

## **Apiti Community Committee Meeting – 11.12.2025**

**Attendance:** Sonya Dearlove, Felicity McKay, Ross Bielski, Janine Hawthorn, Councillor Sam Hill, Andrea Morling, Alex McIntosh, Deb Ford, Kev Chauval, Adrian Waugh, Kaleb Macann, Aaron Cameron and Colbie Lequesne.

**Welcome to guests:**

**Apologies:** Russell Knight and June Barrett

**Introduce visitors**

**Previous Minutes:**

Call by Chairperson for minutes to be approved as read/deliver or with corrections.  
meeting of 9/10/25

Seconded: Sonya Dearlove

**Matters Arising:** defer to AOB

**Correspondence:** Sonya read through the correspondence.

**Matters Arising from correspondence:** defer to AOB

**Financial Statements**

Account balance for 1 December 2025. \$1814.01

**Committee Reports:**

**Other Reports**

**General/ Any Other Business:**

All business was deferred to the incoming committee

**Next Meeting:** **to be determined by incoming committee**

**Meeting to be followed by TGM**

## **Apiti Community Committee Triennial meeting 11 December 2025**

### **Chairperson's report**

This was my second term as Chairperson of the Apiti Community Committee. Once again, we have had a productive three years.

Ten years ago, the Apiti Community got together with the Manawatu District Council to develop the Apiti Community Plan. This document, which has continued to be a guide for how the Community Committee functions was reviewed in 2025. Changes in the community meant we could not follow the plan in practice, but we followed it in principle.

That is why over the past three years our three primary objectives have continued to be:

- To keep Apiti Hall maintained and used.
- To keep Apiti Domain maintained and fit for its purpose of a community space, a freedom camping ground and a venue for outdoor events.
- To make Apiti Village an interesting and beautiful place to visit and to live.

Over the past three years there have been significant changes in the Apiti District. Farming and the village remain the focus of our committee. There has been changes in both farm ownership and use and in the population of the village. We have seen a loss of some long-term residents and an increase in new people coming into the district, with a diversity in residents.

Please take a moment to remember past friends.

### **APITI HALL**

What has been happening with Apiti Hall? Well, Hall use has increased within the Community.

The Community Library is open most Saturday mornings thanks to the dedication of Pat Prince, June Barrett, Sonya Dearlove and me. The Book Club uses it one evening a month as well.

Winter months see the regular indoor bowls group using the facility. And throughout the year the recently formed exercise group can be found there every Tuesday and Thursday. Membership to these groups is open to everyone.

The Hall continues to function as a meeting place for community groups. Apiti Community Committee, Apiti and District Show Committee, and RSA regularly use the Hall's Supper Room for their meetings. Apiti Volunteer Fire Brigade hold their training sessions there too.

Community meetings have been hosted by the Apiti Catchment Group, Civil Defence, MRSS and FarmSource, to name a few have also made use of this room.

While the main body of the Hall now has equipment for the exercise group, this is easily put away should the area be needed for other events. Such events have included birthday parties, the Pink Ribbon Breakfast, mid-winter parties, MDC family movie night to name a few. The mid-winter Christmas party in 2023 was a special event. We planted a tree in commemoration of the coronation of King Charles 3rd and the 100th birthday of the Hall.

There were sad times too. JR's funeral and the memorial for Murray Whitehead. Hall upgrade has continued. The kitchen been upgraded with rodent-proof cupboards, flatware and cutlery for 100 people. The Hall is listed for 105 people.

There are now energy efficient heatpumps in both the Supper Room and main Hall, making it a great place for groups.

A big thank you to Central Energy Trust and Manawatu District Council for helping to make those things happen.

In the past three years the Hall has been rewired, including a plug for the generator so that the community generator can be housed there. An access ramp into the Hall makes it fully accessible, the Automated External Defibrillator, thanks to St Johns is available 24/7. The community radio, our emergency link to MDC has been upgraded. Thanks to Ross Bielski for the training he given people in the village on how to use the radio and set up of the generator. Thanks, Eddie Prince, for doing regular checks on the generator. The Hall is now the Civil Defence post for Apiti.

There are just a few minor projects to be done. The windows in the ladies' rest room are still in need of replacement. The old bar heaters are still to be disconnected and taken down. The two heatpump units on the north side of the building will have protective cages built over them.

### **APITI DOMAIN:**

Domain development has gone ahead steadily under the stewardship of Russell Knight and Ruth Brocket. You are both owed a debt of gratitude for your ongoing work.

As well as a good, secure water supply from two large water tanks, the two new water pumps maintain good supply to the toilet block and the Pavilion kitchen.

The grandstand was falling apart and has been replaced with a new half-grandstand, leaving the other end free for storage.

The grounds are maintained in partnership with Manawatu District Council.

Other improvements to the Domain include the area under the trees being cleaned up so it is a pleasant, grassed area for people to use in the shade.

Two new picnic tables have replaced the old fallen-apart one.

The shearing stand has been painted. There is ongoing work to make it a comfortable weather-proof structure for those participating in the Apiti and District Show, some of whom are New Zealand's best shearers.

There are also plans to make the equestrian area more accommodating for the increasing numbers of horses and riders entering the event year on year.

We have noted a small but significant increase in the number of freedom campers using the Domain. Their comments on this facility have, on the whole been very positive.

### **APITI BEAUTIFICATION**

Completed projects include the Welcome to Apiti sign at the south entrance to the village. The blue sign is still waiting to be relocated to the western entrance on Makoura Road.

The deer enclosure on the corner of Watsons and Makoura Roads, has been tidied up and will be maintained by Felicity McKay on behalf of the Apiti Community Committee.

Thanks to Peter Fountain for keeping an eye on the growth around the signs notice boards. They are kept very tidy.

## **PEOPLE POWER**

In May 2024, on behalf of Esther Knight and Apiti School children we made a submission to the Long Term Plan regarding Apiti Village Roading Concerns. This submission was successful. While some of the points in the submission have been completed, we are still waiting on road markings to be done in the village, especially at the Oroua Valley Road/Makoura Road intersection. Our council liaison is working on this.

In 2021 we were asked to give feedback on councillor composition. The majority of rate payer respondents voted for the 5 rural, five urban and one Maori ward councillors. The councillors unilaterally changed this to 4:4:1 without consultation. We, along with other ratepayer groups strongly opposed this and in February 2022 the Local Government Commission found in favour of the opposition.

The Apiti Community Response & Recovery Plan was updated. It was then hand delivered to every letterbox in the district by Ross Bielski.

## **THANKS**

Communication with MDC has been outstanding. Our we have had Community Connectors. I would like to thank Negin Nema, Helen King and our current (and previous) person Janine Hawthorn for your knowledge and understanding. Also, a big thanks to James Adamson for guiding and supporting us with all things maintenance. A special thank you to Steve Bielski. You have been a brilliant Liaison Councillor. All it took was a phone call or email and you were there.

June Barrett, one of our committee members on her own initiative took up the challenge to get rural transport to Apiti. The result was that as of November 2024 there is now the Manawatu Rural Bus service for the whole of the Manawatu rural areas. Not only that, but the service has grown and now incorporates MRSS. June sends her apologies.

Last but not least, this is my last report as Chairperson. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Committee who have supported me over the last five years. It has been a pleasure working with you. And I wish all the best to the incoming committee.

Thank you

Felicity McKay  
Chairperson 2022 to 2025  
Apiti Community Committee