



*Shelley Grell*



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# Waikari & Hawarden

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT PLAN OCTOBER 2002

# AIMS OF THE PROJECT

- ❑ A community based vision
- ❑ Thriving villages with robust local economies and active, economically viable and environmentally responsive communities

# DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The project is concerned with the Hurunui Ward; primarily Waikari. In developing the plan, particular emphasis was placed on obtaining ideas and establishing the priorities of the community. A process was developed as a result of feedback at public meetings, to ensure appropriate community input was obtained and that the diversity of the community was recognized and their views represented.

The following process of consultation was used in developing the Concept Plan:

- ❑ Initial discussions with Community Committee representatives and individuals involved in Community Development
- ❑ Open invitation to the public meeting included advertising in the Hurunui News and local school newsletters, posters and a mail-drop,
- ❑ Suggestion boxes placed throughout the area to obtain ideas from residents
- ❑ Public meeting / workshop to outline proposal, gauge support, identify goals and develop ideas and priorities based on contributions from individuals at the workshop and suggestions from the community.
- ❑ Ideas and priorities collated and preliminary draft plan prepared by Council Officer.
- ❑ Preliminary Draft Plan circulated and discussions held at second meeting. Previous concepts discussed and actions reported. Branding revisited and discussions were held on an area theme.
- ❑ Feedback received on plan and process at further meetings. Area theme agreed and adopted. Elements of plan affecting particular groups referred to those for comment and/or implementation. Parts of plan actioned and reported back to group.

# CONTACT DETAILS

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# WAIKARI – HAWARDEN AREA PROFILE

Situated in the heart of the Hurunui Ward, half way between Christchurch and Hanmer Springs, this farming area is characterised by picturesque rolling hillside and expansive, sweeping valleys. Limestone outcrops speckle the landscape and the resident livestock simply graze around them.

The Hurunui valley was the major Maori route across the Southern Alps. They had used other passes but deaths in snow storms and avalanches had left all but the Hurunui route with bad omens. East Coast Maori brought back pounamu from valleys on the Western side of the Divide. Pounamu, or greenstone, is a type of jade. Its hardness and beauty was prized for carving weapons and adornments. These tracks still exist today and the potential to attract trampers in the same way as other great New Zealand tracks is still mostly untapped.

A major draw card to the area is the excellent recreational and fishing river – the mighty Hurunui (possible meanings “*swift curving*”, “*big hair*” or *Hurunui being the name of Te Kupes dog left behind when he left his homeland.*) The area has a rich and colourful history that includes Maori folklore, vanishing villages, dramas in early road and railway construction, and the development of the Corriedale Sheep breed. Events currently hosted include the A & P Show, Ewe Fair and the Plunket Flower Show.

The area has suffered the withdrawal of services similar to many other rural areas in New Zealand, however there remains a local police station, grocery stores, garages, hotels, a hairdresser, pharmacy, transport companies, sale yards, volunteer fire brigades and rural fire. The current numbers of unemployed are relatively low compared to other areas. The community has taken a very proactive approach to health services by retaining the local Hospital, Midwifery and Plunket services and assisting (by way of a special rate) in the building of a brand new medical centre.

The area is well served with education facilities including Playcentre, primary, and secondary schools. Numerous community facilities are available including a library, swimming pools, and numerous halls.

There are many interest, recreation, sports, church and support groups, indicating a depth of interest and support within the community. Sports facilities include a bowling club, golf club, netball and rugby grounds and a (disused) racecourse.

The natural environment offers scope for many outdoors activities including fishing, tramping, horse trekking and kayaking.



Photography Shelley Grell



## MISSION STATEMENT

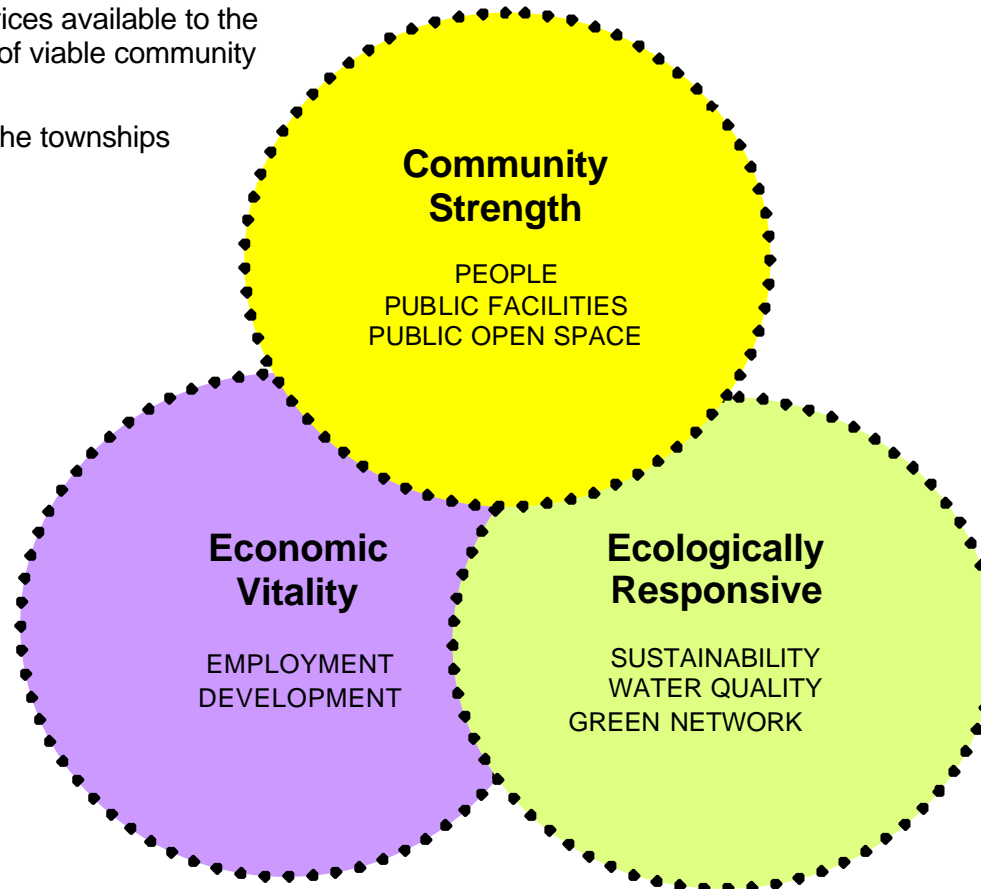
*“To promote the Hurunui area as tranquil and picturesque with a friendly, welcoming community that is progressive, unified and proud of its heritage; That offers excellent lifestyle and economic opportunities to a stable population where the environment and natural resources are maintained, developed and protected.”*

*Photography Shelley Grell*

# KEY CONSULTATION FINDINGS

## What people want

- attract more families to the area and provide more opportunities for younger people to stay in the area
- encourage and support enterprise development, value added production and employment opportunities.
- To maintain and expand the range of services available to the community and support the development of viable community facilities
- beautify and enhance the appearance of the townships
- mainstreet / entrance improvements
- retention of rural and village character
- traffic improvements
- a café facility
- adequate / safe parking
- strengthening local identity
- encourage community participation and enhance community pride
- promote a caring & sharing community for all
- co-ordinated development of tourism opportunities
- improved walkways
- preserve the areas heritage
- banking facilities
- irrigation solutions



## Key Issues

- lack of local identity and community spirit
- unstable local population
- pedestrian safety issues
- limited employment opportunities for youth
- loss of services
- public toilets
- lack of dining options
- lack of parking

## Key Strengths

- proactive community groups
- unique natural setting
- rich history
- responsive to the environment
- Agriculture industry

# THEME

The discussions on theme from the meeting focused mainly around the following three topics:

- *The abundance of natural resources available in the wider area.*
- *The close proximity and central location to some of New Zealand's most prominent attractions.*
- *The potential to develop local industry to promote a strong and healthy local economy.*

“Waikari On!” (Why Carry On?) was selected because of its ‘catchiness’ and ability to be incorporated in various projects and developments planned for the area by adding various endings:

For example

*“Waikari On? – Rest Awhile”*

*“Waikari On? – The food is great!”*

*“Waikari On? – It all starts here!”*

*“Waikari On? – You’re already here!”*

**Waikari On!**

A logo is to be developed as a culmination of the vision and theme in an attempt to provide a portrayal of the essence of the area. A competition may be run to achieve a suitable symbol.

# DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

During the Concept Plan process the community identified numerous new and innovative ideas and suggestions for the further development of existing facilities, amenities and activities and projects.

The ideas and suggestions deemed as priority projects by the community representatives at the meetings are listed here.

## Promotions

There are two particular groups that are focused on the promotion of the area: The *Gateway to the Lakes Promotion Group (2000)* and the newly formed *Hurunui Gateway Community Trust (2001)*. The Promotions Group were responsible for producing the promotional brochure/map of the area. The Trust Group have the ability to assist other new projects seek funding or professional advice or assistance.



The concept planning process identified the need to uplift the profile of the Waikari-Hawarden area to increase visitor numbers.

To achieve this the following were suggested:

- Hurunui Gateway Promotion Group should coordinate the overall promotions of the Waikari-Hawarden area and liaise with the Hurunui Gateway Community Trust and the Hurunui Tourism Board to essentially ensure that Waikari-Hawarden is promoted under the District brand and yet still reflect the individuality of this area.
- Developing and using an area brand/theme/name
- Making an impact at the entrance to the village (on State Highway 7) to make tourists want to stop:
  - A rest area at the top of the hill with
    - A lookout point (top of the water tower?)
    - An information Board
    - A statue/symbol/sculpture reflective of the area (moa, maori feature (based on Timpendean drawings), Corriedale etc)
    - Signage to the walkway and railway
    - Plantings
    - Banners on lampposts (celebrating/marketing festivals etc)
    - Reduce speed limit to 50km

## Tourism

Community residents attending the concept plan meetings felt strongly about the attractions in the area having excellent potential for development, and wanted the area promoted as an outdoors paradise, particularly to the Christchurch market.

The area is fortunate to be situated centrally to Christchurch and Hanmer Springs and has the advantage that visitor traffic already flows through this area. It is also enroute for visitor traffic travelling from the West Coast and using the Alpine Pacific Triangle touring route.

With the implementation of the Hurunui District Tourism Strategy there could be changes in visitor patterns to the area. The Hurunui District Tourism Strategy has been developed and evolved since its first creation in 1995. The tourism strategy developed in conjunction with the Regional Tourism Organisations and Local Authorities highlights the importance of the Hurunui District working together to market the District as a destination in itself. The Waikari area is seen as an important part of that collective.

Careful tourism planning is essential to take advantage of neighbouring areas initiatives and strategies and a close liaison with the Hurunui Tourism Board and Department of Conservation will be necessary.



- ❑ The area could emphasize the closeness of the area to Waipara and Hanmer Springs. When visitor numbers in these areas are high Waikari and Hawarden could benefit from this base of visitor numbers by profiling their area as the perfect place to base themselves whilst they explore both of those areas as well as the lakes, and offer this as the relaxing alternative
- ❑ The development of a brand, logo and brochures was suggested as tools for uplifting the area profile to give an identity and assist with promotions. To gain maximum benefit the brand for the area should be kept simple but also reflect what the areas characteristics are. It is important the qualities complement the Hurunui Brand "*Hurunui – satisfy your thirst for life*"
- ❑ As visitors will be concentrating their visit in the Hurunui region as a short break holiday they will be looking to travel throughout the entire Region, offering opportunities to Waikari-Hawarden. Visitor guest nights in the Hurunui region have climbed from 173,000 in 1999 to 226,000 in 2001 per annum. (source Commercial Accommodation Monitor Dept. Statistics)

## Attractions and Activities

The Hurunui area's major drawcard is its abundance of natural attractions set amongst some of New Zealand's most spectacular mountain ranges, hillside, lakes, and the headwaters of the Hurunui River. The development and promotion of opportunities based on these natural attractions, particularly the lakes and the river, were seen as having tremendous potential and were rated as a high priority at the first public meeting.

This natural outdoors paradise is already well utilised by locals and (day) visitors, and this market has the potential to be considerably expanded through careful development of the natural amenities and promotional material, but the development needs to be in keeping with the vision of Community residents to ensure that the natural beauty of the area is not exploited. The development of this area needs to be undertaken in a coordinated fashion to ensure it does not have a detrimental effect on the environment.

The Department of Conservation manages much of the land in the Lake Sumner Conservation Park, according to the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) this area is managed to provide uncrowded remote recreation opportunities, free from commercial activities.

Any future development of the initiative suggested by the community in this plan should take note of CMS zoning requirements, but also be aware that the CMS is a public document subject to change through public opinion during review periods.



### Areas for Potential Development:

- Walking & Tramping
- Hunting & Fishing
- Mountain Biking
- Four Wheel Driving
- Cavalcades and Horse trekking
- Garden Trails
- Farm Tours

The Weka Pass Steam Railway is seen as an under-utilised attraction. International and local enthusiasts travel from Waipara Valley to Waikari every second Sunday and disembark to a conspicuous lack of available activities.

Suggestions include linking in with tours and walks, having local food & wine available, and transporting to the Hawarden Museum.

The idea of regular *Market-Days*, similar to the Blenheim model (contact Destination Marlborough for information) coinciding with Railway schedules is also popular.

## Accommodation

The Waikari-Hawarden area presently offers several accommodation options for visitors. It was suggested during the concept planning process however that consideration of further provision of establishments that cater for all visitor markets might be required.

Suggestions included the development of further farmstays, bed and breakfasts, and unique accommodations. Backpacker accommodation is seen as an important market for the area and the Great Northern Hotel is currently looking to provide this type of accommodation. The redevelopment of the Reserve/Camping Grounds is also seen as important, providing an excellent base point for the many camper vans that pass through the area. There are opportunities in the area to develop niche markets.

Hunters along with fisherman may seek self-contained accommodation or even the convenience of luxury accommodation.

The domestic market must not be underestimated. Waikari-Hawarden offers many recreational pastimes such as boating, fishing, tramping and hunting. Accommodation could be developed and targeted to the domestic visitor.

There is also the potential to develop unique styles of accommodation for both the international markets along with the domestic market. People are looking for accommodation that is an experience in itself.



## History and Heritage Trails



Discovering and exploring heritage is an increasingly popular activity for many visitors to New Zealand. There is a huge array of history in the Waikari-Hawarden area. Moa bones have been found in swamp sites, there are of course the Maori Rock Drawings and the original Maori traveling route through the Mountains to the West Coast.

The early European settlers left behind fascinating stories and landmarks – whole villages have disappeared in places, but there still remains clues – if you know where to look for them.

Heritage Trails link attractions of the area with a shared theme. Heritage trails can have many themes; some examples include garden or craft tours, machinery and museums. Heritage and history are one of the most popular activities undertaken by international visitors. Heritage Trails can also help create a sense of pride in the community as people share their heritage with visitors.

It is anticipated that the efforts of many communities throughout the District in developing their local attractions will offer scope for linking similar attractions to encourage visitors and spread the benefits.



## Tourist Drive

An initiative suggested during the concept planning process was the development of an Inland touring route.

It is envisaged that a tourist drive could be successfully marketed as part of the Christchurch -

Hanmer Springs or Christchurch - West Coast route.

The “**Stagecoach Trail**” was duly named by Community representatives at the December 2001 public meeting. This trail follows the old stagecoach route from State Highway 7 into Waikari, looping through Hawarden and back to the Highway near Hurunui. Much local history pertaining to this historic Trail has since come to the fore. This concept would help to extend the profile of the area both domestically and internationally. The Waikari Promotions Group is co-ordinating this project.

The Hurunui Tourism Board has submitted a proposal to Transit New Zealand with a view to having the Stagecoach Trail Tourist Drive in place by June 2002.





# Enterprise

Waikari-Hawarden residents attending the concept planning meeting believed that Enterprise Development was an important strategy to assist in improving the local economy.



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The participants at the workshop made numerous positive suggestions:

- Establishing a local restaurant or café offering local game, produce and wine
- Diversification of Land Use - Cropping, Floriculture and Horticulture
- ⇒ More vineyards.
- ⇒ Olives
- ⇒ Flowers
- ⇒ Organic crops
- ⇒ Vegetables
- ⇒ Deer
- ⇒ Ostriches
- Irrigation and water harvesting
- Employment of a Greens/Walkways Caretaker
- Art and Crafts – cottage industries



## Local Restaurant Initiative



Establishing a local restaurant or café was a high priority for Waikari-Hawarden community representatives during the meeting process. The need for both casual and evening dining in the area is essential to both the locals and the visitor market. At present locals are required to travel to Amberley, Rangiora, Christchurch or Hanmer Springs to experience café style dining. Coupled with this is the current development of the accommodation market in the area, which requires such auxiliary services as restaurants or cafés.

People worldwide are continually moving towards convenience in regard to any service, whether it be banking, shopping or dining out. The current increase in numbers of restaurants and cafes throughout New Zealand is no coincidence but results

from the desire of people to be able to access the dining out experience more frequently.

Waikari and Hawarden have different markets for such a concept due to their geographical situations. Waikari is situated well to cater for the high volume tourism traffic traveling from The West Coast / Hanmer Springs to Christchurch where as Hawarden is ideally situated for the local and domestic visitor market.



One idea in common with each area is the use of local game and produce.

While standards and regulations need to be adhered to, using local produce would add uniqueness to the business while supporting local producers. Emphasis on the provision of excellent hospitality and service would be an essential consideration in establishing a business of this nature

To undertake such a development or new business, interested parties would need to undertake an objective assessment of the potential market and demand in order to establish the on going viability.

Business Grow, CEG, BIZ and the Business in Communities Enterprise Development sections provides free assistance on business development and associated issues to new and existing businesses. Advice on possible funding sources, business set up and assistance in determining on going viability are some of the issues they can assist with.



## Entrance & Main Street Development

The concept plan workshop highlighted a general need to revitalise the mainstreet appearances of the two villages. The general feeling was that while each village should retain its own identity and accentuate the individuality of the area, there was still a wish to ensure that visitors to the area realised they were in the larger community of the Hurunui.

One of the strengths of the villages of the area is that each village effectively has a different potential market and will not compete against each other to any great extent.

Ideas and suggestions include:

- A theme that accentuates the mainstreet
- A co-ordinated approach from business owners
- A welcoming atmosphere
- Accessibility - good parking.

An upgraded mainstreet in the area is a priority for the locals who attended the concept plan meeting. The heritage theme is an obvious one for Waikari and Hawarden with their old buildings and landmarks which could be accentuated.



## The Gateway

### *Sense of Arrival:*

- Planter flower boxes, hanging baskets and small potted trees
  - Undertaking a total tidy up of the villages. Encouraging input of volunteers to assist in cleaning - up
  - Alter the parking (or parking rules) at the southern entrance to encourage people to stop
  - Clearer signage
- Tree (native) planting and smaller hebes on the main street.
  - Professionally landscaped area around the Railway to provide a unique and welcoming atmosphere
  - Unique seating/picnic areas in a “village green”
  - Shelter planting to accentuate the picnic areas
  - Bulbous kerbing with amenity planting and paved areas on the mainstreet
  - Heritage style lighting
  - Shop frontage upgrades heritage theme

# Amenities and Services

A priority for Community residents at the Concept Plan meeting was to ensure that local amenities are developed to their potential and that local services are retained.

Bank closures, and the threat of closures of rural hospitals and schools have serious detrimental effects on small communities. This Community is interested in taking measures to reduce the effect, or prevent further withdrawal of services.

The general intention of this plan is to encourage the development of the area to assist a desired increase in population. This in itself would help ensure the retention of services due to a viable number of clients/customers etc.

## Schools

While the schools in the area are currently well supported, the following suggestions were made to strengthen their positions in the community, and to enhance their sustainability and viability:

- Encouraging families to send their children to their local school.
- Accentuate the positives of a small country school for example the safety aspects, the low classroom numbers and the community benefits of the school itself.
- Encourage school/community partnerships such as sharing the usage, management and funding of a gymnasium, classroom, or school pool. Classroom or staff rooms can easily double as community meeting facilities for example.



- Encourage community use of school property such as computers, pools or library facilities.
- Keeping in contact with the local office of the Ministry of Education in order to keep abreast of any pending threats to the school will assist the communities to have a constructive input in to the retention of their schools.



- Develop the College as a 'Centre of Excellence' in a particular field, for example rural education
- Develop programmes using the local farming knowledge and expertise.

## Health Services



The local communities and the Hurunui District Council (and some very generous grants) recently culminated in enough funding to build a brand new medical centre based in Waikari. This new purpose built facility includes accommodation for visiting locums.

The community also has retained its hospital and midwifery services.

These achievements are a lot to do with the community spirit and dedication of staff in being able to not only keep but also develop these services, whilst throughout the rest of the country rural health services are almost reaching crisis point.



## General

Concern was expressed during the concept plan process regarding the closure of local businesses. A simple way to support local businesses and services would be to initiate a "Support Local" campaign.

'Support local' could incorporate local retailers as well as encouraging use of local halls, pools, sports amenities, education facilities, shops, tradespeople etc. Obviously such support will help to assist in strengthening the economy of the Hurunui area.

Such an initiative requires those providing the services to play their part in keeping prices realistic and the standard of service high enough to encourage locals to support them.



## Banking Services

The lack of banking facilities is described as a considerable inconvenience for both business and personal banking and was discussed at the workshop as an important service to reintroduce.



The community could consider discussing this issue further with various banks to assess the viability of some of the following ideas:

- Introduce an ATM machine capable of deposits, withdrawals and bank statements.
- Investigate the possibility of a mobile banking service, which may be staffed by a person capable of discussing most banking issues.
- Telebanking and the use of the web are new technologies that seem to work quite well for most banking transactions. The community may wish to seek help from relevant banks to teach those people who have not yet learnt to use these services, or do not understand the benefits and features.
- Culverden and Waiau have similar needs and may be interested in working together to seek a common solution. Discussions could begin with representatives from these communities (e.g. Residents or Citizens groups.)

## Police Services

Waikari is fortunate to have retained a police station in its heart.



The services main goal is to work within their communities to make the lives of the people who live and visit there safer. They aim to reduce crime and the fear of crime, in particular burglary and car theft, and increase personal security and road safety.

## Public Toilets

Council received many submissions on this issue for the 2001/2002 Annual Plan. Most were requesting new facilities to be erected on a new site. Unfortunately no suitable sites could be agreed to. Some suggestions then came regarding upgrading the existing facilities. When wider community consultation was sought on this matter, three suggestions were most prevalent.

- **Upgrade the existing toilets**
- **Upgrade the toilets at the Reserve**
- **Purchase adjoining site (old house) and build new**

It was agreed at the February 2002 Ward Committee Meeting, that the purchase of the adjoining house site was the preferred option.

This larger space would provide:

- enough room to develop a reserve including a visitor information board, parking, seating or picnic tables and a play area.
- a main road site handy for shoppers, travelers and passengers of the Weka Pass Railway.
- one way access through to Denham Terrace which may assist with traffic flow – and encourage people to turn the corner.
- encouragement for people who have stopped and read the information board to explore the walkway and the surrounding area.

As a result of these plans the owners of the adjoining corner section (State Highway and Princes Street), approached the Council and offered to sell them this site. The Council considered this proposal as part of the submissions to the 2002-03 Draft Annual Plan and agreed to fund this.

This exciting development provides even more space for reserve creation and creating an attractive stopping area for travellers.



# SUGGESTIONS

- Coordinated Promotion Package - a destination in its own right
  - Frog Rock; Lakes District; Attractions - Maori rock drawings, Walkways, Moa swamps; Commemoration of heritage; Historical collection available for public viewing – specifically on railway days at Surreys Shop; Written history; Banners to mark/celebrate the festivals; branding / theme

Stone carving seminar

Create inventory of tourist opportunities already functioning.

Weka Pass Railroad to be utilized links suggested such as:

- A Market Day; Tours (farm, garden, vineyard, features, heritage); Food; Dining car in the train (left at the top between trips)

Making use; of the river / lakes; Rafting; Kayaks and Canoes; Fishing; Swimming; picnicing

A “Super Slide” on the hill behind the Great Northern Hotel

A new café specialising in local cuisine

- More than a gobble-and-go
- Well serviced
- A place to meet
- Good coffee

An annual festival (in addition to the AMP Show) such as a Spring Festival;

- To socialise
- To bring the community together
- To raise funds (clubs & groups / for projects)

Art and Wine Trail and Walk

A “Sculpture” Walkway (possibly linking with the Maori Rock Drawing Walkway)

A promotional vehicle for tours;

- May link in with railroad and/or be independent.
- For trips to the lakes – would need to be 4WD vehicle

Farm based tourism

Encourage and cater for backpackers

Information centre/board

- promotional boards/signs (history, explanations etc)
- convert the Star & Garter into a Visitor Information Centre and café

“Rest Areas” along the Highway to view the railway when the train is operating

Tree planting program for entire area, blocks of native plantings

Video for overseas people on the areas heritage

Hunting festival

Harriers/orienteering

Sport (team) festival eg: golf, squash etc.

Community

- Unite the area – maybe one name?
- A safe caring community
- Interaction
- Community spirit and pride
- Support local businesses
- Organised activities
  - Dances
  - BBQs
  - Shearing
  - Movies

Environment

- Good stewardship of the land and environment
- Remove dairy farms
- Strong emphasis on appreciation of our natural environment
- Interaction

The following projects were voted lower in priority than those discussed in the previous section, but include some exciting and innovative ideas for investigation by groups or individuals.

- Information centers: The use of local existing businesses to include local visitor information would be worth investigating
- Feature Monument: The development of an icon depicting the area and its brand. This monument could be developed as part of an 'Artist in Residence' programme and be designed as a feature to welcome visitors to the area, thus providing a good reason for visitors to stop.
- Upgrade the Hawarden Memorial Community pool.
- Encourage art and photography field trips/visitors to limestone rocks (frog rock) as an alternative to Castle Hill.
- Eco Tourism Base: As discussed previously, Waikari-Hawarden is an ideal outdoor recreation area with its natural amenities. Residents were keen to see this potential promoted. Making an assessment of the communities strengths and weaknesses would initially highlight potential marketable products for the area which could then be addressed by a working party with the assistance of relevant agencies such as DOC, Fish and Game, or the Hurunui District Council.
- The possible diversification of arable farmland in Waikari-Hawarden, in both agriculture and horticulture was seen as having great potential and benefit to the area. Such projects are more likely to be undertaken by local landowners with the benefits being far reaching by increasing the permanent population and employment in the area.

Other ideas and suggestions included:

- Fishing information for visitors
- Skateboarding Area. Investigations would need to be undertaken with the local youth to establish actual need, along with site investigations and funding.
- River safaris by kayak
- Rural Theme Retirement Village.
- Market the affordable accommodation and housing in the area
- Railway development
- Market garden co-op for local businesses and homes, organised and run by local unemployed or elderly
- Kiwi Walks promotion
- Improve telecommunications
- Encourage young to the district
- Hunting or fishing major event

# SUGGESTED PROCESS

1. Develop a working group or nominate a community group to establish local priorities and potential of the proposed project, in keeping with the vision of Waikari-Hawarden residents.
2. Work with DOC, the Hurunui District Council and/or Hurunui Tourism Board representatives to establish potential partnerships, limits or possibilities for development of the area.
3. Assess the ongoing demand, viability, sustainability and potential benefits to the community.
4. Develop priorities for the proposed development and source funding and resources relevant to the project.
5. Develop a comprehensive marketing plan that may include other local attractions, amenities or services.

## ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING



The Promotions Group, the Gateway Trust, the Hurunui Ward Committee, The Hurunui Tourism Board, CEG, DOC and BIZ are available to assist community groups and organisations through the processes required to develop marketable products or undertake community or amenity development.

Assistance can range from advice on sourcing available funding, legal requirements of developing tracks etc, development planning, networking with relevant agencies or professionals, through to promotion and marketing of the proposed product. Any proposal needs to be thoroughly assessed and researched to ensure the on going viability and sustainability of the project.

Depending on the scope and projected outcomes of the proposed project, funding may be obtained from various sources such as: Lottery Environment and Heritage or Community Facilities Fund; Community Employment Group; Hurunui District Council, The Community Trust of Canterbury; The Ward Committee's local works budget; Creative New Zealand; The Community Trust or other Investment Trusts.

Local businesses and organisations may be prepared to contribute to the funding of such a project.

# IMPLEMENTATION

The projects outlined in this concept paper indicate a range of options for the development of the Waikari-Hawarden area.

The implementation of the projects will rely to a large degree on resources and input from the community. To allow maximum benefit to be achieved it is essential that the projects be addressed in a co-ordinated manner to enable available resources to be used most effectively.

If all or most of these projects or developments were adopted in the future they would make a significant contribution towards developing the potential of the area. The local residents should get involved in ensuring the unique nature of the area is maintained. Development relies on people. Locals are in the best position to direct the development and control the future of the area.

Responsibility for coordinating the implementation of projects detailed in this plan will initially rest with a Concept Plan working group, or any appropriate community groups and individuals as required.

The role of this group will be to provide a general overview of the programme and co-ordinate the projects as required. Priorities may be amended due to changing circumstances in the community.

Generally it would be expected that the responsibility for implementing a specific project will be delegated to an existing community group or organisation or a composite group formed for a specific project. Liaison may be needed with that group to see if any assistance is required from other sectors of the community or where co-ordination of other related projects is required.

The more co-ordinated and organized you are as a local community the better your chances for funding and assistance. The following are considered essential:

- Presenting a unified face in funding / consent applications
- Keeping track of Council budgets
- Getting something on the ground as soon as possible

To keep community groups and individuals informed on the progress with the development programme, it would be appropriate to update any developments in a local newsletter outlining progress on planned projects and activities. This would assist with the co-ordination of projects and allow other groups or individuals to offer support and assistance at appropriate times.

The role of Hurunui District Council's Officers, apart from preparing the Concept Plan, will be limited to providing general advice and guidance as resources permit.

This Concept Plan was prepared by the Project and Policy Officer of the Hurunui District Council, based on ideas and priorities identified by the people in Hurunui Ward.



# Achievements & Developments One Year On

## New Public Toilets & Reserve

The purchase of the land has taken place and the old house has been sold. A contract has been let for the construction of the toilets in November (once the house has been removed).

A site meeting is planned for early November to finalise positioning of the toilet block, information sign etc. A decision will also be made on the footpath issue.

## The Water Tower

An approach has been made by the Mason's Group to construct/erect a Plane Table at the water tower – at their cost!

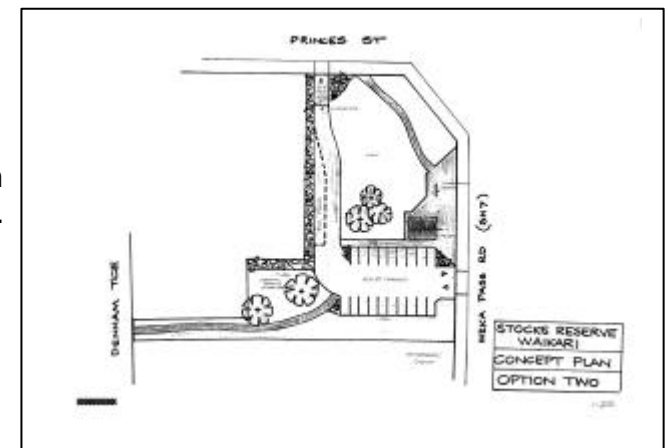
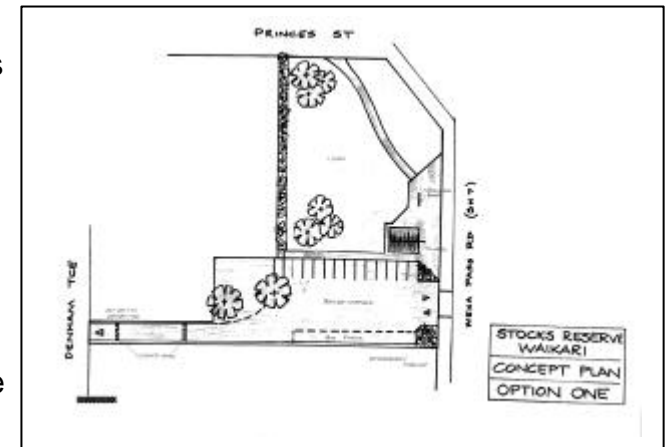
Utilities Unit of HDC raise issues of potential vandalism (shutting off the valve) and safety issues in any future proposed plans.

## The Stage Coach Trail

Transit approval did not include funding for Highway signage as anticipated. Only enough money for one set (Gore Bay Touring route already established so takes precedence). Application to go to next year's Annual Plan funds.

## Tourism Information Board

Hoped to be installed this year! Waiting on final artwork etc.



## **Village Green**

This area has had significant community development by way of landscaping and plantings and is looking fantastic.

## **Waikari – Hawarden Corridor Walkway**

LINZ proposed lease equated to approximately \$1,700 per year. We are currently still in negotiations.

## **Maori Rock Drawings Walkway**

TBA

## **Waikari – Hawarden Corridor Walkway**

LINZ proposed lease equated to approximately \$1,700 per year. We are currently still in negotiations.

## **Annual Festival**

Steam Festival was held earlier this year and was a huge success!!! So much so that plans are underway for next year's extravaganza

## **Speed Reduction / Traffic Safety**

Large 70km Transit signs are to be placed at the entrance to the township on State Highway 7.

## **Blue Information Sign**

A new information sign is to be put up to replace old "handmade" one. This will be at Transit's cost

# KEY ACTIONS

Priority projects as identified in the Concept Development Planning Process:

Project	Co-ordinating Group	Timeframe
Annual Festival	Gateway to the Lakes Promotion Group	
The Stage Coach Trail Tourist Drive	Gateway to the Lakes Promotion Group	
Speed Reduction for the Main Street	Brian, Laura, John, Vivienne, Mari	
Water Tower Development	Gateway to the Lakes Promotion Group	
Main Street Beautification	Hurunui Ward Committee & Gateway to the Lakes Promotion Group	
Railway Day Markets & Activities		
New Toilets / Reserve Area	Hurunui Ward Committee & Gateway to the Lakes Promotion Group & HDC	
Branding: Logo etc		