

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2014/15

I have much pleasure in presenting the Chairperson's Report for 2014/15.

I would firstly like to thank the Committee for your support and assistance during the year when I was on leave of absence due to family illness. I can say confidently that we are now "out of the woods".

The Committee has continued to work enthusiastically on achieving our set goals and visions for Enterprising Taumarunui Inc. The security camera project being priority has almost come to fruition with the last of Stage Two being completed at the end of May.

My sincere thanks to Johnny Dryden who has been the force behind this project. Not only in making it happen, but also in personally financially supporting the project. The security camera project continues to be highly praised by the Police in apprehending and securing evidence against offenders. Income from billboards, membership and donations from the community and the willingness of the Lines Company to sponsor the installation of the cameras have made it possible for the project to be completed. Our grateful thanks goes to all who have worked towards this project in some way or another.

The website has continued to be progressed with David Partis and Rebeca Van Orden overseeing the content of the two websites:

www.taumarunui.co.nz (the "LIVE" or community website)

www.forgottenworldexperience.co.nz (the "VISIT" visitor industry website)

It is intended that a handover from David and a training session be held in June.

The Northern Entrance project of which ETI holds \$10,000 was given Resource Consent by Council on 23 February 2015. ETI contributed by funding the images and the picture board components of the project depicting the four pillars of tourism, with the assistance of the Taumarunui Ward Committee – as an independent group confirming the images to be used.

Meetings continued to be held bi-monthly due to the workload of the Committee members. The meetings were held on the third Thursday of the month commencing at 3.00pm. I would like to thank the REAP Office for their continued support in allowing ETI the use of their Board Room facilities for our meetings.

Although we did not achieve any "Community After Five" functions this year – I do believe that we are in a position to once again hold this function and promote the goals and visions of ETI to the community, through a recently established Taumarunui Revitalisation Taskforce.

Congratulations to Karen Ngatai for establishing a Remembrance Lane on State Highway 4, under the umbrella of ETI. A remarkable 150 residents sponsored a rhododendron shrub in memory of their loved ones or just to support the project. A plaque has been erected in the Taumarunui Library in recognition of their contribution.

Thank you to Sammi and your team, with your undying energy in organising a very successful Christmas Parade this year. An outstanding effort enjoyed by many.

ETI is currently working towards an optimistic work plan to improve the appearance of Taumarunui.

On 30 April 2015 ETI submitted to Council's Draft Long Term Plan 2015-25 emphasising the need to work together to *"promote the development of community facilities and environment, to better serve the needs of the community and visitors"*.

Unfortunately ETI were not successful in obtaining any grant funds in this Long Term Plan. However, there is new leadership around the table indicating that they want to work with ETI and see Taumarunui succeed.

We have a history of railways and sawmills, excellent rivers and areas of outdoor pursuits such as biking, hiking tracks and fishing. A ½ an hour away from three mountains, a lake and "Taumarunui on the "Adventure Highway".

It is now the right time create our "revival and survival" strategies, update our Business Plan and develop a Marketing Plan for the next three years.

With strong links to the Council I believe we can make a difference and I am sure we can accomplish our desired outcomes for the future.

A special thanks to Di and Kay for all the extra administration that goes with the job. You have been reliable and caring and made my job a whole lot easier.

I look forward to a positive and successful future with Enterprising Taumarunui Inc.

Thank you.

SUE MORRIS
CHAIRPERSON
21 May 2015