

TAUMARUNUI-ŌHURA COMMUNITY BOARD

Te Poari-ā-Hapori o Taumarunui-Ōhura

MINUTES

THE MEETING OF TAUMARUNUI-ŌHURA COMMUNITY BOARD HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 59-61 HUIA STREET, TAUMARUNUI
ON THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2023, AT 6:02PM

PUBLIC BUSINESS | KAUPAPA O WAHO

Present | Tuhinga

Chairperson	Luke Pepper
Board Members	Aroha Rudkin
	Sophie Stockbridge
	Oriwia Wanakore
Councillor	Lyn Neeson
Mayor	Weston Kirton

In Attendance | I Tae Mai

Clive Manley	Chief Executive
Vini Dutra	Executive Manager Infrastructure
Candice McNaught	Manager: Community Relationships and Wellbeing
Rina Hepi	Manager Community & Recreational Facilities
Holly Buckley	Housing & Facilities Support Manager
Tasha Paladin	Governance Manager

Absent | Ngaro

Deputy Chairperson	Molly Jeffries
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1 Opening Karakia | Karakia Timatanga

Board Member Oriwia Wanakore

2 Apologies

The Chairperson invited notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Rudkin

Seconded: Member Stockbridge

That the Apologies from Member Jeffries be accepted.

3 Declarations of Interest

Member Rudkin declared her interest in Item 8: Application for Temporary Road Closure: Taumarunui Christmas Parade 2023 due to her involvement with the Christmas Parade.

4 Notification of Additional Items

There were no additional items not on the Agenda.

5 Confirmation of Order of Meeting

The order of the meeting was confirmed.

6 Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders

The Community Board temporarily suspended Standing Orders to allow Members and the public to address the Board.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Rudkin

Seconded: Member Wanakore

That the Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 Receives the Report **Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders**; and*
- 2 Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, temporarily suspends the following Standing Orders to enable members of the Public to address Council, and members to engage in discussion in a free and frank manner:*
 - (a) 21.2 Time limits on speakers | Te tepenga wā mā ngā kaikōrero*
 - (b) 21.5 Members may speak only once | Kotahi noa iho te wā e āhei ai te mema ki te korero; and*
 - (c) 21.6 Limits on number of speakers | Ngā tepenga mō te maha o ngā kaikōrero.*

The Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board received addresses as follows:

6.1 TRACT NZ Neil Ranford Chairman

Neil Ranford addressed the Community Board regarding the Rail Heritage Trust proposal to relocate X 442 from Feilding to Taumarunui, to display in Taumarunui. Feilding Steam does not have the capacity to restore the locomotive and there is no intention for TRACT to restore it to full working order however, it feels it would make a great static display for the town.

TRACT addressed the board requesting permission for a location to display the locomotive and guidance on where to apply for funding. Mr. Ranford advised that no timeline or budget had yet been developed for the project that was anticipated to be a five to ten year project. The Mayor advised TRACT would need to engage with Ngati Hāua.

Minute Attachment(s)

- 1 X442 Bringing a steam locomotive home

6.2 Rhonda Hurst, Teria Hamm and Zaney Huia, Nga Hau e Wha Maara Kai Charitable Trust

Rhonda Hurst, Teria Hamm and Zaney Huia of Nga Hau e Wha Maara Kai Charitable Trust addressed the Community Board regarding its proposal for a Youth Hub in Taumarunui. The project started as a pop-up youth hub for the two weeks of the July school holidays and the Trust used the opportunity to survey attendees on their future needs. The Trust sought the Board's guidance on a suitable space that could be used for the Hub and guidance on where to apply for seed funding; the Trust has already submitted funding applications to Council's Better Off Funding..

The Trust sought asked the Community Board to advocate for the programme and to consider providing a permanent central space within Taumarunui and support to funding applications. Council's Chief Executive advised that Council does not have a lot of buildings that could be given over full time, however, if the Trust was willing to be flexible, Officers could look for solutions.

Minute Attachment(s)

- 2 Youth Hub Taumarunui 2023 Proposal

6.3 Vivien Rauhina

Vivien Rauhina provided her apologies for sickness and presented an email to the Community Board regarding the graffiti on the wall of the Chemist in Taumarunui. Officers advised they had been unable to contact the landlord of the asset to progress. Council's Chief Executive advised that as the property is not owned by Council and therefore Council is unable to respond as it is considered a private matter.

Minute Attachment(s)

- 3 Email from Vivien Rauhina

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Stockbridge

Seconded: Member Rudkin

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 *Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, reinstates Standing Orders in their entirety for consideration of the Agenda.*

7 Confirmation of Minutes of Community Board Meeting

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Member Rudkin

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 *Confirms the Public Business Minutes of the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board meeting held Thursday, 17 August 2023 as attached, a true and correct record*

8 Application for Temporary Road Closure: Taumarunui Christmas Parade 2023

Members received a report seeking approval for a temporary road closure on Saturday 2 December 2023 for the purpose of the Taumarunui Christmas Carnival. Council's Manager Land Transport spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Stockbridge

Seconded: Member Wanakore

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Temporary Road Closure – Taumarunui Christmas Parade**;*
- 2 ***Approves** the following road closure subject to either no objections being received, or objections being received and resolved:
(a) Hakiha Street, Taumarunui between Turaki and Katarina Streets on Saturday 2 December between the times of 12PM and 1:30PM, for the purpose of the 2023 Taumarunui Christmas Parade; and*
- 3 *Instructs officers to circulate a memo to all Community Board Members should any changes be made to the proposed road closure.*

9 Community Halls Vested in or Administered by Council

Members received a high-level overview of the community halls within the District either vested in or administered by Council. Council's Manager Community & Recreational Facilities spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Members were advised that Officers are currently looking to develop a standard agreement with all the Halls as historically the agreements have not been unified. Members were also advised that if the Hall is operated by either a Committee or the Community, there will not be an operational agreement in place with Council, therefore Council would only be in a position to provide advice on occasions where hall users cause disruption to the community.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Rudkin

Seconded: Member Stockbridge

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Community Halls Vested in or Administered by Council** for information.*

10 Adoption of the Community Board Meeting Schedule 2024

Members received a report tabling the proposed 2022-2025 Triennium Ordinary Meeting Schedule for the period from February to December 2024 for consideration and adoption. Members requested the Board aim to host meetings at community venues throughout the ward area, and requested the workshops commence in the afternoon.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Stockbridge

Seconded: Member Wanakore

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Adoption of the Community Board Meeting Schedule 2024**;*
- 2 *Approves and adopts the schedule of ordinary meetings and workshops for the Community Board for the period of February to December 2024 to be the following Thursdays at 6PM*
 - (a) *22 February Meeting*
 - (b) *14 March Workshop*
 - (c) *18 April Meeting*
 - (d) *16 May Workshop*
 - (e) *6 June Meeting*
 - (f) *8 August Meeting*
 - (g) *5 September Workshop*
 - (h) *10 October Meeting*
 - (i) *7 November Workshop*
 - (j) *5 December Meeting; and*
- 3 *Notes that additional ordinary and extraordinary meetings may be scheduled from time and time in consultation with the Chairperson and Chief Executive.*

11 Capital Works and Members Request for Information

Note: Member Wanakore left the meeting at 7:37PM and re-entered at 7:39PM

Members were provided with an update on planned Capital Works in the Taumarunui–Ōhura Ward in the 2023/24 Financial Year. Relevant officers spoke to this report and answered Members' questions.

Key Items Discussed:

- 11.1 **R3 Minor Improvement:** Herlihy Bluff Barrier. Officers advised there had not been any traction with Waka Kotahi to date. Members requested officers continue their efforts.
- 11.2 **R6 Kakapo Street Ohura Culvert:** Officers advised they are looking to redesign and upgrade the culvert.
- 11.3 **R8 Waitaanga Gravel Road:** Vehicle data from the counter has not been received, however, officers noted traffic has eased compared to two months ago. Officers could not find any RFS in the system related to engine braking, however, any implementation would require an update to the Bylaw.
- 11.4 **C3 Fanshawe Garden:** Members advised the matter had not progressed and requested the item be removed from the report.

New Requests

Members expressed their concerns with the recent Ōhura Drinking Water discolouration and the apparent lack of communication to advise the community when the water was safe to drink despite the water being clean. Officers advised there had been communication on the failure at the water plant and when the water was safe to drink. Officers noted there was a process for issuing Boil Water Notices and it was not triggered on this occasion.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Stockbridge

Seconded: Cr Neeson

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Capital Works and Members Request** for Information.*

12 Chair, Deputy Chair, Chief Executive and Elected Members' Reports (Verbal)
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Members each gave verbal updates on recent and upcoming events, and other matters of general and topical interest to the Community Board area.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Member Rudkin

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 *Receives the **Chair, Deputy Chair, Chief Executive and Elected Members' Verbal Reports** for Information.*

13 Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Community Board Business
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Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 gives the Community Board the right by resolution to exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on one or more of the grounds contained within that Section.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Wanakore

Seconded: Member Stockbridge

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 *Receives the **Report Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Community Board Business**;*
- 2 *Excludes the public from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting;*
- 3 *Notes the general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:*

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes of the Community Board Meeting 17 August 2023	For the reasons set out in the Public Business Minutes of the Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board Meeting 17 August 2023.	
C2 Confidential Member Briefing	s7(2)(c) To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.	s48(1)(a) the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7.

The Public Business part of the meeting concluded at 7:49PM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Community Board Meeting held this 14th day of December 2023.



Luke Pepper
CHAIRPERSON

TAUMARUNUI-ŌHURA COMMUNITY BOARD
Te Poari-ā-Hāpori o Taumarunui-Ōhura

MINUTE ATTACHMENT(S)

THE MEETING OF TAUMARUNUI-ŌHURA COMMUNITY BOARD HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 59-61 HUIA STREET, TAUMARUNUI
ON THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2023, AT 6:02PM

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X 442 at Taumarunui

Bringing a steam locomotive home

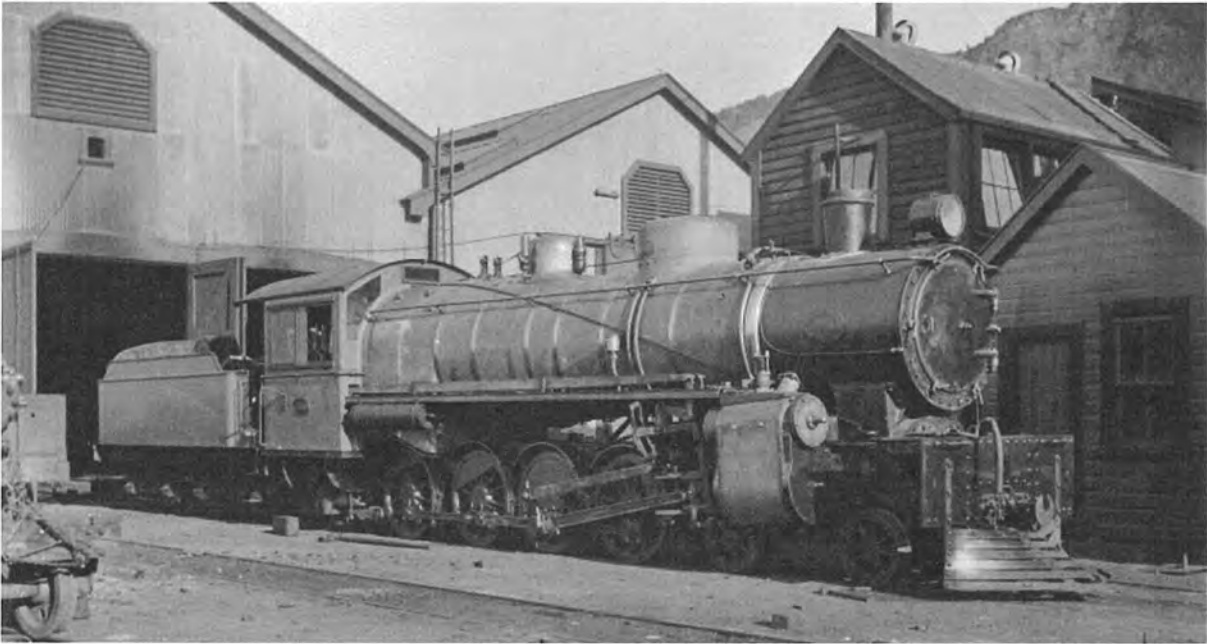
With the North Island Main Trunk Line nearing completion in 1906 New Zealand Railways (NZR) started design work on a powerful locomotive needed to haul goods trains over the steeply graded section between Taumarunui and Taihape. Designed by the Chief Mechanical Engineer, A. L. Beattie, and designated X-class, the locomotives weighed 94 tons and were the first in the world with the 4-8-2 wheel arrangement. They were also rare narrow-gauge examples of four-cylinder De Glehn compounds, a complex system that used steam twice – once in small high-pressure cylinders and again in large low-pressure cylinders.

Eight locomotives including X 442, were built at NZR Addington Workshops in Christchurch in 1907-08 and a second batch of ten followed in 1914-15. All eighteen were based at Taumarunui or Taihape and for two decades they held the title of New Zealand's most powerful locomotives. Built in an era where slow and powerful was adequate for traffic requirements, the locomotives were equipped with small driving wheels that limited their top speed to 50kph. With the introduction of the more powerful and faster K-class in the 1930s the X-class were relegated to lesser duties, but several remained at Taumarunui until the early 1950s to work the Stratford-Okahukura Line.

X 442 entered Hutt Workshops in 1943, becoming the first of twelve converted from compounds to simple locomotives that used superheated steam. Nine months later it was sold to the owner and operator of a 13-kilometre coal-hauling railway in Western Southland, the Ohai Railway Board. X 442 was joined by sister X 446 following its conversion to a simple locomotive at Hillside Workshops in Dunedin in 1946. Of the sixteen X-class that remained in NZR ownership, the first two were withdrawn in 1949 and the rest followed by 1957 leaving 442 and 446 as the only survivors. The ORB scrapped 446 in 1959 but retained X 442 as a standby and it last operated in 1964.

In 1967 X 442 was donated to the New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society (NZR&LS) and it then spent 35 years in storage at Dunedin, Timaru, and at Ferrymead in Christchurch. With the intention of restoring the locomotive to working order, X 442 was transported by road to the Feilding and Districts Steam Rail Society (FDSRS) in September 2002. That project stalled and the FDSRS no longer wants X 442 although it has agreed to store the locomotive for as long as required by the NZR&LS.

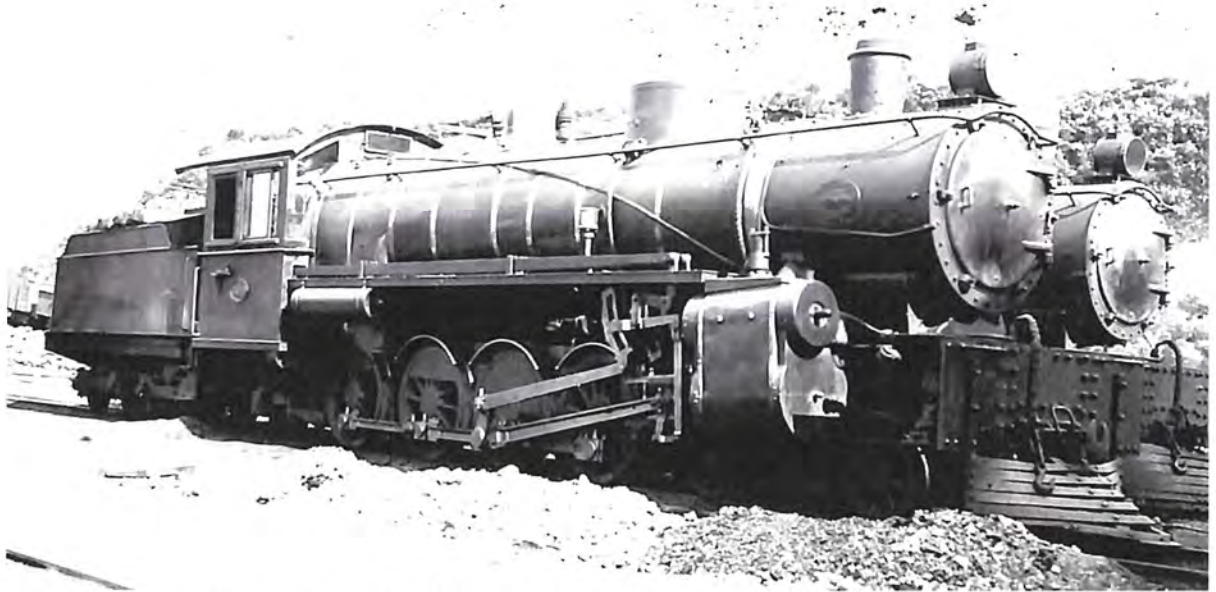
As the sole survivor of the class and an early example of New Zealand's industrial manufacturing heritage, X 442 deserves a better future than languishing at Feilding. This proposal is presented with that in mind, particularly given the historical connection of the X-class to Taumarunui and the North Island Main Trunk Line.



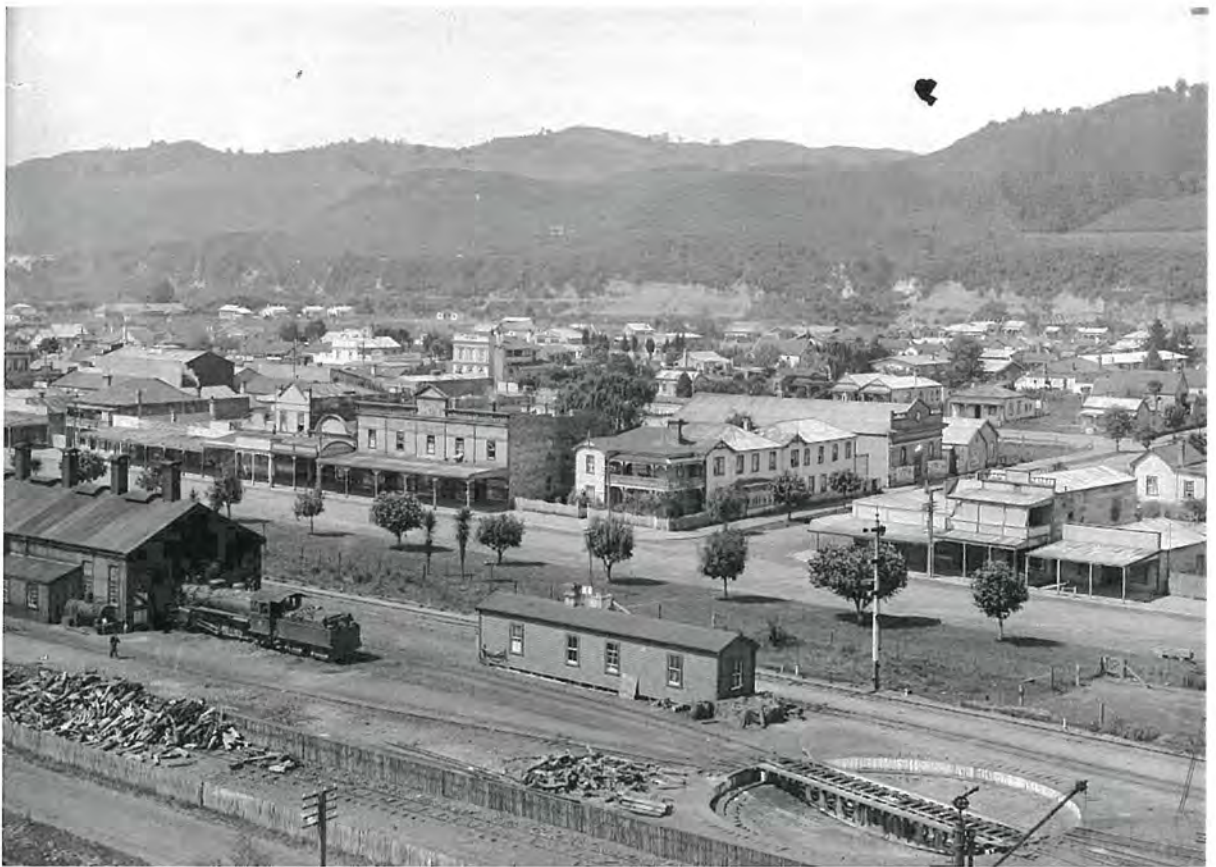
The X class had to be disassembled for shipment to the North Island following construction at Addington Workshops in Christchurch. The first of the class, X 439, is photographed outside Petone Workshops in 1909 following its reassembly.



One of the second batch, X 588, being serviced at Taumarunui prior to heading a southbound train in 1921.



Taumarunui locomotive depot circa 1920. X 439 and a sister locomotive await their next duties.



Taumarunui locomotive depot circa 1923 with a X-class locomotive sitting outside the engine shed.



Taumarunui circa 1923 showing the smoky hazy that emanated from every engine shed in the age of steam. An X-class is being turned on the turntable, something that normally had to done after each trip because they primarily worked trains over the central section of the NIMT to Taihape.



2002. X 442 on a flat deck truck for transport to Feilding.



23 September 2002. X 442 arrives at Feilding.



2008. X 442 in storage at Feilding.



The concept:

This proposal has been drafted by the Taumarunui Rail Action Centre Trust (TRACT) with the support of the Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand. TRACT has received NZR&LS approval to lease X 442 subject to the locomotive being suitably housed and displayed in Taumarunui.

While this proposal will need support, assistance, and approvals from the Ruapehu District Council, the aim is to largely fund the transport and construction of a suitable display building via grants from community funding providers.

1. Returning X 442 to Taumarunui.

X 442 is stored on a siding connected to the rail network at Feilding, but the locomotive is no longer certified or mechanical able to be moved by a KiwiRail hook and tow. The locomotive needs to be transported by road to Taumarunui, a method previously used in 2002.

2. Displaying X 442.

A requirement of any NZR&LS lease is for the locomotive to be stored undercover. The aims of this proposal include:

- That X 442 be properly displayed in a purpose-built structure.
- That this structure be at a highly visible location.
- That as far as possible, the locomotive is accessible to the public.
- A structure that provides an opportunity to generate an income stream by incorporating a café/function centre.



Some of the above have been achieved with the display of *Josephine*, the first 3-foot 6-inch gauge locomotive to operate in New Zealand, which is housed in purpose-built annex attached to the Toitū Otago Early Settlers Museum in Dunedin. The locomotive is significantly smaller than X 442 and occupies a small space in the corner of large triangular shaped annex/function centre.

3. Site options.

The preferred sites are west of Taumarunui Railway Street on KiwiRail or KiwiRail/RDC land with Hakiha Street frontage.



- **OPTION A:**
On KiwiRail owned land between the NIMT and Hakiha Street with the building facing the road. The existing dock platform track would be used to display X 442.



OPTION A looking east showing the existing dock platform track.

- **OPTION B:**

On KiwiRail/RDC owned land between the NIMT and Hakiha Street. This likely to require the laying of a new section of track closer Hakiha Street.



OPTION B looking east. Option A is over the fence from this site.

- **OPTION C:**

Adjacent to the dock platform and closer to the railway station on KiwiRail/RDC owned land between the NIMT and Hakiha Street. This may require the removal of some or all of the former New Zealand Railways advertising hoardings.



OPTION C looking east. The dock platform track is still in place under the leaf litter.

1. The building.

With main street frontage in the centre of Taumarunui, the building needs to be eye catching. Given the size of X 442 and the proposed use as a café/function centre, the building also needs to be large both in square metreage and height.

- To reduce construction costs the proposed concept incorporates standard sized modular components which can be constructed off-site and delivered ready for installation.
- The use of modular components also adds flexibility allowing the building to be easily extended or otherwise modified. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, it allows the building to be dismantled and used elsewhere.
- For structural integrity purposes the building features standard size “X” shaped bracing units that are colourful and designed to be visible. These units also reflect the “X” designation of the locomotive housed inside.

2. Café/function centre.

In a town the size of Taumarunui the only way to make X 442 accessible to the public without calling on the services of a limited number ever diminishing of museum volunteers is to erect a multi-purpose structure, hence the idea of a café/function centre.

- This would allow X 442 to be access during the normal hours of café operation and at other time when the space is used for functions.
- The café operation would be put out to tender, generating income the owning entity would use to pay overheads and provide future funding for repairs and maintenance.



A section of seating in the café at the National Railway Museum, York, England. The proposed structure at Taumarunui could incorporate seating to face X 442 and the NIMT.

7. Other ideas.

- Placing LED lights in the locomotive firebox, ashpan, cab, and headlight to simulate X 442 working at night. The cheap and easy use of lighting would better display X 442, provide visitors with something to look at outside of café hours, offer a greater degree of security, and avoid the building become becoming a black hole at night.
- To enhance the above use lighting, silver foil, fishing line, and a fan to simulate sparks coming from the funnel.
- Provide space for some of the rail heritage items held in the TRACT museum. To add interest and avoid repeat visitors seeing the same thing, these would be displayed on rotational basis.

8. Conclusion.

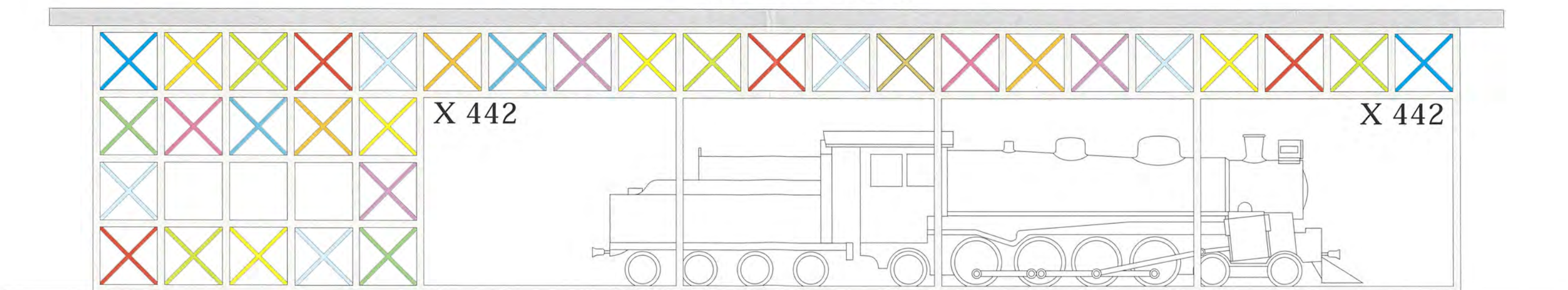
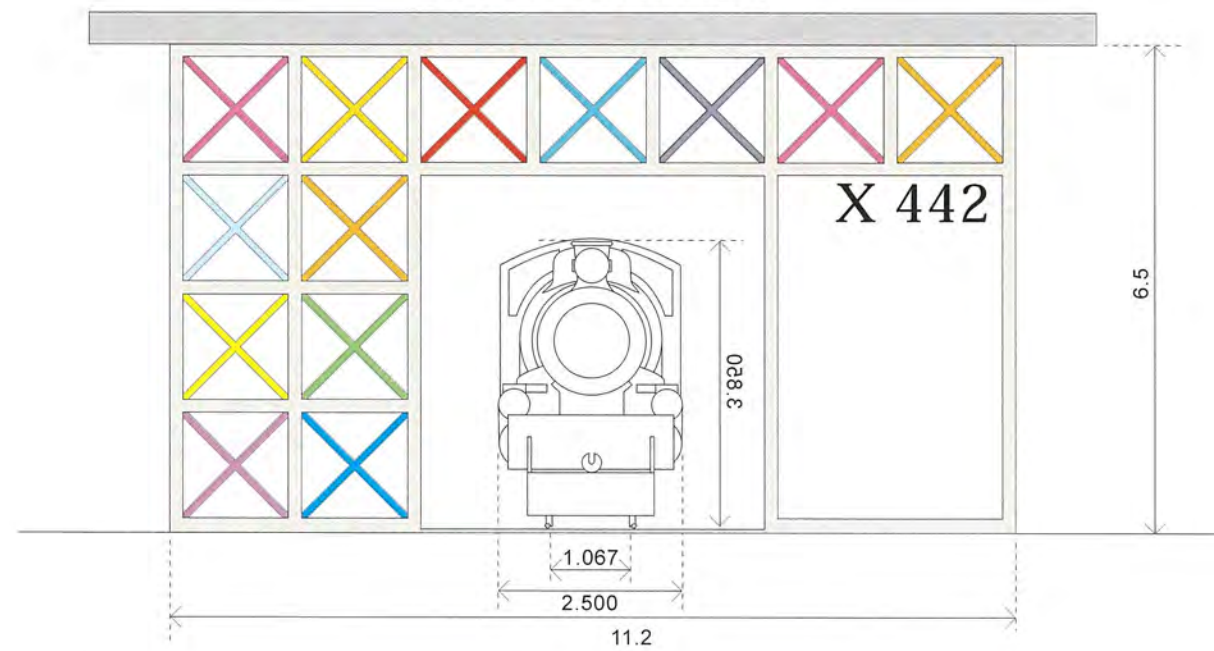
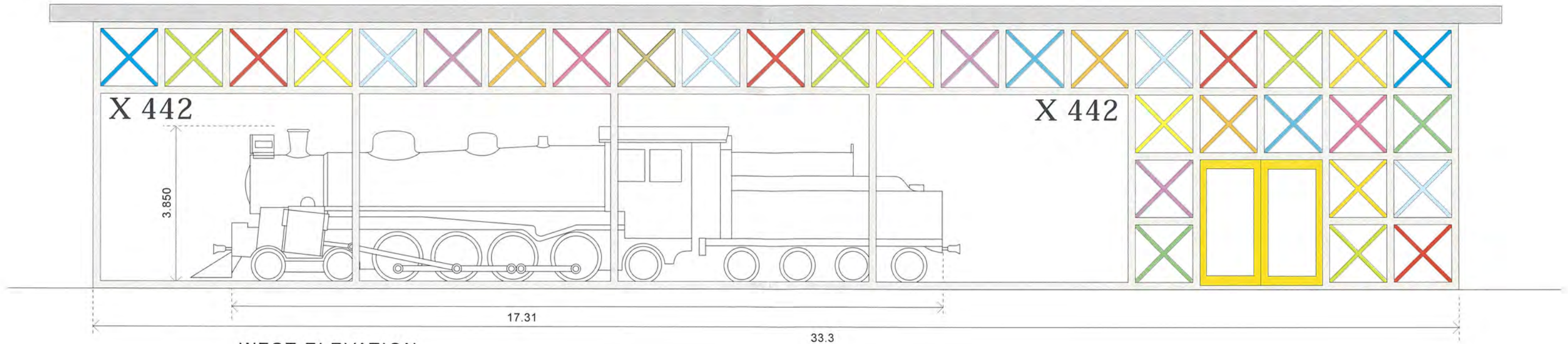
The arrival of the NIMT saw the establishment of Taumarunui and for more than seven decades the railway and the people who worked on it played a significant role in its development. The return of X 442, the sole survivor of a class of locomotive that called Taumarunui home for 40 plus years, offers a unique opportunity to celebrate and honour the decades-long association between the railway and the town.

This locomotive deserves a better outcome than languishing unloved and largely hidden from public view as it has for the past 55 years. There is no better place for X 442 than Taumarunui, a town the locomotive had a long association with and where the NIMT remains highly visible running as it does parallel to Hakiha Street.



X 442 at Taumarunui

Bringing a steam locomotive home





YOUTH HUB TAUMARUNUI

2023

PROPOSAL

About Us

- Teria Hamm and Zaney Huia from Nga Hau E Wha Maara Kai on BP Road, Matapuna. We are currently the team that provides the Tiaho Mai Program for Youth.
- Teria Hamm worked in the most Recent Youth Space “Connections”. She can directly speak to the need. It was a need then, just like it is a need now. She also worked as part of the Team who conducted the Social Sector trials out of MSD. From here she worked with Youth at Kokiri Trust Mental Health and Addictions.
- Zaney Huia, has worked for Child Youth and Family, now known as Oranga Tamariki, working in New Zealand's Biggest youth detention center with extreme Youth. She has also run a youth facility in Queensland supporting youth who could not be placed in foster homes due to their behavior. She has worked for the Women's Refuge and MSD as a Case Manager and Youth Development Specialist. She Holds a degree in Social Anthropology, the study of human behavior in social groups.



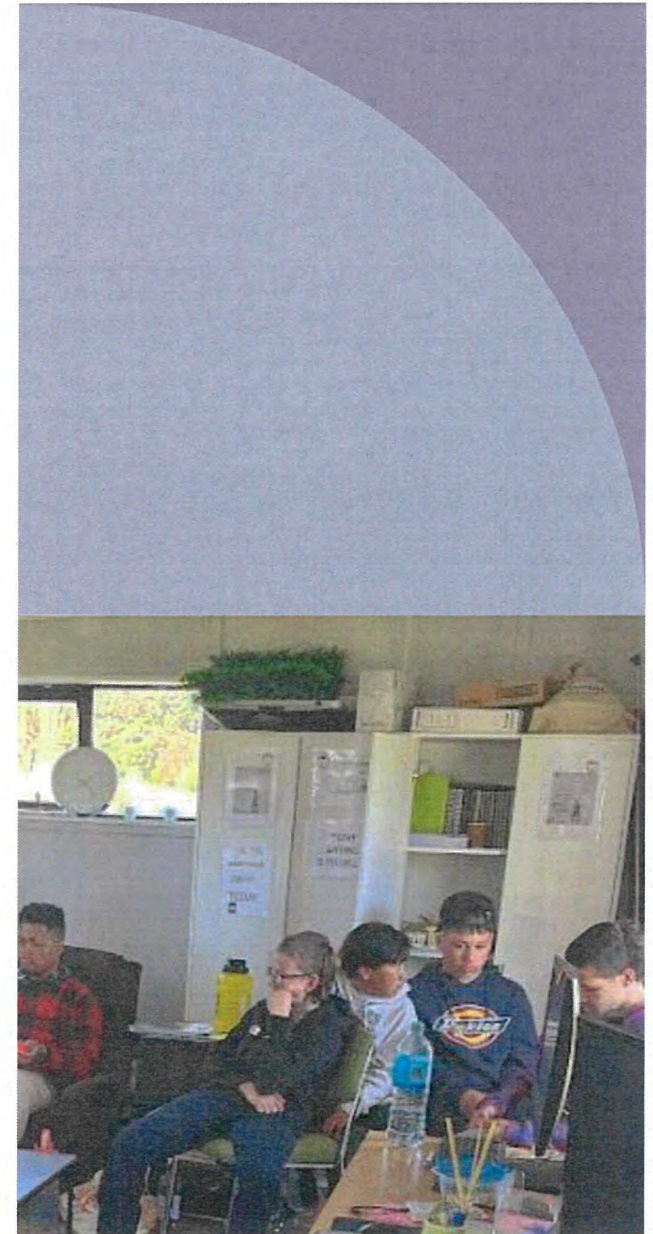
Community Project

In July 2023, Nga Hau E Wha Maara Kai's Tiaho Mai program worked with young people (Taiohi) to create a youth-led community project. Taiohi collaborated and formed a working group which decided to hold a Pop-Up Youth Hub for Taiohi aged 12-18 over the September 2023 school holidays for the Taumarunui community. A Hub to provide free recreational activities indoors for young people aged 12-18 years.

This Community Project allowed us to conduct Research to ask the following questions;

- Is there was a need for a youth Hub, a 3rd space away from school and home for young people to gather?
- What ages and ethnicities will use the space?
- What activities do they like to engage in?
- How Young people felt about what was currently available to them?

The project was a success and the feedback has been amazingly positive.





What we discovered

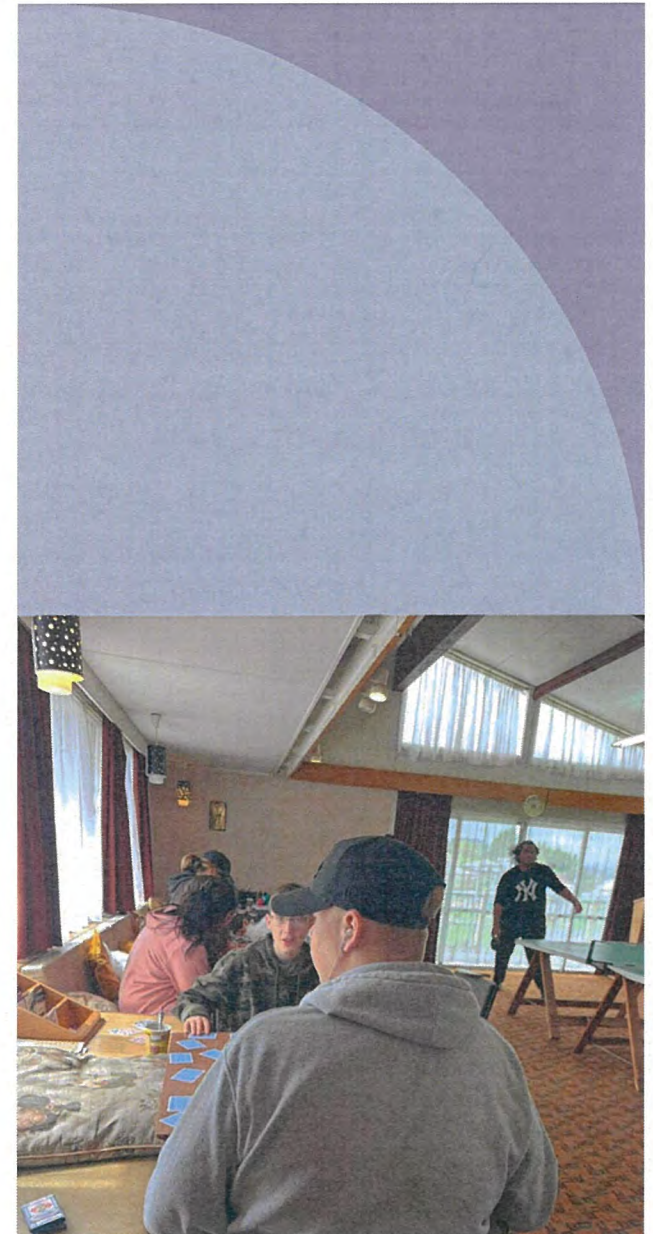
- Young People are awesome
- Young people will use the space. Up to 70 Young people a day visiting the Pop Up Youth Hub.
- Young people appear to not care about how the space looks, but are more concerned about what activities are available.
- Young people need a third space. Their current third space is social media and this is having long term negative effects on our Rangatahi.
- Young people put down their phones
- Young people are feeling lonely and isolated
- Despite being many activities available to youth in Taumarunui, the cost of these activities was an issue for families
- We need a free Indoor space with free activities available for Rangatahi
- We want to avoid boredom, disengagement and our young people being vulnerable to groups encouraging criminal activity.



Education, Employment and Relationships

How a Youth Hub could support our Youth Community

- Taumarunui has poor education Outcomes. Only 16% of young people are passing NCEA Level 3 at the High School. This outcome is actually worse than it appears because they are only talking about students that remain at high school, not those who have already decided to leave. A Hub could be an extra space to cheerlead our young people's journey in education space.
- We have high Youth Unemployment rates. This is a trickle-down effect from our poor education results. A youth Hub could be a vehicle for local organisations to reach out to young people to provide work skills and other services.
- A hub could provide that extra space for young people to learn how to socialise positively. Show young people you can have fun without Drugs, without alcohol, even without money.
- We need our young people to stay connected so they are not vulnerable. Vulnerable to mental health, criminal activity and boredom.



Why a Youth Hub is Needed

- We need young people to stay connected. They need peers to encourage and inspire them. We need them participating
- We need a safe space to identify vulnerable young people
- We need a space to be their cheerleaders and advocates.
- We need a space that doesn't cost them money, a place where they can have fun with their peers. Learn and develop themselves socially.
- There are so many benefits to having a Youth hub, but one of the most positive outcomes from the Pop Up Youth Hub is they are able to have fun.

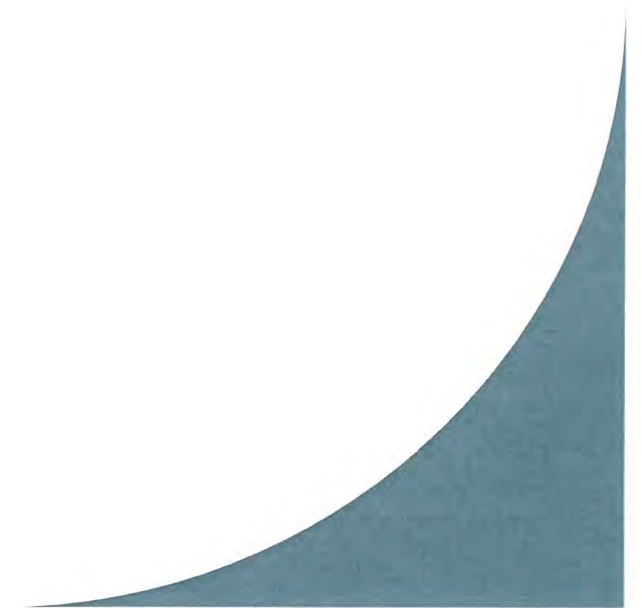


Long Term: Self Sustainability

Despite applying for funding we are aware that funding is not always available and this has been the demise of other youth projects. So we are currently planning for how to be self-sustainable long term. This is important. We have a group researching options and we currently have a few which we believe will fund this project ongoing and without public funding if the need be.

Overlap of Other services.

We are very aware of other organizations in Taumarunui and want to ensure that we stay in our lanes. We believe a Hub that does not provide social services is best. We already have those services and they do it well. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. But we do believe that by building positive relationships with those organizations we can be a vehicle for them to reach out to young people.



WHAT WE WANT

We want to advocate for the council/ board to support the initiative of a Permanent Taumarunui Youth Hub. We would like to further advocate that Council consider providing a permanent space like the Memorial Hall, Cozzy Club hall or even the Rail Way Building Top Floor for this project.

We as a community have a responsibility to ensure our young people are given the best chance at success, that we provide pathways, NOT TALK, to happy, healthy productive lives. A Youth Hub could be one of the vehicles to achieve this.



Kia ora koutou katoa

Apologies for not being at tonight's hui in person, but I have been a little unwell.

Ko Vivien Rauhina toku ingoa, (my name is Vivien Rauhina) no Taumarunui ahau (I am from Taumarunui.)

I am here (not in person lol) to present 2 take (causes) to, te hui nei (this hui).

The first take (cause) is the graffiti on the wall, along the alley way between the Chemist and Q Town/\$2 shop.

Earlier in the year I had put up a post about this, on the "You Know you're From Taumarunui," fb page, asking for others thoughts on what could be done.

My thoughts were to ask for the communities help, in regards to donations of paint, paint rollers, pans and volunteers and just be able to roll up after suggesting a date and time to meet together at the alley way, and start painting over the graffiti

I received a very kind message from Mr. Adler, who offered to provide the paint for this, but that was as far as I got, as I became unwell soon after putting the post up.

What I did manage to do, while waiting to get better, was to message the council, and let council know, what I was hoping to do.

Council staff rang me, to explain how things would normally work and that the owner of the building, would need to be asked first, that is, if she could find who the owner was, as it appeared they could have been an "absent landlord," (whatever that means?)

I never heard back from the staff as to whether they had found out who the owner was, so left it there, with the staff.

I messaged Mr. Adler, to keep him informed and to thank him for his kind donation, of paint but to hold onto it for now, until I had heard more.

What I would like you to know is, I had no intention of painting the whole wall, only painting "over" the graffiti along that wall, to cover over the ugly scribble (which is NOT art by the way, if someone says it is) So please don't think, the whole wall is going to be painted, as it's not

Thank you

That's, take (cause) number one.