

Dale Vercoe Land Gift

Report from 23 November public meeting

Over 80 community residents gathered on 23 November at Mapua Hall to “Think Tank” a possible new Mapua based health care facility. Dale Vercoe is making his property above Mapua Drive available for development and invited the Mapua and districts residents to help define exactly what the community needs. Meeting participants strongly endorsed the WHO health definition of "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." The meeting was unanimous in its support for a charitable trust community model for this development with an emphasis on 'care in the community' involving all age groups in an inclusive caring model.

Small groups formed to develop ideas as diverse as respite/hospice and dementia care, fire/ambulance/helipad and community van services, holistic/alternative/preventive health care services, health education classes, district nurse base, temporary residence for homeless, meals on wheels, half-way house for hospital leavers not ready to be at home, mother/new infant care, whole foods café, a therapy pool, daycare for seniors, mental health support, a high-end health tourism facility, a garden maintained by community and Mapua School students, cradle to grave community health support and a sustainable and eco-friendly building.

A charitable trust is being formed. Some models put forth were the small but successful Marlborough hospice and the potential of creating an alliance with the Jack Inglis Friendship Hospital in Motueka. The “Dales Gift” organizing group is looking for volunteers with all types of skills. For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/dalesgift or call Graeme Stradling at 540-2050

Remember: our last Mapua Community Association meeting is next Monday at 7 PM at Mapua Hall. We will hear a special presentation from the Mapua School on how their meeting their rapid growth challenges. And we'll toast Hugh Gordon's being granted Lifetime Membership into the Association. See you there!

Tim Hawthorne