

Darfield Residents Association Inc.

AGM 2025 Chairman's Report

It's my pleasure to present this year's Annual Report and to begin by acknowledging the outstanding efforts of our Committee. Their dedication has guided us through a productive and meaningful year. Special thanks to Liz Hamilton who has done a sterling job as secretary and will continue to look after our website. I also extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who lent a hand—whether by capturing moments on camera, contributing to our events, preserving local history, or generously volunteering time and energy to support our activities.

Looking back, we can be proud of the impact we've made. A key achievement has been our effective advocacy for the preservation of the Malvern Community Board—an essential voice ensuring Darfield's needs aren't overlooked by Council. We've delivered successful community events including the Multicultural Dinner, Santa in the Grotto (in partnership with the Board), Xmas Light Trail, the Children's Christmas Extravaganza, lighting behind the jail, and Matariki celebrations. We also hosted Fire Brigade members and families on a bus trip and picnic to recognize the efforts they had put in in protecting our community. These events have brought vibrancy and inclusivity to our town calendar.

Thanks in part to support from the Community Board, we feel we are finally being heard on issues that matter. After previously receiving little traction in challenging decisions around rates and water, it's encouraging to witness a positive shift in Council responsiveness.

As Darfield continues to grow rapidly, so too does our responsibility to advocate for essential services—especially improved public transport and upgraded sports facilities. Our young people deserve the opportunities and amenities to stay active and engaged in their own community. If we fail to provide them there will inevitably be problems of social mischief and that is something we want to avoid.

Looking ahead, we're excited to begin the restoration of the old Jail—an initiative that will enhance our town's heritage appeal and provide a unique attraction. We will be hosting another Multicultural Dinner, and this year's planned Santa Parade promises to be a great event. A Food Trail for the district is also being developed and we will continue our efforts around a water dechlorination station for the township.

To achieve all this, we need your help. Our strength lies in community involvement, so if you feel you can contribute in any way, now is the time to step forward. Together, we can continue to make Darfield a thriving and welcoming place to live.

Harvey Polglase

Chairman