



Project Marton Report – MCC

July 1 2020

## TABLED DOCUMENT

Tabled at Marton Community  
on 8 July 2020 Committee

Covid pandemic has affected us in a complicated way and will continue to affect us going forward in ways that we still do not fully understand.

We had to cancel our Harvest 2020, and with that came huge uncertainty with funders. Refunds and transfers to future events means we will be operating with tighter financial resources, coupled with our main funders not open for applications for the near future (and when they are, it is likely to be very limited). This significantly impacts the look and future of our events and other operations.

Our office was closed until we reached level 2, however our staff were further impacted by Covid, that required us to ensure the wellbeing of our staff took precedence. With the use of zoom we continued to deliver our Health Networking meetings and Business After 5. Facebook connection and Weekly emails continued, albeit in a limited capacity.

Covid did give us an opportunity to consider new delivery models and we are really excited to continue investigating this.

We plan 12 months ahead -this is a mix of the MoU elements, requested by council and our own undertakings. We have the community's wellbeing at heart along with the flexibility and agility to respond to topical issues as they arise. We pride ourselves on being able to respond to the needs and aspirations of the community. This creates a huge workload for the team, as we are all part-timers, equating to just 1 FTE!

**Harvest Festival 2020:** Cancelled due to Covid.

**Crafts Alive: August 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.** An inter-active opportunity to highlight resiliency crafts, and for visitors to experience hands-on opportunities.

**Meet the Candidates: Sept 1<sup>st</sup>.** Teaming up with the Youth Council to deliver an opportunity for the locals to meet and hear from all the local candidates of the General Elections.

**AGM: 15<sup>th</sup> Sept.** Project Martons AGM.

**Market Day November 28<sup>th</sup>:** Thrilled to be back and bringing a whole lot of fun energy and vibrancy to the town. This is the biggest event on the Rangitikei Calendar bringing upto 12,000 people into town. An opportunity for local business to leverage the volumes of visitors to raise their profile and revenue. The day also allows for huge participation from a wide slice of community, with performances from schools, churches and local groups, as well as bringing in other entertainment to ensure the streets are alive all day.



**Christmas Parade December 12<sup>th</sup>.** A fun community event, working with local businesses, schools, youth and churches to deliver an event, designed by and for the local community to create real community spirit.

**Beer Festival: February** Embracing our unique position as Malting Capital of the country, while celebrating local brewers and entertainment.

**Harvest Festival 2021:** Our baby, celebrating the abundance of “Harvest” in the myriad forms that may take, including small businesses “harvests”. Again, this brings in up to 12,000 people to town for the day. This is one event that has highlighted the town as a truly vibrant place to live.

**Community Garden:** During lockdown, the garden working bees and workshops came to a grinding halt, and the garden took care of itself...it continued to be utilised and was a valuable resource for several members of the community. We are knocking it back into shape, having gotten the garlic in, many seeds sown, and several new “greens” beds. This continues to support organically grown produce, utilising permaculture principles, furthering the support of environmental protection and respect.

**Connection platforms:** FB, Weekly Email Newsletter, Monthly printed Newsletter, Website. These remain a valuable resource for the community to be connected to clubs, and activities within the community. Again, making this town a more caring and welcoming community, offering multiple opportunities to engage in community life.

**Information Packs:** These are requested by Real Estate Agents and Lawyers alike for new residents in the community. The packs are chocka with information that is collected and collated by PM and volunteers.

**Marton Passport:** This is about to go to print. It is our response to the lack of an A-Z, introducing locals to the businesses, clubs and organisations within town. We have several businesses and clubs that have offered vouchers to be included. These will be distributed via the information packs to new residents, as well to Friends Of Project Marton.

**Heath Networking Meeting:** This is open to social services and health agencies, allowing an opportunity to network, and gain insight into who is delivering what service. From this network, agencies often collaborate for better results with their clients. There is a wealth of knowledge in the meeting, and a huge amount of care for the community.

**Business After 5.** An open opportunity for all local businesses to connect and network, while Project Marton also invites visiting speakers and includes “spotlights” on local business.

**Support of local events and activities:** Project Marton actively seeks information from all groups, schools, clubs etc to share with the community through our database and social media platforms. This increases engagement with the activities within the community, supporting the longevity and sustainability of local clubs.

**Suicide Intervention and Prevention and other topical workshops.**





**Community Garage Sale.** This was a fabulous success for both sellers and buyers alike. It was a response to Covid, as many people had been clearing out their sheds and cupboards during the lockdown. We were cognisant of the fact that these items may have been destined for the landfill and wished to mitigate that. By having a community garage sale, it diverted a significant number of items from potentially being trashed, and allowed people an opportunity to generate a little income for themselves. There was also the opportunity to raise funds for charitable and non-profit purposes. We will continue to run these twice a year, with the next set to happen in October.

**Bingo:** Monthly, beginning in August. We have been requested to create a regular housie event for locals to connect and have a regular outing to enjoy. Regular social events supports a rich social fabric for the community. While this is a new activity for us, we have been told this will fill a gap that currently exists within the community after the previous housie group closed several years ago. It will also offer an opportunity to raise a little money for Project Marton which will be tagged to support some of the running costs of other initiatives.

**Men's Shed.** This is the goal on the table for 20/21 with a focus on the mental wellbeing of our local men. Our statistics have not been healthy for mental wellbeing within our male population. Mens sheds and similar activities have proved to be beneficial in building friendship networks, pivotal to the wellbeing of participants.

**This is a mammoth workload, and to achieve this we truly value and welcome the support of local volunteers and business support to ensure we can continue to have a valuable, relevant and genuine impact on our community.**