

Report from Waikaia Community Meeting August 31st 2020

Thank you to all who attended Monday's first community meeting and for all who engaged through our social media platforms.

Many of you have asked about the structure and function of the Waikaia District Progress League, so here is a brief history without getting into too much nitty gritty detail.

The Progress League has been operating for 50+ years formed to help improve Waikaia and has acted as a link to the district council over the years to initiative and oversee improvements of infrastructure and amenities around Waikaia. Today it is registered as a not-for-profit Charitable Trust, with the present Chairperson Barbara (Annie) Bourque, Secretary Andrew Dickson, and Treasurer Faye Drury.

Many years ago a forward thinking local gentleman was instrumental in developing the Waikaia Camping Ground. The Waikaia Store used to be a privately owned store but after it was threatened with closure, some local men canvassed the community and raised money to purchase it. They also purchased a house for accommodation to go with the shop. The Waikaia Store's rental covers repair and maintenance as well as rates. The income from the Waikaia Camping Ground is used for repair and maintenance on the camp and also any extra costs needed to maintain the Waikaia Store. Any surplus is then put back into the community or built up as reserves for any future work needed at the camp or community. These two facilities are owned by the Progress League and administered by them on behalf of the community. Progress League relies on volunteers to keep these facilities running for the community.

The community meeting on Monday was hosted by the Progress League. It was decided to have 4 Community meetings annually to develop a 2yr, 5yr and 10yr strategy for Waikaia and our wider community. Everyone present contributed positive ideas to how they would like to see Waikaia grow and what projects they felt had priority.

After a week of gathering more feedback, the top projects are:

- 'Waikaia' Sign cut out of steel similar to the Waikaia Museum
- Walking track around Golf course and Waikaia River
- Re-surfacing of the Tennis Courts as well as a Basketball Hoop on practice wall
- Extra Rubbish/recycling bins
- Water storage for Fire Brigade
- Lighting at approach to bridge

Projects we are hopeful can be ticked off with little effort:

- Basketball Hoop on practice wall
- Extra Rubbish/recycling bins
- Freshen up existing signs
- Clear existing walking tracks
- Board at entrance to Waikaia- similar to Winton for upcoming community events
- Cleaning sections of rubbish by asking owners or through organised community working bees
- Clear some trees to improve view over town from cemetery.
- More street lighting
- Storm drains cleared

Projects to re-assess in near future:

- Security cameras in/out of town
- Walking Track up to cemetery hill
- Heritage trail/ gold panning
- Outdoor movie theatre
- Communal BBQ/pizza oven
- Sculpture art walk around Waikaia township
- Helipad on old tennis court
- Frisbee golf
- Adventure/exercise play area for children

Project for 5yr 10yr plan

- Upgrade camping ground
- Swing bridge over river under cemetery hill then walking track up to cemetery

Due to the restructuring of Community Boards, Waikaia, Riversdale and Balfour come under the governance of the Ardlussa Board. There is a community fund this year of \$31,800 to be allocated to worthy projects. On the 10th September at Riversdale, Annie will give a presentation covering the outcome of the community meeting to the newly established Ardlussa Board. The hope is the Ardlussa Board will give relevant feedback so we can then put forward an application for community funding.

We are a part of a small but unique and creative community and by joining together we can achieve our goals and have some fun along the way.