



Making the active choice the easy choice

January 2013



Phillip Leith, Moutere Hills Community Centre Board Chairman

By now you will all be aware of the devastating fire which destroyed part of the Centre on Tuesday morning, 22 Jan . The fire broke out at about 8 am in the function room ceiling and spread quickly through that room. Fortunately Yvette Cook was at the Centre opening up for the Children’s Holiday Programme, and was able to quickly alert the Fire Service, and make sure no-one remained in the building. The fire brigades responded quickly and managed to contain the fire to the function room, and although it is thoroughly damaged, the eastern and western ends, and the sports floor appear to have suffered no fire nor structural damage

However because the power and water supplies have been destroyed, no part of the Centre can be used in the meantime. We are optimistic that we can arrange power so that outdoor users can continue with sports etc , but all bookings for internal use have had to be diverted elsewhere .Staff are attending to all these issues and have had great support from other venue operators. MHCC staff are going to be based at Upper Moutere School for the immediate future.

The Sarau Festival on Sunday 3 Feb will go ahead as planned (with marquees, generators and portaloos) and will be an opportunity to show our resilience, and have some fun !

The Fire Service have conducted their investigation and will release a report in a few weeks time, and now we await the Insurance Assessors . The building and contents are fully covered under comprehensive Tasman District Council policies, and TDC staff are well aware of our needs, and are negotiating with their insurers on our behalf.

At this stage it appears that no private nor club property was damaged, and we have removed to safe storage all historical material and office records. Equipment cannot be removed until the Assessors have cleared the building, and at present access is limited to MHCC staff ONLY.

We have had great support so far from many members of the community, and will no doubt be in a position to use their offers of help soon .Right now, everything must wait for the Insurance Assessors to complete their work and TDC staff have been very helpful to us in that area, and they will be primarily responsible for the handling of claims.

We will be having an MHCC Board meeting early next week and will be able by then to map out our recovery strategy. We are committed to supporting our staff and Centre users and are confident we can fully recover from this nasty setback

Thank you all for your support.



It was devastating to see the damage of the fire at the Moutere Hills Community Centre on Tuesday 22 January. After all the years of work to build the Centre and knowing the extensive use of the Centre by the community, it was heart-wrenching.

What was uplifting was seeing Upper Moutere School, Sport Tasman, Upper Moutere Lutheran church and other groups and individuals rally around to offer help and support. In the midst of the chaos and heartache, staff at the Centre were busy working out which sports could be run outside and finding new venues for bookings, and Sarau Festival organisers were calculating numbers of portaloos and other changes so that their annual community celebration could continue on 3rd February. After such a shattering blow, I think running the Festival will be very important as it will enable the community to come together and start the process of moving forward as there will be a lot of work to do before the Centre is operational again.

On the one hand it is just bricks and mortar, but as someone who has been involved with the Centre since before it opened, I know it is much more than that. The heart and soul of so many people went into the planning and fundraising and has since gone into running the Centre.

Tasman District Council will do all that it can to ensure the Centre is open again as soon as possible. We will be discussing the path forward at our Community Services Committee meeting on 7th February and hopefully by then we will have received the fire investigation report and insurance assessment. I have proposed establishing a working party comprising Councillors, Council staff and Centre committee and staff as it will be important for us to work together and all be in the boat together.

I look forward to seeing you at the Sarau Festival.

Cr Judene Edgar
Chair, Community Services
Tasman District Council



A WORD FROM KATRINA

Myself and staff would like to thank you all for yo ur kind messages and wonderful offers of support and help after the devastating fire at the Community Centre on Tuesday morning. We are also working closely with the Tasman District Council to get things moving as quickly as possible. We are currently waiting for the fire investigation to be completed and the insurance assessors to finish before a comprehensive plan of action can be completed. We are however hoping to get power and water restored to the outside toilets and old kitchen.

At present myself, Vanessa, Teresa and Scott are working from the dental clinic at Upper Moutere School so if you would like to see us then just come on up. We will also respond to emails as quickly as possible and I am still available on the cell phone 027 5118825 and Vanessa on 027 5118826 . We have managed to relocate our weekly activities so please see the schedule attached. Thanks to Grant at Upper Moutere School, Chris at Lutheran Church and Motueka Recreation Centre for accommodating us.

We are completely devastated by the fire but are extremely grateful to Upper Moutere Fire Brigade and all the other fire crews who attended the blaze and worked tirelessly to contain the fire and minimize the damage to the centre. Thank you all again for your amazing support and kind offers of help. We will let you know as soon as we are able to take you up on this.

Thanks
Katrina McLean
Facility Manager - Phone 027 511 8825