

Chairpersons Report for Enterprising Taumarunui Inc. (ETI)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH MARCH 2018

1. Firstly, thank you to the ETI committee for the past year. It has been challenging at times, as we have struggled to have a quorum for some meetings with committee members being absent due to work commitments.

Thank you to Dianne Bunn who has loyally supported ETI for many years as Treasurer in an ex-officio position. Dianne prepares accounts for payment and monthly financial reports as well as our annual financial accounts. And thanks to Peggy Veen our secretary for the past year and organizer of our Business After 5's.

Special thanks and recognition to Karen Ngatai, who has worked diligently throughout the year, raising funds for the Heritage Board Project as well as organizing local artists and funding to paint the Lines Company and Chorus Boxes. Karen is the driving force behind the Revitalisation Taskforce and passionately oversees the maintenance of the Rhododendron's along SH4, on the southern end of Taumarunui. Karen has also been proactively involved in all aspects related to Enterprising Taumarunui Inc.

2. The Highlight in the past year was the inaugural Winter Festival - Te Huapae o Matariki. A collaborative effort with, Te Waka Pu Whenua and King Country Energy. A small team worked hard to make this event a reality with activities spaced throughout the week long event, culminating in a Community Dinner on the Saturday night and Fun in the Snow for children and a snow queen crowning on the final day. It was a hugely successful event and as this report goes to print, planning is underway for this year's event in the first week of July.
3. Committee members, Peggy and Tharean were responsible for organizing the Business After 5's. A number of these were held and supported by the RSA who sponsored a "winning meal" lucky business card prize draw. Whilst, we did not hold as many as we first anticipated, they were mostly well attended.
4. The Christmas Parade, always held on the first Saturday in December was well supported with 43 floats entered. The day dawned hot and sunny with a great community turnout. The only disappointment was that the stall holders were confined to the one-way street, with the regular monthly Community Stall holders allocated the Railway Station site. This event has been managed in the past by volunteers under ETI. That changed for 2017, with only one committee member, myself who was relegated the task. It's imperative this event be evaluated to ensure its continuance.

5. The WEBSITE is our most valuable asset. We own the domain name TAUMARUNUI and have contracted the services of Nicholas Leveillee to manage the website and provide technical support. With support from his partner Terri Smyth, they have rebuilt the front page and are updating the database. They give a monthly report to ETI on progress and have presented the revamped website twice at Business After 5 functions.
6. Membership of ETI has been a struggle. ETI Membership is now linked to advertising on the Website and there is a real financial advantage to members. The "What is in it for me" is usually the first question I am asked by businesses seeking to know why they should join. There is no definitive answer. **A business organization is only ever as good as those that belong and support it.** The real value of being a financial member of ETI is that it organizes events that directly benefit and support those in business and our community. Business owners should be asking "HOW" they can help and be involved, and this includes being on the ETI Executive Committee.
7. With the news that the ANZ will close its doors, the BNZ will have reduced hours and that after a protracted time, KCE has been sold to Trust Power and that staff layoffs will happen. It is indeed a sad time for Taumarunui. On the plus side, the Forgotten World Adventures has had a boomer year, Trades are busy and Real Estate sales are booming with interest from out of towners.

How does this effect and impact on business? Time will tell, but the only thing that is certain is uncertainty, and that is even more reason to support the one organization that was established to support our community and the business network. What's going on around us- "Economic; Social, Environmental, Political, Technical, Legislative". It all impacts on business and community.

Finally, there is much to look forward to and much work to be done. Going forward ETI needs to focus its energy not on the past but on the new. Setting a direction of an organization requires three questions;

- I. Why do we exist?
- II. How will we work towards our vision?
- III. What will we do

Report prepared by,

Aroha Rudkin

Chairperson Enterprising Taumarunui Inc.