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*Delivering essential community health and social services
now and into the future...*

Chairman's Annual Report

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me pleasure to present my report on the activities of the Coastal Taranaki HealthTrust for the year 2012-2013. I know, in fact, I am sure that from time to time to the observer, particularly the local residents, there has been a feeling of frustration at what, if any thing, was happening in the quest for the provision of sustainable health services in Opunake and the Taranaki Coastal area. Considerable finance had been raised and yet there was still no sign of a new centre from where the services would be provided.

This time last year we reported that five individual sections three owned by the STDC and two by the St Johns Ambulance had become available which, in itself apart from being a generous offer, met both the Trusts and the people's desire to have a main street location. While this met our needs completely it was not without several requirements under law.

MOU's had to be prepared to ensure these requirements were met and provision guaranteed for the existing occupants. Titles also had to be transferred into the name of the Trust. Building consents also made it necessary to have only one title. But when you are dealing with national bodies this is not always an easy exercise but in fact can prove quite time consuming as well. It would now appear that all these formalities have been completed and we can now proceed to the next phase.

Another task which was absolutely essential was to finalise and at the same time to gain a firm idea of the requirements, room wise that is, of the potential users or stakeholders. This again was achieved by having a combined meeting with them all in the presence of the Architect. While this enabled us to make terrific progress on what to provide in the building itself and meant that the Architect could proceed to come up with proposed sketch plans it also proved very time consuming and very difficult to get everyone together at one time.

After several meetings along with discussion with the Architect we again went through the process of consultation and discussion with the users and providers which again meant some alterations to the sketch plans before they could be passed over to the public for further consultation. When all these processes had been gone through which I might say again are very time consuming but never-the-less very important we had to take into consideration the effect a building of this size and magnitude may have on our neighbours particularly those who fronted on Tasman Street and relied on the service lane at the rear of their properties for produce and stock deliveries. That all now appears finalised to the satisfaction of all.

Once the requirements were finalised advantage was taken to begin drawing final plans, working drawings and specifications. Work also proceeded with finalising the legal requirements and this we believe is now however completed and signed off. I think it should be known that all the necessary legal work has been done with little or no cost at all to the Trust but through the generosity of Council and the Trust lawyer. Resource Consent has also been obtained for the building to begin. Work can now begin on the removal of the sewerage sump used by members of the Motor Homes Association. We have been informed that this is being given urgent attention by Council staff. The preparation of the section and the removal of buildings should now be able to proceed as well. This too must be completed before building can go ahead. To

assist in this regard it is intended to use local voluntary labour. Funds are not so readily available that this can be included as part of the contract and we would be foolish not to make some financial gain from any salvageable materials. So it would appear that if everything goes according to plan we may be in a position to call tenders as early as February with construction to begin soon after.

With the closure of the South Care Medical Centre in Hawera the opportunity arose to purchase a large quantity of furniture, chattels and equipment that they no longer required, much of the same as we would need on opening. A large purchase was made. That which we can use is now stored in Opunake while the excess has been sold off to other organisations, businesses, individuals or at the Market Day here in town. Our thanks certainly goes to all those people who supplied vehicles, trailers and labour to bring it back here for storage. The pricing, cataloguing and sorting of this vast amount of furniture, medical supplies and consumables was done almost entirely by Lynda Corkill who to say the least did an amazing job. The result was a large saving of funds while at the same time we were able to acquire so much new or near new equipment.

Fundraising which is still necessary to be done has also continued. A Golf Tournament combined with an Auction was held at the local Club. This was very successful financially as was the production of the Good Sorts Calendar featuring several local identities. The Trust was also gifted a household lot of household furniture which was sold at a garage sale in New Plymouth. Unfortunately a clash with another event meant that the Beer Fest though very enjoyable was not quite as successful. We also continue to be well supported by certain Charitable Trust funding authorities nationally. This will all be reported on further in the presentation of the Financial Statement.

The Trust continues to meet on a monthly basis and to the members I must express thanks for their commitment and support. Adrienne Hickey, our Secretary does an amazing task in dealing with what appears to be an endless amount of paperwork. She also has a real added advantage for us with her nearness to the District Council. She can advise us on who the appropriate people are to deal with. Steve Corkill, Treasurer, for his business acumen, something which could not be purchased, and the use of his office and staff. He also brings some truth to the old adage 'it's not always what you know but who'. Mary Lawn, a Registered Nurse who with her knowledge and experience keeps us abreast with modern health trends both in the hospital scene where she works in management and in primary health. Lynda Corkill, who I have already touched on, who can always be relied on for her good ideas and seemingly tireless energy and her knowledge of the St John's Association. David Lusk a real community person who also brings years of local body experience and David Tamatea a true representative of our local Maori people and another with a close relationship with the Taranaki Hospital and Maori organisations and health needs.

During the year the Trust extended invitations to two new members to join the Trust. Mrs Julie Morgan or Rahotu and Mr Paul Bourke from Pihama both of whom bring a wealth of experience from their involvement in their respective communities. Their appointments also give us a greater and better geographical coverage of the area which we wish to service.

So to all of my colleagues I can only say a big thank you. The task you were asked to take on some two or so years ago has proved immense indeed but I firmly believe along with you that when the project is completed Opunake and the Coast will have something that is not only unique to the town but maybe even nationally. And to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your attendance tonight. I have endeavoured to in some small way bring you up to date on where we are but I hope that after the presentation of the annual accounts if you have any questions you will please let us have them.

So in conclusion where to from here?. To summarise preparatory leases which are at present being drawn up will need to be completed. This has been helped no end by the generosity of the Waitara Trust who have made theirs available for our guidance. Final plans and specifications will have to be signed off and permits obtained. Work will have to begin on site

preparation including the removal of an amount of topsoil along with a continuation of certain fundraising. It will also be necessary to call tenders to ensure we have a true knowledge of the total cost.

Thank you again for your attendance and best wishes to you all for a happy festive season.



D.M. Holmes
Chairman
Coastal Taranaki Health Trust