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This is the final chairperson's report for this Board's term.

I would like to thank the Board members for their efforts over the past 3 years. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic has greatly influenced the amount the Board has been able to achieve. We have had success with projects such as the installation of Kura signage at Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Bernard Fergusson, the daffodil planting on reserves, finally getting the signage up for Te Mana o Te Rangi reserve, and the start of the installation of security cameras along Great South Road.

We have been able to allocate funds to the Ngaruawahia RSA, Hope Rising trust, the Ngaruawahia Bowling club, Ngaruawahia Community House and Te Whare Toi o Ngaruawahia - Twin Rivers Community Art Centre amongst other applications. The Board have also set aside funds to make a start on the planting of Te Mana o Te Rangi reserve.

With 5 of the current Board members standing for re-election, there is a good chance that we will be able to continue as a team to progress the Board's current aspirations over the next 3 years.

We know that those of us who are re-elected will be working under a new mayor for the next term. Mayoral candidates have indicated that all of the Community Boards will be given more responsibility under their leadership and I would hope that the successful candidates are willing to step up to that level of responsibility. The updated Board Charter will be in place. I anticipate that Council staff will keep the new Board much better informed compared with over the past term and that we may see more stability of staff.

The new Board will also have the Tai Runga Takiwaa Maaori Ward Councillor and one of the Newcastle-Ngaruawahia General Ward Councillors representing the Board, so we will have one new and one experienced Councillor to keep us informed.

There are some exciting times ahead with the start of the review of the town centre, and the proposed use of the Waipa Hotel site once demolition of the burnt out remains of the hotel has been undertaken.

If re-elected, I will put my name up for Chair again.

Once again, thank you to the current Board members for their efforts over the past term.

Greg Wiechern