

The winds of change are blowing through the town of Kaikohe and the omens for real progressive change for the better are becoming stronger by the day.

The creation of the Smiley Wall on a prominent position has created something positive that will only have beneficial spin off effects for a long time to come. It suggests that the Mural project should be revisited. This is matched by strong positive in-puts from the Kaikohe Business Association. Attendance at their Meetings has been in large numbers in recent times, a factor that has not been seen for a long time. The Matariki Good Health and Well-being assembly of practitioners on the 16<sup>th</sup> June in the Memorial Hall is a case in point as this was well attended and the organisers were well satisfied with the reaction from the community.

This euphoria has to be matched by better attention to ordinary town maintenance. The lawns in library square need to be mown on a regular basis, as do also the regular daily sweeping of at least the main street. In Borough Council days the gutters were swept every morning before people came to work. Today it is painfully obvious that days go by before any attention is given. The comparison is provided by the area in front of McDonald's, this gets washed down every day but the rest of the Countdown/Warehouse carpark suffers from prolonged neglect. The problem with washing down is that the sweepings go straight into the Papahawaiiki Stream. A continuing reminder that the four streams that rise in Kaikohe's urban area all leave town dirty. This is a serious issue that must be addressed sooner rather than later. Any town is judged by what its streets are like irrespective of flags are, or might be flying. We can and must do better. It is a pity that when the opportunity presented itself to acquire a sweeper truck recently, it wasn't taken up. It would have been a real asset.

Attention is drawn to previous requests for a pedestrian crossing on Taheke Road at the site of the Rail Trail crossing. A near miss observed recently emphasised the urgency of this to actually be put in place. Why should a safety measure take so long to implement? Does someone have to be killed?

Comments from a number of Trail users are generally complimentary but invariably comparison is drawn to the dingy shabby and unappealing section that runs from the north west of the town to the southern end. While it is conceded that this largely industrial and is the back yards of ratepayers sections, something of a tidy up seems to be called for and/or a planned beautification programme be implemented. We cannot afford to allow anything less than a high standard of property upkeep to exist where it is continuously in the public eye. Possibly this area could be placed under the control and supervision of a community organisation or the Probationary Service.

While it is an excellent artwork worthy of being displayed in a prominent place, the mosaic hanging on the left wall as one walks into the Council foyer should not have displaced the Roll of Honour of those that have been nominated and presented with the FNDC Awards. This gave recognition to the many who gave freely of time and effort for the betterment of all and were there for every-body to see and subconsciously acknowledge. Shifting the Honours Boards to the rear of the vestibule is somewhat derogatory and with respect it should put back to where it belongs.

A potentially very dangerous depression on Broadway has been brought to my notice. While not too obvious, it nevertheless caused a citizen to trip and tumble head over heels in the way of oncoming traffic, which was able to take evasive action. This is situated opposite the Pizza shop next to Active Physio and it is reported a similar depression exists at the top end of Broadway too.

I would like to record here my appreciation of the contribution made by Robert Cassidy during the all too short time as a Board Member. He will be missed and he goes with all our best wishes in his new ventures and better equipped for his experience and knowledge gained during his term of office