

NASEBY VISION 2008 AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Naseby Vision's committee has continued to work on your behalf over the past 12 months, pushing ahead with the projects that our members and the community have said were important for the future of Naseby and its ongoing quality of life. You'll be hearing more about some of these projects from our sub-committee chair people, a little later on.

In the meantime though, I'm pleased to report that membership with the addition of the four new members who joined this morning is now 236. The larger our membership the more effective we are in lobbying for Naseby, so I would encourage you to persuade any non-members to join. While the majority of permanent residents and businesses are members, we still need more holiday home owners to join the organisation.

We've continued to work closely with the CODC and the Community Board. Included amongst the issues that we've either discussed with Council staff, or have made submissions on, were the inclusion of Naseby on the Chinese Historic Tourist Trail; roading and lighting improvements on Channel Road, the erection of cycle safety warning signs on Ballarat Hill from Wet Gully Road to the town boundary; the location of the recycling container and Naseby Cemetery conservation and restoration. Members of the committee also met with the Community Trust of Otago Board when they visited Naseby recently to not only talk about our own projects that may require funding, but also to support the many other local organisations that need funds for local projects.

Earlier in the year we met with Louise van der Voort and Anne Pullar from the Council's planning department. The purpose of the meeting was to seek our views on the future expansion of Naseby and the need for design controls on new buildings to ensure that Naseby's special character would be maintained while allowing for continued growth. It was also an opportunity for us to discuss the need to ensure that the town's infrastructure (water, sewage, lighting etc) could cope with growth, but that an expansion of these services would not impact on the town's existing ratepayers.

Anne and Louise had originally hoped to join us today to canvass all of your views on this important topic. However because of prior commitments they were unable to attend. Instead, Naseby Vision is now working with them to arrange a public meeting in Naseby in January, to discuss these issues and seek as wide a range of opinion as possible.

Some months back, Philip Smith and Stewart Francis approached Naseby Vision on behalf of the Naseby Tennis Club, an organisation that has been in recess for a number of years, and asked if we would take over the responsibility of maintaining the Naseby courts, which we have subsequently agreed to do. The Club generously donated \$900, its remaining funds, to Naseby Vision for this purpose and in the last month Phil George has also kindly donated a spare net and some other items relating to the courts. With your endorsement this morning, we'd like to write to Phil expressing our thanks for his donation and also for his involvement in many other Naseby community projects over the years.

The courts do not require any immediate maintenance, however our committee noted that the majority of users are casual holidaymakers, rather than cribbies or residents, and we would appreciate suggestions from you as to how we might leverage this group to ensure that we have an ongoing source of funding for court repairs and maintenance.

Stuart Hore recently upgraded of the town notice board with the installation of new backing material and a new glassed frontage, which was one of our long-term Naseby Vision projects. Thanks to the generosity of Dr George Mason, Lenore Townsend was able to arrange for the purchase of the tree identification signs for the Recreation Ground. Both of these projects remain uncompleted – the noticeboard still needs to be repainted and bad weather delayed the installation of the signs, but we are hopeful that both projects will be completed in the next month.

Like most Naseby organisations, Naseby Vision often lacks volunteers to assist with projects, with the bulk of the workload falling on our small, but highly motivated committee. However, all of the committee members are involved in a number of other community organisations and we're looking to our wider membership to assist with projects.

The work that we do is far from onerous and using the old adage that many hands make light work, we would be able to achieve our goals much faster and much more easily if we were able to call on members for greater assistance, perhaps as association with a project that particularly interests you or perhaps an hour or two every month or two on a variety of projects. We're not asking a great deal and I wondered if I could ask for a show of hands today to see if we can find some volunteers?

One of the goals that our members set for us when Naseby Vision was first formed was to find a suitable green waste site. Over the past couple of years, despite our best effort, we have been unable to find anywhere that would meet the criteria needed to ensure that the site would not be a potential fire hazard or be used as a possible dump for general refuse. As a result, we have now decided to abandon plans for a site in the Naseby area.

Earlier on I mentioned that we had been talking to the CODC about the Chinese Heritage Trail, which the Council and a number of other organisations plan to set up to attract the thousands of newly affluent Chinese tourists who will visit our region each year in the future. The trail had originally excluded Naseby, but thanks to our lobbying it's now firmly on the list.

Stuart Hore has continued to represent Naseby Vision on Maniototo Promotions. It's in conjunction with that group and the CODC that we working towards a Naseby historic walking trail. The CODC is hopeful of finding funding to appoint a full time person to co-ordinate and raise funds for this project which should help take some pressure off Naseby Vision.

John Steele has been liaising with a Dunedin group called "Blokes in Sheds" who have an interest in constructing replicas of Naseby's original streetlights and he'll tell you more about this in a few moments. Stuart Francis and Hilary have both been investigating cost effect ways of powering these or similar heritage lights and I'm delighted to be able to thank both Josie Dick and Bessie Pearson who have very generously offered to contribute to the funding of the first lights.

I would like to express my thanks to all of our committee members for the support that they have given me and for their enthusiastic involvement in the many matters that we have dealt with this year. Regrettably, two of our committee, Margaret Morice and Lenore Townsend have decided to stand down this year and I'd like to put on record my thanks for their efforts and input. I'd also like to thank Wally McIntyre, who was a member of the committee for the first 6 months of this committee term.

While we miss the services and dedication of all of these members, I would particularly like to express my very sincere appreciation of all of the work that Lenore has put in over the past 4 years, as deputy chairperson. Not only was she instrumental in helping to get the organisation off the ground, she has also been tireless and enthusiastic in her efforts to help achieve Naseby Vision's goals and I will personally miss her input and support.

I'd also like to thank Hilary who has taken on the extra workload this year as treasurer, as well as continuing to do a tremendous job as secretary and to Richard Smith, now Chair of the Community Board who has been a co-opted member of the committee and once again also to the CODC's Janice Remnant, who always seems to go the extra mile for Naseby Vision.

Over the past few years we've ticked off many of the items on the original priority list which is part of the Naseby Community Plan. While there are still many other items to progress and we continue to face new challenges at each month's meeting, at the end of the day Naseby Vision is your organisation.

For us to be effective, we need your ongoing feedback and your direction. We also need to know what's important to you in helping to preserve the many good things about Naseby, as well as what's required for the town to develop and prosper.

We'd welcome your thoughts and suggestions at the end of this meeting, as well as your regular feedback, either personally to our committee members, or via the e-mail addresses on our website.