

Little River Wairewa Community Trust

Chairman's address AGM Oct 2018

Recovery, Repair and Renewal

The words of the title reflect the situation in which Little River finds itself. It is increasingly in need of not only repair, but, enhancement and reassembly. So too are many places within the area of the Southern Bays, the infrastructure and amenity of which are suffering from the onslaught of increasing numbers of delighted explorers. This is the Trust's area.

The past year has been a landmark year for the Trust. The liaison with diverse organisations and the developing cohesion and partnership with Wairewa Runanga, CCC, ECan, Heritage, The LR Railway Trust, Reserve Management Board, BPCB, AHC, bodes well for the future.

The Trust has received a baseline quotation to move towards facilitating the implementation and resolution of one of the two key infrastructure problems that our settlement faces. That concerning efficient drainage in and around the business and residential areas.

Despite work on the Okana and Okuti rivers we know that periods of protracted light to moderate rainfall still currently overwhelm the drainage system. Over the past year, in submissions that have been made by the Trust to CCC and its satellite organisations, we have included the request, that the system be thoroughly overhauled. If this is not done promptly the results of heavier and more persistent rain, which we can expect in future, will likely result in a repetition of the damaging events of 2013/2014.

By considering, accepting and approving such a quote interim work could commence on this system. Failure to act now puts the settlement, community residents and visitors alike at risk. Is that acceptable? The Trust will continue to press CCC for attention to this and other elemental infrastructure needs as outlined in "Little River Big Ideas". This will facilitate the Little River Village Planning Committee's progress.

To address the requests and aspirations of the community, the creation and support of that committee by the Board, as a separate forum for planning, has proved to be an essential step forward. It has been clearly successful and signposts a model for future more specialist associated groups. The planning and implementation programme which would otherwise have become enmeshed with the day to day management of the Trust is now able to run unhindered. The Board are to be congratulated in their foresight over this matter.

As a result, this year, Committee members have been able to engage flexibly and dynamically with key stakeholders and professionals from the community and Council. The freedom to pursue their particular fields of interest has

brought results. Constructive ideas from members of the community have been directly incorporated into the plans and the planning process.

Area mapping, concept plans, layouts and elevations have all been accomplished. Detailed traffic engineering observations combined with discussions and multi choice designs of the parking and pedestrian area, have been conducted over the last year. The resultant stage six proposal will be of inestimable help in resolving this complex issue. It will improve the safe movement of traffic and pedestrian activity in and through the main settlement area. It is to be hoped that the major stakeholders and community will accept any compromises for the good of the majority, thus permitting this work to be completed soon.

Other areas of community interest include recreation areas for all ages that have been vigorously developed by an enthusiastic group attached to the committee. This part of the planning will integrate the settlement with its environment. It is an elegant example of how a small group can generate a practical and enlivening design.

Long standing requests for pathways and their implementation are currently in hand. All of these have required input by paid professionals and dedicated volunteers from the community and Council. Community members with interest in this are encouraged to join us and bring their ideas and expertise to assist with this project

To oil the wheels the Trust, as the umbrella organisation has liaised and coordinated with the committee, proactively managing submissions and funding applications. This work is the key to the implementation of any of the foregoing plans.

The Board has committed to providing a stable platform to permit the launch and long term continuation of the Okuti River Project led by a member of the Board. By managing the finances for this operation, the project, which will cover a period of up to five years, will be able to repair and reassemble the fragile stream ecology of the Okuti.

Members of the Board and supporters have engaged in creating, printing developing and widely distributing Brochures that introduce Little River and its surroundings to potential visitors to the area. These showcase local businesses and the natural beauty of the area.

A Board member continues to manage our website. This not only records our Trust meetings and accounts. It provides copious information on matters of local interest and activities. To enhance this, a project to develop a more robust media presence is underway. The report to this will form a guideline to assist the Board to improve communications further.

The Board has also approved a project examining the feasibility of providing a community van. More of that will be heard later after this meeting.

A matter before us this year is the request by the Living Streams Nursery Charitable Trust to take over the lease of land on which the Nursery is currently a tenant. The Board will in light of this decide if they are prepared to relinquish it to allow the Nursery to conduct its business unhindered by any constraints.

There are the many requests from organisations and individuals to support their particular projects or events. We do our best within the framework of the Trust deed, but, unfortunately cannot say yes to all of them. The litmus test for the Board is, “how will this benefit the community as a whole now and in the long term”. To have projects that are started by enthusiastic advocates in the optimistic hope that others will maintain or continue them when the proposer departs is counterproductive.

Reviewing this workload, it is evident, why the meetings held by the Board are often longer than we would wish. The Board must decide how best this might be managed to facilitate the more efficient use of our time and - “commitment”. The Planning Committee is a prime example as to how this may be managed. This model presages the future evolution of the Trust.

Commitment is vital. The Board is developing relationships with many more organisations. To cement these relationships the key responsibility of the Board members is to exercise due diligence in governance. Simply by attending all of the meetings that they can and being conversant with the correspondence, they demonstrate their commitment to the community at large. Well done to the Board members for doing that.

Many individuals have their particular interests as a private portfolio of ideas and aspirations for our community betterment. These would benefit the community both now and in the future. They encapsulate the very essence of LRBI. I call on the members of the community to join and actively support the Trust. By bringing their skills to the table and joining the Trust and offering their expertise on the Board we can achieve so much.

It promises to be a challenging year as we participate in the recovery, repair and reassembly of Little River. A culturally important icon is going to be recovered and returned to its home. We are promoting the sustainable development of Te Roto o Wairewa and its catchment by repairing and recovering areas from environmental damage. We are lobbying for the repair and establishment of amenities and facilities. We are supporting economic well being where we can.

We have made our submissions in accordance with community defined priorities. Now, whilst Council digests the 1400 diverse submissions from around Christchurch and considers the eye watering bill which will be the outcome of the LTP, we must be patient. There will be a lull. We cannot expect instant results.

We must grasp the opportunity that this lull presents and use it to our advantage over the coming year. Focussing on a limited number of key

projects will benefit our productivity. By streamlining the Trust with carefully structured committees having clearly defined objectives, we will be in a good position for the future.

We acknowledge, the wonderful voluntary work contributed by all members of the community and by other local organisations. By supporting the Trust, they foster the progress of their LRBI. Finally, we thank our Treasurer, Trust Secretary and Project coordinator for their invaluable services during the past year.

A little while ago a small group had a dream. To return a mouldering airliner to Longreach in Queensland Australia from its resting place in the mud of a far eastern airport. There it had lain for many years. A flag carrier of their national airline and one of the first luxury long haul aircraft built after WWII. They were a small group. But they believed. Their community needed a boost. They brought together a team of professionals and interested volunteers. They raised millions very quickly. They recovered it, trucked it to a port, put it on a ship, sent it to Townsville, picked it up, trucked it to Longreach, reassembled it cleaned it, repaired it, painted it and there it is.

They had what it takes, commitment, leadership, expertise and enthusiasm. To recover, repair and reassemble. The Trust is just like that. Come and join us and be part of the future.

[I roto i te kotahitanga takoto kaha.](#)
[In unity lies strength.](#)

MacB October 2018

Acknowledgements and thanks for the images in the associated Power point to

1. wikimedia.org
2. Jeremy Head Architect and Designer
3. Abley Traffic Engineers
4. Little River Village Planning Committee
5. RuthAS
6. Qantas Founders Museum.
7. SWS