



# AGENDA

## Maniototo Community Board Meeting Thursday, 7 May 2026

**Date:** Thursday, 7 May 2026

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Location:** Ranfurly Service Centre, 15 Pery Street,  
Ranfurly

(A link to the live stream will be available on the Central Otago District Council's website.)

**Peter Kelly**  
Chief Executive Officer



Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Maniototo Community Board will be held in Ranfurly Service Centre, 15 Pery Street, Ranfurly and live streamed via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 7 May 2026 at 2:00 pm. The link to the live stream will be available on the Central Otago District Council's website.

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**Members** Cr M Harris (Chairperson), Mr L Dowling, Cr S Duncan, Mr D Helm, Ms R McAuley

**In Attendance** T Alley (Mayor), P Kelly (Chief Executive Officer), L Fleck (Group Manager - People and Culture, Acting Group Manager - Community Vision), J Muir (Group Manager - Three Waters), Q Penniall (Group Manager - Planning, Infrastructure and Regulatory), S Righarts (Group Manager - Governance and Business Services), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), S Reynolds (Governance Support Officer)

**1 APOLOGIES**

**2 PUBLIC FORUM**

**3 CONDOLENCES**

**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Maniototo Community Board - 26 March 2026



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
MANIOTOTO COMMUNITY BOARD  
HELD IN THE RANFURLY SERVICE CENTRE, 15 PERY STREET, RANFURLY  
AND LIVE STREAMED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 2026  
COMMENCING AT 2:07 PM**

**PRESENT:** Mr M Harris (Chair), Mr L Dowling, Cr S Duncan, Ms R McAuley

**IN ATTENDANCE:** P Kelly (Chief Executive Officer) via Microsoft Teams, Q Penniall (Group Manager - Planning, Infrastructure and Regulatory), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), J Remnant (Community Facilities Manager), A Crosbie (Policy and Strategy Lead), Z Zeelie (Team Leader – Statutory Property), M Ridd (Statutory Property Officer), S Reynolds (Governance Support Officer)

## 1 APOLOGIES

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### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Duncan  
**Seconded:** McAuley

That apologies from Mr D Helm be received and accepted.

**CARRIED**

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## 2 PUBLIC FORUM

### Russ Haigh and Tania Murray - Public toilets in the town, streetscaping at the Railway Station

Mr Haigh and Ms Murray outlined their desire to have the former toilets at the Railway Station reinstated. They noted that the Railway reserve was the focal point for visitors and that they were reluctant to walk further up the street to use the new facilities. They expressed the view that reinstating this facility would encourage visitors to stay longer in the town and that they believed toilets were needed at both ends of the street.

Ms Murray also discussed the condition of the roses at the Railway Station, noting they had not received sufficient water and that irrigation had not been adequately managed.

The pair presented a concept plan for a proposed pump track on John Street and indicated that they would be applying for grants to support the project.

They then responded to questions, and the Board noted that its position on reopening the toilets at the Railway Reserve had not changed, and that no funding was available for this.

## 3 CONDOLENCES

The chair referred to the deaths of Janet Weatherall, Stuart Hore, Glenys Walker. Members stood for a moment's silence as a mark of respect.

#### 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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##### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Dowling  
**Seconded:** McAuley

That the public minutes of the Maniototo Community Board Meeting held on 12 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

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#### 5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their obligations in respect of declaring any interests. There were no further declarations of interest.

#### 6 REPORTS

##### 26.2.2 REVIEW MANIOTOTO TRUST FUND GUIDELINES

To consider the administrative guidelines for the Maniototo Trust Fund.

It was discussed that there would be an opportunity to review the Chair of the fund at their next meeting.

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##### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Duncan  
**Seconded:** Dowling

That the Maniototo Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Agrees to amend clause 9 in the Guidelines Maniototo Trust Fund to read:  
*“The above guidelines will operate until the end of 2028, when the future usage of the Maniototo Trust Fund will be reviewed.”*

**CARRIED**

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Note: Ms McAuley left the meeting at 2.40 pm and returned at 2.43 pm.

##### 26.2.3 ROAD STOPPING POLICY

To consider providing feedback to staff on the proposed Road Stopping Policy.

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##### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Harris  
**Seconded:** Duncan

That the report be received and its contents noted.

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**CARRIED**

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## **7 MAYOR'S REPORT**

Her Worship the Mayor was an apology of the meeting so no report was presented.

## **8 CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **26.2.5 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair gave an update on activities and issues since the last meeting.

- Had attended a recent Kyeburn Reserve Committee and noted that there was no appetite to survey the boundary and that the lease would be continued as it is, and they are working on the incorporation of their group.
- It was noted that Swinburn Road had been gravelled.

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## **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Harris**  
**Seconded: Duncan**

That the report be received.

**CARRIED**

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## **9 MEMBERS' REPORTS**

### **26.2.6 MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Members gave an update on activities and issues since the last meeting.

Mr Dowling reported on the following:

- Noted that he had spoken at the Council meeting the previous day and thanked the Mayor and Councillors for holding their meeting in the Maniototo.
  - Attended the successful Maniototo A&P Show, acknowledging the effort of all volunteers and organisers.
  - Had received requests from community members for additional rubbish bins at the Stadium Reserve.
  - Noted some frustration with the process for hiring sports fields in the ward, as it was seen as unnecessarily onerous for clubs run by volunteers. Staff advised that this process is being streamlined and will be publicly available soon.
- 
-

- Noted that the sewage ponds were being de-sludged and that he had received some community comment regarding this work.
- Had been speaking with members of the Rail Trail Trust, who had been working with the Lions and were hoping to get the Goods Shed refurbished; they requested a letter of support from the Board to the Department of Conservation to encourage progress.

Ms McAulay reported on the following:

- Had met with members of the Lions and the Rail Trail Trust, and supported a letter of endorsement to recognise the great work they are doing; this support will help progress the project and ensure the protection of these Department of Conservation-owned assets for the community in the future.
- Noted the progress at the Patearoa Bowling Club regarding their project to create a multi-use community hub.
- Provided details about the kiosk soon to open at Kyeburn, celebrating the moa footprint discovery and outlining the research and work conducted since; noted that this will be a valuable community asset.
- Gave an update on the turf project, noting that the Ministry sale is still progressing and that the turf is on track to be ready for the 2027 hockey season.  
Noted that the new EV charger is now in place and is being well utilised.
- Observed that the new school speed signs are installed and will be operational soon.

Cr Duncan reported on the following:

- Provided an update on recent council meetings and workshops.
- Gave an overview of the Te Korowai process, noting that some of the feedback received was not constructive and that assessors appeared to be identifying issues that were not present.
- Discussed the workshop on rates, including how rates could be structured more fairly, particularly for commercial operations such as solar farms and gold mines, to ensure that rates and development contributions are aligned with community growth.
- Noted that the Otago Rail Trail experienced its second busiest period ever, and that the town is currently very busy.
- Outlined a proposal for a Men's Shed in the community, highlighting the potential benefits for many members of the community.
- Publicised the discussion on moa footprints at the Council meeting, with a presentation from Otago Museum, and noted the potential tourism opportunities arising from this.
- Commented that gold mining remains an ongoing topic of discussion.
- Highlighted the positive presentation from Film Otago Southland, recognising the considerable economic contribution of film productions to the region.
- Expressed thanks to staff who support elected members, particularly around contentious issues.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Harris**  
**Seconded: Duncan**

That the report be received.

**CARRIED**

**10 STATUS REPORTS**

**26.2.7 MARCH 2025 GOVERNANCE REPORT**

To report on items of general interest, receive minutes and updates from key organisations and consider the status report updates.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Harris**  
**Seconded: Duncan**

That the report be received.

**CARRIED**

**11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 7 May 2026.

**The meeting closed at 3.13 pm**

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**CHAIR / /**

## **5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **26.3.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGISTER**

**Doc ID: 2693140**

#### **1. Purpose**

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

#### **2. Attachments**

**Appendix 1 - Declarations of Interest** [↓](#)

Name	Member's Declared Interests	Spouse/Partner's Declared Interests	Council Appointments
Logan Dowling	Maniototo Rugby Club (member) Maniototo Junior Rugby Club (member) Maniototo Junior Cricket Club (member) Maniototo Area School Board of Trustees (member) St Johns School (parent) Fire Brigade (member)		Taieri Lake Recreation Reserve Committee
Stuart Duncan	Penrose Farms - Wedderburn Cottages and Farm at Wedderburn (shareholder) Penrose Investments - Dairy Farm at Patearoa (shareholder) Fire and Emergency New Zealand (member) JD Pat Ltd (Shareholder and Director)	Penrose Farms - Wedderburn Cottages and Farm at Wedderburn (Shareholder) Penrose Investments - Dairy Farm at Patearoa (shareholder)	Maniototo Ice Rink Committee Otago Regional Transport Committee
Mark Harris	Maniototo Lions (member) Ranfurlly Curling Club (member) Maniototo Bowling Club (member)	Maniototo Golf Club (member)	Patearoa Recreation Reserve Committee
Duncan Helm	Maniototo Rugby Club (Life member) Sassenachs Rugby Club (member) Garibaldi Curling Club (member) St John Ambulance (Officer and Committee member) Sheep and beef farm (owner) Gimmerburn Cemetery (Committee member) Maniototo Homestead Ltd (owner)	Nurse Manager at Maniototo Hospital	

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Rebecca McAuley	Maniototo Squash Club (Secretary) Maniototo Hockey Club (President) Hato Hone St Johns Ambulance (member) Maniototo Business Group (member)		Maniototo Community Arts Council
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## 6 REPORTS

### 26.3.2 2025-26 COMMUNITY AND EVENTS & PROMOTIONS GRANT APPLICATIONS - 2ND FUNDING ROUND

Doc ID: 2755060

Report Author:	Rebecca Williams, Community Development Lead Alison Mason, Media and Marketing Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Louise Fleck, Group Manager - People and Culture, Acting Group Manager - Community Vision

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To consider the second round of the community and promotions & events grant applications for the 2025/26 financial year, and to consider applications to the 2026/27 year promotions & events grant.

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#### Recommendations

That the Maniototo Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
  - B. Decides the grants to be allocated to the applicants of the community and promotions & events grants
- 

#### 2. Background

The Central Otago District Council contributes to the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the local community through the contestable grants process.

The objectives of the grants process are:

- Enhance well-being in the district (social, economic, environmental and cultural)
- Empower local communities
- Facilitate the delivery of community outcomes
- Promote our regional identity: Central Otago A World of Difference.

There are two types of grants that can be applied for, community grants and promotions & events grants. Each are funded using different targeted rates, which means that one pool cannot subsidise the other. Each application must be considered on its own merit and fit with the relevant grant criteria and available budget.

The Board considers grant applications in two rounds annually. This is the second round of funding for the 2025/26 financial year. Applications for this funding round closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2026 for a decision at this meeting.

The Maniototo Community Board is delegated the authority to consider applications for activities and projects within its boundaries.

Annually, there is \$6,700 to distribute in the Maniototo community grants scheme and \$5,000 to distribute in the promotions & events grants scheme.

The following table illustrates the commitments already made and the amounts left to distribute in the 2025/26 year.

Promotions and events grant applications are accepted in the March 2026 round for funding from the 2026/27 financial year. This is due to the timing of this funding round not allowing the applicants to apply and have a Board decision prior to the funding commitment being required. There are currently no pre-approved commitments to the 2026/27 draft promotions and events budget of \$5,146.

<b>Community Grants</b>	<b>2025/26 FY</b>
<b>Total Budget for 2025/26</b>	<b>\$6,700</b>
Plus returned grants	-
Less committed from previous rounds	\$0
<b>Balance left to distribute</b>	<b>\$6,700</b>
<b>Promotions &amp; Events Grants</b>	<b>2025/26 FY</b>
<b>Total Budget for 2025/26</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
Plus returned grants	-
Less committed from previous rounds NB: Overspend approved from Reserves.	\$7,219
<b>Balance left to distribute</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Promotions &amp; Events Grants</b>	<b>2026/27 FY</b>
<b>Total Budget for 2026/27</b>	<b>\$5,146</b>
Plus returned grants	-
Less committed from previous rounds	\$0
<b>Balance left to distribute</b>	<b>\$5,146</b>

### 3. Discussion

#### Community Grants

Three community grant applications have been received in the current round, requesting a total of \$8,431. The details are provided in the table below:

No	Name of Organisation	Name of project / service	Purpose of funding	Total costs	Amount requested
1	Maniototo Heritage Orchards Inc	Heritage Fruit Tree Grafting 2026	Rootstock, potting mix, and planter bags	\$2,739.74	\$2,431.74
2	Naseby Information and Craft Centre Inc.	Operating expenses	Insurance, telecommunication, internet, power and ground maintenance	\$8,919	\$4,000 (a year for two years)
3	Maniototo Toy Library	Maniototo Toy Library - General Upgrade	Toy replacement and upgrade	\$2,500	\$2,000

Promotion & Events Grants

One promotions & events grant application has been received in the current round requesting a total of \$3,000 for projects in the 2026-27 year. There is \$0 available to distribute in the current financial year, and \$5,146 available in the draft Long-term Plan budget for the 2026/27 financial year. The application details are provided in the table below:

No	Name of Organisation	Name of project / service	Purpose of funding	When does the project start	Total costs	Amount requested
4	Naseby Development Charitable Trust	Naseby Water Race 2026	Event services – portaloos, fuel, food	26 Aug 26	\$14,520	\$3,000

Copies of the application, supporting documentation and staff assessments are provided to Board members under separate cover.

**4. Financial Considerations**

As detailed above, the Board has \$6,700 to distribute for the 2025/26 Community Grants round and \$5,146 for the 2026/27 Promotions Grants.

The Board’s community grants reserve had an opening balance of \$6,364. The addition of \$6,700 for the 2025/26 financial year results in a balance of \$13,065. This means that, if the Board was so inclined, it could consider recommending to Council funding grants at a higher level than recommended by staff. The recommended figures have been made to remain within the budgeted \$6,700 and the Board’s delegated authority. Any recommendations above these amounts would fall outside of that delegation and would need to be by way of a recommendation to Council.

It is noted that the Maniototo community grants are seldom oversubscribed.

**5. Options**

The Board is asked to consider each application and determine the appropriate level of funding. There are no other options as the Board has the delegation to allocate grants from the contestable funds.

**6. Compliance**

<b>Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions</b>	This decision promotes the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of communities, in the present and for the future by providing a contestable funding pool that enables projects to be delivered in the community that enhance well-being.
<b>Decision consistent with other Council plans and policies? Such as the District Plan, Economic Development Strategy etc.</b>	Yes, this decision is consistent with the Grants Policy, and other plans and policies that may be impacted by any of the individual grant applications.

<b>Considerations as to sustainability, the environment and climate change impacts</b>	<p>Events bring larger numbers of people together and will therefore have environmental impacts. Applicants are required to facilitate their activities in line with Councils strategies.</p> <p>There is no direct impact, though some applications may have a positive environmental impact.</p>
<b>Risks Analysis</b>	<p>There are risks where large groups of people come together at events. A Health and Safety plan must be submitted with any Council property bookings for events.</p> <p>No other risks have been identified in the funding applications.</p> <p>It is each grant recipient's responsibility to obtain and/or have in place the appropriate consents, plans and licences (including resource consent, health and safety plans etc.) as required by legislation, agencies, property owners and/or individuals to undertake the projects.</p>
<b>Significance, Consultation and Engagement (internal and external)</b>	<p>The funding rounds were advertised in the local newspaper, Council's website and Facebook page, and through combined agency community funding clinics. Discussions with departments of Council have taken place where there are impacts arising from the application.</p>

## 7. Next Steps

Once the Board has made a decision on the level of funding for each organisation, this will be communicated to each applicant and payments made.

## 8. Attachments

- Appendix 1 - Maniototo Community Grants Overview (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 2 - Maniototo Heritage Orchard Staff Assesemnt (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 3 - Maniototo Heritage Orchard Grant Applicaiton (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 4 - Maniototo Heritage Orchard Supporting Documents (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 5 - Naseby Info Centre Staff Assessment (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 6 - Naseby Info Centre Grant Application (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 7 - Naseby Info Centre Supporting Documents (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 8 - Maniototo Toy Library Staff Assessment (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 9 - Maniototo Toy Library Grant Applications (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 10 - Maniototo Toy Library Supporting Documents (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 11 - Naseby Development Charitable Trust - Great Naseby Water Race - Grant Assessment (under separate cover) ⇨**
- Appendix 12 - Naseby Development Charitable Trust - Great Naseby Water Race - Grant Application (under separate cover) ⇨**

**Appendix 13 - Naseby Development Charitable Trust - Great Naseby Water Race - Supporting Documents (under separate cover) [⇨](#)**

### 26.3.3 PROMOTIONS & EVENTS GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUEST FOR UNSPENT GRANT

Doc ID: 2766099

Report Author:	Alison Mason, Media and Marketing Manager
Reviewed and authorised by:	Louise Fleck, Group Manager - People and Culture, Acting Group Manager - Community Vision

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To consider the accountability report and associated request from Naseby Vision Inc. to utilise the unspent proportion of the previously approved grant on further night sky community projects.

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#### Recommendations

That the Maniototo Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Accepts the accountability report.
- C. Approves that Naseby Vision Incorporated retains the unspent grant amount of \$3127.22 from resolution 25.4.3 to be applied to further promotional activity supporting the Dark Sky Community, including signage, digital promotion, posters and leaflets.

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#### 2. Background

The Board approved a promotions and events grant totalling \$6,000 to Naseby Vision Inc. for a Naseby Dark Sky celebration event in September 2025 – resolution 25.4.3. The event was held to celebrate the successful achievement of the town becoming an officially recognised Dark Sky Community by Dark Sky International. The accountability report has now been submitted as required by Council's grant policy which confirms the final spend for the event as being \$2,872.78.

Naseby Vision Inc. seeks the Boards approval to utilise the unspent amount of the previously approved grant being a total of \$3,127.22 towards further Dark Sky initiatives for the benefit of the community.

#### 3. Discussion

Naseby Vision sought the Board's support to facilitate a celebration event for the anticipated confirmation that they had achieved after ten years work the official recognition by Dark Sky International as being a Dark Sky Community – the first in New Zealand. Despite the short lead time a successful event was held in the community as detailed in the accountability report supplied. The costs incurred however were less than originally budgeted, leaving a balance of \$3,127.22 unspent from the \$6,000 approved in resolution 25.4.3.

The group wishes to build on the success of their achievements and has plans in place to further promote Naseby's dark sky opportunities with additional information in the form of signage, information boards, digital promotion and seeks the Board's approval to retain the unspent grant amount to contribute towards the associated costs of these projects.

#### 4. Financial Considerations

Should the Board approve the reallocation of the unspent proportion of the grant there will be no impact on rates.

Should the Board seek the refund of the unspent proportion of the grant the money would be returned and credited to the 2025-26 financial year budget. As there are no further funding rounds this current financial year the returned funds would therefore fall to reserves at the end of the financial year.

#### 5. Feedback from Community Boards

This report is for Community Board decision.

#### 6. Options

##### Option 1 – (Recommended)

The Board accepts the accountability report and approves Naseby Vision to utilise the unspent grant amount of \$3,127.22 on the identified projects for further promotional activity supporting the Dark Sky Community – including signage, posters and digital promotions.

Advantages:

- The community benefits with additional economic impact through the enhanced promotion of Naseby's Dark Sky
- The grant is being used as intended to support the groups efforts to improve the knowledge and visitor experience in relation to being a Dark Sky Community

Disadvantages:

- The Board may wish to have the unspent grant returned and made available for future applications.

##### Option 2

The Board accepts the accountability report and declines Naseby Vision's request to utilise the unspent grant amount of \$3,127.22 on the identified projects for further promotional activity supporting the Dark Sky Community – including signage, posters and digital promotions.

Advantages:

- The Board will have the returned money available for future applications

Disadvantages:

- The projects the group have identified may be delayed as they seek funding from other sources.

## 7. Compliance

<b>Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions</b>	This decision promotes the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of communities, in the present and for the future by providing a contestable funding pool that enables projects to be delivered in the community that enhance well-being.
<b>Decision consistent with other Council plans and policies? Such as the District Plan, Economic Development Strategy etc.</b>	Yes, this decision is consistent with the Grants Policy, and other plans and policies that may be impacted by individual grant applications.
<b>Considerations as to sustainability, the environment and climate change impacts</b>	<p>Events bring larger numbers of people together and will therefore have environmental impacts. Applicants that receive funding are required to facilitate their activities in line with Councils strategies.</p> <p>There is no direct impact, though some applications may have a positive environmental impact</p>
<b>Risks Analysis</b>	<p>There are risks where large groups of people come together at events. A Health and Safety plan must be submitted with any Council property bookings for events.</p> <p>No other risks have been identified.</p> <p>It is each grant recipient's responsibility to obtain and/or have in place the appropriate consents, plans and licences (including resource consent, health and safety plans etc.) as required by legislation, agencies, property owners and/or individuals to undertake the projects.</p>
<b>Significance, Consultation and Engagement (internal and external)</b>	<p>The funding rounds were advertised in the local newspaper, Council's website and Facebook page, and through combined agency community funding clinics.</p> <p>Discussions with departments of Council have taken place where there are impacts arising from the application.</p>

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**8. Next Steps**

Once the Board has made a decision, this will be communicated to Naseby Vision Inc. with instructions regarding next steps.

**9. Attachments**

**Appendix 1 - Accountability Report Naseby Vision Inc. [↓](#)**

# Grants - Report Back (Accountability) GRA260239958



1 Dunorling Street  
PO Box 122, Alexandra 9340  
New Zealand

03 440 0056

Info@codc.govt.nz  
www.codc.govt.nz



## Grant Accountability

**Original Application Number**

Maniototo Community Board grant for the Naseby Dark Sky Celebration Event September 2025. Resolution: 25.4.3 Purchase Order 111699

## The Applicant:

**Organisaton Name**

Naseby Vision Inc

**Project Name:**

Naseby Dark Sky Community Accreditation Celebration

**Contact**

Dave Brady

Data redacted from next 3 fields

**Phone**

**Email**

**Address**

## The Project:

**Amount granted by Central Otago District Council**

6000.00

**Total cost of the project**

2872.78

**If there was any significant variation from your original budget, what were the main reasons for this?**

Insufficient time to complete a full promotional campaign due to the shortness of time from Dark Sky International giving accreditation and date of the event. Event time to be within school holidays and suitably interesting night sky. Plans for further promotional activity are active.

**What outcomes were achieved from the project/event? (max 500 words)**

Community told of the Accreditation (the first for New Zealand), community education through sun viewing (specialised equipment) and night sky viewing with community owned observation equipment. Community gathering to hear from experts and celebrate the Dark Sky Community Accreditation.

**How did your organisation acknowledge the support of the Council grant?**

Mayor came to the event and Naseby Vision acknowledge her, the Council, the council's officials, and the Maniototo Community Board.

**When did you receive your grant funding?**

20/11/2025

**Support Documents Ticked**

- Proof of expenditure (including receipts, invoices and/or financial statements)
- Photos of the event or project
- Copies of reviews or feedback relating to the project

Grants of \$10,000 or more

## Declaration:

All information provided is complete and correct True

Have read and acknowledge the standard Central Otago Terms and Conditions of Grant Funding Yes

Information about your application (including the applicant's name, project title, and a summary of the proposal) and any approved funding may be made publicly available by Council Yes

Name: Dave Brady

Date 19/02/2026

Signature





Naseby Vision Incorporated

# Report of Use of Maniototo Community Board Grant for Dark Sky Community Accreditation Event and Promotion

Prepared by: Dave Brady and Jill Wolff  
12 February 2026



PO Box 79, Naseby 9354, Otago, NZ

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## Introduction

After a decade of effort, Naseby Vision Incorporated (Naseby Vision) was accredited by DarkSky International (DSI) as a Dark Sky Community in August 2025. The Maniototo Community Board (MCB) were asked to support a Dark Sky Celebration and contribute to the costs of the event which would promote the Dark Sky. Financial support from the MCB was provided and enabled an excellent celebration of this important milestone.

Naseby is the first Dark Sky Community accredited in New Zealand, and only the third in the southern hemisphere. This is a significant achievement for such a small community and has helped to pave the way for more Dark Sky places within Central Otago. The Central Otago District Council (CODC) have been an important partner in supporting the Dark Sky application process.

DarkSky International registers places around the world that are on public or private land and have an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights, as well as a nocturnal environment that is protected for its scientific, natural, or educational value, its cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment. Aotearoa New Zealand has ten dark sky places (of 276 worldwide). One Dark Sky Community (Naseby), four Dark Sky Sanctuaries (Aotea Great Barrier, Kaikōura, Rakiura Stewart Island, and Tāhuna Glenorchy), Two Dark Sky Reserves (Aoraki Mackenzie and Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve), and three Dark Sky Parks (Kawarau Gibbston, Oxford Forst Conservation Area, and Wai-iti (in the Tasman District)). There are currently no Urban Dark Sky Places or Dark Sky Lodgings.

After a successful celebration highlighting the community work, plans are in place for development of information and promotional materials to support the attraction of visitors to Naseby and the wider Maniototo. This will help create further opportunities for astrotourism and economic development, and help bridge the shoulder seasonal activity in Naseby and Central Otago.

The 2028 eclipse will be here very soon, and Naseby and Central Otago need to be prepared. We have already heard that some accommodation providers are fully booked for this time.



Figure 1: Night sky viewing at the Naseby Tennis Court.





## Maniototo Community Board and Council Approvals

### Promotion Grant Funding 2025/26 – Naseby Vision Dark Sky Celebration Event

The Maniototo Community Board (MCB) considered an application from Naseby Vision for the Naseby Dark Sky Celebration Event in September 2025. (Application GRA 250850090) Following deliberation, the MCB approved a grant and resolved as follows:

Resolution: 25.4.3

- C. Approved a grant of \$5,000 to Naseby Vision for Planetarium hire, venue hire, entertainment, marketing and promotion costs for a Night Sky community celebration event to be held in September 2025.
  - ii. Approves an additional grant of \$1,000 subject to approval from Council to fund this grant from the Maniototo promotion and event grant reserves.
- D. Requests Council to approve the overspend of the 2025-26 financial year promotions and events budget to the amount of \$2,219 to be funded from underspent 2024-25 year funds currently held in reserves.
- E. Notes that it is the grant recipient's responsibility to obtain and/or have in place the appropriate consents, plans and licences (including resource consent, health and safety plans etc.) as require by legislation, agencies, property owners and/or individuals to undertake the projects.

Council subsequently approved the Boards use of reserves funds to cover the additional grant therefore the total amount granted is \$6,000.





## History of Dark Sky Community Accreditation

### What is a Dark Sky Community

A Dark Sky Community is a town, city, municipality, or other legally organized community that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of a quality outdoor lighting ordinance, dark sky education, and citizen support of dark skies. Dark Sky Communities excel in their efforts to promote responsible lighting, dark sky stewardship, and set good examples for surrounding communities<sup>1</sup>.



A Dark Sky Community is considered very difficult to get accredited with DSI. Aside from communities, other Dark Sky Places are sanctuaries, reserves, dark sky parks, Urban places, and Lodgings

### A Decade of Commitment

After a decade of unwavering dedication, the Naseby community has celebrated this landmark achievement: official certification as New Zealand's first International Dark Sky Community by DSI.

This recognition marks the culmination of years of grassroots effort, initiated by a passionate group of local residents who envisioned preserving the pristine night skies above their town. Their commitment, alongside support from the CODC, has now placed Naseby on the global map as a leader in night sky conservation.

The journey began in 2016 when Naseby Vision, a local community development group, had some early discussions with John Barentine of Dark Sky Consulting to explore the possibility of accreditation. By 2018, the community had conducted extensive night sky quality surveys and gained public support. However, the path to certification proved more complex than anticipated. Central Otago's lighting regulations required significant revision, prompting CODC to initiate a comprehensive District Plan Change in 2021 in order to allow the establishment of dark sky precincts and govern light use. This leadership by the CODC shows how community and council can work together to achieve great things together.

Community wide engagement has been key to the town achieving accreditation as a Dark Sky Community. This is a significant point of difference from other Dark Sky locations in New Zealand. Community participation, stewardship and awareness of the pristine night sky is embedded in the culture of its residents thereby ensuring that protection of these values will continue well into the future. Already underway are projects such as the purchase of a community telescope and other stargazing tools, with more to come as funding allows.



<sup>1</sup> <https://darksky.org/what-we-do/international-dark-sky-places/dark-sky-place-types/>



## Event

The Night Sky event held on 20 September in Naseby was a wonderful celebration of our Dark Sky Community status and a reminder of just how special our skies are. Locals and visitors gathered on a clear spring evening to share in the experience of stargazing under some of the darkest, most pristine skies in Aotearoa.

To celebrate our accreditation, we had a variety of activities happening during the weekend, that were enjoyed by locals and visitors.

The activities included:

- This important milestone was recognised by speeches in the town hall by (in order to appearance) Jill Wolff, Naseby Vision Dark Sky Project Lead; Gareth Davies, Dark Sky New Zealand; Nicky McArthur, Kaikōura Dark Sky Trust Patron; Steven Butler, Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand; and Tamah Alley, Central Otago District Mayor.
- Day time viewing of the sun using a special telescope on Reserve land between the Black Forest Café and Star Dust Gallery. Local astronomer Paul Bishop provided a wonderful experience of something which is impossible without the proper equipment.
- Planetarium adventures supplied by the Dunedin Museum held in the Naseby Town Hall. The planetarium replicates the local night sky and the half hour sessions presented by the Museum staff, explained the many objects we can see in our night sky.
- Photographic exhibition in the Maniototo Early Settlers Association Jubilee Museum and information sharing provided by Winterstellar Charitable Trust<sup>2</sup>. A lot of discussion was had helping to spread the night sky knowledge and build community awareness.
- Night sky viewing with telescopes and binoculars, presented by local astronomers. This was held at the Naseby Tennis Courts with community (NV) owned equipment. It was a very exciting

Figure 2: Naseby Town Hall with planetarium



Figure 3: Andy Davey hosting the Winterstellar exhibition

<sup>2</sup> Winterstellar Charitable Trust was established in 2022 to advance the appreciation, understanding and benefits of Otago’s dark skies and to promote Māori Mātauranga through astrophotography, astronomy and other arts. <https://rangitako.com/>





experience with the night sky being experienced at a new level for many, including great commentary and information from our local experts.

- Facepainting, bouncy castle and educational activities for children at the Naseby Town Hall. The Town Hall was a great activity centre allowing many the chance to relax and enjoy some night sky related activities as well as share a cup of tea and scones giving an opportunity for social interaction and to discuss the Dark Sky Community Accreditation.
- An evening BBQ was enjoyed by those who attended the night sky viewing as the Naseby Tennis Courts. The Naseby Tennis Courts proved again to be an ideal location for night sky viewing and is seen as the logical place for establishing an appropriate building to house the community owned night sky viewing equipment.
- To finish the week-end a lovely long table community breakfast was held to allow visitors, presenters, and volunteers to share their stories.

The whole event brought people together to learn more about the night sky, from identifying constellations and planets to understanding why dark sky protection matters for wildlife, astronomy, and our community's future. The passion and knowledge shared by presenters and volunteers helped make the weekend both informative and inspiring, especially for families and first-time stargazers.

## How was the Grant Money Spent

Much care and a conservative approach have been applied in the use of the funding provided by MCB. It was envisaged that we would have been able to deploy more marketing and advertising to bring the focus onto Central Otago and Naseby. However, the short time between accreditation and event, meant that a full campaign was not achievable. There is still promotional work to do to highlight the accreditation achievement and install appropriate signage and information.

Item	Value
Bouncy Castle & face paint materials	365.01
Allied Media banner impressions	402.50
Planetarium from the Otago Museum	1,258.57
Supplies, breakfast, and BBQ goods	278.20
Meta advertising	183.00
Hall Hire	121.00
Addition of Dark Sky Community Stamp to Signage	264.50
<b>Total Dark Sky Celebration Costs to Date</b>	<b>2,872.78</b>
Funding	6,000.00
Balance un-used (held for future promotions)	3,127.22





## Post Event

Naseby Vision Dark Sky Project Team is working on four core projects:

1. The updating of the signage around Naseby to inform visitors and locals what a Dark Sky is, what elements and objects are in the sky, and where to look for them.
2. Establishing a Charitable Trust (or similar) to hold the assets (telescope, binoculars, and other viewing support equipment) accreditation, promote healthy Dark Sky policies, and attend to any Dark Sky International compliance matters.
3. Running events to educate and inform on Dark Sky conservation, observation, and lighting practices.
4. Promoting Naseby as a Dark Sky destination both nationally and internationally.

Ongoing monitoring and administration of the Naseby Dark Sky (proposed Trust) will be funded by other means and not the event grant funding. The event and promotion grant will only be used for further promotion of the Naseby Dark Sky.

The key aspects of the long-term goal of accreditation were to:

- A) Achieve accreditation (complete)
- B) Promote Naseby, Central Otago as a key destination (early phases)
- C) Stimulate community and economic growth (early phases)
- D) Protect and maintain the Dark Sky through education and ensuring the maintenance of Dark Sky friendly policy and ordinances. (ongoing)

## Proposal

We propose to use the (remaining) funds for the promotion of Naseby, Central Otago as a key destination for those who are interested in and want to know more about the dark sky, as well as for those that wish to experience and protect the dark night sky. This will include the establishment of key elements of promotion [standards, signage, promotion material (digital and physical media), strategic plan, and deepen local knowledge].

To date we have created momentum with the September 2025 celebration, which was key to recognise the decade long efforts and bring the community along on the journey. We now need to continue to tell the story by re-energising the hearts and minds of the wider Naseby, Māniatoto, and Central Otago communities.

We proposed that the remaining funds are used to continue our entry into the Dark Sky world and furthering of the Central Otago campaign around Dark Sky opportunities. The Dark Sky community worldwide is largely untapped in Aotearoa New Zealand. Following our accreditation announcement, there has been a significant upswing in international enquiry and interest.

Signage is to be developed for Naseby, including information boards and welcome to Dark Sky Community signs. Placement of QR codes around Naseby key sites for drawing attention and sharing latest Dark Sky development and night sky objects.



Figure 4: Dave Brady showing Naseby's photo frame opportunity



Timing: New signage during quarters two and three of calendar year 2026 (before the 2026/27 summer), explore digital presence (in association with CODC and TCO), community involvement (education and engagement).

Budget: signage \$2,000 including design costs, digital promotions including design costs \$1,000 , promotional posters and leaflets \$500. Total \$3,500. This will be funded by the remaining MCB funds and other donations.

## Recommendation

Naseby Vision Inc and its Naseby Dark Sky Project team would like the Maniototo Community Board to endorse that the remaining funds be allocated to further promotional activity supporting the Dark Sky Community.



### 26.3.4 LONG TERM PLAN 2027/37 - PROJECT UPDATE

Doc ID: 2777451

Report Author:	Bidi Sharland, Corporate and Strategic Planner
Reviewed and authorised by:	Saskia Righarts, Group Manager - Governance and Business Services

#### 1. Purpose

To consider an update on the Long-Term Plan 2027/37 project progress.

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#### Recommendations

That the report be received and its contents noted.

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#### 2. Discussion

The 2027–2037 Long-Term Plan (LTP) is progressing to schedule. Governance oversight is provided by the Audit and Risk Committee, with progress reporting to the Committee and to Council through scheduled meetings and workshops with the most recent update on 9 February.

Internal working groups are progressing the key work streams required to develop the LTP. The current focus is on supporting budget holders and activity managers to prepare proposed work programmes and associated budgets. This support is intended to improve consistency across planning and to ensure that each plan appropriately considers levels of service, whole-of-life cost, and risk.

LTP budget development commenced in late March, following Council approval of the draft Annual Plan and will continue through to June, taking into account feedback from Council.

Activity and asset owners will deliver presentations detailing plans and budgets, including emerging issues and current challenges at Council workshops in May. A decision paper confirming Council's preferred scope and inclusions for the LTP will be presented to the May Council meeting for a formal decision.

In addition, May workshop discussions will incorporate matters raised through Community Board LTP Strategy Workshops for Council consideration.

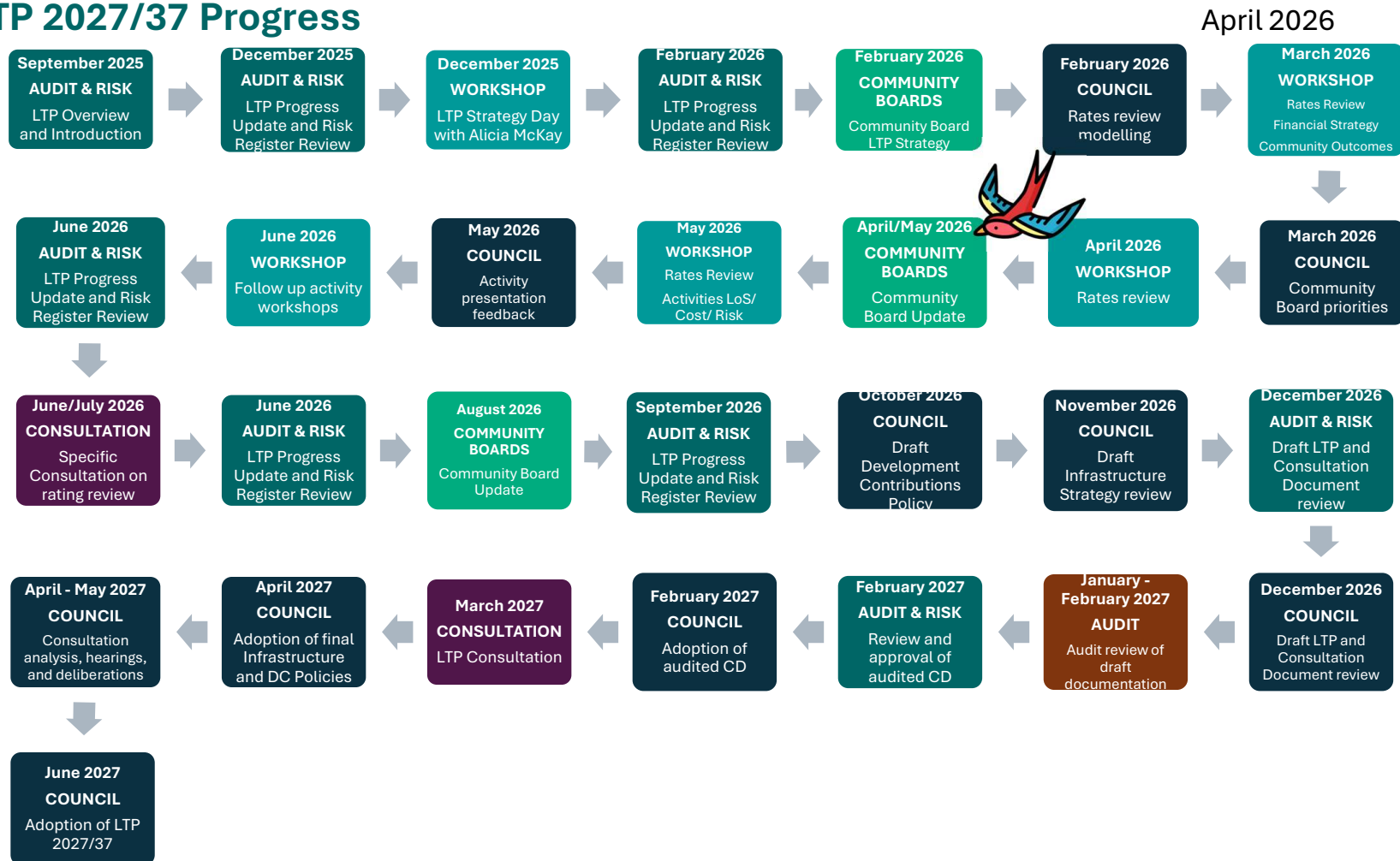
A high-level project timeline is attached and Appendix 1. It outlines the planned elected-member engagement through to adoption of the LTP in June 2027.

#### 3. Attachments

**Appendix 1 - LTO 2027-37 Key Milestones** [↓](#)



## LTP 2027/37 Progress



7 May 2026

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**7 MAYOR'S REPORT**

**26.3.5 MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Doc ID: 2686792**

**1. Purpose**

To consider an update from Her Worship the Mayor.

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**Recommendations**

That the Maniototo Community Board receives the report.

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Her Worship the Mayor will give a verbal update on activities and issues of interest since the last meeting.

**2. Attachments**

**Nil**

7 May 2026

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**8 CHAIR'S REPORT**

**26.3.6 CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Doc ID: 2687274**

**1. Purpose**

The Chair will give an update on activities and issues since the last meeting.

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**Recommendations**

That the report be received.

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**2. Attachments**

**Nil**

7 May 2026

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## **9 MEMBERS' REPORTS**

### **26.3.7 MEMBERS' REPORTS**

**Doc ID: 2688948**

#### **1. Purpose**

Members will give an update on activities and issues since the last meeting.

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#### **Recommendations**

That the report be received.

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#### **2. Attachments**

**Nil**

## 10 STATUS REPORTS

### 26.3.8 MAY 2025 GOVERNANCE REPORT

Doc ID: 2686713

Report Author:	Sarah Reynolds, Governance Support Officer
Reviewed and authorised by:	Saskia Righarts, Group Manager - Governance and Business Services

#### 1. Purpose

To report on items of general interest, receive minutes and updates from key organisations and consider the status report updates.

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#### Recommendations

That the report be received.

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#### 2. Discussion

##### Status Reports

The status reports have been updated with any actions since the previous meeting (see Appendix 1).

#### 3. Attachments

**Appendix 1 - Status Updates** [↓](#)

<b>Status Updates</b>	<b>Committee:</b> Maniototo Community Board
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Meeting	Report Title	Resolution No	Resolution	Officer	Status
25/06/2020	Lease of Kyeburn Reserve	20.3.6	<p>A. <b>Receives</b> the report and accepts the level of significance.</p> <p>B. <b>Agrees</b> to formally acknowledge that the Kyeburn Hall is owned by the Kyeburn Hall Committee.</p> <p>C. <b>Agrees</b> to recommend that Council grants the Committee a lease pursuant to Section 61 (2A) of the Reserves Act 1977, on the following terms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Permitted use: Community Hall</li> <li>2. Term: 33 years</li> <li>3. Rights of Renewal: None</li> <li>4. Land Description: Sec 20 Blk VII Maniototo SD</li> <li>5. Area: 0.4837 hectares</li> <li>6. Rent: \$1.00 per annum if requested</li> </ol> <p>Subject to the Kyeburn Hall Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Becoming an Incorporated Society</li> <li>2. Being responsible for all outgoing, including utilities, electricity telephone, rubbish collection, rates and ground maintenance.</li> </ol>	Statutory Property Team Leader	<p><b>14 Apr 2026</b> No further progress to report. The Secretary of the Kyeburn Hall Committee is yet again not responding to any communication.</p> <p><b>16 Mar 2026</b> The meeting held by the Secretary of the Kyeburn Hall Committee was changed at last minute and clashed with Council meeting. It could not be attended by staff but we understand that the outcome was that the community wanted this matter sorted and support the registration of a Kyeburn Hall Incorporated Society and the finalisation of a lease agreement with Council. We are yet awaiting the official feedback from Amie Pont, Secretary of the Kyeburn Hall Committee.</p> <p><b>03 Mar 2026</b> The Kyeburn Hall Committee have indicated that they will work towards forming and incorporated entity. There are new office bearers who will progress this.</p> <p><b>11 Feb 2026</b> A little progress has been made. The Kyeburn Hall Committee has arranged a meeting that will be attended by Council Staff to discuss all the issues relating to this matter. The meeting is scheduled for 25 February.</p> <p><b>09 Jan 2026</b> No further progress to report.</p> <p><b>03 Dec 2025</b> A final attempt was made to get a response from the Secretary of the Kyeburn Hall Committee. The Secretary was advised that should no response be received, a further report will be submitted to Council for consideration of the options available. If no response received by early January a report back on the matter will be prepared.</p>

					<p><b>05 Nov 2025</b> No further progress has been made with the Kyeburn Hall Committee. Will be followed up again in November 2025.</p> <p><b>07 Oct 2025</b> No further progress has been made to date.</p> <p><b>08 Sept 2025</b> Still awaiting further feedback from the new Secretary of the Kyeburn Hall Committee.</p> <p><b>07 Aug 2025</b> The Statutory Team was advised that there is a new secretary of the Kyeburn Hall Committee, Amie Pont. We have communicated with Amie as to the requirement for the Committee to become and Incorporated Society before we can enter into a lease. Amie confirmed that she will again take the matter to the Committee at their next meeting and appeared to be willing to register as an Incorporated Society. Awaiting feedback from the Kyeburn Committee.</p> <p><b>09 Jun 2025</b> Matter still on the to do list. No progress has been made.</p> <p><b>14 May 2025</b> Matter only referred to Statutory Team now. Due to a big backlog of outstanding leases and Road Stoppings this matter has not been looked at yet.</p> <p><b>14 May 2025</b> Action reassigned to Zeelie, Zelda by Reynolds, Sarah - New Officer</p> <p><b>18 Dec 2024</b> On Hold, issues will be passed to statutory property staff.</p> <p><b>10 Jun 2024</b> ON HOLD</p> <p><b>01 Feb 2024</b> Waiting for a response from the Kyeburn Library Committee Inc. ON HOLD.</p> <p><b>13 Nov 2023</b></p>
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					<p>Requested that the Kyeburn Hall Committee table at their AGM and General meeting the outstanding issue of picking up the ground lease. The Kyeburn Hall Committee reported back that it is under discussion with the Kyeburn Library Committee Inc. for the lease to be picked up given the Kyeburn Library Committee are already incorporated.</p> <p><b>02 Nov 2023</b> No Change.</p> <p><b>03 Oct 2023</b> No Change.</p> <p><b>22 Aug 2023</b> No change.</p> <p><b>18 Jul 2023</b> No change.</p> <p><b>01 Jun 2023</b> No change.</p> <p><b>27 Apr 2023</b> On hold , no change.</p> <p><b>28 Feb 2023</b> No Change</p> <p><b>19 Jan 2023</b> No change., ON HOLD</p> <p><b>15 Nov 2022</b> Further informal discussions have taken place regarding an existing entity taking up the lease. Awaiting feedback from the committee.</p> <p><b>29 Aug 2022</b> On hold. No change.</p> <p><b>08 Jun 2022</b> On hold - no change.</p> <p><b>29 Apr 2022</b> No further update at this stage.</p> <p><b>August 2021</b> On hold until meeting able to take place. ON HOLD</p> <p><b>July 2021</b> The Committee requested that the meeting be delayed until July, due to an illness.</p>
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					<p><b>May 2021</b> Due to delays, Property and Facilities Officer – Ranfurly to discuss next steps with Committee in June.</p> <p><b>February - April 2021</b> Property and Facilities Officer - Ranfurly to meet Committee in May 2021 and discuss next steps.</p> <p><b>July 2020</b> Council ratified the lease. Waiting for confirmation from the Hall Committee of their Incorporated status to issue the lease.,</p> <p><b>June 2020</b> Kyeburn Hall Committee advised of Board's resolution. Report for ratification of Lease going to Council on 15 July 2020.</p> <p><b>June 2020</b> Action memo sent to Property and Facilities Officer - Ranfurly.</p>
26/03/2026	Review Maniototo Trust Fund Guidelines	26.2.2	<p>That the Maniototo Community Board</p> <p>A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.</p> <p>B. Agrees to amend clause 9 in the Guidelines Maniototo Trust Fund to read:</p> <p><i>“The above guidelines will operate until the end of 2028, when the future usage of the Maniototo Trust Fund will be reviewed.”</i></p>	Community Facilities Manager	<p><b>09 Apr 2026</b> Guidelines amended as instructed. MATTER CLOSED</p> <p><b>09 Apr 2026</b> Action Memo sent to Report Writer</p>

**11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 18 June 2026.