



INFORM - ADVOCATE - EMPOWER

Report to:

Kāpiti Coast District Council Strategy & Policy Committee, 20 July 2017

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council (formerly the Council of Elders) was established in 2008 as a voice for older people living in the communities on the Kāpiti Coast. This is a very open and transparent organisation holding public meetings, and providing a wide range of information - including the comprehensive minutes provided by KCDC staff- on <http://kcopc.webs.com> which is open to public scrutiny and Google.

It has established itself with regular monthly meetings - usually in these chambers - featuring guest speakers on relevant subjects. Typical attendance is between twenty and thirty.

In the last year we were informed by speakers from:

- WINZ
- St John
- NZ Post
- Kāpiti Health Coalition
- Senior Parks in Kāpiti
- Securely
- Department of Internal Affairs (Real Me)
- Office for Seniors
- Alzheimer's Wellington
- Accessibility Advisory Group
- ZEAL
- Kāpiti Health Shuttle
- Disability Information & Equipment Centre

as well as numerous updates from KCDC, including:

- Town Centres Update
- The Review of 2010 Public Places Bylaw and 2010 Trading in Public Places

Policy

- Sustainable Communities (community resilience)
- Maclean Park
- Emergency Preparedness

An important part of our regular meetings involves an opportunity for all attendees to update the meeting, and that serves as important way for the many organisations represented around the table to be better coordinated as well as raise issues.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council also makes public submissions, for example:

- Maclean Park Refresh
- 2017 Annual Plan submission to Kāpiti Coast District Council
- To Kāpiti Coast District Council on Community Facilities Strategy
- Age Friendly submission to Kāpiti Coast District Council
- To Westpac branch on the proposed Waikanae branch closure
- To Greater Wellington Regional Council on the Kāpiti Bus Review
- To NZ Government on Goldcard
- To Paraparaumu Taxis on availability
- To Red Cross on Health Shuttle

That last example also incorporates some work that is not public. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council took part in meetings in Wellington and Kāpiti aimed at retaining the Health Shuttle when the Red Cross made it known they would no longer be providing the service. Those discussions resulted in firstly a stay of execution on the Red Cross service and later a replacement through the initiative of EMS and A Safer Kāpiti.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council is also involved in discussions with St John on a viability study on augmenting health transport services in out area.

There are also very private representations on behalf of individuals.

Important initiatives of the Older Persons' Council are:

Age on Go Expo

Another expo, the fourth, was held this year. It reinforced role this event has as an important networking opportunity, especially for newcomers to the district, and furthering a primary aim of the Older Persons' Council of fostering active ageing.

The event attracted over 600 people this year, and around 40 displays, exhibits and stalls showing what recreational, health and lifestyle opportunities there are for the district's older population. The venue was once again Waikanae Memorial Hall. The venue is a restriction as there were more requests for stands than there was space available.

Feedback from exhibitors is generally very positive, as was those who attended - especially comments from people who had recently moved to the coast, saying they were excited about how much there is to do here.

At the last Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council meeting I obtained approval to consult a professional event organiser for a fresh view on the Age on Go Expo, as I believe we are in need of a refresh of the concept and to involve new people.

Age Friendly Kāpiti

Work has continued to establish age friendly communities in our district, concentrating recently on better alignment with the KCDC and establishing the initial priority areas of:

- Age Friendly Businesses;
- Housing and
- Health

The chair of the Age Friendly Kāpiti Steering Committee is Jill Stansfield and she will report on its activities.....

KAPITI AGE FRIENDLY PROJECT

I have been involved with the STEERING COMMITTEE, and last year I took the initiative to form a small sub- committee consisting of some members of the original Age Friendly Steering group for the purpose of moving towards the establishment of “Kapiti Age Friendly Businesses”. Our major achievement was working with the Electra Business Awards programme where the initial “Peoples Choice – Kapiti Age Friendly Business” category. was implemented

This will now be funded by the MSD “Office for Seniors” and will hopefully continue to be part of the Annual “Electra Business Awards.”

This inaugural event gave us the platform on which we hope to build our proposed “Kapiti Age Friendly Businesses” model. To this end we have decided to move the two Committees - the “Age Friendly Steering Group” plus the “Kapiti Age

Friendly Businesses” project back to be fully under the umbrella of the Older Persons’ Council and to work as one group rather than two.

We have several successful models around the theme of “Age Friendly Businesses” from other countries, and will be using these to assist with further planning. We next meet on Wed Aug 2 at 1pm – in the Rimu Room in Coastlands. The representation within this group extends to include several “outside organisations” and also Lee Halliday who is currently working for KCDC. – we value his interest - it is a great opportunity to have a younger person involved.

In addition to the above the OPC makes submissions to Council when and where relevant, and if I am presenting to you I include an “Age Friendly Dimension” whenever it is appropriate.

As you are aware the LTP has reference on P72 to the commitment to move towards an “Age Friendly Kapiti” and we plan to make relevant submissions and attend various workshops with the objective of bringing the “Age Friendly” dimension into KCDC Planning.

We are also hoping that we will be able to capitalise on Geoff Pearman’s visit to KCDC early in August by joining in with sessions and maybe even being able to have the opportunity for him to work with the OPC.

I am also involved as a OPC representative on the Kapiti Health Advisory Group, and at the conclusion of the Forum this group held on March 22 four of us formed what we decided to call the “Kapiti Health Coalition” Each of us is from a different organisation.

The KHC has been meeting regularly sometimes with our Mayor as well as two persons with great planning and promotional skills. The outcome is happening right now in a variety of locations across the Kapiti Coast. I am referring to the Petition for a Community Hospital in Kapiti that we will take to the incoming Government Minister with the responsibility for Health. So far we have averaged about 1,000 signatures a day.

Finally – In a general sense we see the “Age Friendly” project being more a case of being “All Age Friendly” rather than simply “Age Friendly.”

The O P C is also interested Housing – especially for older people. Although I am not directly involved with this group I have put forward the actions that have been taken by the Thames Coromandel District Council as an interesting attempt to move housing – especially for older people - forward in their district. That said - I would now like to hand over to John Hayes – our Chair – to speak about Housing because of his involvement with this particular work stream

Housing

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council has played a leading role in the establishment and operation of the Kāpiti Coast Communities Housing Taskforce, supplying half the foundation committee.

The taskforce has held many meetings involving over 20 organisations, and has recently produced a document for consideration in the KCDC long term planning process.

Elder Person of the Year

The third Kāpiti Coast Elder Person of the Year award was presented on the 9th November last year to Valerie Freeman, a volunteer at the Salvation Army family store. Previous winners were Betty Van Gaalen and Trevor Daniel, both of whom have added enormous value to proceedings in this room.

The events have been well received and are a wonderful opportunity to salute people for their contributions to our community.

A fourth ceremony was to have been held on the 26th September 2017, and planning was well advanced for that, however only three nominations were received. The event would not be viable with so few nominations, so the current feeling is to make this a biennial event - in the off year to the Age on the Go Expo - and attempt a revamp next year when there is a possibility of a new venue and format, informed by feedback from a professional event organiser.

There have been other activities including attendance at the Otaki Expo and numerous workshops, but I hope this brief report conveys that the Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council is achieving its objective to inform, advocate and empower.