

# RONGOTEA COMMUNITY PLAN

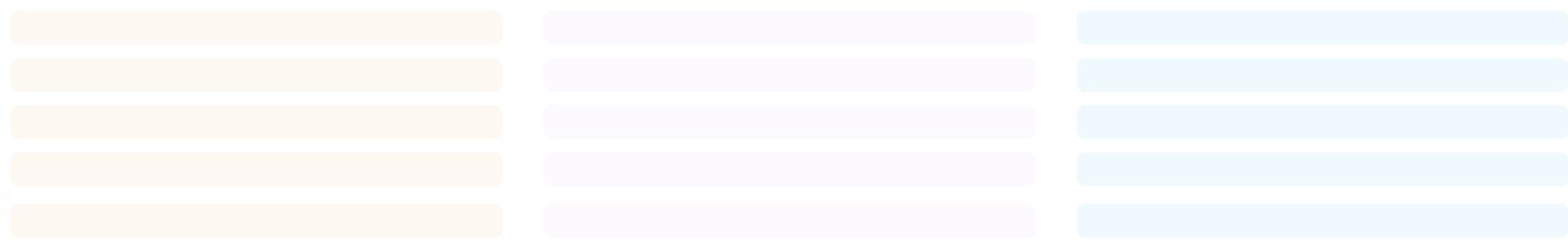
A framework for the future of Rongotea  
March 2015





Document Quality Assurance

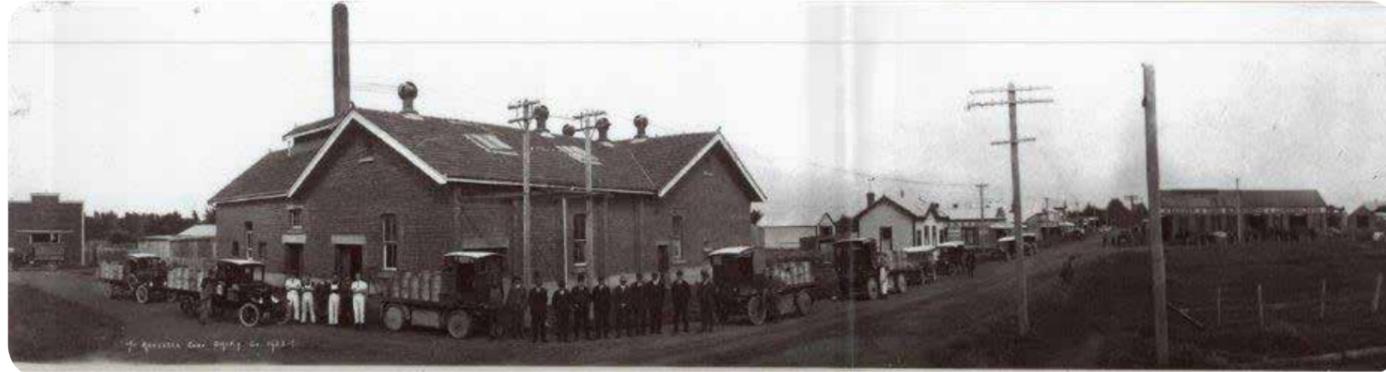
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Remembering the past : Rongotea Crop Dairy, 1923 (Photo supplied by Margaret Giles)



The old garage (photo supplied by Destination Manawatu)



Sacred Heart (photo supplied by Destination Manawatu)

# 1. Foreword

This community plan represents a summary of outcomes from a series of community planning workshops and meetings that occurred from July 2014 through to March 2015. This document has been compiled by Boffa Miskell Ltd on behalf of Manawatu District Council and the community of Rongotea. The observations, ideas and opportunities identified in this plan are intended to provide an overarching and holistic summary of the community's vision and a list of specific actions that help deliver this. The plan also collates some actions that are already underway.

The shared vision in this document has been developed by members of the Rongotea community and builds on the work underway by the Rongotea Community Committee.

This community plan identifies strategies that will help deliver the shared community vision. Specific actions have also been identified under each of these strategies.

In addition to the strategies and the list of specific actions, this community plan also suggests some key priority strategic projects that will help deliver coherent and comprehensive results for Rongotea. These priority projects should be considered as important ways forward for the community and its partners to deliver the Vision.

The general content of this community plan is intended to be updated on a regular basis as actions get delivered and new actions come from the community. New actions should be measured against the shared vision to ensure that they are helping deliver this. It is recommended that the vision statement be reviewed and refined every 3-5 years to ensure it reflects the community of Rongotea and remains specific, realistic and forward focused.

One thing this community plan document cannot totally convey, is the passion, enthusiasm and interest the community of Rongotea has for its future. With over 80 people in attendance of the first community planning workshop, it became clear that the community planning process of engaging and keeping the community up to date is as valuable as the words and images that are collated in this document. No doubt this plan will morph and evolve to reflect the wider community of Rongotea involvement in delivering their vision.



*Planning for the future* : Photo taken from one of the Community Planning workshops

## 2. Location



Regional Aerial

Indicates the Te Kawau Boundary

Scale 1:200,000



Local Aerial  
Scale 1:5000

- 1 Rongotea School
- 2 Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre
- 3 Stockyards
- 4 Farm supplies
- 5 Douglas Square
- 6 library and old garage
- 7 Petrol Station
- 8 Te Kawau Park
- 9 Fire station
- 10 W Amey & Co

### 3. History and timeline

Two big landowners in Otago were responsible for the founding of the township of Rongotea and the surrounding district. Partners in the enterprise were the Hon. Robert Campbell of Otekaike and John Douglas of Mt Royal. Campbell and Douglas bought the 21,400 acre "Oroua Downs Estate" in the Township of Carnarvon for the bargain price of 12 shillings and six pence per acre. At the time the deal led to an enquiry because the contract was with the Wellington Provincial Government and raised the question of whether Campbell was therefore liable for disqualification as a Member of Parliament. However, Campbell kept his seat.

Because the land had been declared a special settlement area, under the terms of the contract Campbell and Douglas had to settle at least 70 families on their block. Campbelltown - with Douglas Square as its central feature was the result. The name of the town was changed to Rongotea in 1895, as there were already two settlements called Campbelltown in other parts of New Zealand. Meaning "peaceful place", Rongotea was chosen by the Manawatu County Council after consulting with Methodist missionary minister Thomas Hammond. Rangitane Maori say the name recalls a local chief who kept his people at peace amid surrounding warlike tribal groups.

Temperance was a hot issue in New Zealand towards the end of the 19th century and was championed by the various denominations of Christianity. In Rongotea, the evils of alcohol were so generally acknowledged that in 1896 when New Zealanders voted on whether or not their local community would have a public house serving alcohol and be "wet", 60% of the Rongotea vote was for a "dry" town. And so it remained for the next 71 years. A licence for a tavern in Rongotea was not granted until 1967.

<http://www.ourregion.co.nz/rongotea/>



One of the town's seven churches



Rongotea's Dairy Factory



The Rongotea sale yards



Rongotea School, 1881



The Rongotea Post Office in 1909



## 1879

The site of the Rongotea sale yards was established in 1918 however the first sale took place in Rongotea in 1879.

## 1895

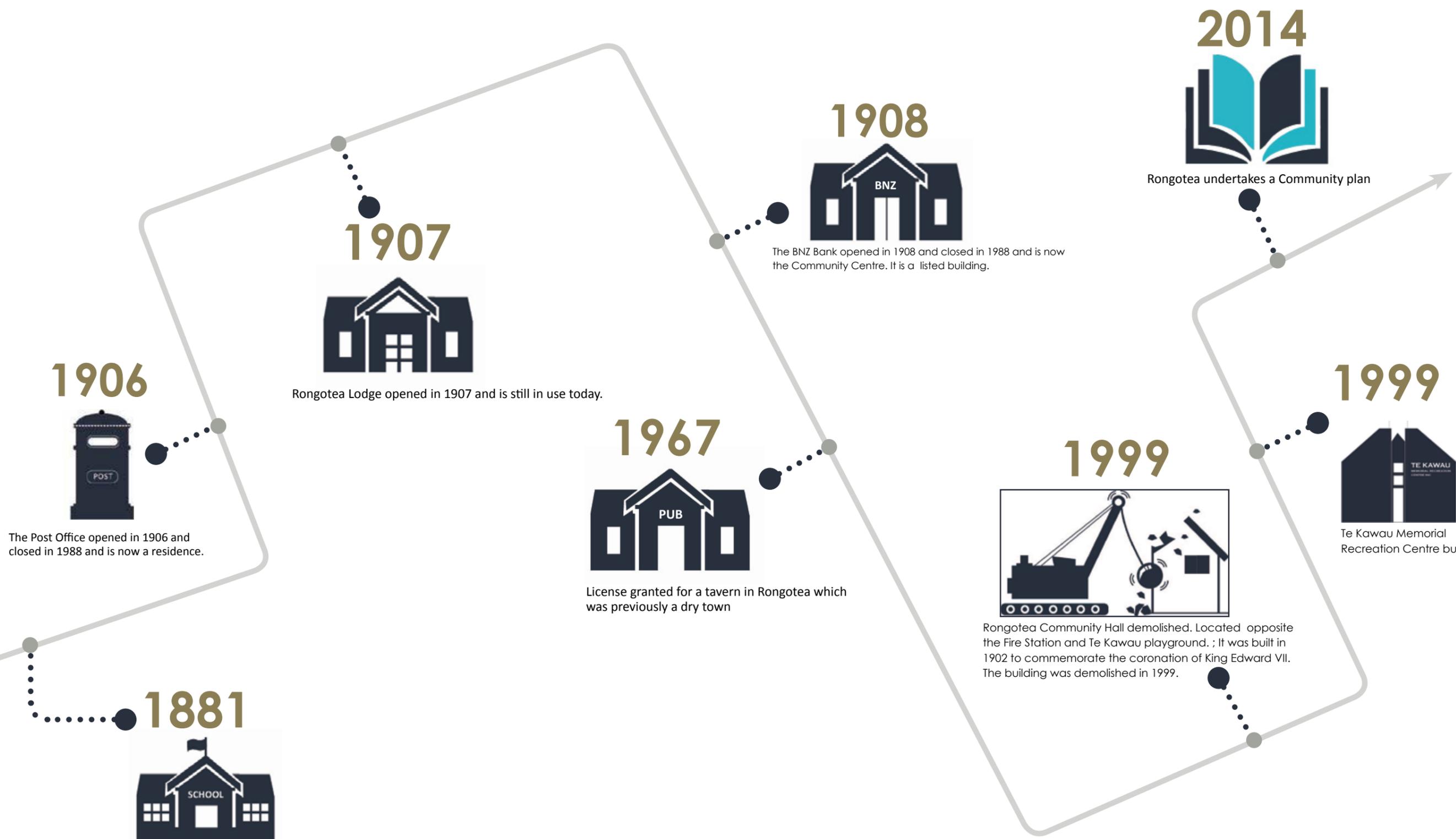


Rongotea was known as the 'Holy City' due to having seven churches and no pub. The Catholic and Anglican churches were built in 1895 and are still in regular use today.



## 1893

The Dairy Factory – the original building opened in 1893 as a milk processing factory and due to increasing demand a new one on the same site was built in 1911. This subsequently closed in 1966 and was reopened in 1966 as Consolidated Traders processing and packaging wild game. This factory closed and then reopened as Bergs Game (1982), closing in 1989.



Rongotea Tavern today



Rongotea's Community Hall before it was demolished in 1999



Rongotea Lodge, still in use today



Bank of New Zealand building, Rongotea



A Community Planning workshop underway in 2014

# 4. The community planning process

Rongotea’s Community Planning programme has been ongoing since 15 July 2014. A number of community workshops facilitated by Manawatu District Council were held in the Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre. The programme also included public exhibitions and ongoing feedback received by the community.

This Community Plan is intended to summarise the vision and aspirations the community have for Rongotea. It also provides a list of actions that the community feel are important to them. Some of the actions identified may be easy to deliver, others are more challenging and may take some time.

This Community Plan and the list of preferred actions will be submitted to Manawatu District Council to help them identify projects that could be included in their future workplans (Annual Plan and Long Term Plan).



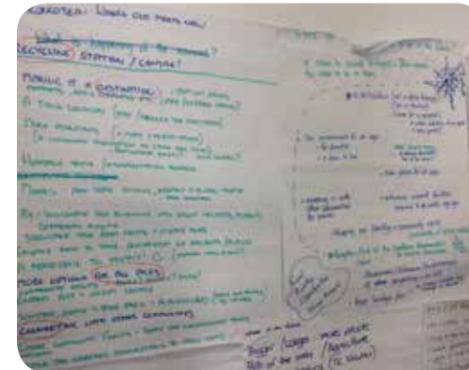
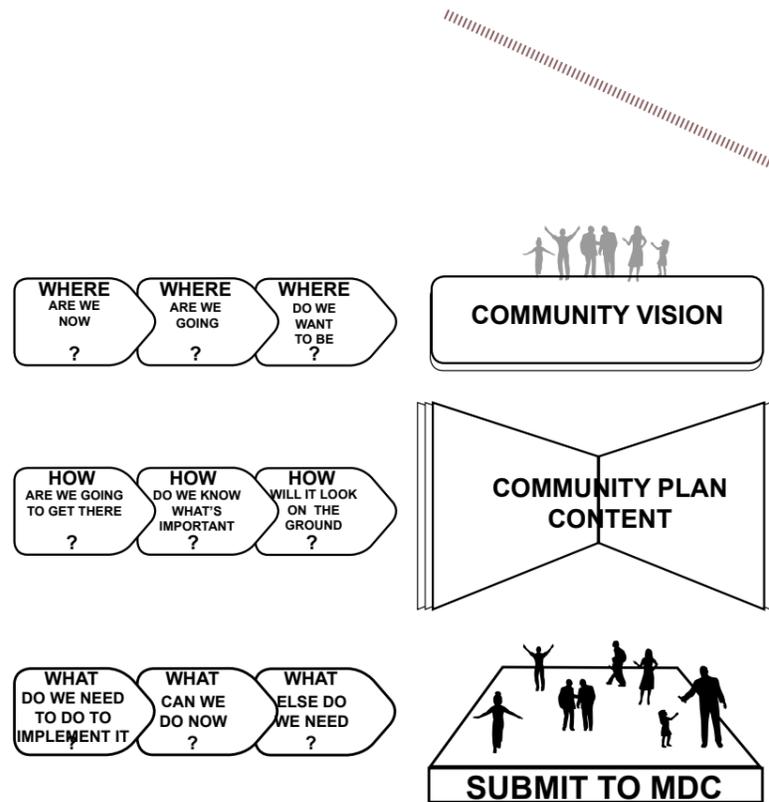
**15 JULY 2014 WORKSHOP 1**

The first workshop revealed initial ideas and emerging opportunities. Over 80 members of the local community attended.



**19 AUGUST 2014 WORKSHOP 2**

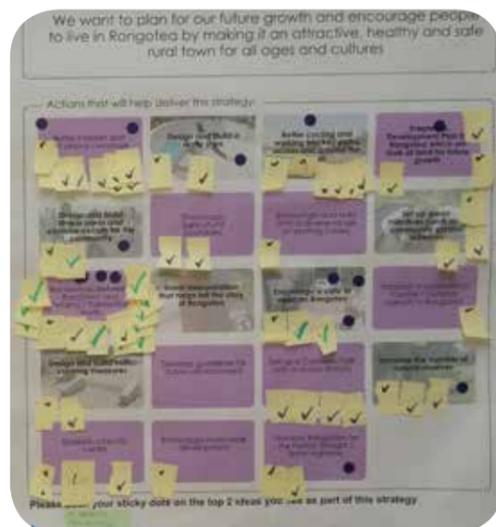
The second community workshop developed ideas further and a vision statement started to emerge.





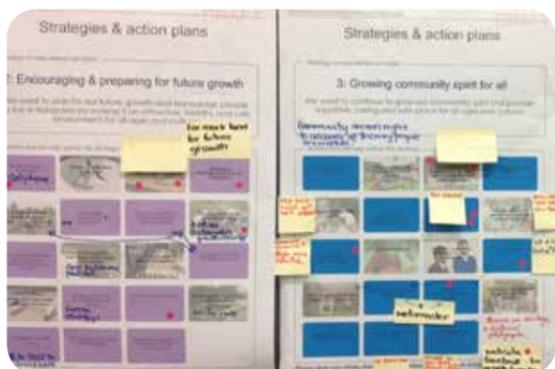
### 30 SEPTEMBER 2014 WORKSHOP 3

The draft Vision statement, ideas and strategies were discussed and refined at the third workshop.



### COMMUNITY EXHIBITION

The community exhibition gained responses to the proposed ideas from the wider community. The exhibition process also gathered further ideas. Refer to appendix for the results of this exhibition



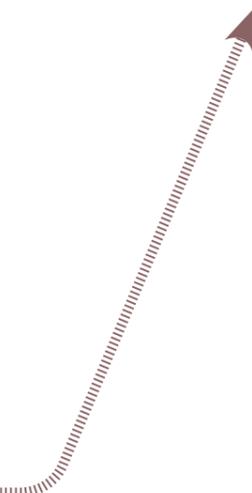
### 9 FEBRUARY 2015 WORKSHOP 4

The content of this plan was discussed and refined during two further workshops in February and March



### MARCH 3 2015 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

The content of this plan was discussed and refined during two further workshops in February and March



## 5. Our Vision

The workshops and exhibitions enabled the community to establish a shared vision for what the community want Rongotea to be like in the future. This statement helps guide any strategies and actions that follow. The words help summarise the common themes that the community were discussing during the community planning workshops. The statement is unique to Rongotea and specific to its community.



Our Vision is:

**Rongotea: a safe, caring, healthy and connected hub of Te Kawau District**

# 6. Implementing the vision

In order to achieve a safe, caring, healthy and connected hub, this community plan identifies a number of strategies and a list of specific actions that will help deliver the vision. In addition to these, the plan also proposes priority projects for the community and council to consider.

## Strategies

There are three key strategies for achieving our vision.



**Enhancing what we have in Rongotea**



**Preparing for the future**



**Growing community spirit for all**



## Actions

There are a number of specific actions identified under each of the three strategies. The following pages list these actions and provide details on who should be involved in implementing them and what the first task might be.



## Priority Projects

There are three priority projects to help deliver a number of actions. These projects should be considered as priority as they provide clear strategic direction working towards delivering the Vision.

- Prepare a spatial master plan**
- Establish a community group focusing on communication and promotion**
- Prepare a signage strategy**

## Enhancing what we have got in Rongotea

*We want to ensure we are getting the most out of our existing community facilities, spaces and places and enhancing them in a co-ordinated and creative way.*



*This image is intended to illustrate the ideas that have come from the community for improving Douglas Square.*

## STRATEGY: ENHANCING WHAT WE HAVE GOT IN RONGOTEA

### ACTION PLAN

ACTION PLAN	WHO TO INVOLVE	FIRST ACTION
• Create a town walkway / loop by enhancing Waitohi walkway	MDC, Community	Prepare Design
• Re design and revitalise Douglas Square	MDC, Community, Designers	Prepare Design
• Improve frontages and facades of older buildings	MDC, Owners, Designers	Establish an owners meeting and devise a strategy
• Enhance streetscapes with trees and vegetation	MDC, Community, Designers	Community meeting with MDC to establish ways forward
• Revamp Te Kawau Park to include a wider range of activities	MDC, Community, Designers	Community meeting with MDC to establish ways forward
• Cover the swimming pool	User Groups, Sponsors	Get a quote for the work and establish a funding strategy incl. identify potential sponsors
• Investigate open swales and drainage improvement strategies	MDC, Designers	Community meeting with MDC to establish ways forward
• Utilise empty building	Owners, Community	Identify relevant buildings
• Allocate land for future growth	MDC, Community	Develop a urban framework for growth and development
• Upgrade playground equipment	MDC, Community, Designers	Consider as part of revamp of Te Kawau Park



Planted Swales and open drains to manage stormwater on a localised level



Upgrade playground equipment to something special



Implement loop track / walkways



Improve frontages and celebrate heritage

## Encouraging & preparing for the future

*We want to plan for our future growth and encourage people to live in Rongotea by making it attractive, connected, healthy and safe.*



*This image is intended to illustrate the ideas that have come from the community for upgrading Te Kawau Park.*

## STRATEGY: ENCOURAGING & PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

### ACTION PLAN

### WHO TO INVOLVE

### FIRST ACTION

• Design and build a skate park	MDC, Community, Lions, Designers, Skaters	Fundraise/Prepare Design/Establish location
• Establish a walking paths / tracks network strategy	MDC, Community	Prepare Design
• Set up green initiatives such as a community vege garden	Community	Establish user group and site for gardens
• Devise a strategy to encourage and support a diverse range of sports	MDC, Community, Sport clubs, Sport Manawatu	Set up steering group
• Design and build community fitness areas and exercise circuits	MDC, Community	Establish budget and prepare option
• Bus service between Rongotea and Palmerston North / Feilding	User Groups	Establish user group, put forward a proposal to local bus company
• Establish a recreation and reserves strategy	MDC, Community	Consider MDC strategies
• Promote Rongotea on the Foxton Straight / State highway	Destination Manawatu, MDC	Prepare Design
• Establish a health centre	MDC, Community, DHB, PHO	Research demand and approach relevant people with a proposal
• Set up a caravan park with a dump station	Motor Home Association, MDC	Feasibility study
• Encourage a cafe to open in Rongotea	Community	Establish steering group



Doing more green initiatives such as community gardens



Design and build community fitness areas and exercise circuits



Design and build a skate park



Encourage a cafe to open in Rongotea

## Growing community spirit for all

*We want to continue to grow our community spirit and provide a positive, caring and safe place for all ages and cultures.*



*This image is intended to illustrate the ideas that have come from the community for enhancing streets and roads throughout Rongotea.*

## STRATEGY: GROWING COMMUNITY SPIRIT FOR ALL

### ACTION PLAN

### WHO TO INVOLVE

### FIRST ACTION

• Have more regular community events and promote a calender of events	Community	Establish project leader
• Community internet (eg. Facebook page linked to Rongotea Times)	Community	Establish project leader
• Set up sub committees to get things done more efficiently	Community	Discuss at community committee
• Establish a car pool strategy (promote the use of an existing website)	Community	Establish project leader
• Promote and sustain an after school care group	User Groups, Community	Discuss at community committee
• Establish an events committee for initiatives such as community awards nights	Community	Set up steering group
• Establish a fund raising committee	Community	Discuss at community committee
• Establish a community health committee for health initiatives and events	MDC, Community, DHB, PHO	Discuss at community committee
• Retain and promote the recycling initiative	MDC, Community	Discuss at community committee



More community events held in the Te Kawau Recreation Centre  
Photo courtesy of Destination Manawatu



More outdoor events in the square and in the park



Health initiatives and events in conjunction with the Memorial Recreational Centre

## 7. Priority projects

This Community Plan identifies three priority projects that will help deliver a number of actions under all three strategies. Each project will require careful coordination and resources and will typically involve a number of different stakeholders. Using these strategic projects as a guide will help deliver individual actions in a comprehensive and coordinated way.





### Prepare a spatial masterplan for Rongotea

This should consider:

- Enhancing the character
- Safety and accessible routes
- Traffic movement, parking and bus stops
- Appropriate planting strategy
- Improving drainage
- Diversity of leisure and recreation
- Walkways and tracks
- Appropriate locations of new facilities such as the skate park and sites for community gardens
- Available budgets and fund raising opportunities
- Leisure and Recreation



Photo courtesy of: Destination Manawatu

### Establish a community group focussing on communication and promotion

This should consider:

- Establishment of sub committees for focussed and efficient results (this could be based on the 3 Community Strategies)
- Use social media
- Establish a forum & news page on the existing website
- Establish / re-invigorate a promotion strategy



### Prepare a signage strategy for Rongotea

This should consider:

- The emerging spatial master plan
- Accessibility and legibility
- Heritage and interpretation
- Bilingual information
- Viewpoints and tourist destinations
- Local and regional facilities

# Appendix:

Summary of feedback from community workshop 3 and the community exhibition



Summary of exhibitions (community priorities)

**ACTION / IDEA: ENHANCING WHAT WE HAVE GOT**

**COMMUNITY PRIORITY**

**ACTION PLAN**

**WORKSHOP 3 RESULTS**

**EXHIBITION 2 RESULTS**

• Upgrade playground equipment		● ● ●
• Create a town walkway / loop by enhancing Waitohi walkway	● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●
• Re design and revitalise Douglas Square	● ●	● ●
• Improve frontages and facades of older buildings		
• Enhance streetscapes with trees and vegetation	● ●	● ●
• Revamp Te Kawau reserve to include a wider range of activities	●	●
• Cover the swimming pool	●	● ● ●
• Investigate open swales and drainage improvement strategies	●	● ● ● ● ● ●
• Utilise empty building	●	● ●

**Additional Comments/Ideas**

- Important to retain heritage. Archives could be established in Rongotea
- More natives in public planting
- Use old garage as a garage sale shop for the community to utilise



Summary of exhibitions (community priorities)

**ACTION / IDEA: GROWING COMMUNITY SPIRIT FOR ALL**

**COMMUNITY PRIORITY**

**ACTION PLAN**

**WORKSHOP 3 RESULTS**

**EXHIBITION 2 RESULTS**

• Establish a recycling initiative	● ● ●	● ● ●
• Have more regular community events and promote a calender of events	●	●
• Community internet (eg. Facebook page linked to Rongotea Times)	● ●	●
• Set up sub committees to get things done fore efficiently	●	
• Establish a car pool strategy (promote the use of an existing website)		●
• Promote and sustain an after school care group		● ● ●
• Establish an events committee for initiatives such as community awards nights	●	●
• Establish a fund raising committee		
• Establish a community health committee for health initiatives and events	● ● ●	● ● ● ●

**Additional Comments/Ideas**

- Community health committee can be run in conjunction with school and health clinic
- Celebrate the stock yards



**RONGOTEA COMMUNITY PLAN**

