

August has seen some admin work done on two of our special projects - updating our community contacts database and preparing for the Motueka Volunteers Celebration event.

The Vision Motueka **community contacts database** is updated about this time each year, with emails going up to all the known contacts asking if they have changed (either the people or their contact details), and then modifying the entries in the database. Some of these we are told about during the year, but most changes are picked up in this annual sweep.

This document is downloaded a few dozen times a month, according to the statistics of our website server, so it is clearly seen as being very useful. If you have never been aware of the database, and you want some way of finding who's doing what where in Motueka, then you can find it by going to our website, www.visionmotueka.org.nz, and clicking on the second yellow box down the left-hand side of the home page.

The Motueka Volunteers Celebration & Awards event is becoming a regular feature of the Motueka calendar. This year it's on October 29, a Sunday afternoon based around a lovely catered afternoon tea, some laid-back local entertainment, and the recognition of a set of up to 15 local volunteers who have put in great work over the past year and often beyond. It is an event we organise totally ourselves, but hope to get the necessary funding for costs from TDC and the Community Board.

Last week invitations went out to all the known community groups (see the previous comments about our database) inviting up to 4 of them to attend and where appropriate to nominate one of their volunteers for an award. Many of you reading this will be part of one or more community groups and clubs and your committees should be considering at some stage this month replying to the invitation. If your club or group has not received one and you feel it should, please do get in touch and we can sort that out.

Our largest running project right now is the **Youth Employment and Skills Training (Yeast)** project. This continues to take "baby steps" as we seek to develop a network of contacts of potential stakeholders in a broad strategy to address the growing problem of keeping our young people (aged 16 to 23) meaningfully engaged in the community. We all know that building capacity to address youth issues will not happen quickly or in one big bang, so it's a matter of working diligently through options and opportunities to identify and engage people who can offer parts of an overall framework for realistic and sustainable youth work in the town.

We have decided our next step is to focus on the details that come into play if we want to set up a "youth learning space", which was one of the key findings of our earlier investigations. In order to do this comprehensively and to provide realistic and reliable information, we have decided to contract a specialist who can scope the potential of a youth learning space within Motueka. The scope and purpose of this phase, we have decided, is to determine:

- guidelines as to the purpose of the proposed youth learning space;
- how it may relate to and complement other youth learning facilities in the district;
- the physical resources needed - building(s), equipment, funds etc;

- the human resources (paid and/or voluntary) needed for mentoring and employment coaching; steps that will need to be taken in awareness raising for employers and local businesses, course providers, tutors and facilitators.

We have applied for funding to enable this investigation to proceed, and should know the results of that application by mid-October. The primary outcome expected of the contractor will be the preparation of a business case that shows such a facility is viable and would address identified needs. The report would include details of resources likely to be required and, where possible, recommendations for how they may be obtained. (And the alternative finding -- that no such facility would be viable in Motueka -- will also be allowed for.)

Vision Motueka maintains a strong interest in the future of the **Motueka Library**, and we're looking forward to taking part in consultations and seeing the results of the upcoming feasibility study into either expanding on its present library site or building a new facility on Wallace Street beside i-Site, which will allow for future developments of that area into more of a community hub. The Council Working Party, which includes two Vision Motueka board members though in different capacities, has now begun meetings to prepare the terms of reference for an independent consultant to do the feasibility study and community consultation, and to recommend a consultant. We are told that the feasibility study should be completed by autumn 2018, and we watch with interest how this proceeds.

David Armstrong,
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Vision Motueka Development Trust