

Meeting of Nelson Tasman Positive Ageing Forum
Monday 27 November 2017 at 1.00pm
Constance Barnicoat Room, Richmond Library

Present:

Charles Tyrell (Anglican Church/Age Concern (Chair),

Rona Abbott, Fresh FM

Pauline Daly, Grey Power

Sue Tilby, Age Concern

Cr Dana Wensley, Tasman District Council

Matt Lawry, Nelson City Council Councillor

Chris Allison, Health Action Trust

Kaye Latham Internal affairs

Kim Howell, Hearing Therapy

Shirley Winterlow, SeniorNet Nelson

Linda O'Dea, Grey Power

Jill Harris, Ministry of Social Development

Shirley Winterlow, SeniorNet

Willemijh Vermaat, Handle with Care

Jim Ward, Heartland Bank

Dyann Calverley, National Council of Women

Jim Ward, Heartland Bank

Peter Sutton, U3A Nelson

Kathy King, St Barnabas Church

Miriam Martin, Citizens Advice

Sally Crawford, Nurse Maude

Trish Armstrong, Enliven Presbyterian Support

Yvonne Smyth, Church on the Hill

David Kemp, Independent

Sarah Holman, Tasman District Council

In attendance: Mike Tasman-Jones (Tasman District Council), Tracey Barron (Tasman District Council)

1 Welcome and Introductions

Charles welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, the last for 2017.

2 Apologies

Moved: Mike Tasman-Jones/Cr Dana Wensley

That apologies be accepted for absence from Bevan Grant, Heather Lackner, Matt Walters, Gail Collingwood, Hilary Genet, Janice Emery, Ruby Aberhart and Hilary Clifton

CARRIED

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: David Kemp/Cr Dana Wensley

That the minutes of the meeting of the Nelson Tasman Positive Ageing Forum, held on 25 September 2017 be received.

CARRIED

4 Matters Arising

David Kemp raised the following matters:

- Age Connect Survey buddie system – Sue Tilby advised this was underway.
- Regional Development Concept
- Intergenerational Working Groups – Sue advised this was also underway.

- Any follow up from the Long Game - Sarah Holman advised results of the drop in sessions and survey were being presented to Tasman District Council Community Development Committee meeting on 7 December which will be presented by Brylee Wayman, TDC Senior Data Analyst.

5 Chairpersons Report

The Chair's report was tabled with commentary on the following:

- Change of Government - waiting to see if any major changes in policies for older people.
- Charles has written to the new Minister for Seniors, the Hon. Tracey Martin to invite her to open the Positive Aging Expo in April 2018.
- Charles thanked all those for attending and those who have presented over the year.
- Charles will be in the UK for December and January.

Rona Abbott thanked Charles for his time and energy as Chairperson.

6 A4A update

Presented by Cr Dana Wensley A4A Chairperson.

Cr Wensley opened by thanking Charles for his dedication to the Positive Ageing Forum.

Cr Wensley had recently attended the TRAFINZ Conference and advised on the topics covered:

- Noted the shift on focus to look at safer journeys and how we can move people around safely. NZTA were excited about the change of Government and the 'Vision Zero' road safety project recently introduced by the Labour Government.
- focus on footpaths and cycle ways as part of the roading structure – if footpaths become part of the roading system then footpath accidents would be recorded in this system.
- looking at reasons why people 'do not' take journeys and capturing this data.

Willemijh Vermaat asked if the 'Living Streets' group were still active in the Community. It was suggested to contact Peter Kortegast at Opus as he was a member of this group.

7 Keeping your Ear to the Ground – Kim Howell, Life Unlimited

Kim spoke on the following:

- A recent research document linking dementia with deafness, Sue spoke to the key risk factors contributing to dementia. It was noted 35% were risk related and 65% unavoidable factors.
- Stress the importance to include hearing in your normal health checks. The sooner any hearing loss was addressed the better.
- It is not always about hearing aids, but also very important to put in place strategies on how we communicate with each other.
- There can be a generational objection to hearing aids (much like asking for directions!). There has been change towards addressing hearing loss, which it is hoped this generation will embrace with the improved technology, hearing therapists, and the emphasis on how addressing hear loss will improve your quality of life.
- Mock trials had been held with basic hearing devices for those suffering dementia, this suggested short bursts of stimulation were best for attention – otherwise too much.

A question was raised on recycling of hearing aids. David Sutton advised some were sent to the Pacific Islands.

8 Reverse Mortgages – Jim Ward, Heartland Bank

Jim spoke to his presentation to raise awareness of seniors finance, and spoke to the following points and questions raised:

- The perception of a reverse mortgage – the product of today is not the reverse product of many years ago. No payments are required until the people/person no longer live in the home.
- There is the ability to 'top up' funds, which are paid into existing bank accounts so no requirement to change banks.
- The mortgages were applicable to many situations including, but not limited to, renovations, other home expenses, travel, cars etc, each application was individual. Those 'asset rich and cash poor' have an option to remain in the family home and release cash equity.
- Is there a safeguard in the process? Jim advised there is a very rigorous and robust application process in place along with certain criteria to be met by applicants.
- Interest rate - floating rate 1½ to 2% higher than 'market' as the loan is given without a term. The average loan term is 9-10 years with compounding interest so in effect loan is doubled.
- On a question about how the loan was repaid, Jim advised the process is no different to main stream banks.
- Set up cost - \$895 for a loan up to \$50,000. If a higher loan value was required a registered valuation of the property would be required.
- Heartland Bank would cover any shortfall of a loan should a negative equity situation arise.

General

An update was asked from Mike Tasman-Jones on the 2018 Positive Ageing Expo.

Mike advised:

- Registrations for stalls were now open.
- Currently looking at building activities prior to the event.

It was asked if the Positive Ageing Expo could be added as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

Kathy King provided an update as a returning officer for the Election and covered the following points:

- Was there any feedback on aging people voting and any difficulties encountered?
- It was noted Stoke should have been opened earlier for advance voters.
- Richmond Library worked well.
- It was noted Bridge Street early opening booth was by word of mouth due to the premise being secured at a late date. Bridge Street is difficult to obtain an available premise.
- Easyvote cards were not available early enough (these had the dates listed).
- Tasman District Council Office was not an easy venue.
- Victory early polling booth was only advised as a pop up and no time was advertised online, therefore people assumed it was open all the time. Kathy amended this as soon as she was advised.

9 Update from Age Concern

Sue Tilby provided an update on the following:

- Brefinni O'Rourke is three weeks into the Coordinator role for AgeConnect and has been busy making connections with the community. A strategy meeting is planned for the group on 28 November.
- A lot of work is being undertaken around transportation for older people. There is a funding application being planned around this.
- Give a Little Campaign for Christmas. Making up care packages to distribute to those deserving in our community.
- Activities are being planned around walking (connecting with Neighbourhood Support).
- Summer activity programme with Nelson City Council is underway. It is noted that there are many people who would like to take part in activities but transportation was an issue. Highlighting the need to let people know what is happening and how to get there!
- Recently employed an Elder Abuse Response Service Advisor who will be working in the Marlborough region.
- Don't forget to Dance trials. Funding was received for four weeks into two rest homes and trials are currently being run with seated dancing included.
- Tea and Talk in Richmond is going extremely well, with the first Tea and Talk Takaka being held two weeks ago. Currently looking at planning these for Victory Square and Nelson Central.
- Intimacy and Sexuality in Aged Care. A proposal for funding had been accepted and a National Advisory Panel will be formed with seven members for three year initiative. Sue has been asked to be a member on the panel.

It was acknowledged by the forum the National impact Sue and her team have at Age Concern Nelson.

10 Update form the Ministry of Social Development

Jill Harris provided an overview on the following:

- Variance between a Veterans pension as opposed to NZ Superannuation.
- Recoverable assistance for dentures and hearing aids - this is dependent on meeting certain criteria. Jill to provide details to Mike Tasman-Jones to circulate.
- Loans and gifts. Jill advised she would arrange for a finance staff member to attend a meeting in 2018 to assist with questions in this area.

11 Update from Grey Power

Update from Grey Power included:

- Business as usual with a busy Christmas and New Year period coming up.
- Discussion on Smart phone alerts – how do we get these to those without a smart phone - how do we evacuate vulnerable people.
- Happy Hips exercise group (not sit and be fit) will be starting off in the New Year.

12 General business

David Kemp commended Tasman District Council on the Queen Street seating provided, noting this was a positive step in establishing a culture of socialising.

Meeting closed at 2.40 pm

Meetings for 2018 scheduled as follows:

Monday 19 February

Monday 30 April

Monday 9 July

Monday 17 September

Monday 26 November