

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008

It is my pleasure to present this the sixth annual report for the Dannevirke Promotion and Development Society Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

During the past 12 months we have been able to finalise some long outstanding matters. Firstly we have now obtained resource consent at a cost of \$6,600. A figure much higher than we would have expected. Secondly, the lease for the land in Rawhiti Street has been agreed to at a cost of \$125.00 (plus gst) as an initial deed fee from Ontrack with annual licence fee of \$125.00 thereafter. Thirdly it was necessary for us to prove to council that we had a majority community support for the Icon to be erected. To achieve this we commissioned the high school senior students to carry out a random telephone survey on our behalf. The reason for using the high school students to carry out this survey was to have an independent source so that no-one could say the survey was biased in any way. This proved to be the case and Council were happy with the results. The question asked was "Are you in favour of building a Viking Icon in Dannevirke. Of the 400 households surveyed 54% approved, 31% disapproved and 15% did not know. Sixty-three businesses showed 70% approved, 17% disapproved and 13% did not know.

Having obtained all the necessary approvals to proceed with the building of the Icon, some four applications were submitted for funds. Of these only one was a definite no and further applications are to be submitted in the 2009 year for further consideration of our requests. Other requests to similar types of sources will also be submitted. We will need to look at ways and means in which we can raise moneys ourselves and this will be the focus for the forthcoming year. I believe our project will further enhance our town to go with the main street refurbishment, just as the town clock has done.

Another very successful promotion of the Spring Festival programme took place during the month of October which was again sponsored by NZCU Baywide and Central FM Radio. Again posters and brochures were delivered from Waipawa to Eketahuna. For the success of this promotion a very big thank you to Bob Dresser for all his hard work in putting this ever increasing programme together.

During the year we received Barbara Ferguson's resignation from our committee. Thanks were expressed to Barbara for her support over the years and for her efforts on our behalf in representing us on the steering committee for the Street Refurbishment.

Finally, my thanks for the support of all committee members during the year and special thanks to Brenda Thirkell for coming on board and taking up the position of Secretary and also to our Treasurer Jim Crispin. Thank you both for the added workload you carry out.

It is most pleasing to have been able to report some positive steps forward this year and hopefully over the ensuing year we will have more success in achieving our fund raising targets.

Thank you one and all.

Malcolm Peffers  
Chairman