

**DANNEVIRKE COMMUNITY BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2003 TO JUNE 2004**

This Dannevirke Community Board report is a summary of activities the Board has been involved in during the 2003-2004 year. This includes ongoing relationships with the community and responding to issues brought to the Board's attention, as well as matters raised by the Board. The Board has continued to work with the Council, providing a link to the needs of the communities of the Northern Ward. Significant projects have included the fencing of the BMX Reserve, formulating a plan for the future of the Dannevirke Town Hall, and also planning for the Dannevirke Adopt-A-Highway Project. Also significant in the past year was response to the Council decision to disestablish Community Boards. While outlining many Board activities, this report does not cover every aspect of the Board's work.

Community Forums with opportunity for individuals and community groups to speak to the Board. These forums were a new feature of Board meetings during this period.

Community Groups: consultation, attending meetings, guest speaker at meetings, representations of issues to the Board. Some of the groups involved are:

- Dannevirke Information Centre Management Committee
- Dannevirke Friends of the Town Hall Group
- Dannevirke Radio
- Dannevirke Brass Band
- Dannevirke Highland Pipe Band
- Carnegie Community Centre
- Akitio Community Association
- Road Safety Committee
- Tararua Safer Community Council
- Dannevirke Traffic Flow Improvement Committee
- Our Town Dannevirke
- NZ National Horse & Pony Show Assn
- Norsewood Promotions
- Manawatu Sports

Funding for Community Groups:

- General Assistance Grant Scheme applications considered and decided.
- One off applications considered and decided.

Other Community Issues:

Appreciation to all concerned in providing community/traveller assistance during snow storm (July 2003).

Appreciation for work done during and following the February 2004 floods, including dedication to the reopening of the Manawatu Gorge.

Questioning the legality of the Tararua District Library Charge instigated in 2003.

Safety of missing toby covers on footpaths was raised with recommendation for Council publicity on the issue.

Representation from Tararua Outdoor Festival, with Board feedback provided.

Suggestion of a Dannevirke outing for flood victims. Submissions to local authorities in region and service organisations, and potential hosts. Victims Support took up the suggestion.

Dog fouling of railway reserve in Stanley Street, with Board recommendation of receptacles bins, which cannot be approved until the new Dog Control Policy is adopted.

Safety on pedestrian crossing in Dannevirke was raised by members of the community. Discussions held with Road Safety Committee and Police Education Officer.

Assistance with surveys on the use of seat belts and bike helmets in the Dannevirke community.

Problem of skateboards and bikes on footpaths repeatedly raised by the community. Council response is for complaints to be made to the Service Centre.

Dangerous road / pedestrian crossing surface with request to Council seek repairs by Transit; Transit have not repaired after several months.

Discussions held with Tararua Forest Ltd concerning the need for improved screening and wind protection of the Dannevirke cemetery western boundary, as well as permanent screening of SH2 from the forestry block at Mangatera.

Community concerns regarding flood danger on Weber Road has lead to permanent warning signs being erected.

Support for Dannevirke primary schools' desired outcome in the network review of local schools, with Board representation to the Ministry of Education.

Proposal to advance stage two of the Upper Domain Playground; costings yet to be done.

Domain Triangle Proposals:

Community representation received concerning the Domain Triangle historical significance and future use of the area.

Further representations received concerning a proposal to erect Viking Icon on the Domain Triangle.

Board reaffirmed its earlier decision to recommend to Council that the Icon proposal be declined due to significant public opposition to the project.

The Board recommended the original landscaping plan for this area be completed.

Representation from joint Iwi representatives on future use of Domain Triangle, with Iwi sentiments conveyed to Council.

Railway Crossings in Dannevirke: Following the community repeatedly bringing the issue of the dangerous state of the Dannevirke railway crossings to the Board's attention, the Board unsuccessfully sought improvements through Council. Resolution was eventually achieved by direct representation by the Board to the Minister of Transport.

BMX Track Reserve Safety Fencing: Following consultation with residents, and after failing to gain Council funding in previous years, the Board sought costings for various options for the project. Board funds were applied to the project and the work completed.

State of Footpaths in CBD: Following repeated concerns from the community and past request to Council for this issue to be addressed, Council is now trialling cleaning measures.

Akitio Reserves Proposals: Inspection of coastal reserves and consultation with local residents. Submission made to Council, emphasising erosion concerns and the potential effects of freedom camping, on both the environment and local residents. The Council decision reflected the Board's submission.

Dannevirke Town Hall:

The Board led a community Steering Committee to develop options for this venue.

The Board worked with the Steering Committee to develop a business plan, which the Board approved.

The Board hosted a presentation to Council and the Dannevirke community for the future vision of the venue.

Adopt-A-Highway Project:

The Board developed and approved a landscape plan for the beautification of the northern entrance to Dannevirke.

Negotiated contract with Transit NZ.

Progressed project including costings.

Plants ordered ready for planting August / September 2004.

Wackrow Memorial Youth Award: The annual awards were organised by the Board, with a Board member on the judging panel.

Dannevirke 125 Years Tree & Capsule Plaque: the previous Board failed to have the plaque made and installed. This is now achieved.

Consultation re First Immigrants Tree and Plaque (old Hospital): possible relocation of tree and plaque was discussed with Scandinavian Club members and the new property owners.

Citizenship Ceremonies: attendance when local residents gained NZ Citizenship, offering congratulations to our “new Kiwi’s”.

Submission to Council on Draft Gambling Policy**Submission to Council Long Term Community Plan:**

Sewerage charge (pan tax) not considered appropriate as it was proposed; Council amended its proposal.

Coast Road sealing must be programmed into plan; Council have now programmed this.

Roadside vegetation control requires better programming; Council recommends specific problems be notified to the service centre.

Targeted Rates should be considered for local developments; the incoming Council will conduct a rating review.

Footpaths in CBD require cleaning programme; Council are now trialling cleaning.

Submission on Draft Dog Control Policy: The Board had input to the draft policy, with the Board’s recommendations for dog free areas and dog exercise areas being incorporated into the draft plan. A further submission has strengthened the above, with also a need for signage and dog excrement receptacles.

Other Feedback to Council included:

Stock Underpasses maintenance costs.

Pahiatua Track status and need for Transfund funding.

Review of urban mowing and street cleaning programmes.

Plans to improvement the Stairs/Rawhiti/Queen Streets intersection.

Submission to Horizons Regional Council: Request for Regional Council to assess the need for public transport services for Dannevirke residents.

Representation Review: Much energy and time was committed to the struggle to retain Community Boards in Tararua. A public consultation meeting was held. Submission made to Council, supporting the retention of community boards, including suggestions for improved rural representation. The unfortunate decision by Council to disestablish Boards caused the Board to detour from its core functions, and also created a rift between the Board and Council, which the Board has since worked hard to re-bridge. Council subsequently overturned its earlier decision, with Community Boards retained.

Hearings and Tribunal Committee: Representation on resource consent hearing.

2003 Community Boards Conference: report presented to the Board with recommendations of means to improve the Boards performance, and strategy relating to the representation review.

NZ Community Boards Executive Committee – local representation for Zone Three Boards at national level.

Chairmanship: Lynne Simmons resigned as Chairperson October 2003. Shirley Aitken elected new Chairperson.

Board Vacancy: Board resolved to not to fill vacancy following resignation of Lynne Simmons from the Board, as no one had expressed an interest in being appointed, with the exception of a past candidate, who no longer met the citizenship status required.

Summary:

The Board has had a busy year, with much work still to do before the end of the current Board term in October. This review of the past year's work is indicative of the activities of the Board during its term since October 2001, activities which extend well beyond the formal Board meetings. It is hoped the presentation of this report will provide potential Board candidates at the 2004 Local Government Elections with an idea of the types of activities future Board members can expect to be involved with, should they be elected to the Dannevirke Community Board. Further, this report is for the information of the communities of the Northern Ward, whom this Board has represented, and for the elected members of the Tararua District Council, with whom this Board has worked on behalf of our communities.