

# GDF Chair Report 2023

As Chair I submit my Annual Report.

The year subject to the report ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

That was a most significant year for the Foundation because arrangements were finalized that will enable the health centre project to become a reality.

We expect construction at 190 Talbot Street to begin in late 2023.

I go back to the formation of the Foundation as a registered charity in 2019.

The three trustees; Jimmy Wallace, Wayne O'Donnell, and Rosie Morten, are volunteers drawn from the community.

The Foundation was established at the instigation of the Geraldine Licensing Trust with a wide charter to support significant community projects in our district.

Since its inception the trustees have been preoccupied with the first such project, being the new health centre.

The Foundation received substantial initial backing for this venture from the Licensing Trust. We are aware that there have been various efforts over many years to set up a modern health hub in our town. We are pleased to have helped in finally bringing this about.

A key element has been the involvement of the Community Trust of Mid-South Canterbury which agreed to become an equal partner in this \$5m project. The numerous facets of the venture that the trustees have dealt with include arranging funding, finalizing the design, arranging for tenants to be signed up, dealing with the builders, and completing the partnership arrangements with the Community Trust.

The trustees have been meeting weekly for over three years.

The Foundation has arranged the funding for its 50% share which includes a recent Lotto grant. In addition to the Licensing Trust, grants have been received from Timaru District Council, Mackenzie Charitable Foundation, Town & Country Club, Geraldine Community Board, Hobson Trust, and others.

What all this means is that our district will soon have a modern health centre, accommodating as tenants medical professionals, visiting health services, and community health related groups such as Plunket.

The centre will be community owned.

It is also being built as the local Civil Defence Centre with generator, water tank, and communications equipment.

As we all know building costs have increased dramatically over the time we have been working on the project.

The building contract does contain an escalation clause and it may be that we will need to seek some further funding from the community. As recorded in our financial statements our monies are managed by Croys Accountants and our annual accounts are filed with Charities Services.

I express my thanks to my co-Trustees for all their work and support.

Also to our patron, John Acland, and to Kerry Stevens, a former local Geraldine ward councillor, who has been a key adviser.

J.L. Wallace Foundation Chair