of Business Paihia Inc)
Andrew Thomson, Trustee (Haven of History)
Scott Sutherland, Trustee (Owner of 35 Degrees)
Rick Codlin, Trustee (Paihia School Board of Trustees)
Tania McInnes, general manager

TRUSTEE PROFILE:

Each month we will tell you a little about one of the team. First up is Scott Sutherland, one of the newest members to the Trust.



Scott represents Business Paihia Inc. He and his wife, Lee-Ann, operate 35 Degrees Restaurant and Bar. Scott worked in the finance and investment industry in Christchurch in the 80's and then spent eight years in Africa as Managing Director of a hotel-resort. He and his family moved back to New Zealand in 1996, where they ran charter boats and accommodation in the Bay of Islands. In 2003 they purchased 35 Degrees.

One of Scott's main aims of being on the Trust is to see a more united and prosperous Paihia.

YOUR FEEDBACK

This section will share thoughts or ideas from the community, so please send yours in. No idea is too small or too silly. Email focuspaihia@xtra.co.nz.

Q Is there any other topics you would like to see included?